

Olukoyede Urges Nigerians to Prioritize Integrity for National Development






NDLEA secures conviction of 12 drug peddlers in Kano

FBI nabs most-wanted fraudster Abiola Kayode who fled Nigeria to Ghana after \$6 million business email racket

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**FROM THE ARCHIVE**

If the dwarf doesn't speak in proverbs, little children will believe he is one of them

**Violators Risk 10 Years Imprisonment as Lagos Signs New Organ Harvesting Bill Into Law**

## Mr President Ask Them To Confirm The Turn By Turn Templates



**Afe Babalola Petitions LPDC, Wants Dele Farotimi Barred From Law Practice**

# Mr President Ask Them To Confirm The Turn By Turn Templates

Governance still remain what it was as ongoing and the present political dispensation has legitimately encouraged the specified tenure in governance with the independent National electoral commission (inec) being the only legitimate mandate to determine the right directions through elections and confirmation of elections results to the best of my knowledge till date. Permit me to speak to these trending stories of the lopsided appointments by BAT. I sometimes feel those critics are not conversant with the usual template only when it suits them to know what legitimacy means as it affects appointments either at the beginning and end of every government to confirm the alleged lopsided appointments in a seating government.

Every government is directly involved in the appointments and dissolution

that was done in equity with political spread to the best interest of governance, while those from the other divide see the logic behind those appoint-

## SPEAK ON THE ISSUES

WITH  
**FANNY AMUN**

fannyamunfannyamun@gmail.com



ments done as lopsided to victimize the perceived enemy in the course of their political struggle to power. Since time past the format has never changed but

rather consolidated on the game plans to appoint trusted hands of the same ideology not enemies.

So if history has not been forgotten that it is just impossible to appoint people that do not share the same ideology that will add value and it has gone the way the country leadership has found itself till date.

A credible opponent should acknowledge the decision of the court of finality with the pronouncement that the winner of the 2023 Presidential election was President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the commander in Chief of the armed forces, federal republic of Nigeria until the forthcoming elections that is open to all the candidates willing to contest in every elective positions as it may be delayed by the independent electoral commission inec

What really make a credible political dispensation include but not limited to the constructive opposition who should be a check mate to the current dispensation. All you hear them say are trivial issues of sentiment with words on vendetta that has never interest the citizen that they claim to represent after an elective political dispensation.

I strongly suggest to this group of critics that has never seen nothing good in the current government of Mr President to embrace the syndrome of JAPA and allow the few political loyalists to enjoy these difficult times that some of us believe the light at the end of the tunnel was eminent in a time soon. I strongly suggest that the book makers re- strategies ahead of the 2027 Presidential elections to collectively form an opposition that will vote out the ruling party of the APC and his next Presidential candidate which May be a case of good turn deserve another out of office if they have the desired political will devoured such words like they have seen Mr President and he has convenience us of a better Nigeria after compromising their integrity honor that they sometimes do not have for monetary gains.

We are on the watch as spectators as the games play from the divide of the ruling, main oppositions, aligning and re-aligning including those particles within the political setting and the new entrances in 2027.



## Military retires 656 senior officers

The Nigerian Armed Forces on Thursday retired 656 senior non-commissioned officers, who have served for 35 years.

The retirees were celebrated in a colourful ceremony at the Nigerian Armed Forces Resettlement Centre, Oshodi, following a six-month demilitarisation training programme designed to prepare them for civilian life.

The retirees included 535 personnel from the Nigerian Army, 86 from the Nigerian Navy, 35 from the Nigerian Air Force, and two from the Defence Intelligence Agency.

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Hasan Abubakar, paid tribute to the retirees, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the country's peace and security.



"This training has equipped you with the knowledge and skills needed to transition seamlessly into civilian life as resourceful managers, entrepreneurs, and contributors to national development," Abubakar said.

Quoting the popular military saying, "Soja come, soja go, but barracks remain," he reflected on the resilience of the armed forces and the enduring legacy of its members.

"The discipline, courage, and commitment that defined your careers will inspire future generations. As you move into civilian life, I urge you to uphold these values, becoming role models and ambassadors of the military profession in your communities," he added.

The Air Chief encouraged the

retirees to embrace the new chapter with confidence, reminding them that their training and experiences would ensure a successful transition.

NAFRC Commandant, Air Vice Marshal Mamman, highlighted the centre's role in preparing retiring officers for life after service.

"NAFRC has trained over 51,000 personnel, providing them with self-reliant and managerial skills to excel in civilian life," Mamman said.

He urged the retirees to face the future with optimism.

"Do not fear the future. With the discipline and skills you have acquired, along with faith, you will enjoy a bright and prosperous future filled with long life, good health, and success," Abubakar said.

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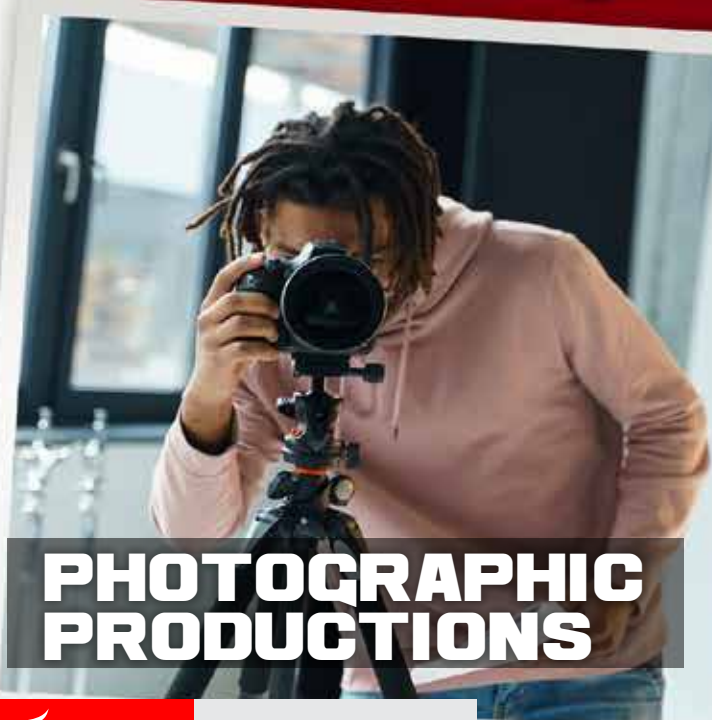


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# Violators Risk 10 Years Imprisonment as Lagos Signs New Organ Harvesting Bill Into Law

The Lagos State Government has signed into law, a new bill titled 'Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation Bill' to prohibit illegal organ harvesting in the state.

Justice Lawal Pedro, the Lagos State Attorney General and the commissioner of justice at a press briefing on Thursday, said four new bills were signed into law in the state.

The laws include the Human Organ and Tissue Transplantation Bill, the Consumer Protection Law, Lagos Enforcement Training Institute Laws, Victims Assistance, Witness Protection Laws and Fire and Rescue Service Laws.

According to the commissioner, the assent of the bills into laws shows the Lagos State governor's commitment to ensuring justice in the state.

He said, "These Laws have been thoughtfully designed to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing our state while paving the way for a more just, secure and prosperous future for all residents of Lagos."

Highlighting some of the gains of the organ harvesting bill will address the issues of illegal



harvesting, trading and unethical medical practices.

He added that with the bill, individuals would be protect-

ed from exploitation and ethical medical practices would be strictly adhered to. Please I Need Help| What's Your Advice? I AM

28-Year-Old But My 38-Year-Old Landlady Want Me In Her Bed. I Am Scared Because She's A lot Older Than Me .

He also said that, "Violators risk up to 10 years imprisonment or fine of up to N10 million."

# FBI nabs most-wanted fraudster Abiola Kayode who fled Nigeria to Ghana after \$6 million business email racket



72 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$1,014,159.60 in restitution.

Onome Ijomone, a romance scammer, was sentenced in January 2020 to 60 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$508,934.40 in restitution after his successful extradition from Poland. Other co-conspirators remain at large. Alex Ogunshakin, a co-conspirator who provided bank accounts for the scheme, was sentenced to 45 months' imprisonment in October 2024 after his successful extradition from Nigeria.

"Four years ago, we identified six Nigerian nationals suspected of defrauding individual victims and businesses in Nebraska and other states of millions of dollars," said FBI Omaha Special Agent in Charge Eugene Kowel. "Today, Abiola Kayode is the second of those co-conspirators to be extradited to stand trial in Nebraska. Our message to the remaining four co-conspirators; we are coming for you. Dismantling cyber-criminal groups that victimize U.S. citizens is a priority for the FBI, DOJ, and our international law enforcement partners. The FBI, working together with our partners in Ghana, particularly the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Justice, the Ghana Police Service – INTERPOL, and the Ghana Immigration Service, will continue to pursue and bring to justice criminals who engage in Business Email Compromise and other fraud schemes."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs provided significant assistance in securing Kayode's extradition.

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

United States Attorney Susan Lehr announced the extradition of Abiola Kayode, 37, of Nigeria, to the District of Nebraska on a Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud Indictment, filed in August 2019 in Omaha, Nebraska.

In April 2023, law enforcement authorities in the Republic of Ghana arrested Kayode pursuant to a U.S. request for his extradition. Ghanaian authorities ultimately granted this request and surrendered Kayode to FBI special agents who brought him to the District of Nebraska. Kayode had an initial appearance on the Indictment

on December 11, 2024. United States Magistrate Judge Michael D. Nelson ordered Kayode remain detained pending trial.

Kayode, who was on the FBI's Most Wanted Cyber Criminal List, is alleged to have participated in a business email compromise (BEC) scheme from January 2015 to September 2016. The BEC scheme defrauded businesses in the District of Nebraska and elsewhere of more than \$6 million.

According to the indictment, Kayode's co-conspirators posed as the chief executive officer, president, owner, or other executive of the targeted com-

pany. Using e-mail accounts spoofed to make it appear as though they were from the company's true business executive, Kayode's co-conspirators directed business employees or recipients of the e-mail to complete wire transfers. The business employees, believing the requests were legitimate, complied with the wire transfer requests and wired the money as instructed by Kayode's co-conspirators.

It is alleged Kayode provided bank account information to the co-conspirators who sent the fraudulent e-mails, and which directed business employees to wire money to accounts con-

trolled by Kayode and others. These bank accounts largely belonged to victims of internet romance scams, who were instructed by co-conspirators to transfer the funds to other bank accounts.

Some of Kayode's co-conspirators have already been convicted and sentenced. Adewale Aniyeloye, one of the fraudsters sending the spoofed e-mails to the target business, was sentenced in February 2019 to 96 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$1,570,938.05 in restitution. Pelumi Fawehinimi, a bank account facilitator, was sentenced in March 2019 to



## Court Orders Detention Of 12 Mechanics For Alleged Treasonable Felony Against Gov. Makinde

**A**N Iyaganku Chief Magistrates' Court in Ibadan on Thursday ordered the remand of 12 mechanics at the Agodi Correctional Centre over alleged treasonable felony and sundry offences, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported.

The defendants were Abdullahi Alajiga (38), Olaniyi Dauda (71), Alfa Olafisoye (69), Daudu Babalola (52), Akande Musbau (58), Olatinwo Wale (42), Saheed Tijani (41) and Sunday Awosope (38).

Others are Idris Olujimi (32), Ayobami Idowu (37), Olajire Sodiq (24) and Adeniyi Alimi (51).

They were charged with eight counts, namely, treasonable felony, threat to murder, publication of defamatory matter, threatened violence, publication of false news, unlawful assembly, causing fear and conduct likely to caused breach of peace.

They were alleged to have committed the offence against Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State.

The prosecutor, Inspector Sikiru Opaleye, alleged that the defendants threatened to forcefully remove Governor Makinde from office, in a video they posted on social media.

NAN reported that the pleas of the defendants were, however, not taken on Thursday.

The Chief Magistrate, Mrs Olabisi Ogunkanmi, ordered their remand at the correctional facility, pending advice from the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP).

She, consequently, adjourned the case till January 22, 2025, for mention.

According to the charge, the defendants were alleged to have conspired with others at large to commit the offence on December 5, at Olubadan Estate, at Egbeda area of Ibadan.

They were alleged to have unlawfully uttered and made threats to kill Governor Makinde in a video posted on social media.

The prosecution also alleged that they published false news on social media, indicating that Makinde had grabbed their lands and ejected them from their workshops with intent to cause fear and alarm to the public.

Opaleye again alleged that the defendants published defamatory matters against the governor. He alleged that they assembled in such a manner as to make the neighborhood, fear on reasonable grounds that there was a breach of public peace.

The offences contravene the provisions of sections 41 (b), 59, 70, 86 (1), 249 (d), 323, 375 and 516 of the Criminal Code Law of Oyo State 2000.

## Okpebholo's Touted Budget Presentation Gaffes as Irrelevant Ado



**T**he ever slippery political tuff of Edo, the heartbeat state of the Nigerian nation, is again on the boil.

Therein rages a meaningless hullabaloo, from the exuberant state, to the global world, that Senator Monday Okpebholo, the newly-elected governor of the state, who was sworn in only few weeks ago, had made 'unpardonable blunders' in the pronunciation of the total figure of his first annual budget, presented yesterday, at the instance of the State House of Assembly, the legislative arm.

For about two days in a roll, the reading and listening public have been similarly inundated by a rapid but unpleasant media news from Benin City, the state capital.

The city's High Court arena, at its highbrow, was turned into an orgy of 'ring and sideline fights', allegedly by supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the ruling political party in the state and at national level, with the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Suffice that this sacred venue of the Election Petition Tribunal, where the last governorship election dispute holds between the APC and PDP, was the platform for the brawls likened to the American free-style wrestling bouts, viewed daily on the television networks.

The only differences were that whereas the American fighters chose to go adding the Greco-Roman style and the pummeling of opponents with weightless objects, their more daring Edo counterparts opted for the use of battle axes, cutlasses, bottles and other dangerous cudgels, thus resulting to bone fractures, injuries and bloodletting.

Whilst Emperor Jarret Tenabe, Edo APC chair, asserted that it was the PDP thugs who besieged the court's venue to initiate vicious attacks on APC members and the tribunal lawyers, the PDP retorted that it was the APC urchins, who had attacked them.

But, the public had been taken aback that such brigandage

could be let to happen in broad daylight and at the city centre, closed to the state's police headquarters and the operational commands of two other security agencies.

This has readily left the public to the opinion that Edo police commissioner, the state's Directorate of the Secret Services and the Civil Defence corps should live up to their billings at arresting, forthwith, the menace.

The escalation of the Governor Okpebholo's alleged difficulty at reading the speech, must have been provoked and informed by the strategy of the PDP to douse tension and demean the weighty allegations being unearthed by a Governor Okpebholo, who was thought to be inarticulate, judging that he had begun to make more sense to the Edo populace, especially about his expressed misdeeds of the Obaseki's government, which he took over from.

The APC's media assemble, pointedly dismissed the touted gaffes by Governor Okpebholo as having been doctored by the PDP, in order to denigrate the governor and avoid issues being raised by it on the Obaseki's atrocities, whilst in office.

As could be seen, Senator Okpebholo had been dutiful voicing out the flaws of the Obaseki's led PDP government, while inspecting some public schools within the city centre. He had moaned and criticised the dilapidation of its primary and secondary schools, wondering what Mr. Obaseki, had done with the humongous educational funding accrued to him during the eight long years he was in power for.

Governor Okpebholo was also angst at the huge heaps of donated books, which ex-Governor Obaseki had long received on behalf of teachers and school children of the state, for onward distribution to them.

More of the regrets by the incumbent governor were that Mr. Obaseki shouldn't have received the donated

books, from an APC president, only to turn around and deny the poor recipients of its use, simply because the books had the picture of the opposition president imprinted on them.

This is at the backdrop that the books would have been left to rot away, if Governor Okpebholo did not come around to distribute them to the original recipients.

Simultaneously, the Verification Committee set up by the Okpebholo's government, to pry into and receive definite statement of financial and other accounting of the immediate-past era of Obaseki, had shock-stiffed the public with its finding that the Obaseki's government, that was widely touted as prudential, had incurred over N1 trillion domestic debt and some N280 billion external debt.

The huge figures, reeled out by the Accountant General of the state, who was said to be Obaseki's Man Friday, had further infuriated financial and development experts.

This somewhat had given credence to the recent arrests and detention of some top treasury civil servants under Obaseki by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the anti-graft body, on the sticky financial impropriety allegations against them and the Obaseki's government.

But, usual investigation and finding by the discerning public watchdogs, coupled with fore-knowledge of the propaganda gimmickry of the immediate-past government, will obviously mean that the hallucination (even sensationalisation) of the Governor Okpebholo's alleged budget-speech's gaffe, is nothing but a mere happenstance, that had been magnified into a mountain.

With the earth-shaking declaration of the spending free by the Governor Obaseki, who all along drummed his financial meticulousness and thriftiness to the high heavens, the same holier-than-thou gambit, would have evaporated, dawning on the public that the

ex-governor was a blatant liar.

This would also have put another lie to Obaseki's consistent accusation of Comrade Adams Oshiomhole of attempts to be a godfather, with the intent to milk and corrupt his government.

Also apparently, the rude revelation of the debt profile, which Obaseki and the PDP had previously denied and could now only feebly challenge, had actually portrayed the immediate-past government as one who actually had plunged the state into a cesspit of insolvent debts, a transferred epithet that Obaseki and his government had eaten the bread meant for the future of an unfortunate Edo and her folks.

Incontrovertibly, there would be no right thinking public-spirited person who would not ask the obvious question; as to what lethal threats are there in an elected leader, who may innocently stammer or goof on a budget figures, which he had read from a prepared and well circulated speech, whereas the budget statement (including the actual figures) have been duly presented, and etched as valid public record by more of the media sources and vested budgetary institutions, than for a leader who was alleged to have dissipated the commonwealth of the people, a weighty allegations which he had had no tangible responses to?

For a Governor Okpebholo, who had been largely commended by the public for his display of the capacity to lead, including Chief Dan Orbih, a deputy national chairman of the Obaseki's PDP, only within a little while he assumed governorship office, it could pose an arduous task to deflate him before a discerning public, on frivolous and a dramatized lack of eloquence and imperfection at speaking 'Turenchi', an Hausa word for English language.

And for a long-suffering voters of Edo, there seems not to be a rendezvous of indictment that 'all-talk-na-do' (precepts followed by examples) is only expressed by the quantum of English a sitting governor must speak.

And it also holds that a maliciously denigrated Governor Okpebholo can't be nailed to the cross by some uncoordinated armchair critics, simply on the account that he is naive and unpolished. Obviously, a governor who possesses a better understanding of the human chemistry of the Edo public is one always desired as a governor.

And from most Edolites, the question is always posed as to what actual benefits had the acclaimed linguistic proficiency of Obaseki had brought to the Edo table, on the donkey eight years has held sway, more so that he was a touted word-smith, who graduated from the premier University of Ibadan?



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## Uganda leader backs military trials as rival in jail for Christmas

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, 80, has defended the use of military courts to try civilians - following an outcry over the arrest and trial of opposition leader Kizza Besigye.

His 68-year-old rival has been charged in a military court with possession of pistols and attempting to purchase weapons abroad - accusations he denies.

Besigye, who was abducted while visiting Kenya last month and forcibly taken to Uganda, found out on Tuesday that he would be spending Christmas in custody as his trial has been delayed until January.

Museveni said any crime involving a gun was dealt with in a military court to ensure the country's stability as civilian courts took too long to deal with cases.

Hundreds of civilians have been tried in Uganda's military courts, even though the Constitutional Court has ruled against the practice.

How Besigye disappeared in Kenya and ended up in military court

How an ex-rebel has stayed in power for more than 30 years

"I have seen the arguments in the papers by some lawyers regarding the correctness of some civilians being tried in the Court Martial," President Museveni said in a long post

on X.

He said his National Resistance Movement (NRM) party had enacted a law through parliament in 2005 to allow the use of military courts because of the "rampant activities of criminals and terrorists that were using guns to kill people indiscriminately".

"The civilian courts were clogged with the many court cases of the whole country: murders, rape, assaults, robbery, land matters, divorce matters etc, etc. They could, therefore, not handle these gun-wielding criminals quickly. Yet, for stabilization you need speed," he said.

Besigye has objected to being tried by a court martial, saying that if there were any charges against him, he should be tried in a civilian court.

A fierce rival of Museveni, he has contested and lost four presidential elections against Uganda's leader, who has been in power since 1986.

He has been less active in politics in the last couple of years, and did not contest the 2021 election.

The veteran politician - who was once Museveni's personal doctor - has been arrested dozens of times in Uganda but never convicted.

Earlier this year he announced he was returning to the political fray to help sort out his party, which has split into two factions.

## Mimiko gets best student award as 34 UNIMED graduates bag first class

The University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, has conferred first degrees to 634 students, with 34 of them earning first-class honors, according to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ade-segun Fatusi.

This as a former Ondo State governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, was awarded the best graduating Master's student for the 2024 session.

Speaking at the university's sixth convocation ceremony on Thursday, Fatusi revealed that out of the 634 graduates, 539 were from undergraduate programs while 95 graduated from postgraduate programs.

"Out of those graduating from our undergraduate programs, 34 have first-class grades, 223 have second-class upper, 145 have second-class lower, 9 have third-class, and 127 will graduate with unclassified degrees," Fatusi stated.

He further explained that the unclassified degrees included 41 medical doctors, 23 dental surgeons, and 64 physiotherapists.

The postgraduate graduates comprised 36 with postgraduate diplomas, 19 with Master of Public Health degrees, 38 with MSc degrees, 2 with MPhil degrees, and 1 with a PhD.

In his address, Fatusi praised the institution's 10-year achievements, noting that UNIMED had

produced medical doctors, dentists, nurses, physiotherapists, medical laboratory scientists, and health science graduates, making a significant mark in Nigeria's educational and health-care landscape.

"UNIMED has produced three sets of medical doctors, three sets of dentists, four sets of nurses, four sets of physiotherapists, two sets of medical laboratory scientists, and six sets of graduates from various health sciences programs in just 10 years of existence. This is a remarkable feat in Nigeria's history," he added.

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the university's Visitor, also commended the institution's progress.

He disclosed that his administration had committed N1 billion to the construction of the university's senate building and expressed pride in UNIMED's achievements.

"Each graduate has not only completed an academic journey but is now part of the pioneering spirit that this institution has been known for since its establishment," Aiyedatiwa said.

"UNIMED has consistently recorded 100% in all professional examinations conducted by Regulatory Councils, including Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, and Community Health."

# Afe Babalola Petitions LPDC, Wants Dele Farotimi Barred From Law Practice



Embattled human rights lawyer, Mr. Dele Farotimi has been dragged to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) over allegations contained in his best-selling book, "Nigeria and its criminal justice system."

In the petition 90-page petition obtained by CITY LAWYER and dated 6th December, 2024, Mr. Ola Faro noted that he was writing both in his personal capacity "and for and on behalf of the law firm of Afe Babalola & Co."

The LPDC is the regulatory body with disciplinary oversight over Nigerian lawyers. The body has the mandate to order that the name of a legal practitioner be struck off the roll of lawyers kept at the Supreme Court. Such decision is however subject to appeal to the Supreme Court.

The petition is titled "PETITION AGAINST TOMILOLA TITUS FAROTIMI (ALSO KNOWN AS DELE FAROTIMI ESQ), A NIGERIAN LAWYER CALLED TO THE NIGERIAN BAR WITH HIS NAME ON THE ROLL OF LEGAL PRACTITIONERS KEPT BY THE SUPREME COURT FOR VIOLATION OF THE EXTANT RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS RULES 1, 15(1), 15(2B), 15(3A), 15(3G), 15(3I), 15(3J), 26(1), 27(1), 30, 31(1), (2) and (4) OF THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT 2023 BY BRINGING THE ENTIRE JUDICIARY

IN NIGERIA INTO DISREPUTE WITH HIS UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST EMINENT JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA, JUDGES OF HIGH COURT OF LAGOS STATE, AARE AFE BABALOLA SAN, OLU DARAMOLA SAN, OLA FARO ESQ, AND THE ENTIRE CHAMBERS OF AFE BABALOLA & CO IN HIS BOOK TITLED 'NIGERIA AND ITS CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.'"

The petition was received by the LPDC yesterday and assigned with the case number BB/LPDC/1571/2024.

The petitioners urged the disciplinary committee to bar Farotimi from practising law, saying: "We respectfully urge the Committee to strike out the name Tomilola Titus Farotimi (also known as Dele Farotimi Esq) from the Roll of Legal Practitioners in Nigeria for violation of the sacred provisions of RULES 1, 15(1), 15(2B), 15(3A), 15(3G), 15(3I), 15(3J), 26(1), 27(1), 30, 31(1), (2) and (4) OF THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT 2023."

The petitioners outlined sundry infractions allegedly committed by Farotimi in his trending book.

According to the petitioners, Farotimi "engaged in conduct which is unbecoming of a legal practitioner by making false accusations against the Supreme Court and the legal profession."

The petitioners also stated that Farotimi "Participated in conduct that he believes to be unlawful by bribing judicial

officers and having unlawful access to a judicial officer.

"Joined his clients in committing misconduct and breach of law with reference to to judicial officers by having unlawful access to a judicial officer.

"Gave service to his client which he knows is capable of causing breach of law and disrespect and corrupting a judicial officer.

"Knowingly made false statement of law and facts in respect to a case already decided by the Supreme Court.

"Assisted his clients in a conduct that he knows to be illegal and fraudulent.

"Knowingly engaged in illegal conduct in the cause of his practice as a legal practitioner.

"Treated his fellow lawyers without respect, fairness, consideration and dignity, allowing ill feeling between opposing clients to influence his conduct and demeanor by distorting the facts of a case in the cause of his practice as a legal practitioner.

"Failed to observe good faith and fairness in dealing with other lawyers in respect to a case already decided by the Supreme Court.

"Conducted himself in a manner that obstructed, delayed and adversely affected the administration of justice by taking steps to frustrate a decision of the Supreme Court for his personal benefit and benefit of his client who lost at the Supreme Court.

"Treated the court, particularly the Supreme Court without respect, dignity and honour by using uncouth, unprofessional, undignified and offensive language against the Supreme Court and the justices of the Supreme Court.

"Made defamatory statements against judicial officers rather than making a complaint to appropriate authorities.

"Indicated that he discussed a pending case with a judge trying the case in the absence of an opposing lawyer."

The petitioners stated that "The contravention of these rules by the Respondent (Farotimi) prompted this petition to protect the dignity of the legal profession, the dignity of the court as the temple of justice and to uphold the standards of the legal profession."

CITY LAWYER recalls that Farotimi is already facing two criminal charges at both the Magistrates Court and Federal High Court, even as two senior lawyers with the law office of Afe Babalola & Co - Messrs Kehinde Ogunwumiju SAN and Adebayo Adenipekun SAN - have slammed civil lawsuits against Farotimi arising from the controversial book.

The fiery human rights lawyer is currently detained at an Ado Ekiti Correctional Centre pending a ruling on his bail application. He is yet to respond to the allegations contained in the petition.

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## Alleged N75bn, \$31.5m Fraud: EFCC Arraigns Ex-AMCON MD, Ahmed Kuru Jan. 20

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Thursday, December 12, 2024, adjourned till January 20, 2025 the arraignment of a former Managing Director of Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria AMCON, Ahmed Kuru, for an alleged N76bn and \$31.5 million fraud.

He is to be arraigned alongside Capt. Roy Ilegbodun, Managing Director of Arik Air, Kamilu Omokide, Receiver Manager of Arik Air, Union Bank Nigeria Plc and Super Bravo Limited over an alleged N75bn and \$31.5m fraud.

The court had on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Kuru for failing to appear in court for his arraignment over an alleged N75bn and \$31.5m fraud.

Count one reads: "That you, Union Bank Nigeria Plc, sometime in 2011 or thereabouts, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with the intention of causing and/or inducing unwarranted sale of Arik Air loans and bank guarantees with Union Bank, made false statements to the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), regarding Arik Air Limited's performing loans, following which you transferred a bogus figure of N71, 000,000,000.00 (Seventy-One Billion Naira) to AMCON."

Count two reads: "That you, Ahmed Lawal, Kuru, Kamilu Alaba Omokide as Receiver Manager of Arik Air Limited, and Captain Roy Ilegbodun, Chief Executive Officer of Arik Air Limited in Receivership, sometime in 2022 or thereabout, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, fraudulently converted to the use of NG Eagle Limited the total sum of N4,900,000,000.00 (Four Billion Nine Hundred Million Naira only), property of Arik Air Limited."

Count five reads: "That you, Kamilu Alaba Omokide, Ahmed

Lawal Kuru and Capt. Roy Ilegbodun, on the 12th day of February, 2022 or thereabout, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, being public officers, directed to be done in abuse of the authority of your office and with intention of obtaining undue advantage for yourself and cronies an arbitrary act, to wit: intentionally authorizing the tear down and destruction of 5N-JEA with Serial No. 15058 valued at \$31.5 million (Thirty One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars), an arbitrary act, which act is prejudicial to the economic stability of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Arik Air Limited."

Earlier on Thursday's sitting, Kuru's counsel, Olasupo Shasore, SAN had, in a motion on notice dated December 12, 2024, signed an undertaking and assured the court that he would produce his client for an arraignment on January 20, 2025.

Responding, the prosecution counsel, Wahab Shittu, SAN, did not object to the application on the grounds that Shasore had signed an undertaking to produce his client for an arraignment and ensure that he attends his trial.

"My lord, if the learned silk is assuring the court that the second defendant will be available on January 20 for his arraignment, we will not be objecting the application.

"We could not contact him the way others were contacted and his counsel has signed an undertaking that he will produce him. Knowing the consequences of the undertaking, the prosecution will not be objecting to the revocation of the bench warrant against the second defendant."

Consequently, Justice Dada, in a short ruling, set aside the bench warrant earlier issued against Kuru, in view of his presence in court on Thursday.

Justice Dada, thereafter, adjourned the case till January 20, 2025, being the earlier scheduled date for the arraignment.

## Olukoyede Urges Nigerians to Prioritize Integrity for National Development



The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has called on Nigerians from all walks of life to place integrity, accountability and transparency as important values for reshaping and rebuilding the country's future.

He made the call in Abuja on Monday, December 9, 2024, at the commemoration of the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day organized by the Anti-Corruption Transparency Unit, ACTU, of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria, AMCON.

The EFCC's boss, who was

represented by the Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE II, Aisha Muhammed, while speaking on the theme of the 2024 International Anti-corruption Day, "Uniting with Youths against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity", stressed that anti-corruption fight requires the wholistic and active participation and engagement of all stakeholders and members of the society. Explaining further, she stated that, "youths have to take action against corruption and promote integrity in all their daily doings. Youths are innovators and change

makers of the society and as such, they should take responsibility to shape a future that is free of corruption and criminal tendencies".

Executive Director of AMCON, Aminu Mukhtar Dan'amu, pointed out that corruption stemmed from lack of accountability in the society. "We must promote a culture of accountability in every aspect of our lives", he said.

Also, the Deputy Director, System Study and Review in the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, Clement Obaniyi, stressed that transparency should begin with

management of public offices, adding that staff play a significant role in eliminating fraud in their offices. He emphasized that government officials and employees must be held to high standards of accountability and responsibility.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of Staff with Integrity Awards clinched by Aisha Bunu, Team Leader in the Resolution Directorate of AMCON. Organisers of the Award stressed that the Award would inspire public servants to embody integrity and uphold exemplary moral standards in their personal and professional lives.

## EFCC is Fighting Corruption to Protect Your Future-Olukoyede Tells Students



The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has stated that the Commission is fighting corruption and internet crimes to protect the future of students across the country, charging them to be more committed to the fight.

The EFCC boss stated this recently in Abuja when students of Britmax International School visited the EFCC's headquarters on a study tour.

Olukoyede, represented by the Head, EFCC 97.3 Fm Radio Station, Deputy Commander of the EFCC, DCE Nwanyioma Okeanu, said the fight against corruption was meant to eradicate vices from the society.

According to him, the mandate of the EFCC, since its con-

ception, is to fight economic and financial crimes and correct the anomalies affecting the future and dreams of every Nigerian, especially youths and to see that every young person is treated rightly.

"The job of the EFCC is to sanitize our financial space and see that everyone is treated equally. The EFCC is an organization that fights for the people and restores the good things of the country. The fight against economic and financial crimes starts with you as a student, teacher, and as a parent", she said.

He stressed that corruption is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the lives of younger ones and the society at large, adding that the fight is for Nigerians irrespective of age and

position to ensure a better Nigeria.

Head, Enlightenment and Re-orientation Unit, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE II Aisha Mohammed, charged the students to be good ambassadors and representatives of the Commission by spreading the anti-corruption message to everyone they come across.

"You are all important stakeholders of the Commission. Always have a positive spirit and remember that your voices matter in this fight. Be a change agent wherever you are. This engagement is focused on catching and orienting the mindsets of the young ones to be good ambassadors of your family and Commission at large.

Continuing, she stressed that, "the holy book is there to guide you, the future belongs to you. Spread this message to everyone you come across. Stand for integrity always".

Assistant Superintendent of EFCC, ASE I, Ogunjobi Olalekan, while speaking on cybercrime and its impact, encouraged them to pursue their dreams and ambition adding that they can attain excellence and be whatever they want to be through determination, hard work, integrity, transparency and accountability.

"You can be whatever you want to become by hard work and determination. We need you as programmers, forensic analysts and so on and try not to yield to peer group pressures," he said.



## Abuja Court Jails Man for \$115,000 Internet Fraud

Justice H.L. Abba-Aliyu of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Abuja on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 convicted and sentenced one Praise Humphrey Igbo (a.k.a) Jessica Allen to one year imprisonment for fraud.

He was prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a one-count charge, bordering on internet crime, criminal impersonation, obtaining money under false pretence and money laundering to the tune of \$115,000 (One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand United States Dollars).

His charge reads: "That you, Praise Humphrey Igbo sometime in 2022 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, with intent to defraud, did cheat by pretending to be one Jesisca Allen, a successful crypto currency trader in the United State of America and in that assumed character, fraudulently obtained 5.26 Bitcoins worth One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand United State Dollars (\$115,000) by false pretence, property of Aaron Baker, thereby committed an offence contrary to Sec-

tion 321 of the Penal Code Act Abuja, Cap 532 LFN 2004 and punishable under Section 324 of the same Act."

He pled "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him upon which prosecution counsel, M.K Hussain prayed the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Abba-Aliyu convicted and sentenced him to one year imprisonment or to pay a fine of one million naira (N1,000,000). She further ruled that the sum of \$16, 110 and \$67,487.79 worth of cryptocurrency recovered from him and the money in his bank account be used to retribute his victim through the American Embassy.

Igbo's journey to the Correctional Centre started when a petitioner, East Baton Rouge Parish (Aaron Bakker), an American, alleged that a the convict pretending to be one Jessica Allen, a purported crypto investor, stole \$115,000 worth of Bitcoin from him on Blockchain.com after presenting an investment opportunity to him, which turned out to be the fake.

## EFCC Commences Investigation of Suspected Oil Thief, Barge and Two Trucks

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have commenced investigations of a suspected oil thief, two trucks and a barge handed over to the Commission by the Nigerian Navy, NNS Delta on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

Lt. Cdr E.O. Adeola, who represented the Commander NNS Delta at the handing over in Warri stated that Barge Oghenekome, two trucks laden with unspecified quantity of products suspected to be crude oil and one suspect (Samson Uki) were intercepted by men of NNS Delta at NIWA jetty while dis-



charging products from the barge into the trucks. According to him, preliminary investigation showed they were operating without a

requisite licence. Receiving the suspect, the barge and two trucks on behalf of the Commission, Usman Abdullahi Nuhu, an

Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, said the Commission will carry out further investigation and possible prosecution of the case.

## EFCC Arrests 23 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan



Operatives of Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested

twenty-three (23) suspected internet fraudsters.

The internet fraudsters were arrested at Akobo area of Ibadan in Oyo State following credible intelligence linking them with suspected involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

Items recovered from them include eight exotic cars, laptops, phones and a play station game, among others.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.



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## Encomiums As DCE Ibrahim Audu Bows Out of Service

The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on Friday, December 6, 2024 held a send-forth ceremony for Retired Deputy Commander of the EFCC and former head, Legal and Prosecution Department of the Benin Zonal Directorate, Deputy Commander of the EFCC, DCE Ibrahim Audu.

The event which was held at the Conference Room of the Benin Directorate saw officers of the Commission eulogize the Retired DCE for his contribution to the growth and development of the Commission.

The Acting Zonal Director, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Effa Okim commended Audu for the high numbers of conviction secured by the Directorate when he was the Head, Legal and Prosecution Department. "We want to thank you for your impact and contribution to the Directorate and to the Commission. You did very well while you were here. We say a big thank you and wish you many more fruitful years ahead. You may have retired but certainly you are not

tired. We wish you the best in your next endeavour"

In his goodwill message, Francis Jirbo, the Acting Head, Legal and Prosecution Department commended the retired deputy director for leaving a good legacy behind. "We learnt a lot from you when you were here. We say thank you for all that you did".

Also, Isa K. Agwa, a staff in the Legal and Prosecution Department thanked Audu for instilling confidence in them in the prosecution of cases. "As young lawyers, he was our mentor and teacher. We learnt a lot from him. He told us to be bold and courageous, not to be intimidated by other lawyers whenever we go to court. That has really helped us. He played a crucial role in our growth and development as counsel. We are grateful."

In his remarks, the retired Deputy Commander expressed his gratitude to the Commission for the opportunity to serve the nation.

DCE Audu, a pioneer staff of the Commission, retired in May after attaining the age of 60 years.

## Kwara Court Jails Student, Three Others for Internet Fraud

Justice Suleiman Akanbi of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin on Monday, December 09, 2024 sentenced a student, Akanbi Akorede Afeez, to two years imprisonment for internet fraud.

He was arraigned on a one-count charge bordering on internet fraud.

The charge reads:

"That you, Akanbi Akorede Afeez (a.k.a Erdis) between February 2023 or thereabout Kwara State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court dishonestly induced one Dinero Enviado, a white man to send you gift cards worth the sum of Five Hundred and Fifty One Dollars when you knowingly pretended and represented yourself to be one Erdis, a white lady who is in a romantic relationship with him and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 321 and punishable under section 324 of the Penal Code Laws of Northern Nigeria."

Equally, on Monday, December 9, 2024 the Ilorin Zonal Directorate secured the conviction of another set of three suspected fraudsters before Justice Haleema Saleeman of the State High Court, Ilorin over offences bordering on internet fraud.

They are Oladejo Ibrahim Abiodun, Yusuf Adewale Gbadeyan and one Adeoye David Oluwatimileyin.

The convicts were prosecuted on one-count separate charges to which they pleaded guilty.

For instance, the charge against Adeoye reads:

"That you, Adeoye David Oluwatimileyin sometime in 2024, in Kwara State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did cheat by personation when you pretended to be one Sierra and, in that guise, induced one J. Miguel Montaya to send you



\$300 to you under the guise of a romantic relationship and punishable under section 321 of the Penal Code Law and punishable under section 324 of the same Laws"

Upon their pleas, counsel to the EFCC, Rasheedat Alao and Victoria Igbodo, while reviewing the facts of the cases presented witnesses and tendered extra-judicial statements of the defendants. They also tendered in evidence items recovered from them at the point of arrest and monies, which they benefited from their criminal conducts.

Satisfied with the facts of the cases, the court found the defendants guilty and consequently sentenced them.

Justice Saleeman sentenced Abiodun to one year imprisonment or a fine of

N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira only) and ordered that his Iphone 13 pro and the sum of \$100 (One Hundred United States Dollars) be forfeited to the Federal Government. According to the judge, Abiodun would also reimburse the sum of \$400 (Four Hundred Dollars) to his victims through the EFCC.

The judge, in the same vein, sentenced Gbadeyan to six months imprisonment or a fine of N300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira only). She also ordered the forfeiture of the sum of \$300 Canadian dollars, one iphone 12 and a Samsung phone used as instruments of crime by the convict to the Federal Government.

Justice Saleeman also sentenced Oluwatimileyin to eight months imprisonment or a fine

of N250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) and ordered the forfeiture of the sum of \$300 (Three Hundred Dollars) and one iphone 12 recovered from convict at the point of arrest were forfeited to the Federal Government.

Afeez was ordered to sweep and clear the premises of the Kwara State High Court, Ilorin for two weeks, while forfeiting his iphone 14 promax and his hp laptop which were used to perpetrate the crime to the federal government.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for internet-related fraud. They were charged to court and prosecuted.



## Alleged N110.4 billion Fraud: Court Denies Yahaya Bello Bail, Orders his Remand in Kuje Correctional Centre

Justice Maryann Anineh of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Maitama, Abuja, on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, refused to grant bail to former Kogi State governor, Yahaya Adoza Bello on the ground that his bail application was filed prematurely and intended to preempt the court.

Bello, alongside Umar Shuaibu Oricha and Abdulsalami Hudu are being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a 16-count charge of criminal breach of trust and money laundering to the tune of N110.4 billion.

Delivering ruling on Bello's bail application, the judge held that the appli-

cation filed on November 22, 2024, was incompetent as it predated his arrest by the EFCC on November 26 and his arraignment on November 27, clarifying that a bail application only becomes ripe for hearing after the defendant's arraignment.

"Having been filed when the first defendant was neither in custody nor before the court, this application is premature and hereby refused," she said. On the other hand, Bello's co-defendants were admitted to bail. Oricha was granted bail in the sum of N300 million with two sureties in like sum. The sureties, the judge held, must be Nigerian citizens



with landed properties within the court's jurisdiction. The title documents of the lands as well as his

passport must be deposited with the court registrar, and he will have to remain in Kuje Correctional Centre

until he meets the bail conditions.

Hudu's bail was on the same financial term. His

sureties must own properties in Maitama, Abuja, and must depose affidavits of means, and submit two recent passport photographs, and travel documents to the court. He was barred from traveling outside the country without the instruction of the court and will remain in the custody of Kuje Correctional Centre until he fulfils his bail conditions.

Following the ruling, prosecution counsel Chukwudi Eneadini, SAN prayed the court for a trial date. Justice Anineh adjourned the matter till January 29, February 25, and February 27, 2025, and ordered that Bello be remanded in Kuje Correctional Centre.

## Court Jails Aisha Wakil (Mama Boko-haram), Two others for N6m Fraud in Maiduguri

Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri on Thursday, November 28, 2024 convicted and sentenced Aisha Alkali Wakil and two others to five years imprisonment each.

Wakil who is the Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Complete Care and Aid Foundation (NGO) alongside Programme Manager Tahiru Saidu Daura and Country Director, Prince Lawal Shoyode were re-arraigned on Monday, September 1, 2020 on four-count amended charges bordering on cheating, conspiracy and giving false information to the tune of N6m.

Count two of the charge reads: "That you, Aisha Alkali Wakil, Tahiru Saidu Daura and Prince Lawal Shoyode whilst being Chief Executive Officer, Programme Manager and Country Director respectively of Complete Care and Aid Foundation (Non-Governmental Organisation) sometime between October and November 2018 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonestly induced one Alhaji Bukar Kachalla of Abks Ventures Limited to deliver to you a Toyota Camry 2012 Model worth N6,000,000.00 (Six Million Naira) only under the guise of executing a contract for

the purchase of the said car and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 320 (a) and punishable under Section 322 of the Penal Code Cap 102 Laws of Borno State."

The defendants pleaded "not guilty" to the charges prepared against them by the EFCC.

During the trial, counsel for the prosecution, Mukhtar Ali Ahmed and Shamsudeeb Olayinka Saka presented three witnesses and tendered several documents as exhibits before the court in proof of EFCC's case against the defendants.

Justice Kumaliya thereafter convicted and sentenced the defendants to five years imprisonment without an option of fine each.

The Judge further ordered the defendants to jointly and severally reconstitute the balance of N3.5m to the petitioner or in default, serve an additional five years jail term each.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested and prosecuted for taking from a petitioner a Toyota Camry 2012 model worth N6,000,000.00 (Six Million Naira) under the guise of purchasing the said car. They neither purchased the car nor returned it to the petitioner.

## How Abdulfatah Ahmed, Ex-Kwara Governor Allegedly Misappropriated N5bn UBEC Fund: Witness

The trial of the immediate past Governor of Kwara State, Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed and his Finance Commissioner, Ademola Banu over alleged stealing and mismanagement of public funds to the tune of N5.78billion got underway on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 before Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High sitting in Ilorin.

The erstwhile governor and his finance commissioner among other things were accused to have conspired to steal money meant for payment of salaries of teachers working with the Kwara State Universal Basic Education Board, UBEC, as well as money meant to provide security and other infrastructural facilities for the people of the State, leading to their arraignment on October 21, 2024 by the Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

However, the duo pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to them. Consequently, they were admitted to bail and the case was adjourned for trial.

At the resumed hearing of the case on Wednesday, the EFCC presented its first witness, Prosecution Witness 1, PW1, Abubakar Hassan, an assistant director of finance, Universal Basic Education Commission, UBEC.

While being led in evidence by counsel to the EFCC, Rotimi

Jacobs, SAN, Hassan told the court that the Kwara State Government allegedly misappropriated about N5billion (Five Billion Naira Only) meant to execute projects at primary and junior secondary schools between 2013 and 2015, when Abdulfatah Ahmed held sway as governor.

According to him, "the Matching Grant Funds from the Universal Basic Education Commission is meant to provide certain infrastructural facilities for both students of primary and junior secondary schools. Such facilities include, construction of building for primary schools, provision of laboratories for students, construction of toilets, provision of water and sanitation and cultural education."

Hassan further stated that the main objective of the UBEC when it was established in 2004 was to ensure that no Nigerian child is denied of basic education. He said basic education started from primary school to junior secondary school.

Stating the procedures for obtaining grants from the Commission, the witness said, "UBEC law provides that the Chairman of State Universal Basic Education Board, its Executive Secretary and the Director of Finance are signatories to Matching Grants Accounts. The Matching Grants Account is opened with any commercial bank or the Central Bank of Nigeria."

## EFCC Arrests 22 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abia State

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission EFCC, have arrested twenty-two suspected (22) internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Friday, December 6, 2024 at Umuagu and Olokoru in Abia state in a sting operation.

Items recovered from them include six exotic cars, eight laptops and 36 mobile phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.



## EFCC Arrests 24 Suspected Internet Fraudsters



Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Directorate have arrested 24 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Friday, December 6, 2024 at Lokoja, Kogi State following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include 30 phones, 6 laptops and 3 cars.

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

## EFCC Tasks Youths on Unifying Strategies against Corruption

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has called on youths across the country to unite and take the lead in the fight against corruption.

He made the call in Abuja on Wednesday, December 5, 2024 while addressing stakeholders at a Town Hall Meeting in preparatory commemoration of the 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day at the corporate headquarters of the Commission.

The 2024 International Anti-Corruption Day will be held on December 9, 2024 and is themed, "Uniting the Youths Against Corruption". In a Keynote Address, Olukoyede decried the adverse impact of corruption on the prospects of young people and the urgent need for collective action. "Corruption limits the opportunities for self-actualization and tilts the playing field in favour of a privileged few. A corrupt society cannot provide the equal opportunities that every young person needs to thrive," he said.

He further lamented the increasing allure of internet fraud among youths, describing it as a

threat to their future. "The allure of easy money through cyber-crime draws many young people into criminality. However, there is no sustainable success in internet fraud; it only leads to a grim future. Youths must reject such practices and embrace integrity," he said.

Olukoyede proposed actionable strategies for youths to form a united front against corruption. He urged them to build synergy through associations, societies, platforms such as clubs and think tanks that promote accountability and good values. "Let me point out the route that can be taken by youths to achieve unity in the fight against corruption. One of those routes is deliberate synergy against graft. They can do this by forming associations, clubs, think tanks, societies that promote good values. It is high time youths joined hands together to pursue values that will add strength to their lives," he said.

The EFCC's boss also stressed that youths can lend forces and voices in support of activities of anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC. "Progress-inclined youths should be more vibrant in identifying with the activities

of the Commission. There are structures in place for active engagement with youths at the EFCC. At the Primary and Secondary School level, we have the Integrity Club serving as a rallying point for students. At the Tertiary Institution level, we have the Zero Tolerance Club. They are all platforms for engagement against corrupt practices."

He advanced support for whistleblowing as another potent means of tackling graft by young people, stressing that "there is no way corruption can be tackled if we allow it around us without a challenge. Youths have formidable roles to play in this regard. There is a need for stronger energy against the corrupt in our midst. No effort is too little and no sacrifice is too tasking in this regard."

He further called for individual and corporate accountability by youths, pointing out that, "no matter the structure any youth may want to form against corrupt practices, without a self-driven resolve to reject such practices, no other framework can work. This means that personal choices and decisions against corruption count better than any other force."

The EFCC Chairman urged young Nigerians to view integrity as a non-negotiable principle by rejecting the "shortcut" mentality, stating, "taking shortcuts always cuts people short."

The event featured a panel discussion moderated by the Director, Public Affairs Department of the EFCC, Commander of the EFCC, CE Wilson Uwujaren. The panelists included legal experts, union leaders and civil society representatives, as well as top officials of the Commission.

One of the panelists, Abba Kaka stressed the need for early education to youths on integrity and values starting from the family unit. "Parents are the first teachers. If the foundation is missed, it becomes harder to instill the right values later," he said.

Sylvanus Tahir, SAN, Director of Legal and Prosecution at the EFCC, emphasized the importance of collaboration between anti-corruption agencies and the public. "The fight against corruption cannot succeed without the involvement of youths. You must take the message home and spread it to others," he urged.

# NNPC: When you think Nigeria can't confuse you

BY IKEDDY ISIGUZO

**P**UT nothing beyond Nigerians. Some of us plug the bragging rights to understanding Nigeria, that Nigeria cannot confuse them. I willingly concede knowledge of Nigeria to them.

Nigerians are not strangers to confusion. We bring confusion to conversations. We praise our abilities to confound issues, confront simplicity with befuddlements and then seek the understanding of those who question a policy direction.

Any attempt to deny the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, the unalienable rights to confusion should be boldly resisted on NNPC's behalf.

Many Nigerians concur to nothing just not to be left out in the journey to nowhere. We learnt long ago that patriotism means supporting the government in power. You do not need to task the government about its actions.

So, let us agree with NNPC that the old refinery in Port Harcourt is working. Those who claim otherwise do not know a thing about how these things work. They could be among those who have sworn not to see anything good in the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

They are unlike us whose loyalty is completely blind; so blind that we give no chance to enhancing our sights. It is not our fault that some have decided not to love their country.

An instance of the benefits of blind loyalty, in alignment with the President's delight over Port Harcourt refinery, is the nimety of fuel in our filling stations. It takes loyalty of this hue to notice that fuel is available. Instead of rejoicing that there is no fuel scarcity, people who used to buy fuel at "any price" are asking at what price the fuel from Port Harcourt refinery is sold. They pretend they could identify the source of the fuel they use.

Only the President is permitted to recount the dangers Nigeria harbours when addressing prospective foreign investors. Ours is to find areas of the country to praise. We cannot contradict the President when he de-markets Nigeria. He is the President.

We should understand that in electing a government, the people simply lease the country to the elected, who are at liberty to do whatever they want with Nigeria. The President can turn an official visit to a private visit. It is his call, not calling.

Unlike most leases, the terms of our relationship with government are unclear. The privileges of governments are under-stated. Too generous as we think the lease granted the government is, we have had serial cases of government appropriating aspects of the lease that it was given.

NNPC understands these things more than others. There should be no surprises there. The Minister of Petroleum Resources is the President. NNPC might as well have immunity without us knowing. It could be a beneficiary of the powers of the Minister of Petroleum Resources.



History has taught us that successive governments harvest precedents to feather their own interests. We rate governments by their abilities to treat us worse than the preceding ones. We are often wondering why we are always wrong, and the government always right in its ways.

NNPC, a government company, attends to us with all the arrogance it can muster in a relationship where a supposed servant looks askance at the master, the public.

Tired of our too many questions, NNPC is forging ahead. If we expect the numbers of tankers rolling in and out of the Port Harcourt refinery premises, old and not so old, to be the only signs of activity at the facility, NNPC has exported products to Dubai through Wonder Star MRL.

Could the NNPC counter-poise be the answer to "when will the price of NNPC's products be reduced" since they are not imported? NNPC is too busy attending to foreign clients that you should firm up your interests by paying in foreign currency.

Have we forgotten that Mele Kyari, the Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC, in July 2024 said Nigeria would be a net exporter of petroleum products by December 2024? Has the President, Minister of Petroleum Resources, not fulfilled another promise?

Let the naysayers know that the President is winning. Let those who want fuel ask not the price.

Fuel is available. Availability is more important

than price until availability becomes a confusion.

Finally...

ENYIMBA Economic City FZE will unwrap the project to businesses, especially, SMEs, at the South East Business and Investment Summit, SEBIS, that runs from 11-13 December 2024. It will be another big beginning in the re-making of the South East.

DELE Farotimi's arrest, is proof, if one is needed, that we are in the era of "legitimate lawlessness". The police, a law enforcement agency, will skip the law on a 320-journey to make an arrest in Lagos from Ado-Ekiti, without a warrant authorising the arrest, hence some initially called it an abduction. If Farotimi broke the law, a lawless response, as we have seen so far, equates to self help which is a breach of the law. "He will have his day in court" is an inadequate response for the abuses of the law.

UNDER what law is the Federal Government sacking its employees who are graduates of some universities in Republic of Benin? Was there a government order or law banning those universities by 2017? It is a wonder that the government, though nothing is beyond government, could make a decision in 2024, and it takes effect from seven years ago. Is it not an admission of its incapacities that government cannot detect fake credentials? If the suspects are guilty as charged, should they not be facing the law and refunding salaries that they have earned illegally? Just think about this: some of those making these decisions could be parading fake credentials even at the

very top. For the records, a journalist's investigative report led the government to make this retroactive order - one more thing to blame on these journalists.

EACH time I read of another banditry kingpin being eliminated, I get the impression that there are too many of these kingpins that we really need another title for important officials in the hierarchy of Nigeria's bandits. They have made their mark. Those who eliminate them, too, deserve recognition of their feats.

THE fight against corruption is doomed once its expansive scopes provide for legal abhorrence of transparency. How can the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, be in celebration over a latest forfeiture case that involved an estate of 753 units of duplexes and other apartments and the public is not entitled to know the owner of the property? We are left to speculate as we are still doing seven years after Justice Muslim Hassan granted final forfeiture orders for the following: "The sum of \$43,449,947 found by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission at Flat 7B of No. 16 Osborne Road, Osborne Towers, Ikoyi, Lagos, which sum is reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities to the Federal Government of Nigeria". A made a similar order for £27,800 and N23,218,000, found in the same apartment. Did we know who had the money or what government finally did with it?

ISIGUZO is a major commentator on minor issues

## Nyesom Wike, Chinda Were Teenagers When My Husband As Engineer Built Abuja 42 Years Ago – Octogenarian Wife Of Late Col Ogbemor



**T**he wife of the late Colonel Paul Ogbemor, Mrs Rita Lori Ogbemor, has

stated that her late husband was among those who built the Nigerian capital city, Abuja.

She said it would therefore be inappropriate for the present government of Bola Tinubu to forcefully take over their lands which they had been in possession for over four decades.

Wednesday, SaharaReporters reported how residents of Life Camp area of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, cried out in response to the FCT Minister, Nyseom Wike's revocation of their land interests.

In multiple videos uploaded on X (formerly Twitter), the FCT officials were seen storming the community with a bulldozer to demolish the houses but they were resisted by the residents.

The residents claimed that there was a subsisting court

order stopping the FCT administration from demolishing their houses and declaring the revocation of their interests as illegal.

Martins Vincent Otse, also known as VeryDarkMan, a social media influencer, said in one of the videos that the revoked land belonged to a late prominent military soldier whose family members are currently occupying it.

He said the FCT minister revoked the land and reallocated it back to his cronies.

Commenting on these developments at a press conference on Friday, Mrs Ogbemor said she would rather die than appeal to President Bola Tinubu to intervene in the land dispute case between Paullosa Nigeria

Limited, an estate management company owned by her late husband, and the authorities of the Federal Capital Territory.

Ogbemor said that it would be belittling to reach out to the president or make any form of appeal to the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike.

Ogbemor, however, stated that her husband was one of those who built Abuja, adding that persons who were close to the President should know her and take the matter to the President.

"I am not saying the President should know me, but the people, the leaders, who surround and advise the President should know people like us, who oil the wheel of progress in this country. And when

there is a problem like this, they should intervene, and if it is above them, they should take it to the president.

"My husband was one of those who built Abuja; they gave him a piece of land to work as an engineer. He brought people from all over the world to work with him. Now, after 42 years, they want to demolish it and give it to Chinda? Who is Chinda?"

"If you take Chinda's age today and the period we have been here, Chinda was only 14 years old. And so is Wike. Is that not belittling of me at the age of 84, to go and meet the president, 'Mr. President, someone in my country is demolishing my house? No. I would rather die,' she said.

## Delta Wins \$400,000 Gates Foundation PHC Award

BY PETER, NWOKORO ASABA

**D**ELTA State Government has been awarded \$400,000 for its exceptional performance in primary healthcare management through the Primary Health Care (PHC) Leadership Challenge, a program organized by the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF) in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The award, presented on Thursday, recognizes Governor Sheriff Oborevwori's strides in improving healthcare under his administration's MORE agenda. It is the first time Delta State has won such recognition since the awards were launched in 2019.

Speaking during the presentation ceremony, held in the presence of Vice President Kashim Shettima and NGF Chairman AbdulRahman AbdulRasaq, the Governor of Kwara State, the Delta State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Joseph Onojaeme, and the Director-General of the Delta State Contributory Health Commission (DSCHC), Dr. Isaac Akpoveta, received the award on behalf of Governor Oborevwori.

"This award is a testament

to Governor Oborevwori's dedication to revamping the health sector in Delta State," Dr. Onojaeme said. "The approval for the renovation of over 150 primary healthcare centers demonstrates the administration's commitment to accessible healthcare for grassroots communities."

The PHC Leadership Challenge aims to enhance primary healthcare delivery across Nigeria, encouraging states to prioritize healthcare access for underserved populations.

Delta State earned the recognition after a technical committee, including representatives from UNICEF, the World Bank, the Federal Ministry of Health, and other global partners, assessed PHC facilities nationwide.

Governor Oborevwori's MORE agenda has gained significant traction, with ongoing investments in health infrastructure and personnel development. Dr. Onojaeme assured that the funds would further bolster the state's efforts to improve healthcare access and outcomes for its residents.

"This milestone underscores our vision to provide efficient healthcare for all Deltans," he added.

## Syria: Israel Seizing Opportunity of Al-Assad's Fall to Harness Territories



**T**he UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says Israel's strikes targeted military sites in Damascus and its countryside.

"Israeli strikes destroyed a scientific institute" and other related military facilities in Barzeh, in northern Damascus, and targeted a "military airport" in the capital's countryside, it said.

Strikes also targeted "Scud ballistic missile warehouses" and launchers in the Qalamun area, as well as "rockets, depots and tunnels under the mountain", according to the war mon-

itoring group.

Israel air strikes on Friday targeted "a missile base at the top of Damascus's Mount Qasyun", the group said, as well as an airport in southern Sweida province and "defence and research labs in Masyaf", in Hama province.

Since al-Assad's fall, Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Syrian military sites, targeting everything from chemical weapons stores to air defences.

Reports from Damascus says Israeli air strikes that shook the Syrian capital on Friday night targeted the

headquarters of the army's fourth division and a radar battalion in the nearby countryside.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Damascus and other towns and cities across the country on Friday to celebrate the fall of Bashar al-Assad.

New satellite images appear to show Russia's military packing up equipment at Khmeimim airbase in Syria's Latakia province, though Russian media reports that Moscow has made contact with the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) opposition group and is seeking to maintain

its bases in the country.

The Arab League has condemned Israel's grab for Syrian land in the buffer zone between the two countries.

Jordan is scheduled to host an emergency summit on Syria, which will be attended by top diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Turkey, the US, the European Union and the UN.

Read Also: Israeli Air Strike on Northern Lebanon Kills Hamas Commander and His Family.

## Assets Verification Committee Accuses Obaseki of Inflating Benin - Abraka Road Contact Thrice in a Year to Bankroll Ighodalo's Election

**P**atrick "Igodomigodo" Obahiagbon, a member of Edo State Assets Verification Committee, set up by Governor Monday Okpebholo has accused immediate past Governor Godwin Obaseki of diverting money from the inflated contract on Benin-Abraka Road to finance the governorship election of Asue Ighodalo of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the September 21 polls.

Okpebholo of the All Progressives Congress (APC), however defeated Ighodalo with 291,667 votes DP= to Ighodalo's 247,234.

The committee revealed Thursday in Benin how the contract sum for the 17.5-kilometer road project was inflated from N8 billion to N16 billion by Obaseki thrice within a year.

The Sub-committee on Physical Assets and Infrastructure of the Verification Committee discovered the inflation during an inspection of the reconstruction of the Benin-Abraka Road Phase 1C.

Obahiagbon, the chairman of the subcommittee and a two time member of the House of

Representative said the explanation by the project manager of the company confirmed the content of a petition the committee received from some citizens of the state on the alleged inflation of the contract sum for the road project.

He alleged that money from the inflated must have been done by the immediate past government to use the funds to finance the September 21, 2024, governorship election.

He said: "The reason we have to take pains to particularly visit this site is based on a petition from Edo State citizens that we have just received.

"And the narrations of the construction firm's project manager seem to justify the reasons and the nitty-gritty of that petition. The content of that petition was to the effect that there were massive reviews of contracts on this project because of the election.

"That the contract was colossal inflated because the outgoing governor needed money urgently and desperately to fund the September 21 governorship election."



"It makes no sense that within one year, a road contract sum would be varied from N8 billion to N12 billion and, in June, some few months to the election - maybe for election purposes - the contract sum again was varied from N12 billion to N16 billion.

"Maybe the petitioners were correct after all. If they were correct, this is an unfair deal to the people of Edo State."

Obahiagbon, who described the development as sad, added that the committee would urge

the main committee to recommend to the state government that further investigation be carried out on the petition and the statement of the company's project manager.

The controversial contract was awarded to Nsik Engineering Company Limited on May 16, 2023, while work commenced in September 2023.

The project manager of the construction firm, Ifiokebong Ekong, told members of the committee during the inspection that the company was mo-

bilized with the sum of N2.9 billion, representing 25 percent of the contract sum of N8 billion.

Ekong added that after the mobilization, the contract sum was varied, and some amount was added to the initial cost of the project.

He added that the completion period of the job, which was initially three and a half years, was, however, reviewed downward to 18 months (one year and six months).

The project manager said the contract sum was initially

N8 billion when it was awarded in September 2023, but it was reviewed upward to N12 billion in 2024 and later to the current sum of N16.4 billion in June 2024.

Another member of the subcommittee, Abass Braimah, who frowned at the development said the increment was 100 percent.

According to him, "I don't think there is anywhere in Nigeria or outside that a project can be awarded for N8 billion, reviewed to N12 billion, and further reviewed to N16 billion.

"Why not just review it and take the entire purse of Edo State? If we can review from N8 billion to upward of between N12 billion and N16 billion in one year?"

Braimah, also a former Reps member queried: "What has substantially changed for you to have a 100 percent increment from N8 billion to N16 billion? Meanwhile, the job specification or contents have not changed. It is still the same thing. What type of games are we playing here?"

# Badenoch stands by Nigeria comments after criticism



**K**emi Badenoch has stood by her past comments about Nigeria, after the vice-president of the West African country accused her of denigrating it.

The Conservative Party leader, who was born in the UK but mostly raised in Nigeria, has repeatedly described growing up in fear and insecurity in a country plagued by corruption.

On Monday, Nigerian Vice-President Kashim

Shettima suggested Badenoch could "remove the Kemi from her name" if she was not proud of her "nation of origin".

Asked about Shettima's comments, Badenoch's spokesman said she "stands by what she says" and "is not the PR for Nigeria".

"She is the leader of the opposition and she is very proud of her leadership of the opposition in this country," he told reporters.

"She tells the truth. She tells it like it is. She is not going to couch her words."

During a speech on migration in Nigerian capital Abuja, Shettima said his government was "proud" of Badenoch "in spite of her efforts at denigrating her nation of origin."

Shettima was met with applause when he said: "She is entitled to her own opinions; she has even every right to remove the Kemi from her

name but that does not underscore the fact that the greatest black nation on earth is the nation called Nigeria."

He compared Badenoch's approach to that of her predecessor, Rishi Sunak - the UK's first prime minister of Indian heritage - as "a brilliant young man" who "never denigrated his nation of ancestry".

It is unclear which comments Shettima was referring to, but Badenoch has frequently mentioned her Nigerian upbringing in speeches and interviews.

Born Olukemi Adegoke in Wimbledon in 1980, she grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, and in the United States where her physiology professor mother lectured.

She returned to the UK at the age of 16 to live with a friend of her mother because of the worsening political and economic situation in Nigeria, and to study for her A-levels.

After marrying Scottish banker Hamish Badenoch, she took her husband's surname.

At the Conservative Party conference this year, Badenoch contrasted the freedoms she experienced in the UK to her childhood in Lagos "where fear was everywhere".

She vividly described the city as lawless, recalling hearing "neighbours scream as they are being burgled and beaten - and wondering if your home will be next".

Last week during a tour of the US, she described her home city as "a place where almost everything seemed broken".

Her experiences helped shape her conservative ideals and set her against socialism, she said.

# Battle for Control of Delta APC: Committee Recommends Keyamo, Omo-Agege as Co-Chairmen

**T**he All Progressives Congress (APC) Committee led by Olorogun O'Tega Emehor that was set up by the party's State Working Committee, has recommended a co-chair position for the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Olorogun Festus Keyamo SAN, and a former Senate majority leader, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, to lead the Delta State APC Elders Council.

The decision was reached to put to rest, the ongoing supremacy battle between Omo-Agege and supporters of the Honourable Minister Keyamo.

This fact emerged from the report of the reconciliation committee that investigated the underlying causes of conflicts in the party and the supremacy battle between former Deputy Senate President and former governorship candidate of the party, Ovie Omo-Agege and the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Olorogun Festus Keyamo SAN, which Midwest Herald learnt has submitted its report.

The committee's report was submitted last Monday to the National Chairman of APC, Abdullahi Ganduje, in Abuja by the APC Vice Chairman, Delta Central Senatorial District, Paulinus Akpeki.

However, reports say that, supporters of Omo-Agege are not comfortable with the submission of the peace committee, and the report quoted Mr. Francis Obigbor, the Deputy Chairman of the party, recent statement. Obigbor is alleged to be Omo-Agege's anchor man.

However, the recommendation by the O'Tega Committee seems to have the blessing of the National Working Committee (NWC) going by the comments of a senior member who questioned the complaints of the pro Omo-Agege supporters.



He asked: "What is wrong if the Delta State APC chairman, Sobotie delegates Akpeki to receive the reconciliation committee report on his behalf and submit to the national chairman?"

"I have read the committee's report and

the obvious truth is that the content is causing the jittering across the party in Delta, because some persons don't want the report to see the light of the day and I can tell you that the national chairman was so happy receiving the report on Monday.

"The report is about uniting the party. The party is so divided and the committee came up with a report identifying root causes of the lingering crisis in the party.

"The issue is, only one man, former deputy senate president, Omo-Agege is claiming leadership of the party in the state and other people are not accepting him as a leader. Omo-Agege and the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo feels that they are both leaders of the party, so the report is nothing but about the unity of the party.

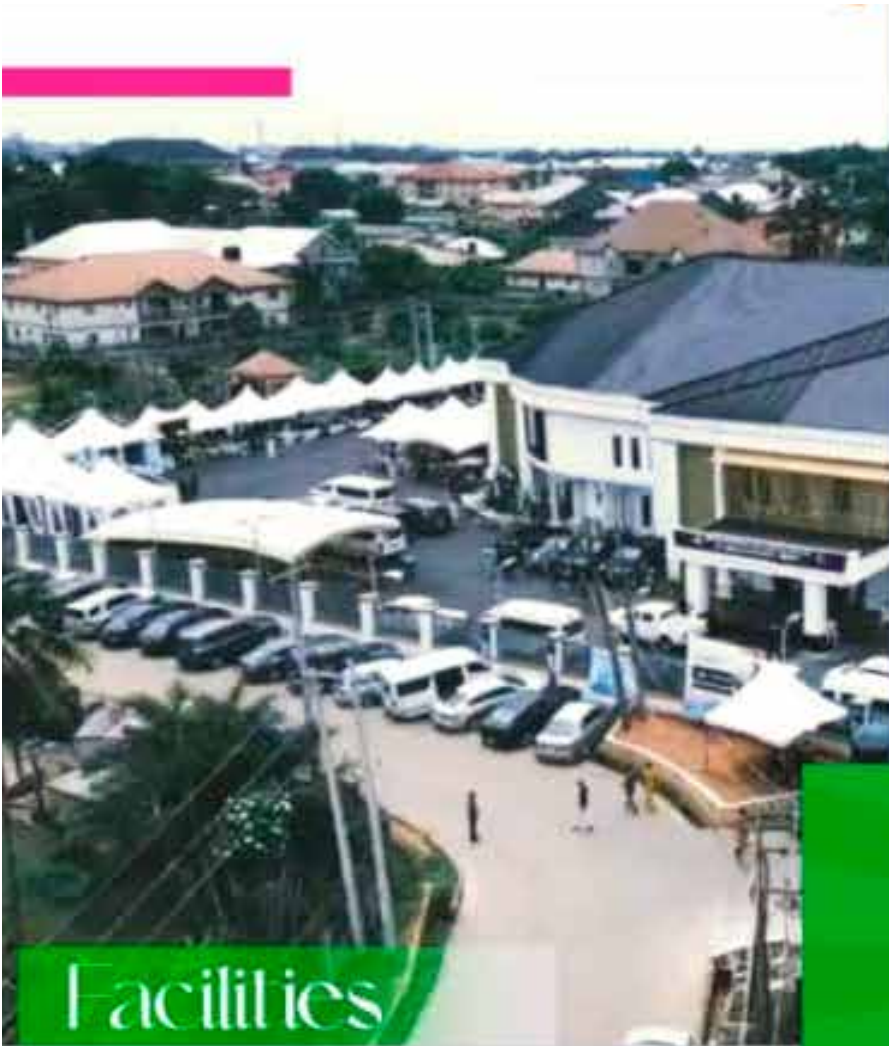
"The committee in its wisdom learnt, recommended the dual chairmanship, having identified Omo-Agege and Keyamo different interest which has led to members supremacy battle and the proposal to have both gladiators as co-chairmen of the leadership council of the party will please supporters of both leaders.

"But the truth is, Omo-Agege faction apparently don't want such because they feel that will compromise his ability to control the party, so I don't know why they want only one faction of the party to represent the party.

"With information before the NWC, the state deputy chairman, Obigbor is Omo-Agege's anchor man in the party's SWC and was in the committee but refused to cooperate and support it even refused to sign the report and was positioning himself to receive it and possibly destroy it.

"But, Sobotie delegated Akpeki to receive the report and forward to the national chairman."

Majority of the APC stakeholders have praised the resolution reached by the Delta APC Elders Council to finally bring peace to the party.



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## Do I Look Scared? You Can Keep On Cooking Things To Frame Me With, But My Voice Will Be Loud - Ikenga Ugochinyere

**I**kenga Ugochinyere, a House of Representatives member from the Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency of Imo State, has reacted to plans to expel him from the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

According to reports, the National Working Committee (NWC) of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has dismissed the plans by the Umuopia/Umukegwu Ward chapter of the party to expel Ikenga Ugochinyere, describing it as null and void.

However, in the video from

1:38, the PDP chieftain, Ikenga Ugochinyere, demonstrated fearlessness as he vowed to incessantly speak against irregularities in the PDP.

According to the video, "The noises you hear today from those who have no conscience and those that have been bought with a plot of land will not swallow us. I will be fearless, I will not shake".

He continued, "Do I look like I'm scared? You can keep on cooking things to frame me with, but my voice will be loud."



## If I was an evil person I wouldn't come here considering the nature and the location of this place - Fubara speaks while inaugurating road in Wike's LG

**R**ivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara has stressed the importance of prioritizing the needs of the people above political affiliations or loyalties.

He made this remark while inaugurating Okocha Road in the Rumuolumeni community, Obio Akpor LGA.

Speaking at the event, Fubara stated, "My advice is: politics is not all about who is supporting you or who is against you. Politics should also include attending to the

needs of the people."

The governor highlighted that governance should transcend personal or sectional interests, stressing the responsibility to deliver services and improve lives. "At this time, if I was an evil person, I would say, 'I wouldn't come here,' considering the nature and the location of this place. But, because it is our duty in government to provide services, protect lives and property, we have to come to make sure that our people here are happy," he said.



## Drama Unfolds as Edo Election Tribunal Kicks Off: Seven Petitions Challenge APC Victory Amid Tense Proceeding



**T**he Edo State Governorship Election Tribunal on Monday held its inaugural sitting ahead of the pre-hearing on petitions challenging the declaration of the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Senator Monday Okpebholo, as the winner of the September 21, 2024 poll.

The three-man panel, chaired by Justice Wilfred Kpochi, includes AB Yusuf and AA Adewole as members. The tribunal was inaugurated by its chairman, Justice Wilfred Kpochi.

Seven separate petitions, filed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and six other political parties along with their

candidates, are contesting the declaration of Senator Monday Okpebholo as the winner of the 2024 governorship election.

During the inaugural sitting, Justice Wilfred Kpochi called for decorum and cooperation from counsel to ensure smooth proceedings.

Counsel for both the petitioners and respondents

pledged to adhere to this directive.

The session saw the presence of the PDP governorship candidate, Dr. Asue Ighodalo, alongside representatives of the APC, PDP, other political parties, and their legal teams.

Ahead of the pre-hearing stage, the tribunal adjourned proceedings to next Wednesday, December 18, 2024, to allow the petitioners to file processes and documents in response to the respondents' applications.

The lead counsel for Dr Asue Ighodalo, Ken Mozia, SAN, and counsel for Senator Monday Okpebholo, Festus Idekpefo, SAN, both expressed readiness for the tribunal's proceedings.

However, mild drama ensued as supporters of the PDP and APC clashed outside the tribunal. Security personnel, including police and DSS operatives, were on the ground to maintain order and ensure the safety of all present.

## "Where were you when Buhari northernised every position in Nigeria?" - Lawyer Mike Ozekhome tackles Nigerians accusing President Tinubu of employing only Yorubas in his govt

**R**ights activist and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Mike Ozekhome, has said that former President Muhammadu Buhari should be blamed for the perceived preference of his successor, Bola Tinubu, to appoint persons from his ethnic Yoruba language group into key positions of government.

Ozekhome stated this while speaking at a symposium on human rights organised by the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) held in Abuja on Wednesday, December 11. He said it was not surprising that such a trajectory is being followed by President Tinubu, since it was tolerated by Nigerians when Buhari was at the helm of affairs.



## Reuben Abati Celebrated His Ignorance Publicly, He Offended The Legal Profession - Kenneth Okonkwo

**I**n a recent televised appearance on Symfoni TV from 3:53, distinguished human rights lawyer and veteran actor Kenneth Okonkwo addressed controversial claims about land ownership within the Igbo community, delivering a passionate defense against what he characterized as misinformed narratives.

Challenging prevailing misconceptions, Okonkwo provided a nuanced explanation of land distribution practices among Igbo people. "Now, do you sell land to your own people? No. Ev-

erybody has land. If you are a man in Igbo land, you're entitled to a plot of land in your own land," he stated emphatically.

The legal expert specifically criticized commentator Reuben Abati for spreading what he deemed unfounded allegations. Okonkwo argued that land transactions involving Igbo communities predominantly occur with non-Igbo individuals, directly contradicting widespread misunderstandings.

"If there was any land sold by Igbos, it is sold to people who are not Igbo," Okonkwo

asserted, highlighting the community's internal land allocation principles.

Furthermore, the lawyer took direct aim at Abati's public commentary, condemning what he perceived as reckless statements. "Then how can somebody ignorantly begin to make such statements? Ruben Abati simply celebrated his ignorance publicly," Okonkwo declared.

Invoking fundamental legal principles, he emphasized the importance of due process and fair repre-

sentation. "Let me tell you, he offended the legal profession because in law, you don't condemn a people unheard. You cannot condemn a people without hearing from their side," the lawyer concluded, underscoring the critical importance of balanced and informed discourse.

Okonkwo's comprehensive rebuttal on Symfoni TV not only clarified land ownership practices but also challenged public narratives that he believes misrepresent the Igbo community's social and legal norms.



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# Drugs And Crimes: Is NDLEA Right?

**N**DLEA arrests wanted drug baron behind cocaine shipments to Saudi Arabia, Qatar" (September 13, 2024). "Nigerian authorities seize cocaine worth \$2.93 million from businessman at Lagos airport" (September 24, 2024). "Nigerian drug ring-leader extradited to South Korea" (September 26, 2024). "NDLEA uncovers heroin, loud consignments concealed in rechargeable lamps" (September 29, 2024). And on that same day another piece of news that went viral on both social and traditional media was that of: "NDLEA nabs wanted Badagry community leader, wives and son."

My dear reader and concerned Nigerian, just how do you feel about these torrid tales of the reining in of the nefarious activities of desperate drug barons by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) with all in one month of September, 2024. Shocked, as yours truly felt, I guess. But it goes beyond that. Worrysome too is the escalation of sundry crimes, with many linked to drug abuse. One can therefore, imagine what would have happened if the NDLEA was not put in place to identify, highlight and bring the perpetrators of the pure evil acts of both drug trafficking and its brazen abuse to justice.

Researches have shown on the global socio-economic spectrum that between 25-50% of violent crimes are committed under the rising influence of hard drugs, or alcohol as we're nearly 60% of robbery and theft. That is according to the online blog recovered.org. And drug trafficking has been identified as major source of revenue for organized crime groups, many of whom are involved in other forms of serious crimes such as the purchase and sales of firearms, modern slavery and immigration crime.

Worthy of note is that drug abusers commit crimes to pay for their drugs and painfully, this inflicts damages to the society as a whole. For instance, back in 2010 about 70 % of male prisoners in the United States confessed to have been involved in drug abuse. That was compared to the 11.2% rate of drug abuse in the country's male population. According to the research in question alcohol consumption was fingered out as responsible for the highest percentage of aggression related crimes. Furthermore, it was revealed that those who took a combination of alcohol and drugs were behind the perpetration of 21.4% of aggression.

Agreed, that crimes and criminality have other root causes. These include lack of proper upbringing



## DRUMBEATS with Ayo Oyoze Baje

of children, without being weaned on the milk of morality right from the home front, poverty and peer group of pressure. Other causative factors are traced to sheer laziness, vaulting ambition of those who compare themselves to the Joneses, and of course, the culture of impunity.. That is especially so whereby some highly placed criminals either receive a slap on the wrist and told to go and sin no more, or left off the hook because of their connections in the corridors of political power. But exposure to the drug lords of crime worsens their situations. And that brings us to the Nigerian socio-economic landscape.

A report by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime in Nigeria indicates that 14.4% (14.3 million) of people between the age of 15 and 64 years abuse drugs. It has also been discovered that a population of 30 million to 35 million Nigerians spends approximately \$15,000 to \$30,000 (N25.5 billion to N51 billion) every year on psychotropic drugs and alcohol. This is a matter of serious concern, is it not? Of course, it is.

Also worrisome was the finding of a statistical analysis of a 2015 nationwide survey of 10,609 responses that identified alcohol as the drug with the highest prevalence rate while cannabis remains the most abused illicit drug, across the

educational spectrum up to secondary schools. Now you understand why Marwa is standing firm against its adoption as a non-illicit drug by the National Assembly.

As one distinguished Nigerian patriot who certainly knows his onions, the evils of drug trafficking and abuse became more obvious when between January and May 2021 NDLEA seized over 2,000 tons and over N90 billion worth of drugs in the country. As he rightly noted a fraction of that huge sum would definitely support their criminal activities. That explains why he insists that terrorists, bandits and kidnappers take drugs before launching their criminal activities. But what really matters is the important role each and every one of us can play to weaken the widening wings of drug trafficking and the abuse thereof.

Is there a nexus between drug abuse and the rate of crimes? The answer is in the affirmative. So, as the NDLEA has upped its game in the training of staff, to upgrade their capacity to identify and arrest the drug traffickers in their tracks all of us should rise up to contribute our quota. Parents should be there for their children; enlightening them on the ills of drug abuse and keeping them away from drug traffickers. So

should teachers, imams, community leaders and the traditional rulers. Such a holistic approach will definitely assist to breed a new generation to guarantee a brighter and bigger Nigeria.

Lest we forget, the NDLEA was established by a decree in 1989 to combat illicit drug trafficking and consumption. Subsequently, the Act 2004 by the Federal Government of Nigeria came into effect to enforce laws against the cultivation, processing, sale, trafficking and use of hard drugs and to empower the Agency to investigate persons suspected to have dealings in drugs and other related matters. But truth be told many Nigerians still do not know all these statutory functions of the NDLEA and indeed, what they are supposed to be doing as partners in progress.

It has, therefore, become expedient to engage in sustained public enlightenment, using the mass media with translation to many of the local languages down to the grassroots. With that perhaps, those at the rural areas engaged in mass cultivation of cannabis would understand why it is wrong to do so. Thereafter, the public should be kept updated on the Agency's achievements and above all why we need to help the NDLEA to help us enjoy a drug-free and eventually a crime-free life.

## NDLEA Nabs 65-Year-Old Grandma With 'Bottles of Codeine' in Lagos



**T**he National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has apprehended a 65-year-old grandmother, Ramata Bola Adeyemo, for alleged drug trafficking in Lagos.

According to a statement by NDLEA spokesperson, Femi Babafemi, Adeyemo was arrested on December 6 at Odunfa

Street, Lagos Island LGA.

The agency reported that 20.6 litres of codeine-based syrup were discovered during the arrest.

Inya, claiming to be a building engineer, was arrested on December 2 at Okeyson Motor Park in Enugu after the shipment, which had arrived at the Murtala Muhammed

International Airport (MMIA) on November 29, was tracked by the agency. The agency also intercepted a vehicle in Adama-wa on December 6, recovering 511,000 pills of tramadol. The vehicle's occupants abandoned it upon realizing they were being pursued by NDLEA operatives.

In Ekiti State, suspects Olan-

rewaju Alale (48) and Babatunde Kayode Ijadahun (55) were arrested while transporting 108 jumbo bags of cannabis weighing 1,323 kilograms to Ondo State for onward distribution to the North. Another suspect, Adekunle Yusuf (33), was caught in Oyo State with 704 kilograms of cannabis concealed in white sacks. Additionally, Alhaji Lawan Manga was arrested on December 5 in Ikeja, Lagos, with 4.7 kg of cannabis and 1.3 kg of tramadol in his possession.

In another development, Legit.ng reported that a Nigerian businessman based in Brazil, Ezeokoli Sylva, has been arrested at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, after attempting to smuggle 700 grams of drugs in his stomach. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has made this interception known in a statement on Sunday, November 1.

## Niger govt calls for multi-stakeholder engagement to help at-risk children

**T**he Niger State At-Risk Children Programme, ARC-P, has emphasized the critical need for a multi-stakeholder approach in combating issues affecting at-risk children in the state.

The Head of Operations, ARC-P, Abdul Abdul representing the Team Lead, Aisha Umar Tafida stated this during a courtesy visit to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, Minna Command. He noted that the visit aimed to reinforce ARCP's commitment to addressing the vulnerabilities faced by at-risk children, especially concerning substance abuse and related challenges while highlighting ARC-P's ongoing initiatives.

Aside that, the head of operations said, "We are here in our bid to strengthen partnerships and foster collaboration".

Responding, the NDLEA State Commander, Mr Shehu N. Gwadabawa, commended

ARC-P's efforts and reaffirmed their dedication to supporting interventions that create a safer environment for children.

The NDLEA Commander, also provided valuable insights into the agency's efforts in supporting and rehabilitating minors affected by drug-related challenges.

The Commander detailed the NDLEA's comprehensive approach, which includes awareness campaigns, counselling services, and rehabilitation programs tailored to minors, ensuring they receive holistic support to reintegrate into society also reiterated NDLEA's willingness to partner with ARC-P to amplify their collective impact.

The two organizations then explored areas of synergy, which include awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs, and preventive strategies targeting communities most affected by drug-related issues.

**Drug war: French govt to support NDLEA**

After weeks of intensive special operations training for officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), by men of an elite tactical unit of the French National Police, popularly called RAID, the government of France has assured the anti-narcotics agency of more collaboration and support.

The assurance was given at the weekend by the French Police Attaché in Nigeria, Mr. Philippe Crespo when he led the trio of Messrs. Philippe Barrau, Tony Albaladejo and Cedric Hocquette on a courtesy visit to the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig Gen Mohammed Buba Marwa (Rtd) at the Agency's national headquarters in Abuja.

The visit followed the conclusion of a series of special operations training for officers of Strike Force Unit in NDLEA at the Agency's Academy in Jos, Plateau state, the third of such training in the last two years.

Speaking during the visit, Mr. Crespo commended Marwa for the warm reception always accorded the French team and his willingness to collaborate with local and international partners in his determined effort to curb the scourge of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking in Nigeria.

He said the success of NDLEA's operations is not only helping to protect Nigerians and Nigerian cities but equally communities in foreign lands through the Agency's interdiction efforts that had led to huge seizures of assorted illicit drug consignments heading to

Europe and other parts of the world.

He said as a result, the French government through the French National Police will continue its support and collaboration with NDLEA.

He proposed that the growing partnership should be documented in a memorandum of understanding in the new year.

In his remark, French technical expert, Phillippe Barrau praised the diligence, expertise and professionalism of NDLEA officers involved in the three weeks training exercise, adding that both sides had a lot to learn from each other.

He commended the support and capacity of the Agency's Academy, which made the programme seamless and successful.

In his response, Marwa expressed appreciation to the French government for the support and partnership.

"I remember in 2022 when I visited the headquarters of RAID in France on invitation and I made a request for this type of training, I never knew it's something that will come so fast and this consistent.

"Soon after that visit, a team of experts were sent to train our personnel and I am glad this is the third of such exercises.

"The drug problem is huge worldwide, and as such, we require global partnership, collaboration and every bit of expertise we can acquire to confront the drug cartels and put an end to their activities which pose direct threat to public health and the security of countries across the globe.

**Drug Abuse: Bikers Group Partners NDLEA, Lawmaker To Sensitise Nigerian Students**

The international touring bikers group, Jeje Riders Nigeria, sensitised students in Bauchi State on the dangers of drug peddling at the Bauchi Stadium on Sunday, December 8.

The nationwide student anti-drug campaign started in Yola, Adamawa State on October 12, 2024.

The campaign is part of a deliberate effort to tackle the menace of drug abuse among students in schools. This was contained in a statement made available to Legit.ng on Sunday, December 8. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Bauchi State Commandant, CM Aminu Aliyu, led the campaign with the support of the member representing Bauchi Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Aliyu Garu. The event was supported by Barr. Gambo Yakubu Wakili, Executive Director, the WE-AID Initiative and Dr. Fawaz Farooq of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBU), Bauchi.

The event was co-hosted alongside the Bauchi Grand Roadwalk of the Coalition of Physical Fitness Clubs in the

state. A member of Jeje Riders Nigeria, Tijjani St James, explained that the campaign's objective is to shield students and young ones from the menace of substance abuse, Tijjani said substance abuse has become prevalent, especially in the northern parts of Nigeria. He stated this while speaking on the aim of the campaign during the occasion.

He disclosed that the group will move to Plateau state for its next campaign on February 15, 2025 Speaking further, Tijjani said the group is determined to take their campaign to all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Meanwhile, Legit.ng reported that campaign against drug and substance abuse has been taken to the Government Junior Secondary School, Jabi 2, Abuja. The school facilitated this campaign in collaboration with the FCT chapter of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

Hundreds of students trooped out at the school's multipurpose hall to learn about the ills of drug and substance abuse.

**'Engineer' nabbed over illicit drug consignments concealed in pressure machines**



NDLEA arrests grandma with opioids in Lagos, intercepts tramadol pills in Adamawa, 1,323kg cannabis in Ekiti

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have arrested a suspected drug trafficker, Egwu Phillip Inya, who claims to be a building engineer, while attempting to take delivery of illicit consignments concealed in pressure machines imported from South Africa.

The 42-year-old Inya was arrested on Monday, December 2, 2024, at Okeyson Motor Park Enugu when he showed up to collect three units of pressure machines inside which were hidden parcels of Loud, a synthetic strain of cannabis, weighing 7.40 kilogrammes.

The consignments had arrived at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja, Lagos, import

shed on November 29, 2024.

Following credible intelligence, officers of the MMIA Strategic Command of the Agency had monitored the shipment pass through clearing processes up to a logistics company's warehouse outside the airport where it was to be collected by the consignee.

Spokesperson for the agency, Femi Babafemi, in a statement yesterday said the importer, however, changed the point of collection to Enugu at the last minute. As a result, NDLEA operatives in a follow up operation in Enugu arrested Inya when he showed up to collect the consignments.

Relatedly, about 511,000 pills of tramadol were recovered from a Siena vehicle at Hilli, Askira Uba way in Adamawa State by NDLEA operatives on patrol along the road in the early hours of Friday, December 6.

The occupants of the vehicle

had made a detour on sighting the NDLEA team and after a distance abandoned the vehicle with the consignments after noticing the operatives were on their trail.

Also, in Ekiti State, two suspects: Olanrewaju Alale, 48, and Babatunde Kayode Ijadahun, 55, were arrested along Ise-Emure road in a J5 bus marked EPE 958 XJ while transporting 108 jumbo bags of cannabis weighing 1,323 kilogrammes to Owo, Ondo State from where they claimed the consignment will be moved to the North for distribution.

Another suspect, Adekunle Yusuf, 33, was nabbed by NDLEA operatives with 704 kilogrammes of the same psychoactive substance, concealed in white sacks on Friday, December 6, at Idere road, Igboora, Oyo State.

In Lagos, a grandmother, 65-year-old Ramata Bola

Adeyemo was on Friday, December 6, arrested by NDLEA operatives at 62 Odunfa street, Lagos Island, where 20.6 litres of codeine-based syrup were recovered from her.

Also arrested in Lagos was Alhaji Lawan Manga who was picked up at Ogundana Street, Ikeja on Thursday, December 5, while 4.7kg cannabis and 1.3kg tramadol were recovered from him.

Meanwhile, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa (Rtd) commended the officers and men of MMIA, Adamawa, Ekiti, Lagos, and Oyo Commands of the Agency for the arrests and seizures.

He stated that their operational successes and those of their compatriots across the country especially their balanced approach to drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction efforts are well appreciated.

**NDLEA secures conviction of 12 drug peddlers in Kano**

The Kano State Command of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has secured the conviction of 12 drug peddlers in the state.

The command's spokesman, Sadiq Maigatari, made this disclosure in a statement on Saturday in Kano.

Maigatari said the conviction was a significant milestone in the agency's relentless fight against drug-related offenses under the leadership of the state Commander, Abubakar Ahmad.

He added that the agency secured multiple convictions in one day, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and maintaining a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption.

According to him, the convicts were found guilty of orchestrating drug trafficking activities at the notorious Filin



Idi drug den.

"Each of the 12 individuals received a three-year prison sentence, with no option of a fine, underscoring the severity of their crimes.

"One of the drug peddlers, Lawan Sani, was convicted following a 10-month manhunt that ensued after attacking an NDLEA officer. He was given an additional two-year sentence,

totaling five years imprisonment," he said.

The spokesman further stated that the landmark conviction was a robust deterrent to drug traffickers who have been exploiting the Filin Idi area for their illicit operations.

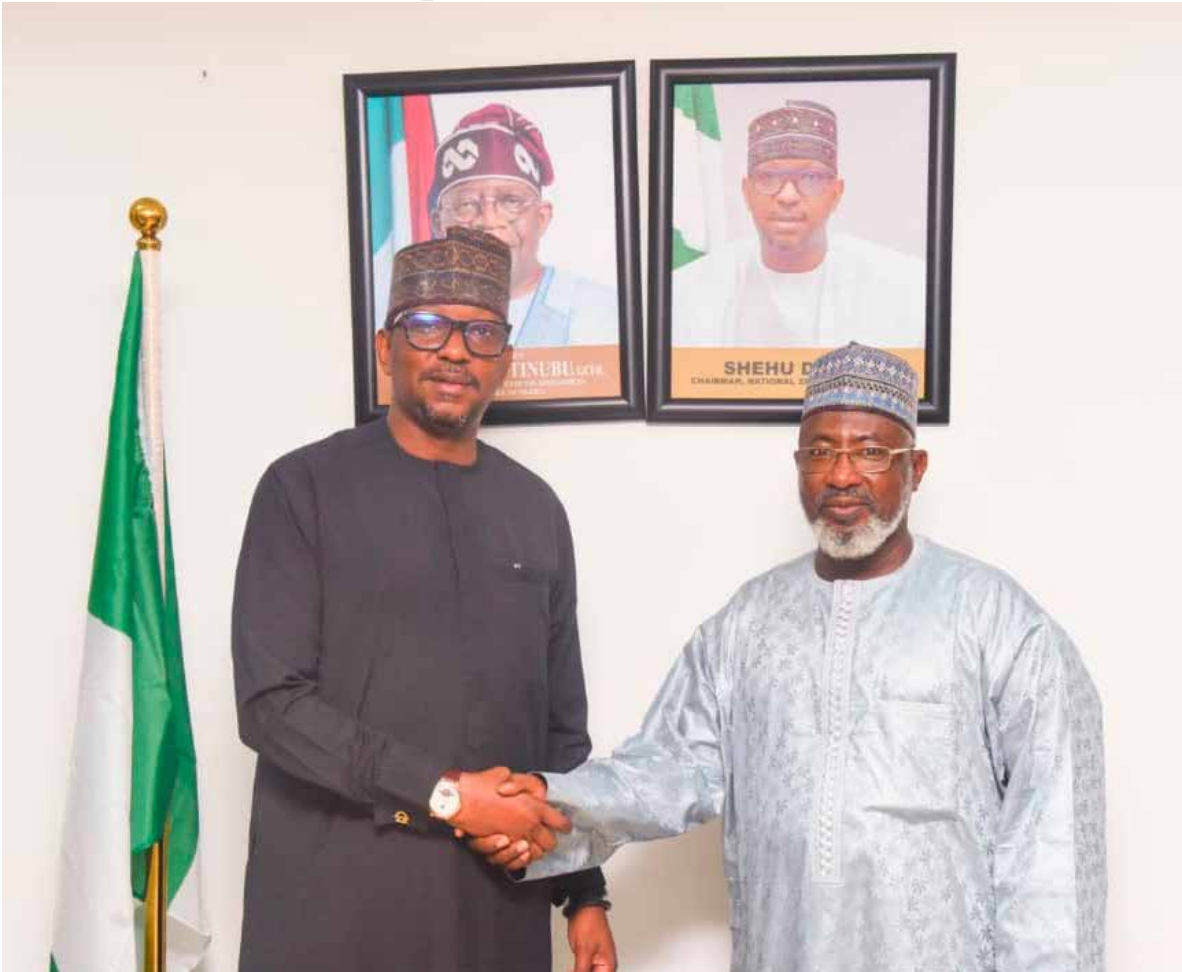
He noted that under the leadership of Commander Abubakar Ahmad, the NDLEA Kano State Command remained reso-

lute in its mission to bring drug offenders to justice and combat the scourge of substance abuse in the region.

He advised the public to stay alert and report any suspicious activities related to illicit drug activity.

"Together, we can foster a safer and healthier environment for all residents of Kano State," he added.

# Sanusi Will Provide Stability Ahead Of The World Cup Qualifiers - Dikko



Stability at the Nigeria Football Federation will be a catalyst for Nigeria as the Super Eagles gear up for the crucial stages of the World Cup qualifiers. This was the view of National Sports Commission (NSC) chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko while congratulating Dr. Mohammed Sanusi on his reappointment as NFF General Secretary.

Receiving Sanusi in his office, Dikko reiterated the Commission's resolve to ensure that Nigeria's flag is hoisted at the next World Cup.

"I congratulate Dr. Sanusi on his reappointment. We are entering a very crucial stage in our World Cup qualification and

we can't afford any uncertainty or inconsistency. We need all the focus we can get and we believe that his presence there will provide this stability and experience we need, moreso Dr. Sanusi is chairman of the Africa Football Federations General Secretaries group and a seasoned match commissioner so his experience cannot be overlooked," he said.

He reiterated the Commission's resolve to work with all the Sports Federations to attain lofty heights.

"This is in consonance with our resolve, me and my DG, to work hand in hand with all the Sports Federations to help them to succeed. If the Federations succeed, we succeed. This

is why we have been having one-on-one engagements with the various Federations trying to know their individual problems and how we can come in", he added.

On his part, Sanusi pledged NFF's unalloyed loyalty and alignment with the NSC's quest to reposition sports in the country.

"We know that the current NSC leadership is primed for success and we will not be the ones to break their rhythm. We will flow along with them. I have come to assure the chairman of our support and alignment at the NFF to the NSC as our leaders. We have been listening to the vision and mission and we are going

to key in appropriately. As the chairman said, the World Cup ticket is non-negotiable and we are committed to do all we can in delivering the ticket", he stated.

Sanusi joined the bandwagon thanking the president for appointing technocrats at the helm of NSC.

"Once more, we thank the president for this appointment. We have absolute trust in the chairman and the DG. They have the capacity to lead our sports to the next level. These are seasoned technocrats and marketers, so they would have absolutely no problems delivering on Mr. President's mandate on sports economy", he noted.

# Maureen Mmadu's Football Academy Draws 1-1 Against Giant FC of Ozubulu

After enduring the trauma of a recent unpleasant encounter with police authorities, Maureen Mmadu and her players showcased resilience on the pitch her Football Academy played out an exciting 1-1 draw against Giant FC of Ozubulu.

The game, which marked their third in just six days, demonstrated the determination and fighting spirit of the boys. Despite creating four clear-cut scoring opportunities, Excellent Football Academy was unable to capitalize, a missed chance that could have sealed the victory.

However, the highlight of the match came from Necho "Messi" Okoro, whose stunning free kick secured the equalizer

and ensured the team left with a valuable point. The young talent continues to live up to his nickname, delivering moments of brilliance that inspire his teammates and fans alike.

Reflecting on the match, Coach Mmadu remained positive:

"It was a fantastic game from the boys. We had our chances but couldn't convert them. Nevertheless, we take the positives from this performance and move forward. The team's effort in this demanding schedule is commendable."

With such displays of grit and determination, Excellent Football Academy is proving to be a team to watch as they continue to develop their young talents.



# MATHAIS FA ; Joins , (Our) Player Contract Agreement And Player Code Of Conduct (Train) !

Yes, SLIDING TACKLES has been quiet for a while now, ever since the Vibrant and Exciting 2024/2025 NPFL Season, Commenced with Laudable Brightness! Yes, we have kept Faith and Busy with our Self Imposed National Duty to Watch ONE NPFL MATCH, EVERY MATCH DAY! But, Something else (and More Important); also kept us busy and gainfully Employed!

Yes, under the Patriotic Advice of Enyimba Chairman, King Kanu Nwankwo and Enyimba Sporting Director, Ifeanyi Ekwueme! I was tasked with DEVELOPING PLAYER CONTRACT AGREEMENTS and PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT that

will STABILIZE the Critical LEGAL BRANCH of the NIGERIA FOOTBALL CLUBS Subsector to give Effect to a Harmonious Relationship between the NIGERIA FOOTBALL CLUBS and their PLAYERS!

Yes, we took up the Challenge to PREPARE a MADE-IN-NIGERIA PLAYER CONTRACT AGREEMENT and PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT, specifically PRODUCED for the NIGERIA FOOTBALL CLUBS Environment and Special Circumstances! Yes, ALMIGHTY GOD Came to the Noble Party initiated by the Enyimba Right thinking King Kanu and Ifeanyi Ekwueme Management Board! Yes, the PLAYER CONTRACT

AGREEMENT and PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT Documents, that is Objected the Crucial CLUB/ PLAYERS RELATIONSHIP, has BIRTHED! And, so far, have RECEIVED HIGH MARKS wherever I have PRESENTED THEM!

Yes, OUR PLAYER CONTRACT AGREEMENT and PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT Package, is indeed Novel because THEY ARE PREPARED by us, Nigeria Foremost FOOTBALL LAWYER who FORMED and MANAGED his CLUB, GABROS INTERNATIONAL FC, Nnewi (and in the PREMIER LEAGUE)! So, the LEGAL CONTRACT AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS are a COMPLETE COMPILATION of OUR RICH EXPERIENCES

in CLUB/PLAYERS RELATIONSHIP!

Yes, the burgeoning NEW FOOTBALL CONTRACTS, Prepared by us, CLEARLY STREAMLINES the BORDERS and OBLIGATIONS of both the NIGERIA FOOTBALL CLUBS and their NIGERIA PLAYERS, with ALL PARTIES Committed to the PERFORMANCE of the AGREEMENTS! Yes, our CONTRACT AGREEMENT Package HOLDS the CLUBS Responsible to REMUNERATE their PLAYERS as AGREED! And, COMMITS the PLAYERS to RECIPROCATE through PERFORMANCE! Yes, the PRIMARY REASON behind OUR CLUB/PLAYER CONTRACT

AGREEMENT and PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT; is to avoid the Needless CONFLICTS and FRICTIONS that has become PERVASIVE in the Nigeria Football Club System!

Yes, SLIDING TACKLES is Happy to Announce that NIGERIA CLUBS who WANT A SEAMLESS (Conflict Free) RELATIONS with their PLAYERS, are Steadily SIGNING UP to OUR PATRIOTIC CONTRACT AGREEMENTS Package! Yes, after the MOTIVATORS (ENYIMBA)! Newly Promoted and Ambitious MATHAIS FOOTBALL ACADEMY, Abakaliki; has ADOPTED OUR CONTRACT AGREEMENTS Package! We are indeed Grateful and with

the PASSION and COMMITMENT by the NIGERIA FOOTBALL CLUBS to REGULARISE the LEGAL BRANCH of their CLUB BUSINESS as Relates to their PLAYERS who are the GEESE that LAY the GOLDEN EGGS! SLIDING TACKLES hereby COUNSELS Other NIGERIA FOOTBALL CLUBS to key into the NEW CLUB/PLAYERS CONTRACT AGREEMENTS, Prepared by us, in Execution of OUR PATRIOTIC DUTY to OUR NATION'S FOOTBALL INDUSTRY, as "TORCHLIGHT OF NIGERIA FOOTBALL"!

Barrister lyke Igbokwe ( Torchlight Of Nigeria Football )

WhatsApp : 09136715922

## BK Products Announce Partnership with Evolution Cup

Ahead of the 2025 edition of the Pan-African Evolution Cup, BK Products has announced a significant partnership with the prestigious football tournament. Scheduled to take place in Abuja in 2025, the Evolution Cup is now in its third edition.

As part of the agreement, BK Products will sponsor the Man of the Match award and other individual awards for the competition. Olawale Olatoye, Project Strategist for the Evolution Cup, expressed his excitement about the partnership.

"We are thrilled to partner with BK Products to promote excellence in sports and recognize outstanding individual achievements," he said.

"This is one of the major ingredients of sporting events, sponsorship is a key factor for a perfect tournament and we are super proud of what BK Products are doing, making the championship memorable, putting smiles on faces and encouraging individual brilliance from this young lads and also an assurance for them all that the

future is bright," he concluded.

Blessed King, CEO of BK Products, shared his enthusiasm for the partnership. "I have a very positive feeling about this partnership. Despite initial skepticism, I believe it's the right decision, and I'm glad to be partnering with the Evolution Cup."

BK Products is a Chinese-based Nigerian production company specializing in manufacturing electronic and phone accessories, including power banks, earpods, and solar-powered products. King emphasized the quality and affordability of BK Products. "We produce our products directly from our factories, test them thoroughly, and ensure they meet the highest standards."

The partnership between BK Products and the Evolution Cup is expected to contribute to the development of football in Nigeria and Africa at large. With this partnership, BK Products is poised to increase its brand visibility and promote its products to a wider audience

## Delta State Sports Commission Chairman Clears Delta Queens Backlog Salaries

In a positive development for Delta Queens Football Club, Delta State Sports Commission Chairman, Hon. Onoriode Joshua Oborewori, has taken swift action to address the team's outstanding salary issues.

The Commission has paid the backlog of salaries owed to the Delta State Female Club, Delta Queens FC.

This timely intervention is a testament to the Commission's commitment to the welfare of athletes and the promotion of sports in the state.

By clearing the backlog, the Commission has not only alleviated the financial burden on the players but has also boosted their morale and motivation.

The Delta Queens, a prominent women's football team in Nigeria have consistently represented Delta State with pride in various national and international competitions.

With the support of the new Sports Commission, the team is poised to achieve even greater heights in the future.

# Direct Access To The President Makes Our Job Easier - Dikko



The National Sports Commission led by Chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko held a meeting with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the presidential villa yesterday. Also in the delegation were the Director-General Hon. Bukola Olopade and the SSA to the President on Grassroots Sports Development Adebayo Adeyinka.

In an interview with Mitchell Obi on Sports Salsa (Kennis 104.1 FM), Dikko is enthusiastic that the meeting with the president has given impetus

to the Commission's unflinching resolve to move Nigerian sports from consumption to production.

His words, "The president is very keen to do whatever is needed to drive the process. For us to create the sports economy we are working on, he has to be the number one driver and be the one on the driving seat while we the professionals are providing the advice and the process."

Considering the support extended by the president, Dikko opines that he and his team are

condemned to succeed.

"We have put our hearts and minds into it so we will do it. We cannot afford to fail Mr. President because he gave us the right support and everything that is needed", he pointed out.

In his opinion, the current Sports Commission setting bodes well for sports development evidenced by the meeting with the president.

He continued, "The meeting that we had with Mr. President yesterday is what the Sports Commission is actually meant to be. You have direct access.

He is aware of everything that is going on and puts his own suggestions and opinions. You submit your memos directly to the president. After the meeting yesterday, we submitted about four, five memos capturing many activities that we feel should be done. He will take his time to study them and of course there is a process for approval, but that has cut off the bureaucracy for sports."

In his opinion, direct access to the president makes the assignment much easier.

"You can walk directly to the number one citizen who is the CEO of the country. Part of the long-term plans is to make these meetings either biweekly or bimonthly. Where we will sit down with Mr. President and discuss. It makes things easier for everybody. This is not a mere handshake, it is a proper meeting where you sit down for quite some time and have a decent conversation with Mr. President. We were in the Villa from 3pm until 7pm", he added.

He shed some light on some of the issues discussed with the president.

"We discussed so many things about the sports festival, the World Cup qualifiers, even the promises that were made to the Super Eagles", he concluded.

## Ajagba, Bakole title eliminator bout confirmed for 2025



Heavyweight contenders Martin Bakole and Efe Ajagba have officially agreed to clash in a highly anticipated IBF title eliminator in 2025.

The bout, initially scheduled for the undercard of the Daniel Dubois-Joseph Parker fight in February 2025, has been moved to a later date, likely on the next major Riyadh Season boxing event.

Bakole who is promoted

by Boxer, and Ajagba, under the Top Rank banner, are both formidable forces in the heavyweight division.

The Congolese boxer in 22 professional fights has recorded 21 wins with 16 of them coming by way of knockout while recording just one loss. Ajagba has also recorded 20 wins from 21 professional fights earning 14 knockouts and just one loss.

Bakole's impressive knockout victory over Jared Anderson in August further solidified his status as a rising star. Now, he sets his sights on Ajagba, who is aiming to rebound from his 2021 loss to Frank Sanchez.

While there were initial discussions about hosting the fight in Africa, it is more likely to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Top Rank's Carl Moretti confirmed the agreement, stating that the fight was pushed back from the February card and will be rescheduled for a future Riyadh Season event.

With both fighters ranked highly by the IBF, the winner of this clash will be one step closer to challenging for the world title currently held by Daniel Dubois.





# Diri Approves Surveillance Cameras For Yenagoa



**B**ayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri, has approved the installation of closed-circuit surveillance cameras to cover parts of Yenagoa in order to boost security and crime prevention in the state capital.

The project, which entails the installation of 200 new cameras and the revamping of 50 others, is in furtherance of the administration's Safe City Programme.

Governor Diri disclosed this during a three-day Security Watch Africa Initiatives-organised conference which ended on Thursday night in Doha, Qatar.

The keynote address of the Bayelsa governor, who is on annual leave, was presented by the state's Security Coordinator and Coordinator of the Bayelsa Community Safety Corps, Brig-Gen. Eric Angaye (rtd).

According to the governor, "the use of

technology as a critical enabler for security and law enforcement operations has received priority attention through the phased implementation of a Safe City Programme, which incorporates revamping a legacy 50 camera system and addition of 200 cameras to enhance surveillance and domain awareness."

The governor stressed that his administration's investment in physical, social and digital infrastructure was crucial for promoting peace and security in the state.

He also stated that implementing digital solutions to crime prevention enhance governance, public services, and economic opportunities.

"In line with our commitment to making Bayelsa State inhospitable to criminal elements, we remodeled, upscaled, and relaunched the special joint security task force known as Operation Doo-Ak-

po, and subsequently signed the Bayelsa State Community Safety Corps Bill into law on December 14, 2021.

"This law streamlined the operations of the Operation Doo-Akpo along with the special outfits - Bayelsa Volunteers and Bayelsa Vigilante - under one umbrella. The Community Safety Corps was designed to support and collaborate with the statutory security agencies in efforts to rid the state of criminal elements."

He said at the moment, Bayelsa is ranked as perhaps the safest state in Nigeria.

At a dinner event on Thursday, Senator Diri was honoured as the Best Security Conscious Governor alongside his colleagues from Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Katsina, Mallam Dikko Radda.

Other awardees included the Chief

of Defence Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa, Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi, Inspector-General of Police of The Gambia, Seedy Touray, and his Ghana counterpart, Dr. George Dampare among others.

The immediate past Chief of Army Staff, late Lt-Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, was post-humorously honoured as the Most Outstanding Army Chief in National Defence in Africa in 2023/2024.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Bayelsa governor, Gen. Angaye (rtd) expressed appreciation to the Chief Executive Officer of Security Watch Africa Initiatives, Mr. Patrick Agbambu, and the organisation for recognising the modest efforts of the state government in ensuring safety, peace and security in Bayelsa.

He equally commended the organisation for celebrating Africa's best in security, safety and governance.