

Bravery Under Fire: How Kafin Duguri community repelled deadly bandit assault in Bauchi

As Christian Terrorists killed five Muslims in Plateau attack

By: Ahmad Muhammad, Bauchi/Mijinyawa Ahmed

Residents of Kafin Duguri in Duguri Gwana District of Alkaleri Local Government Area, Bauchi State, have recounted how they bravely confronted and repelled armed bandits who stormed their community in a series of attacks that left several people dead and others abducted.

Within two weeks, the area recorded four separate security breaches, heightening tension and fear among residents. In the latest and most daring invasion, gunmen riding over 100 motorcycles and armed with sophisticated weapons descended on Kafin Duguri on a Friday evening, killing four residents after a fierce gun duel with local hunters and youths.

Community sources said that in the spate of attacks across Duguri Gwana, no fewer than 10 persons were abducted, while seven people including two soldiers, one vigilante member and four civilians lost their lives. Security operatives, however, confirmed that several bandits were neutralised during confrontations with joint security forces and local defenders.

How the Attack Unfolded

Speaking to journalists, some youths in Kafin Duguri said they had earlier received intelligence from neighbouring settlements that bandits were



advancing toward their town. Acting swiftly, they mobilised and armed themselves with locally made Dane guns, sticks and other crude weapons to defend their homes.

"We prepared to protect our community immediately we got the information," one of the youths said. "But when hours passed without sighting them, we thought it was a rumor and people went back to their normal activities."

The reprieve was short-lived.

On Friday evening, the attackers struck. Witnesses said the bandits divided themselves into three groups: one group moved from house to house attempting to abduct residents; another targeted cattle for rustling; while a third group fired sporadically into the air to instill fear and confusion.

The Leader of the Hunters in the area,

popularly known as Sarkin Baka, reportedly engaged the attackers in a gun duel on sighting them. His resistance rallied other youths who joined the fight, confronting the bandits at strategic points in the community.

Residents said the defenders specifically targeted bandits attempting to rustle cattle. "Anyone who tried to touch our cows was confronted," a resident said. "We fired at them and resisted their attempts."

Despite the fierce resistance, the bandits shot dead four residents who reportedly refused to follow them during attempted abductions. However, the sustained counterattack by the hunters and youths forced the assailants to retreat.

Community members believe many of the attackers were killed during the exchange of fire but said their colleagues evacuated the bodies as they fled.

"We believe many of

them were neutralised because of the intensity of the gun battle," a resident added.

Governor Bala Mohammed Commends Community's Courage

Governor of Bauchi State, Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, paid a sympathy visit to the affected communities and commended residents for their bravery.

"The government commends the bravery and sacrifice of the community for their prompt response and continued commitment to safeguarding their villages under very dangerous conditions," the governor said.

He extended condolences to families of those killed and wished the injured quick recovery, assuring that the state government would bear the cost of medical treatment for victims.

Governor Mohammed disclosed that he briefed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the security situation during an official visit to Abuja. According to him, the President expressed condolences to the affected families and assured federal support in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

The governor stressed that while banditry had been largely contained in other parts of Bauchi State, Duguri Gwana and surrounding communities required urgent intervention. He called for improved weapons and logistics for security agencies, noting that they were currently overstretched.

He also announced plans to recruit and train additional local vigilantes in collaboration with the police to strengthen grassroots security architecture.

Traditional Leaders Seek Sustained Support

The Emir of Duguri, Alhaji Adamu Muhammad, described the attack as a painful setback and appealed for sustained security presence in the area to prevent recurrence.

Similarly, the District Head, Isa Yakubu Kafi, called for logistical support to enable local defenders to complement security agencies effectively.

Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, CP Sani-Omolori Aliyu, assured residents that joint security forces remained committed to protecting lives and property. Additional deployments, he said, had been made to stabilise the area.

Police spokesperson SP Nafiu Abubakar confirmed that investigations and rescue operations were ongoing to secure the release of abducted persons and apprehend fleeing assailants.

Previous Attacks Heighten Anxiety

The Kafin Duguri incident marked the fourth attack within two weeks in the broader Duguri Gwana axis.

Earlier, suspected kidnappers abducted four family members of Imam Abubakar Muhammad Digare, the Chief Imam of Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatus Sunnah (JIBWIS) in Digare town. The gunmen reportedly invaded the residence at about 10:30 p.m., firing gunshots before whisking away victims. Two of the abducted persons were

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Features

Unusual story of Gombe varsity student who lives on liquids for 21 years

At 21, Sammy Samaila has never eaten solid food, yet he walks daily to class, studies sociology, and quietly navigates university life with determination.

While other students grab rice, bread and other snacks between lectures, Samaila, a 400-level Sociology student at Gombe State University, survives entirely on liquids, sometimes carried in a flask to lectures.

In an exclusive interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Samaila said since childhood, he survives entirely on pap, tom brown made from millet groundnuts and soya beans, juices and other drinks.

Born in Yamaltu-Deba Local Government Area of Gombe State, Samaila recalled that at age four,

the mere attempt to chew triggered nausea which led his parents to take him for medical examination.

"I remember that my father often tried to force me to eat, but I would immediately vomit.

"After several medical tests, the doctors said there was nothing physically wrong with me. Even now, if I attempt to eat solid food, I feel the urge to vomit.

"Although, I do not take solid food, my bowel movements are usually normal, but sometimes they are hard," he said.

Beyond the diagnosis, Samaila's life revolves around medication to keep him healthy and strong while his younger brother, David, is always around to support him

I do feel weak sometimes. For example, if I walk a long distance, I get



tired easily. There are mornings when I wake up feeling very weak and unable to do much.

"I avoid carrying heavy objects because I become tired quickly.

"The medications I take include folic acid, vitamin B complex, and yeast supplements. Before taking my medication, I make sure I drink my pap," he said.

Samaila said the younger brother stayed close to him to offer support, but people sometimes assume David is the elder sibling because he appears stronger.

"When we walk together, people think he is older. I tell them I am the eldest, and they are surprised.

Samaila is a twin. His sister, Susan, died at five months old. He said the loss of Susan left a scar on the family and an opening for some outsiders to read cultural interpretations to his condition.

Despite not having eaten solid food for 21 years and surviving only on liquids, Samaila is, ironically, an excellent cook.

"My mother taught me how to prepare different kinds of meals by watching her. I even make my own pap and take it to school," he said

His hobbies are, watching football and films. But beyond that, he said he has deep desire, to interact freely, without questions about his conditions

"I hope to meet others with similar experiences, to understand that I am not alone in this rare reality.

"I also pray that one day I will be able to eat solid food as I continue to try my best," he said

Also speaking with NAN, his father, Mr. Samaila Yaro, a former bank worker who once lived in Katsina, recalled years of hospital visits, fear and persistence.

"From infancy, he refused anything placed in his mouth, even medicine. Whenever we tried to give him drugs or food, he would vomit immediately."

"One weekend remains vivid in my mind. I tried to feed him with three grains of rice, he vomited and later became ill, so we rushed him to the hospital.

"Doctors conducted examinations, including an endoscopy. The paediatrician said everything looked normal and advised us not to force him to eat, only give him what he is willing to take," he said.

Yaro also recalled an incidence when a woman in a nearby village claimed spiritual insight to the son's condition, linking it to the late twin sister and recommending a red cloth ritual.

"She said his problem was caused

by his late twin sister and asked us to make him wear red cloth. We tried it, but nothing changed," he said.

Yaro said they were worried at the beginning about his mental development, but he has proven to be intelligent and capable.

"He passed WAEC, NECO and JAMB in one sitting. Today, he is in his final year without carry-overs, willing to serve anywhere in Nigeria for his National Youth Service.

"Every parent dream of seeing their child succeed and interact freely with others.

"I believe when he goes out into the world, he will learn from others and others will learn from him.

"I do not believe in superstition. I believe God creates each person uniquely," he said.

A visiting Harvard academic and relative, Prof. Hauwa Ibrahim, sees Samaila's life as both puzzling and inspiring.

"How can someone survive and reach adulthood without ever eating solid food?

"His life raises significant questions for health professionals," she said.

Ibrahim said some people had speculated about sickle cell disease; but Samaila's genotype is AS, like his father's, while his mother's is AA, insufficient to explain his unusual feeding history.

A gastroenterologist who reviewed Sammy's history believed the condition does not immediately suggest cancer, infection, or sickle cell disease.

The specialist explained that when tests show no structural blockage or abnormality, attention turns to functional or psychological feeding disorders affecting how the brain and gut interact.

"One possibility is Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), an eating disorder driven not by body image concerns but by fear, discomfort, or sensory sensitivity to textures.

"In such cases, individuals may experience an intense gag reflex or overwhelming fear of choking or vomiting, leading them to avoid solids entirely while surviving on preferred liquids.

"Another possibility is functional dysphagia – difficulty swallowing without detectable structural cause.

"This occurs where coordination between the brain and swallowing muscles is disrupted despite normal test results," the expert said

In a society quick to label difference as illness or myth, Sammy's story resists easy explanation.

It is not merely about a rare feeding disorder but about a father who refused to give up, and a son who refused to stop trying.

As his graduation approaches at Gombe State University, Sammy continues to carry his flask of pap to class with resilience. (NAN)

Adamawa road crash kill four women, injure 26 others

A motor accident has left four women dead and 26 others injured along the Yola-Mubi road in Adamawa State.

The vehicle, according to the Deputy chairman of Song local government area of the state, Donan Prambe, was conveying the women to the Annual Convention of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria in Demsa Local Government Area when the accident occurred.

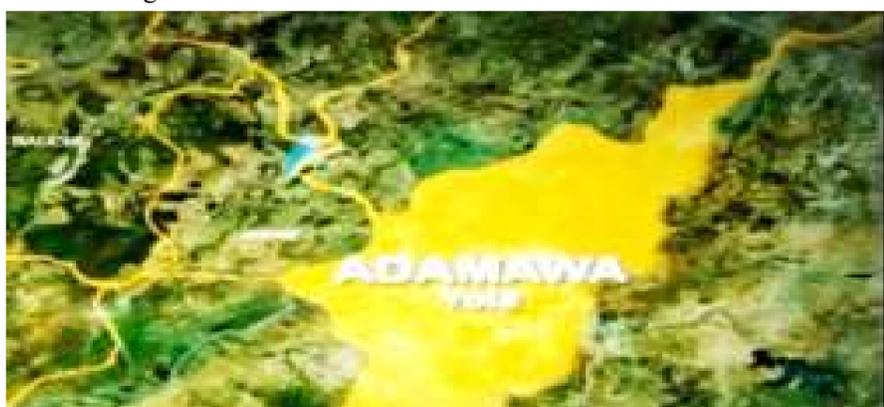
She explained that the women are from LCCN Simra in Dunen town, Song Local Government, saying that he was driving behind the vehicle when, all of a sudden, he saw it somersaulting into the bush.

According to her, "Three women died on the spot, while others were seen lifeless, with their bodies covered in blood."

She said both the bodies of the deceased and those injured were moved to the Specialist Hospital in Yola for treatment.

The medical director of the hospital, Dr Dauda Wadinga, assured that they were treating those who were brought alive.

Suleiman Nguroje, the spokesman of Adamawa State Police Command promised to provide an update after consulting the DPO in the area but has not done so as at when this report was filed.



News

Bauchi govt pays N888.5m exam fees for 24,917 students, bars schools from charging parents

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The Bauchi State Government has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to improving access to quality education with the payment of N888,507,400 as examination fees for 24,917 public secondary school students across the state.

The State Commissioner for Education, Abdulkadir Ibrahim, disclosed this on Friday at a news conference in Bauchi, explaining that the intervention was approved by Governor Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir as part of efforts to remove financial barriers hindering students from achieving their academic goals.

According to him, the payment covers candidates sitting for examinations conducted by the National Examinations Council (NECO), National Business and Technical Examinations



Board (NABTEB), National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS), and the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB). A breakdown of the beneficiaries shows that 22,464 students were

registered for NECO, 2,064 for NABTEB, 207 for NBAIS, and 6,562 for JAMB.

Ibrahim stressed that parents of students in public schools should not pay "a penny or a dime" for any of the listed examinations, as the state government has fully settled the costs. He warned school administrators against imposing any additional charges related to the covered examinations.

"This initiative is a deliberate effort to promote equity and equal opportunity for children from both privileged and underprivileged backgrounds," he said.

The commissioner clarified, however, that candidates in private schools are not covered under the arrangement, noting that their examination fees remain the responsibility of their parents

or guardians.

He urged parents and guardians to reciprocate the government's gesture by ensuring that their children study diligently and excel in their examinations, describing education as the most strategic tool for societal transformation and sustainable development.

Ibrahim further pledged that the Ministry of Education would intensify monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to strengthen service delivery and ensure accountability across the education system.

He also called on the Federal Government and other stakeholders to collaborate in addressing educational challenges, particularly in Northern Nigeria, emphasizing that sustained investment in education remains critical to securing the future and curbing the dangers of widespread illiteracy.

Wunti support donates N500,000, Ramadan food items to persons with disabilities in Bauchi

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The Bala Wunti Support Organisation (BWSO) has donated N500,000 and assorted Ramadan food items to persons living with disabilities in Bauchi State as part of efforts to support vulnerable groups during the holy month.

The gesture, spearheaded by the organisation's Chief Executive Officer, Comrade Muktar Jarmajo, was announced during a special distribution exercise held at the Double Four International Conference Hall.

Addressing beneficiaries and community members at the event, Jarmajo said the initiative was designed to ease the economic burden faced by persons with disabilities, particularly during Ramadan, a period marked by fasting, reflection and increased household needs.

He explained that the cash donation of N500,000 was specifically set aside to provide direct financial support, while food items distributed would assist families in meeting their



nutritional needs throughout the fasting period.

According to him, the organisation remains committed to humanitarian service and inclusive community development, stressing that persons with disabilities deserve deliberate attention and sustained support.

"Ramadan is a season of compassion, sacrifice and generosity. As an organisation, we believe that no one should be left behind, especially our brothers and sisters living with disabilities.

This intervention is a demonstration of our solidarity and commitment to their wellbeing," he said.

Jarmajo further assured that BWSO would continue to design programmes aimed at improving the living standards of vulnerable groups across Bauchi State.

The distribution attracted a large number of beneficiaries and community stakeholders, who commended the organisation for the initiative.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Fatima Abdulrahman and Muktar Umar Mallam Goje expressed gratitude for the timely support, describing it as a welcome relief amid prevailing economic challenges.

They noted that the donation would go a long way in cushioning the effects of hardship during Ramadan and prayed for the continued success of the organisation and its leadership.

The event underscored the growing role of community-based organisations in complementing government efforts to provide social support and promote inclusivity for persons with special needs in Bauchi State.

Ramadan: Bauchi Cleric urges steadfast worship, charity for divine mercy

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Malam Aliyu Jahun, Chief Imam of the Bauchi State College of Agriculture Mosque has urged Muslims to remain consistent in acts of worship throughout the period.

Jahun made the appeal in an interview with Journalists on Thursday in Bauchi, describing the holy month of Ramadan as a unique season of divine mercy, forgiveness, and liberation from Hellfire,

He highlighted the spiritual significance of the month in Islamic tradition.

"Citing the teachings of Prophet Muhammad, the cleric explained that Ramadan is distinguished by the chaining of rebellious devils, the closure of the gates of Hellfire, and the opening of the gates of Paradise, symbols of Allah's nearness and abundant mercy toward believers.

He noted that those who engage sincerely in righteous deeds during the month stand a strong chance of attaining eternal reward.

The Chief Imam expressed concern that some worshippers begin Ramadan with enthusiasm but gradually withdraw from devotion before the final ten days.

He urged Muslims to sustain their spiritual commitment from the beginning to the end of the fasting period in order to fully benefit from its blessings.

He outlined key acts of worship associated with Ramadan, including fasting, increased recitation of the Qur'an, supplication, I'tikaf, and feeding the needy.

Jahun emphasised generosity, he reminded the faithful that charitable giving should intensify during Ramadan, reflecting the noble example of the Prophet.

The Cleric also stressed the importance of Qur'anic engagement, recalling that Angel Jibril regularly reviewed the Qur'an with the Prophet during the month.

He concluded by urging Muslims to guard their speech, actions, and intentions, stressing that true fasting culminates in the attainment of piety, or taqwa.



Politics

Zaki APC stakeholders reject congress outcome, demand fresh process

Stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Zaki Local Government Area of Bauchi State have rejected the outcome of the recent ward and local government congresses, describing the exercise as flawed and inconsistent with the party's guidelines.

Speaking with journalists, the group, led by Comrade Mustapha Dalailu Katagum, called on the state and national leadership of the party to nullify the process and conduct a fresh congress in line with the laid-down rules.

Katagum, who described himself as a loyal member of the party since 2014, said the stakeholders were compelled to speak out over what they termed growing irregularities within the party's structure in Zaki LGA.

He said the group was seeking a declaration that the congress held in the area was unconstitutional and therefore invalid.

The stakeholders linked the party's poor performance in the 2019 and 2023 general elections to what they described as a widening gap between the leadership and grassroots members.

According to them, major decisions affecting the party at the local level are often taken without adequate consultation, thereby sidelining members who engage directly with voters.

They also lamented what they called insufficient youth participation in decision-making processes, arguing that excluding younger members has hindered innovation in campaign strategies and grassroots mobilisation.

The group further alleged that the recent congress did not follow due process, claiming that the meeting was held at a

private residence in Bauchi instead of the designated party secretariat, contrary to the congress guidelines.

They also noted the absence of key chairmanship aspirants, including Mamuda Gwangwan, Alhaji Yahai Tashena and Alhaji Umaru Katagum, during the purported congress or consensus arrangements.

According to them, the non-participation of recognised contenders cast doubt on the credibility of the outcome.

Citing provisions of the APC constitution, the stakeholders maintained that party officers at all levels are expected to emerge through democratic elections, while consensus arrangements are valid only where all aspirants willingly agree.

They added that the constitution guarantees members the right to vote and be voted for, as well as fair treatment in party affairs.

The group also raised concerns over what it described as political imbalance, alleging that key leadership positions at the local level were concentrated within the Katagum district, leaving other districts, including Sakwa, without significant representation.

They warned that the perceived marginalisation and lack of inclusiveness could further weaken the party's structure and electoral prospects in the area.

The stakeholders urged the state and national leadership of the APC to intervene promptly to restore confidence among members, particularly youths, and ensure that future processes reflect transparency, fairness and adherence to democratic principles.

Zone 2027 presidential ticket to south, CGG tells ADC

The Coalition for Good Governance (CGG) has urged the African Democratic Congress (ADC) coalition to zone its 2027 presidential ticket to Southern Nigeria, warning that failure to do so could undermine national cohesion and weaken the opposition's electoral prospects.

Addressing journalists in Abuja on Thursday, the coalition comprising former national party chairmen and ex-presidential candidates from the six geopolitical zones said zoning the ticket to the South is both a moral imperative and a strategic calculation.

The National Chairman of the Coalition for Good Governance, Sir Okey Chikwendu and the National Secretary, Attah Ikeleji Ikeleji, reaffirmed the coalition's commitment to democratic integrity, equity and national unity.

According to the group, Nigeria's current political and economic climate demands deliberate balancing to foster unity and enhance the opposition's credibility ahead of the 2027 general elections.

"The nation is deeply polarised and economically distressed. The path to victory and national healing lies in fairness. Zoning the ticket to the South is both morally compelling and electorally strategic," the group stated.

The CGG warned that



leaving the zoning question unresolved could spark internal divisions within the ADC coalition and diminish its standing as a viable alternative platform.

The coalition also criticised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu over the recent amendment to the Electoral Act, describing the development as a setback for democratic consolidation.

The group expressed concern over the decision not to make real-time electronic transmission of election results mandatory, arguing that such technology is essential for transparency and public confidence.

"Electronic transmission safeguards data integrity, reduces human interference, and restores trust. Any resistance to it is resistance to transparency," the statement read.

It described the amended law as "a dangerous regression," alleging that it opens the door to potential

manipulation and post-election disputes.

The coalition called on the National Assembly to reconsider the legislation and urged the international community to encourage reforms that strengthen Nigeria's electoral process.

The CGG further raised concerns about what it termed the gradual consolidation of a one-party state under the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), citing recent defections by opposition governors and lawmakers.

"A one-party state eliminates accountability, suppresses dissent, and erodes constitutional democracy. Nigeria must not descend into political absolutism," the group said.

It warned that if the electoral framework is not sufficiently strengthened to guarantee credibility, opposition stakeholders may be compelled to reassess their participation in the 2027 elections.

Northern Governors Forum just tea party – Modibbo

Former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Aliyu Modibbo, described the Northern Governors Forum as just a tea party.

Modibbo stated this on Friday while responding to questions in an interview on Trust TV.

He was reacting to the state of nation, saying that each state operates independently.

"Each state operates independently, and the Northern Governor's Forum primarily functions as a social fraternity rather than a binding entity.

"This is exemplified by the lack of a unified approach to insecurity in the Northwest. During the Buhari's administration, despite severe security challenges,

difficult without regional cooperation.

"However, the effectiveness of such regional initiatives was challenged by the rise of widespread insecurity along the Kaduna-Abuja route, including train services, a problem that remains unresolved, with some attributing this ongoing issue to a lack of proper resource allocation," he said.



Traditional rulers urge journalists to champion responsible, development-focused reporting in Bauchi

By Mijinyawa Ahmed



The Emir of Duguri, Alhaji Adamu Muhammad, and the Emir of Lame, Alhaji Aliyu Yakubu, have called on journalists in Bauchi State to uphold responsible, ethical and development-driven reporting that bridges the gap between government and the downtrodden.

The traditional rulers made the appeal on Friday when the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Bauchi State Council, led by its Chairman, Malam Umar Sa'idu, paid them a courtesy visit in Bauchi.

Speaking during the engagement, Emir Adamu Muhammad commended journalists in the state for their commitment to highlighting issues affecting citizens' welfare and for constructively holding the government accountable in ways that promote growth and sustainable development.

He noted that the media remains a critical pillar in shaping public opinion, deepening democracy and fostering social cohesion. According to him, consistent and factual reportage on policies, programmes and community challenges would not only inform citizens but also stimulate positive action from leaders at all levels.

The Duguri monarch urged media practitioners to sustain their focus on developmental issues that directly impact ordinary people, especially those in rural communities.

He stressed that journalists have a moral responsibility to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and ensure that governance processes remain inclusive and transparent.

"The press plays a vital role

in societal reorientation and democratic consolidation," he said, encouraging journalists to remain objective and guided by professional ethics in the discharge of their duties.

In a similar vein, Emir Aliyu Yakubu of Lame advised journalists to remain steadfast in professionalism, integrity and continuous self-improvement.

He emphasised that credibility is the greatest asset of any media practitioner and urged members of the profession to guard it jealously.

The Lame monarch also called on Governor Bala Mohammed to consider engaging retired and veteran journalists in his administration, describing their wealth of experience as a valuable resource that could help reposition the state for greater progress.

He observed that seasoned journalists possess institutional memory, deep understanding of governance structures and communication expertise that could strengthen public engagement strategies and policy implementation.

Recalling his personal career trajectory, Yakubu disclosed that his background as a journalist with the Bauchi Television Authority (BATV), after serving at the state Ministry of Tourism and Culture, significantly shaped his leadership journey.

He described journalism as a noble and credible profession that contributed immensely to his personal and professional development, noting that the discipline, analytical skills and exposure he gained in the media sector prepared him for the

responsibilities of traditional leadership.

Yakubu encouraged practicing journalists to take advantage of opportunities for training and capacity building, stressing the importance of preparing adequately for life after retirement.

He advised them to invest in personal growth and diversify their skills to remain relevant in an evolving media landscape.

While acknowledging the sacrifices journalists make in the line of duty, the Emir lamented the poor remuneration of media professionals in the country despite the risks associated with the job.

He called on relevant authorities and media proprietors to prioritize the welfare and working conditions of journalists to enable them to perform their duties more effectively.

The two Emirs also condoled the NUJ over the death of a reporter with Channels Television and prayed for the speedy recovery of members who sustained injuries in a recent road accident while on official assignment.

They further offered prayers for sustained peace, unity and progress in Bauchi State and Nigeria at large, appreciating journalists for their solidarity visit and continued commitment to promoting peace and development.

Earlier, the NUJ Chairman, Malam Umar Sa'idu, said the visit was to congratulate the Emirs of Duguri and Lame on their appointments and to reaffirm the union's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote peace, inclusiveness and grassroots governance across the state.

He assured the monarchs of the union's readiness to collaborate with traditional institutions in advancing public enlightenment, conflict-sensitive reporting and community-driven development.

Sa'idu noted that the NUJ in Bauchi remains committed to upholding the ethics of the profession while ensuring that reportage contributes meaningfully to the state's socio-economic advancement.

The visit, he added, underscored the enduring partnership between traditional institutions and the media in fostering accountability, strengthening democratic values and promoting the collective interests of the people of Bauchi State.

Zulum flags off Ramadan palliative for 300,000 households in Borno's 27 LGAs

Alkali Muhammad Musa, Maiduguri



Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, has launched the distribution of Ramadan palliatives to 300,000 households across all 27 local government areas of the state.

The intervention is designed to cushion the economic burden on vulnerable residents during the holy month of Ramadan.

Each beneficiary will receive one bag of rice, one bag of millet and 10 kg of sugar.

Speaking at Ramat Square, the venue for the distribution exercise on Tuesday, Zulum urged the committee tasked with the exercise to adhere to the highest standards of transparency and fairness.

He said, "To the committee in charge of this distribution, let transparency be your watchword. Let fairness be your guide. These items are not for sale. They are not for your friends or family members who do not need them.

"They are for the widow, the orphan, the internally displaced, the farmer whose fields have not fully recovered, and the daily wage earner struggling to make ends meet. Any officer found diverting these items will face the full wrath of the law."

The governor also noted that the distribution would be extended to Christian residents who are coincidentally observing the Lent period, which overlaps

with the Muslim fasting season this year.

This gesture will also touch the non-Muslims who are also fasting the lent which falls within the month of Ramadan," Zulum ordered.

Zulum's administration had consistently supported Christian communities in the state, particularly during festive seasons.

Each year, the governor approves the distribution of food items to Christian faithful celebrating Christmas and free transport for non-indigenous Christians who wish to travel to other parts of the country to celebrate their holidays with family and loved ones.

In their remarks, the senator representing Borno Central, Barrister Kaka Shehu Lawan and the Secretary to the Borno State Government, Bukar Tijani, commended Governor Zulum for supporting the vulnerable in their most critical moment.

In his welcome address, the Director-General of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Ali Abdullahi Isa, reiterated the agency's readiness to ensure hitch-free distribution.

The ceremony was attended by members of the House of Representatives, Engr Bukar Talba and Abdulkadir Rahis, the speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly, Abdkarim Lawan and principal officers of the House, the Acting Chief of Staff, Dr Babagana Mustapha Mallumbe, among many other senior government officials.



News

What Tinubu's order on direct remittance of oil revenue means for NNPC, FG

President Bola Tinubu signed an executive order (EO) for the direct remittance of oil and gas revenues to the federation account, removing the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited's power to remit the earnings.

In a statement on Wednesday, Bayo Onanuga, presidential spokesperson, said the order is expected to safeguard and enhance oil and gas revenues for the federation, curb wasteful spending, and eliminate duplicative structures in the oil and gas sector.

The presidency said the order took effect on February 13 and has been officially gazetted, indicating that its implementation is now underway.

Onanuga said the directive seeks to restore the constitutional revenue entitlements of the federal, state, and local governments, "which were taken away in 2021 by the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA)".

"The PIA created structural and legal channels through which substantial Federation revenues are lost through deductions, sundry charges, and fees," Onanuga said.

According to the statement, Tinubu said his administration will conduct a comprehensive review of the PIA, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to address identified fiscal and structural anomalies.

In this piece, it has examines the provisions of the executive order and their implications for the oil industry.

30 PERCENT MANAGEMENT FEE, FRONTIER EXPLORATION FUND

According to the EO, NNPC will no longer be entitled to the 30 percent management fee on profit oil and gas revenues derived from production sharing contracts (PSCs), as the funds will now be paid directly to the federation account.

The presidential executive order also provided that NNPC will no longer collect and manage the 30 percent frontier exploration fund (FEF) as it "is henceforth transferred to the Federation Account".

Explaining the rationale behind the order, Onanuga

said, given the existing 20 percent retention of NNPC's profits, "the additional 30% management fee is considered unjustified by the Federal Government, as the retained earnings are already sufficient to support the functions NNPC performs under these contracts".

Now, what does this imply, and how does it affect the NNPC's ability to generate revenue from profit oil and gas?

Under the PIA, the NNPC keeps 20 percent of its profits as retained earnings, while 80 percent is to be remitted to the government as a shareholder.

In addition to the requirement to operate as a commercial entity, the regulation states that the NNPC is the [concessionaire](#) of all PSCs, profit-sharing and risk service contracts, on behalf of the federation.

As such, the PIA requires the NNPC to promptly remit the proceeds from the sale of profit oil and gas to the federation, allocating 30 percent as its management fee, 30 percent to the frontier exploration fund, and the remaining 40 percent to the federation account.

As such, under the PIA framework, NNPC retains 30 percent of the federation's oil revenues as a management fee on profit oil and profit gas derived from PSCs, profit-sharing contracts, and risk service contracts.

Profit oil and gas refers to what remains after deducting cost oil and gas — the production share NNPC (or its partners) uses to recover operational costs — and is then split between the parties and the government, while 30 percent of profit oil and profit gas earned by NNPC (and partners) are set aside for the FEF, according to section 9(4) of PIA.

The fund, kept in a "FEF escrow account," is to develop frontier acreages and is used to finance exploration and development activities in the areas.

It is domiciled in a Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)-controlled account, and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Company (NUPRC) oversees approvals for disbursement to NNPC for approved exploration activities.

However, under the new EO, NNPC will now remit

100 percent of proceeds directly to the federation account, up from the previous 40 percent, as the FEF will no longer have a separate account, and remittances will be directly sent to the federation account.

According to the presidency, this will "eliminate unjustified multiple layers" of deductions that erode revenues meant for the federation account, thereby allowing the three tiers of government to fund critical national priorities.

ROYALTY OIL, TAX OIL, PROFIT OIL/GAS

Furthermore, the order mandated that all operators/contractors of oil and gas assets held under a PSC will, from the date of the EO, "pay Royalty Oil, Tax Oil, Profit Oil, Profit Gas, and any other interest howsoever described which is due to the government of the federation directly to the Federation Account".

According to section 64 (c) of the PIA, NNPC is responsible for lifting and selling royalty oil and tax oil on behalf of the NUPRC and the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), respectively.

Royalty oil is the share of petroleum production allocated to the government as compensation for granting the right to extract oil within its territory.

Also, tax oil is the portion of petroleum production allocated to cover the petroleum profit tax payable.

Henceforth, the funds gotten from the sources will be directly remitted to the federation account, according to the EO.

Also, the EO suspended payments of the gas flare penalty into the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund (MDGIF).

According to the statement, the NUPRC will, from the date of the EO, pay proceeds from all penalties imposed on operators for flaring gas into the federation account.

PURPOSE OF GAS FLARING FUND AND MECHANISM ESTABLISHED TO REPLACE IT

According to section 104 (4) of the PIA, money received from gas flaring penalties by the NUPRC is for

the purpose of environmental remediation and "relief of the host communities of the settlor on which the penalties are levied".

"The purpose of the fund shall be to make equity investments of government owned participating or shareholder interests in infrastructure related to midstream and downstream gas operations," the PIA reads.

However, the EO noted that the fund will now be transferred to the federation account.

The presidency did not announce any specific replacement to address gaps created by the removal of the gas flare penalty.

However, Onanuga noted that other funds under the PIA also cover environmental remediation, which could result in some overlap."

"However, section 103 of the PIA has already established a dedicated Environmental Remediation Fund, administered by NUPRC, specifically designed to fund the rehabilitation of communities negatively impacted by upstream petroleum operations, including gas flaring," Onanuga said.

"Furthermore, Section 103 already imposes a fee on lessees to contribute to this fund for precisely this purpose."

'WIN FOR REVENUE GENERATION'

Speaking on the implications of the order, Jide Pratt, an oil and gas expert, said it puts an end to NNPC retaining and spending federation revenue, describing the move as a 'win' for revenue generation.

"Now it goes directly to the federation account, and if properly accounted for, then it's a win for more revenue for the centre and states," he said.

However, Pratt said if the revenue redirected to the federation account is managed irresponsibly, "then it's more money earned but misspent".

He added that the order allows the NNPC to fully focus on its commercial mandate.

"NNPC now has to look at its organisation to drive efficiency and profit as it loses on management fees. The PIA should be amended to reflect

the updates," Pratt said.

CERTAIN ASPECTS INTERSECT WITH PIA PROVISIONS

Despite the positive reviews by analysts, concerns have been raised about the potential conflict between the EO and the PIA.

Commenting on the development, Wumi Iledare, a professor emeritus of petroleum economics, said certain aspects of the EO intersect directly with provisions of the PIA.

He said the FEF and the MDGIF, as well as existing PSC fiscal structures, are statutory constructs established by the national assembly.

While executive authority under section 5 of the constitution empowers the president to implement and enforce laws, Iledare said "substantive alterations to statutory fiscal frameworks may require legislative amendment to ensure constitutional alignment and institutional certainty".

On the question of direct remittance of royalty oil, tax oil, and profit oil to the federation account, he said there are potential benefits in enhancing transparency and reducing intermediation.

"However, implementation must be carefully sequenced to preserve contractual stability and avoid unintended legal or investor confidence challenges," Iledare said.

He also said the "structural dual role of NNPC Limited — as both commercial operator and concessionaire under certain arrangements — has long presented institutional tensions within the post-PIA framework".

Iledare said the reform aimed at strengthening NNPC's commercial identity should be supported by clear legal frameworks and predictable governance mechanisms.

Festus Osifo, national president of Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), [said](#) the EO was a "direct attack" on the PIA.

Osifo said the president used an executive order "to set aside a law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

Terrorists kill 34 fasting Muslims in Kebbi latest attack



Jihadist fighters have killed dozens of people and destroyed seven villages in raids in Kebbi state, the police told AFP.

Members of the Lakurawa group attacked villages in the Bui district of Arewa northern region at around 1:15 pm (1215 GMT) Wednesday, said Kebbi state police spokesman Bashir Usman.

A security report seen by AFP said the jihadists had killed "more than 30 villagers".

Usman told AFP: "Scores of people were killed as residents from Mamunu, Awasaka, Tungan Tsoho, Makangara, Kanzo, Gorun Naidal, and Dan Mai Ago mobilised to resist the attackers."

A resident in one of the villages told AFP that at least 35 people had been killed.

"We were in our homes, we heard gunshots," said the resident of Kanzo.

"People outside began to run into their shelters, gunshots hit some people," he added.

Police spokesman Usman said the attackers had also made off with cattle in the raids. Police, soldiers and local militia were immediately sent to the area, he added.

—Lakurawa blamed—

The attacks came days after the state hosted the UNESCO-listed Argungu fishing festival, about 60 kilometres (38 miles) from the Arewa region, where the attacks took place.

The Lakurawa group has been blamed for many of the attacks on communities in the northern part of the state and in neighbouring Sokoto state.



Its members stage raids from their forest base, rustling livestock and imposing "taxes" on locals.

Nigeria's government said the Christmas day air strikes by the US military in Sokoto had targeted members of the group and "bandit" gangs.

Some researchers have linked the group to the Islamic State Sahel Province, which is active mainly in neighbouring Niger and Mali, though others remain doubtful.

The activities of the group have compounded Nigeria's insecurity.

The West African nation is grappling with a more than 16-year jihadist insurgency in the northeast, as well as a farmer-herder conflict in the north central region.

They also have to contend with a violent secessionist agitation in the southeast, and kidnappings for ransom plague the northwest.

Nigeria is now looking to the United States for technical and training support for its troops fighting the jihadists after a resurgence of violence strained relationships between the two countries.

The US Africa Command said 200 troops were expected to join the deployment overall.

US President Donald Trump has said the violence there amounts to the "persecution" of Christians — a framing long used by the US religious and political right wing.

Nigeria's government and many independent experts say Christians and Muslims alike are the victims of the country's security crises.

Kano releases N99m for dog rabies vaccination

The Kano State Government has approved ₦99 million for the first phase of its anti-rabies control programme, targeting vaccination of at least 10,000 dogs.

The initiative, aimed at strengthening public health protection and livestock development, was announced in a statement on Saturday by the Director of Public Enlightenment in the Ministry of Livestock Development, Halima Gadanya.

The approval was granted by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf as part of the administration's efforts to prevent the spread of rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

"The approval of N99 million was granted by Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, as part of the administration's commitment to protecting residents from preventable but deadly diseases," the statement said.

The programme will be coordinated by the state's Kano State Ministry of Livestock Development under the supervision of



Commissioner Aliyu Isah Aliyu.

Rabies is a viral disease transmitted mainly through dog bites and can affect both animals and humans. Health experts warn that once clinical symptoms appear, the disease is almost always fatal, making mass vaccination the most effective prevention method.

Aliyu described the programme as a key public health intervention and said the ministry would collaborate with stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation.

As part of the control strategy, the ministry plans to conduct a statewide dog census to generate reliable data for planning, monitoring and long-term rabies control.

The commissioner called on residents to present their dogs for vaccination and support measures aimed at curbing the spread of the disease.

The state government said the programme reflects its commitment to public health protection, livestock sector growth and improved safety of residents across Kano State.

El-Rufai is a very difficult person to advise — Hakeem Baba-Ahmed

Former Special Adviser on Political Matters to President Bola Tinubu, Hakeem Baba-Ahmed, has said former Kaduna State governor Nasir El-Rufai should focus on clearing his name over corruption allegations, describing him as "a very difficult person to advise".

Baba-Ahmed spoke on Tuesday on Political Paradigm, a current affairs programme on Channels Television, amid an escalating public dispute between El-Rufai and the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu.

"If I were to advise El-Rufai, there are so few fronts that you'd fight, so try and limit the damage, focus your attention on getting yourself cleaned up on allegations that you stole money from the people..." Baba-Ahmed said. He added that, by temperament, "Mallam El-Rufai by character is a very difficult person to advise..."

He argued that the various allegations and counter-allegations surrounding the

former governor should not be dismissed as political drama but tested in court.

"I'd say that the simpler way to go about this is put all these allegations on the table. They are legal issues, from the allegations of corruption against Mallam Nasir El-Rufai to the allegations that Mallam Nuhu Ribadu... to the allegation of imported, poisoned chemicals.

El-Rufai also alleged that the NSA was influencing investigations by anti-corruption agencies and the Kaduna State House of Assembly for political reasons linked to an alleged 2031 presidential ambition. He further raised concerns over the reported procurement of thallium sulphate by the Office of the National Security Adviser and called for public clarification.

Ribadu has denied all the claims, insisting that the alleged ambition was baseless and that agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission operate independently.

Reacting to the deterioration of their

relationship, Baba-Ahmed said the dispute reflected a deeper problem in Nigeria's political culture.

"I am extremely saddened by the development. I know both gentlemen and how deep their personal relationship was, and I see one of the poisonous elements of our politics.

"If you can actually poison a relationship with this nature this deeply, then we are in very serious trouble... it is very saddening to see this relationship just simply degenerate to a point that their personal relationship is now so poisoned that nobody thinks about the consequences... we are dealing with a situation of two friends threatening to take legal action against each other," he said.

Both men were influential figures during the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, a period in which they built a close professional and personal relationship that later continued through El-Rufai's tenure as Kaduna governor.

Northeast News

Zulum okays N12.9b to sponsor Borno indigenes on aeronautics/engineering degrees

Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Umara Zulum, has approved a N12.9 billion scholarship schemes to sponsor 54 indigenes of the state to study aeronautics and engineering with various professional certifications, at the Isaac Balami University of Aeronautics and Management (IBUAM).

The training programme covers basic pilot training, with 10 beneficiaries specialising in Aerospace Engineering, 11 in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, 11 in Mechatronics Engineering, 12 in Software Engineering, and 10 in Systems Engineering.

At a brief ceremony held at the Government House in Maiduguri on Thursday night, Zulum presented a cheque for N2.5 billion to the institution, covering the annual tuition and associated expenses, with the 5-year total package valued at N12.9 billion.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Zulum charged



them to remain focused and dedicated to their studies. He emphasised that the selection process was deliberately designed to ensure equity across the state, with two students chosen from each of Borno's 27 Local Government areas.

"What matters most is not just gaining admission, but how focused you will be in your studies. I advise you to remain dedicated and become good ambassadors of our state," the governor stated.

In addition to funding their education, the governor

announced an immediate financial support package of N500,000 per student to cover resumption logistics and other incidental expenses.

Giving an overview of the selection process, the State Commissioner for Education, Engr. Lawan Abba Wakilbe

revealed that the scholarship attracted interest from across the state. He disclosed that the ministry received over 3,000 applications.

According to the Commissioner, this large pool was initially shortlisted to 1,200 candidates, who were then subjected to a written examination, and the final 54 successful candidates emerged.

"These programmes reflect Governor Zulum's commitment to human capital development, youth empowerment and investment in education," Engr Wakilbe said.

The founder of IBUAM, Isaac Balami, an indigene of Borno State, commended Governor Zulum for the initiative. He assured the government that the students would receive world-class training, expressing confidence that they would be among those who would eventually build the first made-in-Nigeria aircraft.

Adamawa: Limawa ward leads in APC's e-registration, backs Fintiri defection

By Umar Dankano, Yola

Stakeholders of the Limawa ward in Yola North Local Government area have urged Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa state to join the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC in the state.

Speaking at a press conference in Yola Tuesday, a stalwart of the party, Yusuf Dan Umma Jimeta stressing that limawa ward is solidly behind the call for Fintiri to defect to the party (APC) insisting that it is the governor's right to cross carpet to any political platform of his choice.

Dan Umma who is a close associate of the NSA, Nuhu Ribadu expressed satisfaction with the speculation for the proposed move insisting that politics is a game of numbers which he said his ward welcome Governor Fintiri and his supporters.

He added that APC as a political platform will accommodate anyone who decides to be in the party and will be given level playing ground to aspire any political position of his or her choice with any discrimination.

"We Welcome Governor Fintiri to APC just like when

someone decides to be a Muslim or a Christian, by the time he pronounce he is one of them, that is all.

"Most of them have been in the APC at a time or the other, either at formation stage as pioneers or later on". Dan Umma emphasized.

Earlier at the conference, another party leader and former Director General, Nigeria Incentive Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending, NIRSAL. Aliyu Abbati Abdulhameed applauded the effort of Limawa ward mobilization committee for a fruitful sensitization of party members in the just concluded E-Registration.

Abdulhameed who doubles as a patron Member of the party at Limawa ward advocated for more awareness of members ahead of the 2027 general elections where the party can attain victory highlighting that the ward registered the higher number of party members with 20,880,00 representing 12.2 percent across the 226 wards in the state.

"We are gathered here in Limawa Ward to celebrate a



historic achievement. A statement that says: "Limawa Ward is ready. Limawa Ward is capable. Limawa Ward is unstoppable." I want to extend our warmest gratitude to the leadership of our party at the LGA, State, and National levels.

"Your guidance and support have created the enabling environment for wards like ours to flourish. We are grateful. In February 2026, the APC opened its doors

across Nigeria. In Adamawa State, 450,000 Nigerians registered as members. In Yola North LGA—the largest LGA in Adamawa—137,091 members registered, representing 30.7 percent of the state total.

"But within Yola North LGA, one ward stood out: LIMAWA WARD. 20,880 new members registered in our ward—15.2 percent of all registrations in the LGA. We are the leading ward in all of

Adamawa State. Among 226 wards, Limawa Ward stands at the pinnacle. We are number one!

"My call to each and every one of you: Come out on Election Day and vote en-masse. Show the nation that when the APC calls, Limawa Ward answers. Show our government that we are a reliable partner deserving of recognition and investment". Abdulhameed maintained.



BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB)

P.M.B. 0109 NEAR AWALA ROUND ABOUT AJIYA ADAMU ROAD,
BAUCHI, BAUCHI STATE

STATE INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS TO TENDER FOR 2025 FGN- UBEC/SUBEB INTERVENTION PROJECTS

The Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board (BASUBEB) hereby invites interested experienced contractors to express their interest in the pre-qualification to bid for the following projects: -

II. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

1. Construction of blocks 2 / 3 classrooms with office and store
2. Renovation of blocks of 2 / 3 classrooms with office and store
3. Construction of Perimetre Fencing
4. Construction of Assembly Hall
5. Construction of School Laboratory
6. Construction of 4 pits VIP Toilet
7. Drilling of Handpump Borehole
8. Procurement of ECCDE Desk and Chairs
9. Procurement of Pupils/Students of Primary & Junior Secondary School Desk Chairs and Tables
10. Procurement of Primary/Junior Secondary School Teacher Chairs & Tables
11. Procurement of working materials and equipments

III. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The pre-qualification documents must contain the following:

- i. Contractor's Resume and/or Profile
- ii. Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- iii. Registration with the Bauchi State Government as Contractor.
- iv. Up-to-date three (3) years Tax Clearance Certificate
- v. Financial Capability
- vi. Verifiable evidence of similar assignment handled in the last three (3) years
- vii. Relevant Equipment and evidence of Acquisition (Receipt or Leasing)
- viii. Relevant Personal with their Up-to-date C.Vs.
Evidence of payment for the non-refundable fee of N40,000.00 only.

IV. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in a sealed envelop marked "YEAR 2025 FGN-UBEC/BASG-SUBEB PROJECTS" and address to:

The Secretary,

Public Procurement Planning Committee,
Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board,
Ajiya Adamu Road, Near Awala Round About,
P.M.B. 0109 Bauchi, Bauchi State.

All applications are to be submitted not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this publication.

NOTE: Please note that only successful contractors on the pre-qualification would be considered to bid for the relevant proposed projects.

Isah Mohammed Jungudo
(Public Relations Officer)
For: Executive Chairman

Three Muslims shots and beheaded returning from Qur'anic session in Plateau

Stories by Salihu Makera

Three Muslims have been killed in an evening ambush along the Dorowa-Jong road in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, with gunmen attacking the victims as they made their way home from a Qur'anic Tafsir gathering on Thursday evening, February 19, 2026.

The attack, which occurred at approximately 7:30 p.m., has sent fresh shockwaves through an already tense region, with the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) calling for urgent government intervention and pointing fingers at members of the Berom community — an accusation the latter has firmly rejected.

The state chairman of MACBAN, Ibrahim Babayo, confirmed the killings to journalists in Jos on Friday, describing the assault as unprovoked and deeply disturbing. According to Babayo, the three victims had attended a Qur'an Tafsir session in the Dorowa community and were ambushed by gunmen on their return journey to Jong community. In a particularly grim detail, he revealed that the attackers went beyond shooting the victims, using sharp objects to sever the head of one of the deceased.

"It was a brutal attack that should be condemned by all and sundry," Babayo said, adding that MACBAN strongly believed the assault was carried out by members of the Berom community, whom he accused of sustained violence against herders and their livestock in the area.

"This isn't the first time our people have been targeted. We seek protection and justice. We will not be provoked, but we demand action from state and federal governments to protect our people and livestock,"

he stated, while simultaneously urging MACBAN members to remain calm and allow security agencies to handle the matter.

The Berom community, however, was swift in distancing itself from the attack. The National President of the Berom Youths Moulders Association, Solomon Mwantiri, described MACBAN's accusation as unwarranted and categorically absolved his people of any involvement in the killings.

Security forces, including soldiers and the Divisional Police Officer for Barkin Ladi, have visited the scene of the incident. The military's involvement was confirmed by the Spokesperson of Operation Enduring Peace, Captain Chinonso Polycarp Oteh, who disclosed that the command received information about the attack at approximately 11 p.m. on Thursday and immediately mobilised officers to the location.

Captain Oteh further revealed that the General Officer Commanding the 3rd Division and Commander of Operation Enduring Peace has expressed grave concern over the incident and personally vowed to track down those responsible. A formal investigation has since been launched. The GOC also appealed to the affected families and the wider community to remain calm and allow security agencies to carry out their work without interference.

The killings represent the latest in a troubling pattern of violence in Plateau State, where tensions between farming and herding communities have repeatedly erupted into deadly conflict, prompting renewed calls for a lasting and inclusive peace framework in the region.

Disease hit bandits' camps in Niger, Zamfara

A disease outbreak has reportedly hit bandits' camps in Niger and Zamfara states, worsening conditions in the hideouts and affecting their operations.

Sources said the outbreak, coupled with shortages of food, funds and medicines, is taking a toll on the armed groups. The deteriorating situation in the camps is said to have created internal pressure and weakened their operational capacity in some affected communities.

A victim who recently escaped from captivity in Niger State and requested anonymity recounted the health challenges he witnessed while in the kidnappers' camp.

He said both captives and some members of the armed groups were battling various illnesses.

According to him, the lack of medicines and access to healthcare services in the forest worsened the

situation, leaving many in critical condition.

The escapee added that the current situation presents an opportunity for security agencies to intensify operations against the groups.

"If security agencies increase their efforts now, there is a strong possibility of weakening them further, considering the hardship they are facing," he said.

Speaking on the development, security expert Usman Bala Tsamiya Babba said the situation reflects the impact of sustained military operations and increased support from local communities.

He noted that blocking supply routes used to deliver food, medicines and funds to the armed groups could significantly curtail their activities.

"If the channels through which they receive supplies are effectively cut off, it may accelerate the end of their operations," he said. (Called from Daily Trust).

News

Troops arrest 2 Boko Haram logistics suppliers, neutralizes a commander in Adamawa

By Umar Dankano, Yola



In its continued efforts to restore peace and harmony in the North East, troops of the joint Task Force Operation 'Hadinkai (OPHK) in collaboration with the local vigilante have arrested a suspected logistics supplier to the Boko Haram insurgents in Visit village of Hong local government area in Adamawa state.

Media Information Officer of the OPHK in charge of North East, Lieutenant colonel Sani Uba disclosed the development via a press release issued Thursday stressing that, troops of sector 4 under 28 Task Force Brigade apprehended one Ismail Muhammad, 28yr for alleged link with the Boko Haram insurgents as a logistics supplier in Visik village of Hong council area.

According to the release, the suspect is in custody

assisting with useful information and items recovered from him include; AK-47 magazine with rounds of 7.62mm ammunition.

"On Thursday, troops of Sector 4 under 28 Task Force Brigade apprehended 28-year-old Ismail Muhammed, a terrorist logistics supplier, in the Visik General area of Hong Local Government Area, Adamawa State.

"Items recovered from the suspect included one AK-47 magazine, rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, military accoutrements and assorted foodstuffs. The suspect is currently in custody undergoing further investigation". It stressed.

Furthermore, the release stated that another terrorist Commander, Abdullahi Mafa has been neutralized in an encounter with the troops

around Visik river in Madagali local government area as one AK-47 rifle with a loaded magazine were recovered from the killed insurgent.

Another alleged terrorist collaborator, one, Dauda Usman Gubula, 64 yr.old was also apprehended by the troops at motor Park in Madagali town with incriminating items including two aerial drones and their accessories and 20 units of solar power banks

In a separate operation in Madagali Local Government Area, troops of Sector 4 neutralized a terrorist commander, Abdullahi Mafa during an ambush operation around the Visik River line. With an AK 47 rifle as well as loaded magazine recovered from the neutralized terrorist.

"Troops acting on further intelligence arrested 64-year-old Dauda Usman Gubula, a terrorist collaborator and drone supplier responsible for supplying drones to the terrorists which is subsequently locally armed and used by the terrorists against troop.

"He was arrested at Madagali Motor Park. Recovered items included two aerial drones, drone accessories and 20 solar power banks.

"Troops continue to intensify efforts to dismantle the insurgent supply networks". The statement maintained.

Customs Chief Commissions ASR-Donated 60-Bed Hospital to Boost Healthcare in Bauchi

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Bashir Adeniyi, has inaugurated a modern 60-bed hospital in Bauchi, describing the facility as a major step toward improving healthcare access for officers, their families, and host communities.

Constructed and donated by ASR Africa, the charity arm of industrialist Abdul Samad Rabiu, the project reflects a shift from routine corporate responsibility to deeper institutional partnership.

Adeniyi recalled an earlier inspection visit in 2024 and expressed satisfaction that the upgraded hospital expanded from an initial 30-bed concept after a needs assessment now meets professional medical standards.

He stressed that safeguarding the health of personnel working in demanding operational environments is essential to



sustaining national economic protection and service efficiency.

Representing Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed, the Secretary to the State Government, Aminu Hammayo, said the facility aligns with ongoing health reforms, including increased sector funding, recruitment of thousands of health workers, improved drug supply systems, and broader insurance coverage.

ASR Africa Chief Executive Officer Ubong Udo noted the organisation's annual social investments across Africa, describing the hospital as a model for partnership-driven development.

Community leaders, including Adamu Gumba and Tanko Dutshe, welcomed the initiative, saying it would expand affordable healthcare access and strengthen collaboration for sustainable national development.

Buni's Humility Shines at NEDC Road Flag-Off as Governor Connects Freely with Kasaisa Community

By Sani Gazas Chinade Damaturu



At the flag-off ceremony for the reconstruction of the 77-kilometre Damaturu-Buni Yadi-Magza road project by the North East Development Commission (NEDC) in Kasaisa village, His Excellency, Governor Mai Mala Buni once again exemplified the humility and down-to-earth disposition that have come to define his leadership as a true Talakawa governor.

The event drew a large turnout of women, children, and residents from Kasaisa and neighbouring communities, creating an atmosphere of excitement and appreciation.

Beyond the significance of the road project which is set to boost connectivity, commerce, and socio-economic activities across Yobe and Borno States the occasion offered a powerful glimpse into Governor Buni's people-centered leadership style.

In a setting where strict protocol often creates a visible gap between leaders and the grassroots, Governor Buni deliberately bridged that divide. Rather than remaining

Man shot dead in ambush along Jol-Sho road in Plateau

A middle-aged man identified as Sunday Darian has been killed by suspected gunmen in an ambush attack along the Jol-Sho road in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The incident occurred as the victim and a female companion were returning from Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

Darian, a resident of Jol community, sustained severe gunshot injuries during the attack and was rushed to a hospital in Barkin Ladi, where he was later confirmed dead by medical personnel.

The attack was confirmed

confined to ceremonial formalities, he stepped forward to mingle freely with villagers especially women and children exchanging warm greetings, smiles, and pleasantries as they cheered enthusiastically.

His gesture resonated deeply with the crowd. It was a simple yet profound demonstration of accessibility, empathy, and genuine connection qualities that continue to endear him to the people of Yobe State.

For Governor Buni, leadership goes beyond the privileges and trappings of office. It is rooted in service, humility, and sustained human connection. His conduct at the flag-off ceremony reinforced his image as an approachable and compassionate leader who remains attentive to the people, regardless of the responsibilities of his office.

This consistent display of humility both in public engagements and private interactions remains a defining hallmark of Governor Buni's administration and a key reason why he continues to command trust, loyalty, and admiration across Yobe State.

in a statement signed by Rwang Tengwong, National Publicity Secretary of the Berom Youth Moulders Association (BYM).

Tengwong described the killing as another tragic incident in the ongoing wave of insecurity plaguing rural communities in Riyom and surrounding areas.

He called on security agencies to intensify efforts to apprehend the perpetrators and prevent further loss of innocent lives.

Plateau State has witnessed a surge in ambushes, killings, and kidnappings in recent weeks, particularly along major rural roads and in farming communities.

Gov. Buni Approves Over N398 Million, Others for 2026 Ramadan Feeding, Tafsir Across Yobe

By: Sani Gazas Chinade Damaturu

The Yobe State, (Dr) Mai Mala Buni, has approved over N398 million for the 2026 Ramadan feeding programme and Tafsir across the state.

The initiative, to be implemented through the Yobe State Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ethical Re-Oriented, is aimed at supporting vulnerable and less privileged residents during the holy month of Ramadan.

As part of the expansion of the programme, Governor Buni approved an increase in the number of feeding centres from 101 last year to 130 centres spread across the 17 Local Government Areas of the state. Each centre is expected to provide Iftar meals for 100 persons daily throughout the fasting period, enabling thousands of residents to benefit from the humanitarian gesture.

A breakdown of the approval shows that over N338 million will be used for the procurement of rams and cooking condiments to facilitate feeding activities at the designated centres.

In addition, N60 million has been approved for the payment of allowances to Muslim clerics who will conduct Tafsir, providing religious guidance and spiritual teachings to the faithful during Ramadan.



To further strengthen the programme, Governor Buni also approved the distribution of 2,300 bags of rice and 400 jerrycans of cooking oil to the 130 feeding centres across the state.

Flagging off the distribution, the Honourable Commissioner for Religious Affairs and Ethical Re-Oriented, Alhaji Yusuf Umar (Kaigaman Potiskum, commended Governor Buni for sustaining and expanding the Ramadan feeding initiative. He described the gesture as a clear reflection of the administration's commitment to the welfare of the less privileged.

He noted that the programme has continued to provide relief to many families

across the state, particularly during the fasting period, and urged committee members overseeing the centres to manage the distributed items with a strong sense of responsibility.

The Commissioner also warned against any diversion or mismanagement of the materials, directing all officials involved in the programme to strictly adhere to government guidelines to ensure transparency and successful implementation.

The initiative underscores the administration's continued commitment to supporting citizens—especially the vulnerable—while also promoting religious devotion, unity, and community support during the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan: Mohammed warns against illicit wealth, urges legacy-driven leadership

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has cautioned public office holders against the pursuit of personal wealth at the expense of integrity, speaking during Thursday's council meeting in Bauchi State, the governor framed the Ramadan season as a solemn period for repentance, sacrifice, and renewed devotion to Allah.

He urged members of the State Executive Council to prioritise legacy, accountability, and service to

humanity as guiding principles of governance.

The governor stressed that leaders must reflect deeply on their conduct and responsibilities to society.

He noted that material riches accumulated through public office offer no lasting value, warning that wealth can easily vanish, while enduring developmental achievements remain the true measure of leadership.

Mohammed emphasised that governance should focus on improving citizens' welfare through strengthened education, healthcare, and economic empowerment initiatives capable of raising productivity and expanding the state's economic base.

According to him, meaningful service not financial gain defines responsible leadership and earns lasting public trust.

The governor further reminded council members that heightened scrutiny from

investigative and security institutions should not be viewed as intimidation but as an opportunity to demonstrate transparency, sincerity, and discipline in public administration.

“Operating from an opposition political position, he said, requires even greater caution and efficiency to maintain credibility and deliver measurable results.

He encouraged officials to work collectively with renewed moral consciousness, stressing that the true legacy of leadership lies in the landmarks and reforms left behind for future generations rather than personal accumulation.

Gov Mohammed reaffirmed confidence in his team's capacity to uphold ethical governance, urging them to remain steadfast, accountable, and committed to building a state defined by integrity, social justice, and sustainable.



Invest on first 1,000 days to safeguard the child's future. Experts advised

By Umar Dankano, Yola

Stakeholders in the health care sector have urged governments and parents to ensure tremendous concern to the first one thousand days of a child life in our communities.

This disposition was arrived at during a one-day media engagement organized by the Bauchi Radio Cooperation in partnership with the Unicef Bauchi field office held in Yola Wednesday with the view that, the first 1,000 days of a child is critical to the growth and survival of our children.

In his submission at the dialogue, the Maternal Perinatal Child Death Surveillance and Response (MPCDSR) Desk Officer, Dr. Takwale Joseph Vawa highlighted that, importance of the first 1,000 days can never be over emphasized as it provides the opportunity where a child is mar or make.

Vawa said that health care investment is highly needed and encourage with in the period under review noting that, the period builds the child's foundation for brain development, physical growth, and future productivity

Vawa explained that about 45 percent of under-five deaths in many underdeveloped countries are linked to malnutrition adding that children who survive poor nutrition and inadequate healthcare during this period often grow up with developmental deficits that limit their productivity in adulthood.

He warned that, Failure to invest in the first 1,000 days comes with grave future consequences stating that, when immunity of a child is weak, then he vulnerable to diseases and that, such investment does not only translate to better health and reduced mortality rates but to better national economy and prosperous future.

Earlier in her remarks, Dr. Nuzhat Rafique, Chief of UNICEF Bauchi Field Office declared that all hands must be on deck in providing the wellbeing of the children who remains the future leaders therefore needs absolute care and guidance.

Rafique emphasized that Unicef is poised to investing in integrated services that support children and mothers during this critical period noting that, the goal is not merely to ensure child survival but to safeguard lifelong wellbeing and productivity

“Unicef is strengthening antenatal and neonatal care, exclusive breastfeeding, desired nutrition, expanding immunization coverage and improving sanitation services”. She stressed.

Speaking also, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH officer, Unicef Bauchi field office, Nanbam Dawap called on stakeholders to conduct sanitation assessments in communities and ensure that WASH indicators are fully integrated into programs targeting the first 1,000 days.

Dawap underscored the vitality of integrating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services into maternal and child health programs noting that lack of clean water, functional convenience and proper hygiene etiquettes attracts infections.

“We cannot achieve universal health coverage without embedding WASH components,” she said.

Our Correspondent reported that a field trip was conducted by the experts and journalists to few communities in Shellig local government area where the local WASH committee chairman, Gideon Emmanuel advanced that the committee has triggered 293 communities out of 300 to becoming open defecation free (ODF) villages confirming that complete ODF is projected to the end of this year (2027).



FCT Area Council Election: APC 5 PDP 1 ADC 0

By Salihu Makera

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has won five chairmanship seats in the just-concluded 2026 area council election in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In Abaji, INEC declared Umar Abdullahi Abubakar of the APC as the winner of the Abaji Area Council chairmanship election in the FCT.

Abubakar defeated his closest rivals, Sokodabo Bilyaminu of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Mohammed Ibrahim of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), to secure Abaji's top seat. He polled 15,536 votes, defeating the PDP with 4,547 votes and the ADC with 37 votes.

INEC declared the APC candidate in Saturday's Chairmanship election in Kwali A Area Council, Daniel Nuhu, as the winner.

INEC said Nuhu polled a total of 17,032 votes to defeat his closest rival, Haruna Pai, of the PDP, who polled 8,575 votes to come second in the election.

The results were declared by the INEC presiding officer at Kwali's final collation center.

As Nigerians focus on the FCT election 2026, INEC has declared Christopher Maikalangu of the APC the elected chairman of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

AMAC's collation officer, Andrew Abue, stated that Maikalangu, who is the incumbent AMAC chairman, was returned elected. The APC chieftain scored the highest number of votes cast, 40,295 out of the total number of valid votes of 62,861 in the election.

The ADC, led by flag bearer social activist Moses Ogidi Paul, came second with 12,109 votes, while the PDP garnered 3,398 votes.

According to Prof. Abue, there were 2,336 rejected votes, with a total of 62,861 valid votes and 65,197 votes cast overall. He added that AMAC has 837,338 registered voters, of whom 65,676 were

accredited for the election.

INEC declared APC's Joshua Ishaku as the winner of the Bwari Area Council chairmanship.

The returning officer for the election, Prof. Mohammed Nurudeen, announced the results on Sunday, February 22, in Bwari, stating that Ishaku polled a total of 18,466 votes to secure victory.

According to Nurudeen, the candidate of the ADC polled 4,254 votes to place second, while the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) candidate came third with 3,515 votes.

Also, INEC declared Mohammed Kasim of the PDP as the winner of the Gwagwalada Area Council election.

The returning officer, Philip Akpen, said Kasim polled a total of 22,165 votes to defeat his closest opponent, Yahaya Shehu of the APC, who polled 17,788 votes.

He stated that Biko Umar of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) scored 1,687 to come in third place.

Danjuma Shekwolo Samuel of the APC has won the Kuje Area Council chairmanship election with a margin of over 1,400 votes.

The returning officer, Prof. Nkiruka Odoh, announced Samuel as the winner of the election after collating the results at the INEC office in Kuje.

The APC candidate, Samuel, secured 17,269 votes to defeat his closest opponent, Zakwoyi Danlami of the PDP, who polled 15,824.

Samuel, who won with a 1,445-vote margin, also won six of the 10 wards to defeat the PDP candidate.

The APGA candidate came a distant third with 4,305 votes.

Tinubu congratulates the winners. According to a statement issued by the presidential spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu urged the winners to serve with humility, patriotism, and dedication, describing the mandate given to them by the people as "a sacred trust."

APC urges elected chairmen to deliver Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has charged newly elected Area Council chairmen in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to prioritise the implementation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, following the party's victory in five of the six councils.

Speaking at the APC Situation Room in Abuja, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, Chairman of the FCT Campaign Council, said the poll outcome reflected residents' endorsement of the President's policies and infrastructural drive in the FCT.

He praised President Tinubu for his decisive leadership and clear direction, noting that the administration's reforms and visible projects were instrumental to the party's success.

"The people of Abuja have embraced the President's policies and turned out to vote for our party. The responsibility now lies with the elected chairmen to hit the ground running," AbdulRazaq said.

He emphasised that responsiveness to grassroots needs and faithful implementation of party programmes would be critical, particularly in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), where voter turnout



was notably high.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Secretary of the Campaign Council, Benjamin Kalu, said the Renewed Hope Agenda became a strong campaign tool because its impact was already visible across the FCT.

"People could see what we were preaching. That made our engagement easier," he said, urging chairmen-elect to translate policy promises into measurable development outcomes that would deepen public confidence in governance.

Also speaking, APC National Chairman, Nentawe

Yilwatda, described the FCT result as a validation of the party's grassroots mobilisation and governance record.

He commended party members, campaign officials, security agencies, and INEC for ensuring a credible process, and called on elected officials to maintain cordial relationships with councillors to fast-track projects and make the Renewed Hope Agenda visible at the grassroots.

"With effective implementation at the councils, the projects you execute will become our campaign signposts in the future," Yilwatda added.

Growing rift in Taraba APC as youth coalition demands cabinet overhaul

A fresh political storm is brewing within the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Taraba State, as a coalition of youth groups from Taraba North Senatorial District intensifies pressure on Governor Agbu Kefas to dissolve and reconstitute his cabinet.

The Coalition of APC Youth Groups made its position public on Monday in a statement signed by its leader, Ibrahim Bambur. The group accused the governor of failing to honour an alleged pre-defection agreement reached before his move from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the APC in January 2026.

Governor Kefas' defection to the APC was widely regarded as a major shift in Taraba's political landscape. According to the coalition, part of the understanding that preceded the defection included assurances of broader inclusion for long-

standing APC members in key government positions.

However, following the political realignment, youth leaders in Taraba North said those expectations have not been met. They alleged that unnamed interests within the administration, including some cabinet members, are resisting any restructuring in order to protect their positions.

The coalition described the governor's delay in dissolving the cabinet as a sign of weak leadership, warning that it could erode public confidence in the administration.

Central to the group's demands is the allocation of key offices — Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Head of Service (HoS) and Chief of Staff (CoS) — to what it described as "old APC members."

According to Bambur, assigning these positions to party loyalists would promote fairness and strengthen internal cohesion ahead of the 2027 general elections.

"We cannot support a government that marginalises our senatorial district," Bambur said. "We call on the governor to urgently address these concerns or face the consequences at the polls."

Beyond internal party issues the coalition also raised concerns over what it described as lopsided project allocation across Taraba's three senatorial districts. It alleged that about 95 per cent of state projects are concentrated in Southern Taraba, five per cent in Central Taraba, and none in Taraba North — a claim that, if substantiated, could deepen regional tensions in the state.

Political observers note that such allegations, whether accurate or exaggerated, could significantly influence voting patterns in 2027 if left unresolved.

Although no specific evidence was provided, the accusations highlight growing dissatisfaction among segments of the APC's grassroots base in Taraba State.



News

North-East holds one-day national prayer rally in Bauchi

The North-East Zone of Nigeria Prays, organised a One-day National Prayer Rally in Bauchi with the theme: "Awake, Awake Ó Army of the Lord," taken from Isaiah 51:9.

The rally which was held at the COCIN Church, Kagadama, Yelwa, brought together Christians from the Six States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe as well as leaders of Nigeria Prays led by former Military Head of State, Elder Statesman, General Dr. Yakubu Gowon, (Rtd) who was represented at the meeting.

Speaking at the prayer rally, Bauchi State Governor, Sen. Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, commended Yakubu Gowon for taking the pains, over the last 30 years, to traverse the country leading prayer sessions for Nigeria's peace and unity.

Bala Mohammed who was represented by a high powered Government delegation led by the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Christian Affairs, Pastor (Dr), Luka Zakka Magaji, described Yakubu Gowon as, "Our Father, a mentor, a gospel power, the one God has used to keep Nigeria as one. ., the former Head of State, and the founder of the vision, Nigeria Prays."

The Governor appreciated the Christian community for the mass turning out to pray for the nation, Nigeria, to pray for the North-East subregion, and to pray for Bauchi State in particular.

Bala Mohammed said that he is consciously aware that his government emerged as a result of prayer, adding that, "And what we're witnessing in Bauchi state today is also anchored by prayer because the Bible says when the righteous rule, the people rejoice."

According to him, "In 2019, we prayed for good leadership in Bauchi State. We prayed for a leadership that would have the fear of God. Today we are all witnesses to that, and we can attest to that, and we can applaud that, and we can say loudly, without fear or favour or contradiction, that our administration, as it was said, is number one."

And he also said that the prayer came timely, because, "if you are not aware, the timetable for the 2027 general elections is out. Let us continue praying, that God will establish righteous leaders as we embark on another round of elections."

Bala Mohammed stressed, "We cannot get Nigeria back until we get righteous leaders at all levels. Today, we can overtake even those who were ahead of us. Therefore, we ask you to let us continue praying that, as God has the power, our God is the unshakable, our God can move the unmovable."

He also stated, "Our God can remove the unremovable. And we trust God. We are not praying against anybody. We are praying that God will show you as our ally and help Nigeria. We are praying that God will show us that we are united. We are praying that God will show us that we are united."

"Because the prayer is timely. Let's continue our prayer that God will expose those wicked ones who are using their leadership to oppress us, in the various sectors of Nigeria, not only politicians. Therefore, it is our responsibility to pray," he stressed.

The Governor added, "As we embark on the calendar of elections, let God give us true leaders, quality leaders, people that are upright, have a good heart, and people that will live a life of service, and people that will bring true change."

Also speaking in his capacity as the Governor's Political Aide, Zakka Luka Magaji stressed that, no one is to be compared with our amiable Governor, Sen Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed. A man who delivered his mandate without any discrimination, and a man who ruled with Godly fear, a man of true replica of righteousness, a man who built Churches, a man who built Mosques, and a man who gave us a befitting CAN center that can compete with all other CAN centers in the country that we have."

Speaking earlier, National Secretary, Nigeria Prays, Evan Austin R. Kemie, stressed that the project was aimed at keeping Nigeria as a united entity through prayers and seeking divine intervention in all situations across the country.

He added that particularly in the North East subregion, which has been ravaged by insurgency leading to deaths and destruction of Churches thereby making existence difficult.

In his remarks, Bauchi State Coordinator of Nigeria Prays, Rev Samaila Boro, commended the Christian Community for coming out in large numbers for the programme stressing that it was a demonstration of commitment to the cause of God.

The one-day prayer meeting featured sessions of prayers for Nigeria, North-East, and Bauchi State as well as for the leadership of the country at all levels not leaving out the Church.

Various Choir groups also sang songs of praise, thanksgiving, and adoration to God.

Tinubu to governors: I'm determined to rescue Nigeria... we'll establish state police

President Bola Tinubu says he is determined to "rescue" Nigeria and fulfil the promises he made to the citizens.

The president spoke in Abuja while hosting state governors to an interfaith breaking of the fast for Muslims observing Ramadan and Christians marking Lent at the State House.

"In this sacred season for two of the major faiths in our dear country, we are reminded that beyond politics and policy, we are first a people of conscience," Tinubu wrote on X.

"I commended the governors for their efforts so far and for the various outreach activities they have carried out this holy month.

"But I also challenged them to do more to reach the young man who feels forgotten, lift the woman who carries her family on tired shoulders, and touch the communities at the grassroots where hope sometimes flickers.

"Development must not recognise religion. Compassion must not recognise tribe. Opportunity must not recognise status.

"I am determined to rescue this country. And as long as we work together in delivering hope to our citizens, the best is yet to come for Nigeria. What I promised Nigerians will not



be postponed."

He said security remains the foundation of economic prosperity, adding that agriculture, businesses and families cannot thrive in an unsafe environment.

Tinubu reiterated his administration's plan to establish state police, describing the proposal as a practical reform rather than a political move.

"Security is the foundation of prosperity. Without it, farms cannot flourish, businesses cannot grow, and families cannot sleep in peace. We will establish state police to curb insecurity," he said.

"This is not about politics. It is about practicality. It is about empowering states with the tools to protect their people while strengthening our

national framework.

"We must be bold enough to reform what is not working. We must be united enough to protect what we hold dear. Nigeria will be safer. Nigeria will be stronger. And together, we must commit to making it so."

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Hope Uzodimma, governor of Imo, said state governments will continue to partner with the president for the country's progress.

"We have appreciated the new reform policies you have given to state governments to operate, the support and the interventions, the ingenuity you have brought to bear, and the new tax reform you have introduced," Uzodimma said.

El-Rufai suffered overnight nosebleed in custody, says aide

Muyiwa Adekeye, media aide to Nasir el-Rufai, says the former Kaduna governor suffered an overnight nosebleed while in the custody of the **Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)**.

In a statement issued on Monday night, Adekeye said the commission also prevented el-Rufai from receiving a meal directly from his wife on February 17.

The former Kaduna governor voluntarily presented himself at the EFCC headquarters on February 16 following an invitation from the agency.

On February 18, the **Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)** took el-Rufai into custody after he

was released by the EFCC.

The anti-graft agencies are probing el-Rufai over alleged financial improprieties during his tenure as governor of Kaduna state between 2015 and 2023.

In 2024, the Kaduna assembly indicted el-Rufai over the alleged diversion of N423 billion in public funds and money laundering and demanded that he be investigated by anti-graft agencies.

Adekeye said el-Rufai's legal team has not been shown any remand order authorizing his continued detention beyond 48 hours without charge.

He said el-Rufai's legal team and family are "having difficulties in securing access to him in detention".

"One of his wives was not allowed to deliver his meal directly to him on the evening

of 17th February, but was asked to pass it to him through one of the commission's personnel. His lawyers have reported that he suffered an overnight episode of bleeding from his nose," the statement reads.

He said on Wednesday, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) high court would hear el-Rufai's fundamental rights enforcement suit against the federal government, the ICPC, the EFCC and the Department of State Services (DSS).

The chieftain of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) is scheduled for arraignment this week for allegedly intercepting the telephone conversation of Nuhu Ribadu, the national security adviser (NSA).

On Monday, el-Rufai sued the ICPC over alleged unlawful invasion of his Abuja residence.

Igbo man elected APC Secretary in Gombe



An Igbo man from Anambra State, Edwin Chukwu Jeku, has been elected as the Assistant Secretary of Bolari East Ward of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in Gombe State.

Jeku, a non-indigene of the state, expressed his happiness with the development, saying it reflects the party's nationality.

He said his election was an inspiration to non-indigents in the state APC, that the party does not discriminate against all its members.

"I feel happy being among the party leaders at the grassroots. My election reflects the party's nationality. I advise my other Igbos to try to play along at the party. We are not excluded from the party. We are fully accommodated," he stated.

Jeku thank the state governor, Inuwa Yahaya, for appointing an Igbo man as Special Assistant on Inter-Community Affairs, saying it shows his administration's and party's commitment to inclusivity.

He appealed for consideration of more Igbos



and other non-indigene residents in the state who are active in politics in political appointments.

In his remarks, the chairman of the All Progressive Congress ward and local government congress committee in the state, Dr Danjuma Dabo, said he approved the consensus and the affirmation of the ward executives in Gombe, and lauded the smooth conduct of the poll.

"We have come, seen and witnessed the process. We are supposed to witness the process, and I can confirm that as a committee, we are satisfied with the process ongoing. It has been done the way it should be done."

Dabo, while hailing the process, added, "It has been done with all the appropriate regulations.

"We therefore confirm that the ward congresses are done in accordance with laid down procedures. For the consensus, all those who affirmed also agree that we have witnessed their affirmation."

'My reluctance has slowly begun to fade' — Pantami hints at contesting Gombe Guber

Isa Pantami, former Minister of Communications and digital economy, has hinted at an interest in contesting the Gombe gubernatorial election in 2027.

In an interview with BBC Hausa released, Pantami spoke of how he was approached by close associates to run for governor but noted an initial reluctance.

"I am deeply committed to promoting good governance, whether I contest for office or not. My interest lies in identifying, encouraging, and supporting the best leaders for Nigeria," the cybersecurity professor said in Hausa.

"The people of Gombe have seen the impact of my time in office, from generating employment to spearheading over 215 innovative projects and various training programs. By God's grace, we will soon release a book documenting these achievements. Because of this track record, people have been calling on me to return to service.

"The first group that approached me, accompanied by my close friend Arch. Dahiru Saidu, did not receive the answer they hoped for. I told them I was not interested. When they asked if something



was wrong, I explained that it wasn't a fault, but that I believed others should have the opportunity to serve.

"He even told me, 'if things continue to go like that God will hold you accountable because you have value to add'. I advised them to pray and ask God for the best path forward."

Pantami said the resistance has now begun to fade and noted areas he would focus on if given the opportunity.

"Although I initially resisted the idea 100 percent, my reluctance has slowly begun to fade as I continue to seek divine guidance for the best interest of the people," he

said.

"I will build upon the foundation laid by my brother, Governor Inuwa Yahaya, by focusing on these key pillars: human empowerment, human development, industrialisation, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

"Our primary goal is to tackle unemployment by creating job opportunities for the youth and women. We must remain focused on providing our young people with high-quality education to ensure a brighter future for all."

The former minister noted that politics should be about morality and empathy.

Katsina APC stakeholders optimistic of victory in 2027

Following the conduct of ward congresses by the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) in Katsina State, the party's stakeholders have expressed optimism that the outcome of the exercise is a sign of victory for the party in the coming general elections.

At a weekend press briefing, the stakeholders said the peaceful nature of the exercise, as well as the large turnout of members, showed that the APC is still the most formidable in the state.

Speaking, the Chairman, Ward and Local Government Congress Appeal Committee of the party, Jamilu Zaki, said the outcome of the congresses attests to the transparency, fairness and level playing field that the party has given to all its members.

Zaki, who commended the members for conducting themselves in an orderly manner during the exercise, said the fairness in the conduct of the exercise has further reaffirmed the APC's commitment to internal democracy, discipline and unity.

He said, "The outcome attests to the fairness,

transparency and local conduct of the screening committee across all wards," adding that no single appeal, petition or complaint was submitted for consideration.

Speaking, Chairman of the screening committee, Dr Bashir Boni, said that the screening was conducted without any challenges, adding that they confirmed the membership status of all the candidates and submitted all the required documents to the committee before the congresses.

Boni commended the Local Organising Committee for their efforts, which contributed to the screening exercise's success.

On his part, the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Abdulkadir Nasir, said the congresses were

conducted hitch-free across the state's 361 wards in the 34 Local Government Areas.

Nasir, who doubles as the Chief of Staff to the state governor, said the success of the exercise was due to measures taken by movement to ensure an improved security situation across the state.

He said the committees were tasked with producing party leaders for another term who would build the party towards progress, especially ahead of the upcoming general elections.

He assured that the exercise was conducted in accordance with the rules and guidelines enshrined in the party's constitution, even as he reiterated the party's commitment to ensure a level playing field for all members.



Politics

Gombe Gov restates support for Tinubu



Muhammadyahaya has participated in the Local Government Area Congress of the All Progressives Congress held in Gombe.

Speaking at the Gombe LGA APC congress at Idi Primary School, the governor reiterated his commitment and support for President Bola Tinubu, declaring that the APC remains solid, united and focused on delivering good governance.

He expressed confidence that, riding on what he described as its impressive record and expanding grassroots support, "the party is well-positioned to secure a decisive and resounding victory in the 2027 polls at all levels."

Yahaya commended party faithful and stakeholders for their unity, discipline and commitment to the growth and consolidation of the APC across the state.

He noted that the smooth and peaceful conduct of the congress reflected the maturity, cohesion and strength of the party's internal democratic processes.

The governor added that the APC remains a formidable political platform in the country, stating that "the ongoing congresses would further strengthen the party's structure from the grassroots, deepen internal democracy and strategically position it for greater electoral successes."

He reassured members that the APC-led administrations at both the state and Federal Government levels would

continue to implement people-oriented policies and programmes aimed at improving citizens' welfare and living standards. He urged supporters to remain steadfast and committed to the ideals of the party.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the State, LGA and Ward Congresses Committee in Gombe State, Dr Danjuma Dabo, announced that the party adopted a consensus arrangement for the congresses following consultations among stakeholders to promote unity and stability.

Dabo expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the exercise, describing it as peaceful, orderly and transparent, and noted that the process across the state adhered strictly to party guidelines.

He commended the calm atmosphere that characterised the congress and applauded party leaders and members for their cooperation, which he said contributed to the success of the exercise.

Similarly, the Supervisor of the Congress in Gombe LGA, Hon. Ado Umar, said all laid-down rules and procedures were followed, leading to the adoption of the consensus method that produced new party officials.

The congress was attended by party elders, leaders, stakeholders and members drawn from the 11 wards of Gombe Local Government Area, while similar exercises were conducted across other LGAs in the state.



Successful APC congresses signal 2027 victory, says committee chair

The Chairman of the Ward and Local Government Congress Appeal Committee of the All Progressives Congress in Katsina State, Jamilu Uwais-Zaki, says the "successful conduct of ward congresses across the state signals victory for the party in the 2027 elections."

Uwais-Zaki spoke on Saturday in Katsina during a joint briefing on the congresses held Friday across all 361 wards in the state.

He said the exercise reflected transparency, fairness and equal opportunity for party members.

"The outcome attests to the fairness, transparency and local conduct of the screening committee across all wards," he said.

Uwais-Zaki added that party members conducted themselves in an orderly manner during the exercise.

He stated that the conduct of the congresses further demonstrated the APC's commitment to internal democracy, discipline and unity.

He also disclosed that no appeal, petition or complaint



was submitted for review after the exercise.

Chairman of the screening committee, Bashir Ibrahim-Boni, said the screening process was conducted without incident.

He said the committee verified the membership status of all candidates and ensured that all required documents were submitted before the congress.

Ibrahim-Boni commended the Local Organising Committee for supporting the smooth conduct of the exercise.

Earlier, Chairman of the

Local Organising Committee and Chief of Staff to Governor Dikko Radda, Abdulkadir Mamman-Nasir, said the congresses were held simultaneously across the 361 wards in the state.

He said the committees were tasked with producing party leaders who would strengthen the party and drive development in line with the party constitution.

"As of today, there is no ward or local government that you cannot access across the state due to improved security in the state," he said.

ADC vows mass mobilisation over Electoral Act

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) said it would mobilise Nigerians nationwide to protect the integrity of future elections, accusing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of weakening democratic credibility by signing the amended Electoral Act into law.

The opposition party made its position known in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Bolaji Abdullahi, who questioned what the party described as the undue haste with which the president approved the bill despite widespread public objections.

"With the alarmingly speedy assent to the Electoral Act Amendment Bill, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has signed the death warrant on credible elections and, by so doing, set Nigeria's democracy back by several decades.

"In signing the bill into law, the President claimed to be consolidating the country's democracy, but in reality, he has simply corrupted it further by introducing ambiguity and permitting excessive discretion in the collation and transmission process," the statement added.

The party said the speed of the amendment's passage and assent had raised questions about the government's confidence in a transparent electoral process.

"It is quite instructive that despite claiming to control more than 30 state governments and commanding a majority in both chambers of the National Assembly, the extraordinary haste with which this amendment was passed and signed raises the unavoidable question of why a government that wrongly boasts about being so politically dominant would rush changes to the electoral framework unless it harbours deep-seated doubts about submitting itself to a truly transparent and competitive process.

"The African Democratic Congress is also deeply concerned about what this amendment portends for Nigeria's forthcoming

elections. In the absence of firm guarantees of electronic transparency, vigilant citizens may feel compelled to physically safeguard their votes to prevent discrepancies between polling units and collation centres, as has been witnessed in the past

"As a duly constituted political party in the Federal Republic of Nigeria... the ADC affirms in the strongest and clearest possible terms that we are ready, willing, and prepared to defend the sanctity of Nigeria's democracy using every constitutional and lawful means available to us.

"We will mobilise Nigerians toward vigilance, toward lawful participation, and toward unity in defence of their constitutional rights. We stand firm in the belief that the will of the people must prevail and that no law, however hastily enacted, can extinguish the democratic aspirations of a free nation," the ADC said.





Pastor Abel Damina said no Christian will make it to Heaven as the Bible did not say so

Pastor Abel Damina said no Christian will make it to Heaven as the Bible did not say so

Response:

With due respect, the claim that "no Christian can make heaven" and that "it is not in the Bible" is not accurate.

The Bible clearly speaks about eternal life and heaven for believers.

John 14:2-3 – Jesus said:

"In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Philippians 3:20 –

"For our citizenship is in heaven..."

2 Corinthians 5:1 –

"If our earthly house... is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven..."

Matthew 25:46 –

"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Revelation 21:1-4

speaks of the new heaven and believers dwelling with God.

The Bible repeatedly teaches eternal life with God. Whether one calls it "heaven," "eternal life," or "the Father's house," the destination of the redeemed is clearly described.

It is important to interpret Scripture carefully and avoid statements that contradict the plain reading of biblical texts.

Respectful theological discussion is healthy, but we should base our conclusions

Lord Emerson · Follow
14 Feb · 🌐

heav€n is not for believers 🤖no christain can make heaven it's not in the Bible ~Abel Damina #christaintreels #ChurchGist #nigerianfavoriteblogger AbelDamina #church #DrAbelDamina



👍 1.6K 💬 145 ➦ 227 📌

on the whole counsel of Scripture.

Islamic Position: Who Enters Paradise?

In Islam, entry into Paradise (Al-Jannah) is based on **true belief (Iman)** and **righteous deeds**, centered on pure monotheism (Tawhid).

1. Faith in Allah and the Last Day is Essential

Surah Aal-Imran 3:85

"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter, he will be among the losers."

Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:72

"They have certainly disbelieved who say, 'Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary'... Whoever associates others with Allah – Allah has forbidden him Paradise, and his refuge is the Fire."

Surah Al-Bayyinah 98:6

"Indeed, those who disbelieve among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists will be in the Fire of Hell, abiding eternally therein..."

These verses establish that **rejecting Tawhid (pure monotheism)** disqualifies a person from Paradise.

2. Islam Recognizes Earlier Revelations — But Final Guidance Is Through Prophet

Muhammad (ﷺ)

Muslims believe in previous prophets (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, peace be upon them all). However:

Surah Aal-Imran 3:19

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam."

Surah Al-Ahzab 33:40

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the Seal of the Prophets."

Thus, after the coming of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), accepting his message is part of true faith.

3. Exception: Those Who Never Received the Message Properly

Islamic scholars explain that those who never received the message of Islam correctly will be judged with justice by Allah.

Surah Al-Isra 17:15

"And We never punish until We have sent a messenger."

This shows that accountability is connected to receiving the message.

4. Clear Promise for Believers

Surah Al-Baqarah 2:82

"But those who believe and do righteous deeds — those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide therein eternally."

Surah An-Nisa 4:124

"And whoever does righteous deeds, whether male or female, while being a believer — those will enter Paradise..."

- Aminu Danmaliki

News Extra

Electoral Bill 2026: How president Tinubu's prompt assent may shape 2027 elections

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's prompt assent to the amended Electoral Bill threw some light to issues that will shape the 2027 general election. Despite calls on the President to withhold his signature like former president Muhammadu Buhari did, on the spur of conditional adoption of real-time transmission of polling unit results, a lot of changes in the election environment and polity will be witnessed as the bill became law in record time.

With the new Electoral Act coming into force, a lot is expected from politicians, political parties, the electorate and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to make the best out of the new provisions.

Enlightenment is key; because apart from the factor of real-time transmission of Polling Unit results to the INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal, there are some unique provisions and missing links that would demand further review since nation building is a work in progress.

As Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) continue to agonise and organise over the retention of Form EC8 as the basic election result collation document, there are some salient provisions that deserve positive reflection.

One of such provisions in the now Electoral Act 2026 is the removal of indirect primary election, which extinguishes the role of middle men and corruption in candidate nomination process by political parties. What this stipulation and Tinubu's prompt assent conveys is that the Executive and Legislature remained on the same page all through the period the amendment lasted.

From his brief days as a Senator and his two terms as Governor of Lagos State, the President had been on the vanguard of agitation for electoral reforms. With his inspiration and support, the Coalition of Democrats for Electoral Reforms (CODER), which had Ayo Opadokun as convener, suggested far-reaching electoral solutions, including putting power back to party faithful as a way of assuring party supremacy.

The Special Adviser to the President on Media and Public Communications, Sunday Dare, seemed to be employing diplomatese when he disclosed



that the President would be guided by prevailing realities to “take a measured decision on the electronic transmission of election results.”

While noting that President Tinubu is a committed democrat, Dare had during his appearance on Arise Television, stated: “I can assure you that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a renowned democrat, will do what is right, but it will not be in isolation from the realities of our country... There's no 100 per cent real-time transmission anywhere. Are you telling me that this country, as it is, is networked enough to have a 100 per cent electronic process?”

However, those who recalled the President's stance on electronic transmission of poll results in the lead up to the 2015 general election claimed that he wanted to enjoy to the fullest the benefits of incumbency powers available to his office.

The National Publicity Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), which was dethroned in 2015, Ini Emeobong, recalled vividly that “evidence exists to show that Asiwaju Tinubu's APC demanded electronic voting in 2015, claiming it was long overdue.”

He claimed that the President and the APC were afraid of mass rejection, which he said awaits them at the polls, adding that that was why they could not accede to the popular demand for real-time transmission of results.

But, in his remarks while appending his signature to the amended bill, President Tinubu noted that he followed the debates on the amendment bill by the federal lawmakers, stressing that “the essence of democracy is to have very solid brainstorming

discussions committed to national development, nation building and the stability of the nation.”

While underplaying the controversies trailing the passage of the bill by the two chambers of the National Assembly, the President stated: “It is time that we have confidence in our system. No matter how good the system is, it is managed by the people, promoted by the people and the people finalise the results.”

“And, when you look at the crux of various arguments, maybe Nigerians should question our broadband capability. How technically sound are we today? How technically sound will we be tomorrow in answering the call, whether in real time or not?”

“And, as long as you appear personally as a manual voter in any polling booth, a ballot paper is given to you manually. You decide in a corner and fingerprint the person you choose. You cast your vote without hindrance or interference. Ballots are subsequently counted manually. It's just the arithmetic accuracy that is entered into it from easy thinking. It is still manual, essentially.”

Although the President raised concerns about glitches and human interference with technology through hacking, it was obvious that the Presidency and the APC-dominated National Assembly worked together to push a common a purpose clause, which has continued to elicit critical reviews by the stakeholders.

For instance, former Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Mike Igini, said that the conditional premise for electronic

transmission will open the Electoral Officers to great risk of bodily harm.

Alluding to what transpired in Lagos, Rivers and other states during the 2023 elections, Igini disclosed that exactly 98 per cent of Nigeria's electoral area is adequately covered by network, stressing that the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machines were configured to operate under 2G and 3G networks.

On the flipside, what the new Electoral Act has unwittingly done is to exterminate the spectre of voter apathy. This is because the likelihood of manipulation and ballot heist is reduced drastically when 90 per cent voter turnout is achieved.

This perspective comes as another positive aspect of the 2026 Electoral Act, even as it demands proactive strategies by the political parties to ensure that they get out the voters. Further, the other inimical innovation in electoral malfeasance called vote buying could be also reduced.

If the words of the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, during the presidential assent are anything to go by, what popular participation would do about the Act is that citizen inclusion, which the IReV portal aims to achieve, would be easily garnered.

The Senate President had explained that the lawmakers “have ensured that we provide a lot of clauses in the amendment that will enable you (INEC) to conduct free and fair elections in Nigeria that will be acceptable to the international community and all Nigerians, meet the yearnings and aspirations of all Nigerians as democrats.”

Like the late Sam Mbakwe, a former Governor

of Imo State, observed about democratic participation, “the rat does not tamper with the food of anybody that remains awake.” Political parties have work to do in mobilising voters to come out and vote, thereby seeing to it that whatever that will be done at the polling units are not only acceptable to them, but also reflect their choice.

Legal Flop

Despite the positive sides to the Electoral Act 2026, some stakeholders have faulted the 'hurried' assent by the President, saying that the chief law officer of the country, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Prince Fagbemi, should have taken time to read through.

For instance, the Yoruba Union pointed out that the caveat supplied by the lawmakers on the issue of real-time transmission was an implausible legal maxim. Igbinmó Májékóbájé Ilé-Yorùbá faulted President Tinubu for signing into law an Electoral Act (Amendment) bill that contains “a controversial provision, which permits manual transmission of election results, where electronic transmission fails.”

While describing the clause as a dangerous window for manipulation, the convener, Olusola Badero, in a statement sent to media organisations by its Home Director, Princess Balogun, faulted the haste with which the President appended his signature, saying that both the Senate President, Akpabio and Speaker, Tajudeen Abass, railroaded the process to satisfy the whims of the Presidency.

“In an era when elections across the globe are increasingly driven by technology to ensure transparency, Nigerian politicians still cling to old methods just to manipulate their way back into power because the people are fed up with them,” the Yoruba Union declared.

But instead of the flurry of attacks on the Presidency and the National Assembly, the critical areas of the election management, which should engage public attention, is security and logistic deployment. It amounts to defeatism if the international community is made to see Nigeria's electoral system as the exclusive preserve of those in power instead of exploring areas of collective responsibility.

FG to establish armed forces medical college to tackle 340,000 doctor shortfalls



The federal government has unveiled plans to establish the Armed Forces College of Medicine and Health Sciences (AFCOM&HS) to address Nigeria's estimated shortfall of 340,000 doctors.

A statement by Boriowo Folasade, director of press and public relations at the ministry of education, said the development follows a high-level meeting attended by Tunji Alausa, minister of education; Suiwaba Ahmed, minister of state for education; Christopher Musa, minister of defence and other key stakeholders in the education, defence and health sectors.

Alausa noted that Nigeria's population has surpassed 240 million, while only 189 medical professionals currently serve in the armed forces.

He highlighted Nigeria's broader deficit of approximately 340,000 doctors, noting the urgent need for scalable and innovative training models.

Alausa described the proposed military medical college as a "strategic national intervention to strengthen military healthcare services, address critical manpower shortages within the Armed Forces, and expand Nigeria's overall medical training capacity".

He added that the college would position Nigeria as a regional hub for military medical training in West Africa.

As part of broader reforms, Alausa said the government has doubled annual medical school admissions from about 5,000 to nearly 10,000, with plans to further increase intake to approximately 19,000 in the coming years.

According to him, the new college will be a critical

component of this expansion, aimed at developing a sustainable pipeline of combat casualty-trained doctors, surgeons, trauma specialists, emergency response medics, military public health and disaster response professionals, and other allied health personnel.

He said the initiative aligns with the President Bola Tinubu's administration education reform agenda, emphasising the strengthening of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medical sciences.

The minister noted that the college will operate within the existing university framework of the Nigerian Defence Academy, in compliance with the federal government's seven-year moratorium on new tertiary institutions and following directives from Tinubu.

Clinical training, he said, will take place in accredited federal and military hospitals.

The minister added that medical cadets will gain admission through the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), and upon completion of their training, they will be commissioned as captains in the armed forces.

According to him, a technical working group comprising representatives from the federal ministry of education, ministry of defence, Nigerian Defence Academy, the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, the National Universities Commission, JAMB, and other regulatory bodies has been constituted to ensure compliance and quality assurance.

The government confirmed that the necessary processes are being put in place for admissions to commence by October or November 2026.



Candidates not required to remove Hijab during registration — JAMB

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board has clarified that candidates are not required to remove their hijabs during registration, following a video that raised concerns about alleged discrimination against Muslim candidates at Afe Babalola University.

In a video shared by social media user AsakyGRN, a man lamented that his sister had been told to remove her hijab before being photographed, saying, "I followed my sister to the JAMB centre to collect her form. She was told to remove her hijab before she could be captured."

"After the capturing, they asked her to sign an undertaking for wearing a hijab. Are Muslims now being discriminated against for wearing hijabs?"

In a statement on Saturday via its verified account, JAMB said, "Thank you for your concern. However, it is important to state clearly that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, whether in the past or present, has never issued any directive prohibiting candidates from wearing the hijab."

The board explained that the procedure at ABUAD is a standard biometric requirement.

"When his sister presented herself for registration, she was informed of the Board's standard guideline, which is a global practice in capturing



candidates for both an international passport and a visa, which requires that both ears must be visible during biometric photo capture," the statement read.

"This requirement is purely technical and is intended to ensure that proper facial recognition and identification do not require the candidate to remove her hijab."

JAMB added that the candidate's religious position was respected.

"She was requested to formally state in writing that she personally chose not to comply with the guideline regarding ear visibility, so that the record would accurately reflect the circumstances and prevent future misrepresentation. She obliged and was successfully captured, albeit after considerable time and effort," the statement said.

The board reiterated, "For clarity, candidates are not required to remove their hijab. The simple requirement is that

the ears be visible during photo capture, which can be done without removing the hijab itself.

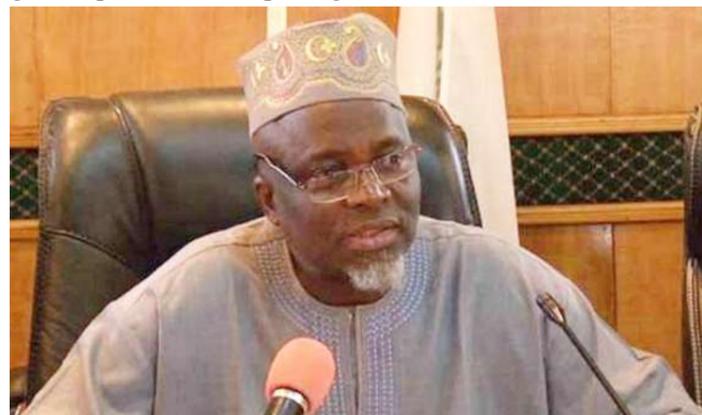
"This is a standard biometric procedure, similar to what is obtained during passport or visa applications at embassies worldwide."

JAMB concluded by urging the public to avoid spreading misleading accounts and to seek clarification where necessary, adding, "Mutual understanding will enable the Board to serve every candidate more effectively and fairly. We remain committed to respecting the rights and beliefs of all candidates, irrespective of religion or background."

JAMB began registration for the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) on Monday, January 26, 2026, running until Saturday, February 28, 2026.

JAMB Registrar Prof. Is-haq Oloyede said e-PIN vending started on Monday, January 19, 2026, and will end on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

For Direct Entry (DE) candidates, sale of application documents and e-PIN vending begins Monday, March 2, 2026, closing Saturday, April 25, 2026, with registration available only at JAMB zonal and state offices. The Registrar assured that measures are in place to ensure a smooth registration process nationwide.



ICPC tracks N4.61bn FG projects in Zamfara

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, says it has tracked 35 Federal Government projects worth N4.61 billion in Zamfara.

The Team Leader of the tracking exercise, Dr Murtala Bankano, said this at a news briefing in Gusau.

He said the aim was to ensure value for money.

Bankano said that the Constituency and Executive Project Tracking Initiative, CEPTI, was designed by the commission in collaboration

with the Budget Office.

Other collaborators, he said, are the National Institute for Quantity Surveyor, NIQS, the Media and other stakeholders, for the effective implementation of FG projects across the country.

He said that the projects in the phase eight tracking exercise in the state covered six sectors including Education, Health, Water Resources, Power, Empowerment and Agriculture.

He said that some of the projects were at various

degrees of completion, and therefore urged the contractors to go back and do the needful to the projects they are handling.

"Although the exercise is waiting for the NIQS report to determine the specific age of those projects in question, we are directing all contractors with any issue to return to sight immediately," he said.

Bankano said that the target of ICPC under this Initiative was to ensure effective implementation of Constituency and Executive Projects in accordance with the standard.

News

Split opinions persist over Tinubu's oil revenue Executive Order

Energy analysts have continued to express divided opinions over President Bola Tinubu's new oil and gas revenue Executive Order (EO).

While some see it as a major fiscal reform to boost transparency, strengthen NNPC's commercial function, curb discretionary revenue retention, and strengthen government finances, others perceive the executive order as a setback to the oil and gas industry's growth and a direct attack on the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

Speaking, former Chairman, Major Energies Marketers Association of Nigeria (MEMAN), Adetunji Oyeboji, said the essence of the executive order was to boost government's revenue.

"Our borrowing level is very high now and therefore, in order to boost revenue, government has to track any possible leakage or any possible depletion in revenue. So, to that extent, I think it will help. That is the objective," he said.

On the 30 per cent retention fee by NNPC, he expressed concern about that, saying he hoped that it would not prevent the company from necessary obligations to its contractors, staff and retirees.

"I hope the Federal government has thought it through so that NNPC does not become handicapped in terms of awarding contract for anything or repairs of something, because the company must have some working capital to do its own business.

"In these kinds of circumstances, the only thing is



that government has to be sure that NNPC's operation is not hampered so that they can pay retirees and do other things," he said.

The MEMAN's ex-chairman urged government to leave enough money for the company to run its business efficiently.

Professor of petroleum economics and policy research, Professor Wumi Iledare, in a report, described the executive order as a significant fiscal intervention aimed at enhancing transparency, reducing discretionary retention, and improving statutory remittances to Nigeria's three tiers of government.

President of Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), Comrade Festus Osifo, maintained that the oil revenue executive order will create uncertainties in oil and gas sector, described the President's executive order as a direct attack on the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), pointing out that such an order

cannot supersede the law of the land.

According to him, an executive order cannot override the provision of a law.

Besides, he said the executive order is going to impact negatively on the economy, cause challenges and industrial issues in the sector, set the industry backward, cause investors to lack confidence in Nigeria, and trigger redundancy of workers.

Recall that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed Executive Order No. 9 of 2026 on February 13, 2026, directing that all oil and gas revenues due to the Federation, including royalty oil, tax oil, profit oil, and profit gas, be paid directly into the Federation Account.

The executive order also suspended certain revenue retention mechanisms provided under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, including: the 30 per cent Frontier Exploration Fund, the 30 per cent NNPC management fee on profit oil and profit gas and the

redirection of gas flare revenue into the federation account.

According to an energy expert and lecturer at Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, River State, Dr. Joseph Obele, while the executive order aims to enhance fiscal transparency and safeguard national revenue, he said that the sustainable reform of the oil and gas sector would require alignment with statutory law, institutional stability, and investor confidence.

He pointed out that constructive dialogue between the executive, the National Assembly, industry stakeholders, and labour unions is also essential to reconcile areas of controversy and also to strengthen Nigeria's economic foundation.

He said the executive order appeared to contradict certain provisions of the PIA, particularly Sections 8, 9, and 64, thereby creating potential legal and regulatory concerns.

On the positive implications, Odele said it would promote transparency in the system, improve fiscal planning, reduce revenue leakages, strengthen NNPC commercial mandate, and encourage NNPC to prioritise the operational revival of government-owned refineries.

He said that centralising oil and gas revenues into the federation account would definitely increase allocations to federal, state, and local governments, thereby strengthening public finance.

According to him, direct

remittance would reduce off-budget deductions and enhance public oversight of petroleum revenues.

"The Order may compel NNPC to operate strictly as a commercial entity, focusing on profitability and cost efficiency, rather than relying on retained government funds.

"The directive may encourage NNPC to prioritise the operational revival of government-owned refineries, as revenue generation will become critical for meeting salary and operational obligation," Odele said.

On the negative implications, Odele said it would create uncertainty within Nigeria's petroleum regulatory framework, potentially affecting investor confidence, if perceived as overriding Sections 8, 9, and 64 of the PIA 2021.

He added that it may have possible impact on investment and employment, explaining that changes to established fiscal structures may weaken NNPC's operational flexibility and discourage long-term capital investment, with possible implications for jobs and sector growth.

"Potential Job Losses – NNPC and its subsidiaries may experience workforce reductions as part of cost-cutting measures," he said.

According to him, if the executive order is perceived as overriding Sections 8, 9, and 64 of the PIA 2021, he said the perceived instability in the regulatory environment may discourage foreign investors from committing long-term capital to Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

Kano govt to install toll gates on seven major entry roads

Abba Kabir Yusuf, Governor of Kano State, has announced plans to install toll gates on seven major highways leading into the Kano metropolis as part of efforts to enhance security monitoring and strengthen the state's socio-economic framework.

The decision was disclosed in a press statement issued by the Director of Public Enlightenment at the Ministry of Housing Development, Adamu Abdullahi, and made available to journalists in Kano.

According to the statement, the move is aimed at improving surveillance of

vehicular movement into the city and reinforcing security architecture at strategic entry points.

The proposed locations for the toll gates include Daura Road, Katsina Road, Gwarzo Road, Zaria Road, Maiduguri Road, Hadejia Road, and Sa'adatu Rimi Road.

The Commissioner for Housing Development, Arc. Ibrahim Yakubu Adamu, has officially handed over the seven project sites to contractors for the commencement of construction.

Quoting the commissioner, the statement noted that the state



government resolved to mount toll gates on all major roads leading into Kano metropolis "with a view to boosting the security and socio-economic apparatus of Kano State."

He explained that the toll gates would serve as strategic control points to regulate and document vehicular inflow, adding that the project reflects

the administration's broader commitment to safeguarding lives and property through structured monitoring and improved infrastructure.

The commissioner also urged contractors handling the project to strictly adhere to project specifications and ensure timely completion within the stipulated

timeframe to enable the government to achieve its security and development objectives.

The handover ceremony was witnessed by the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Marwan Ahmed, and the Commissioner for Public Procurement, Dr. Nura Ma'aji, alongside other key officials.

The event featured the signing of handover documents between representatives of the Ministry of Housing Development, the contractors, and the project consultant, marking the formal commencement of the project.

Most terrorists killing Nigerians are foreigners — Federal Government



The Federal Government has insisted that many of the terrorists responsible for killing Nigerians are foreign nationals who infiltrated the country through its porous borders.

Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), George Akume, made the assertion on Sunday while addressing participants at the First Plenary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) held at St. Gabriel's Chaplaincy, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Abuja.

Akume acknowledged that insecurity remains a major challenge in Nigeria, noting that the problem is not peculiar to the country alone.

"Insecurity is a problem not only in this country but throughout the world. Even advanced countries are going through this," he said.

He described the pattern of killings as tragic, stressing that the violence predates the current administration.

According to him, intelligence reports indicate that many of those arrested in connection with recent attacks are not Nigerians.

"Many of these people who have been arrested don't speak English. They speak very poor Hausa, but they speak French. Do we speak French in Nigeria? No," he said.

While clarifying that extremist groups such as Boko Haram originated within Nigeria, the SGF maintained that several of the attackers currently operating in forests and rural communities, particularly in parts of Niger State and other affected areas, are from outside the country.

"Those who are doing the killings, most of them are from outside the country. I say what I know to be true based on security reports," Akume stated.

Nigeria was recently designated a Country of

Particular Concern (CPC) over security and religious freedom issues, a development the SGF said has led to increased international cooperation, particularly with the United States.

He referenced recent drone strikes in Sokoto as evidence that the government is not passive in addressing the threat.

"It is not that we are just sitting by. America is cooperating with Nigeria. We are working together," he said.

Akume also disclosed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's recent visit to Turkey was partly to procure additional military equipment, including drones and other advanced armaments, to strengthen the country's security architecture.

"The main reason the President was in Turkey was to purchase more armaments. This includes drones. So, we are not just sitting idle," he said.

On the controversial issue of reintegrating former terrorists, the SGF clarified that attempts to reintegrate Boko Haram members were initiated during the previous administration but did not progress significantly and were eventually halted.

"There were attempts to put them in the military, but that was resisted. That was not done," he explained, expressing hope that such measures would not be reintroduced without due consideration.

Akume urged stakeholders, including religious leaders, to approach the issue of insecurity with intellectual objectivity and a holistic understanding of the complexities involved.

"You will have your own session and dissect whatever we say. But let me say what I have as a security report," he told the gathering.

Electoral Act: National Assembly has lost credibility — Bugaje

Chairman of the Movement for Credible Election, Usman Bugaje, has declared that the National Assembly has "lost credibility" over the passage of the 2026 Electoral Act, insisting that what lawmakers approved departed from the clear demands of Nigerians.

Bugaje made the remarks on Politics, on Channels Television, anchored by Seun Okinbaloye, where the controversy surrounding the new Electoral Act took centre stage.

The conversation was triggered by comments of the Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele, who had earlier maintained that broad consultations were held with civil society groups, the National Assembly, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and other stakeholders, and that the Electoral Act 2026 reflects the majority wishes of Nigerians.

But Bugaje strongly disagreed.

"I don't agree with the position of the Senate Leader, Senate Opeyemi Bamidele. And I don't think Nigerians agree with his position," he said.

"It is very sad that someone of his standing would speak in this manner. Is he assuming that Nigerians do not know what happened in the Senate? His own colleagues came out chanting 'APC ole.' The cameras were there. Nigerians saw it. You cannot insult our intelligence by pretending otherwise."

He accused the Senate of deliberately resisting mandatory real-time electronic transmission of results and introducing ambiguity instead of clarity. "The Senate resisted mandatory real-time electronic transmission of results. When pressure mounted, they introduced ambiguity instead of clarity. These things happened in full public view," he stated.

Bugaje argued that prior controversies had already eroded public trust in the



legislature.

"Before this, there was the issue of the tax law, the version signed was reportedly different from what was passed. A committee was set up. Till today, Nigerians have heard nothing about that committee," he said.

"So, when the National Assembly has already lost credibility, what reason do we have to simply believe verbal assurances?"

At the heart of his criticism was the absence of what he described as a clear, mandatory provision for real-time electronic transmission of results.

"Nigerians have consistently demanded mandatory real-time electronic transmission of results. Eight years ago, institutions responsible for communications infrastructure confirmed 93 percent network coverage and that was during the era of 3G and 4G. Today, we have 5G," Bugaje argued.

"Bandits in remote forests upload videos on TikTok. So what infrastructure excuse are we talking about? INEC itself said during public hearings that it is ready for real-time electronic transmission. So, what exactly is the problem? Unless the intention is to rig."

He dismissed other reforms cited by the Senate as insufficient in the absence of what he called the "core transparency mechanism."

"All these other provisions are cosmetic if the core transparency mechanism is weakened. If you truly want credible elections, insert clear mandatory real-time electronic transmission. That

is the real reform," he said.

Also speaking on the programme, the Executive Director of YIAGA Africa, Samson Itodo, insisted that the final law diverged from what was agreed during consultations.

"Absolutely not," Itodo said when asked whether civil society's demands were reflected in the 2026 Act.

"Yes, there may be progressive provisions in the 2026 Act. But the central issues affecting election integrity were ignored or distorted."

He pointed to Section 63, which provides for electronic transmission of results but retains Form EC8A as the primary legal document for collation and declaration.

"It states there shall be electronic transmission of results. However, it also says that Form EC8A remains the primary legal document for collation and declaration. What does that mean? It means that electronically transmitted results have no superior legal effect. They are secondary. Historically, Form EC8A has been the instrument used for manipulation," he said.

"Nigerians are saying: if EC8A remains supreme, then falsification at that level overrides whatever is transmitted electronically. That is the core problem."

Itodo further argued that the legislative outcome did not reflect public sentiment.

"The voting pattern in the National Assembly did not reflect the will of the people. Public hearings and consultations clearly showed Nigerians wanted stronger guarantees," he said.

"Representation is not symbolic; it requires listening. Town halls were held. Public submissions were made. Even within the National Assembly, several lawmakers opposed these contentious provisions. Yet what was passed departed from what was discussed."

He warned that changes affecting INEC's funding timeline could weaken its independence.



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Quarter Page	100,000	7,500	107,500	75,000	5,627	80,625	Front Page Strip	312,000	23,437	335,937.05
10 x 5 Cols	225,000	16,875	241,875	212,000	15,900	227,900	Front Page Solus	225,000	20,625	295,625
10 x 4 Cols	200,000	15,000	215,000	186,000	13,950	199,950	Back Page Strip	200,000	15,000	215,000
10 x 3 Cols	175,000	13,125	188,125	152,000	11,400	163,400	Centre Spread	925,000	69,375	994,375
9 x 5 Cols	215,000	16,125	231,125	200,000	15,000	215,000	Double Spread	650,000	48,750	698,750
9 x 4 Cols	195,000	14,625	209,625	140,000	10,500	150,500	ROP Strip B & W	75,000	5,625	80,625
9 x 3 Cols	130,000	9,750	139,750	125,000	9,375	134,375	ROP Strip Colour	100,000	75,000	175,000
8 x 5 Cols	170,000	12,750	182,750	165,000	12,375	177,375	Front Earpiece	200,000	15,000	215,000
8 x 4 Cols	140,000	10,500	150,500	135,000	10,125	145,125	Back Page Earpiece	150,000	11,250	161,250
8 x 3 Cols	120,000	9,000	129,000	100,000	7,500	107,500	Front Page Cover	6,000,000	NEGOTIABLE	
7 x 5 Cols	135,000	10,125	145,125	120,000	9,000	129,000	Wrap Around	10,000,000		
7 x 4 Cols	125,000	9,375	134,375	90,000	6,750	96,750	POSITION	SIZE	RATE	VAT 7.5%
6 x 5 Cols	130,000	9,750	139,750	85,000	6,375	91,375	CLASSIFIED	3 x 2 Cols	15,000.00	1,125.00
6 x 4 Cols	120,000	9,000	129,000	80,000	6,000	86,000	CLASSIFIED	2 x 2 Cols	7,500.00	582.50
6 x 3 Cols	115,000	8,625	123,625	70,000	5,250	75,250	Change of Name	Per Word	100	NIL
6 x 2 Cols	102,000	7,657.50	109,757.50	80,000	6,048.75	86,698	TERMS OF ADVERT PLACEMENT			
5 x 5 Cols	240,000	18,000	258,000	152,600	11,445	164,045	1. All adverts are expected to be paid in cash draft or cheque in favour of BPPC Limited.			
5 x 4 Cols	191,000	14,347	205,647	125,500	9,412.50	133,912.50	2. Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions and it is payable only at the end of the campaign (to be deducted from balance paid)			
5 x 3 Cols	150,000	11,290	161,895	95,000	7,125	102,125	3. Cancellation of advert placement in less than 24 hours to publication date will attract 25% surcharge.			
5 x 2 Cols	90,000	6,750	96,750	65,000	4,875	69,875	4. Advertisers/Agencies are to supply their camera-ready artworks in electronic copies and PDF or jpeg format.			
4 x 5 Cols	190,000	14,250	204,250	132,000	9,937.50	142,437.50	5. Advertisers will be surcharged 10% of the applicable rate where artwork are not provided.			
4 x 4 Cols	158,000	11,880	170,387	102,300	7,672	109,972.50	6. Adverts may not be published if the visual given is too poor as to attract the production.			
4 x 3 Cols	120,000	9,000	129,000	80,000	6,000	86,000	7. Alteration to original order should be conveyed in writing 24 hours to desired alteration date.			
4 x 2 Cols	70,000	5,250	75,250	50,000	3,750	53,750	8. The Management of BPPC Limited reserves the right not to publish advert that is libelous or considered distasteful for public exposure.			
3 x 4 Cols	82,000	6,195	88,795	60,000	4,500	64,500				
3 x 3 Cols	55,000	4,125	59,126	38,000	2,850	40,850				
2 x 2 Cols	37,000	2,775	39,775	27,100	2,032	39,132.50				
1 x 1 Cols	8,500	637.50	9,137	6,100	457.50	6,557				

Bauchi, NDLEA Seizes 2,115.8kg of Illicit drugs, secures 35 convictions in 4 months, laments operational challenges

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The Commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Bauchi State has announced significant operational successes since assuming office on October 31, 2025, disclosing that the command seized 2,115.8 kilograms of assorted illicit drugs within four months.

Speaking in an interview in Bauchi, the commander of the Agency Mr Hassan Yaqub Yaqub expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah for the opportunity to serve and for the progress recorded so far.

He noted that rather than recount events from the beginning of the year, he preferred to focus strictly on achievements made since he took over leadership of the command.

"Alhamdulillah, since I came on board on October 31, 2025, we have recorded unprecedented arrests and seizures. From that date to the present, which is almost four months, we have seized 2,115.8kg of assorted illicit drugs," he said.

Yaqub explained that a major breakthrough came within the first three weeks of his assumption of duty, when operatives intercepted over one tonne of drugs in Bauchi metropolis.

"Another seizure of more than one tonne was recorded just a few days ago, underscoring what he described as the command's renewed operational momentum.

"Although he declined to disclose the estimated street value of the seized drugs, citing security protocol and headquarters regulations,

The commander described the volume as substantial and indicative of the scale of trafficking activities being curtailed.

In addition to seizures, the command arrested 187 suspects in connection with various drug-related offences.

According to him, most of the suspects have been charged to court.

"As of last week, we have



secured about 35 convictions, while approximately 15 cases are still pending before the courts," he stated.

He attributed the successes to intelligence-driven operations, professionalism, and strategic deployment of personnel across the state.

"We do not embark on operations blindly.

We conduct thorough intelligence and risk assessments before moving in.

"Our officers are strategically positioned in vantage locations to ensure that any volatile situation is quickly subdued," he explained.

The commander confirmed that no lives were lost during the operations conducted under his leadership, describing this as a testament to the agency's tactical planning and discipline.

On rehabilitation efforts, he clarified that the command does not force individuals into treatment. Instead, parents and guardians voluntarily bring their wards for rehabilitation when they notice signs of drug dependency or behavioural issues.

"We respect human rights. Parents who believe their children need rehabilitation approach us. Proper documentation is completed to ensure transparency and consent," he said.

He disclosed that the rehabilitation facility currently houses about 12 individuals undergoing treatment and behavioural reformation.

Two individuals were discharged last week after completing their programme, while a new admission has since been recorded.

Despite the achievements, the commander lamented the lack of adequate operational vehicles, describing it as a major challenge affecting the command's ability to respond swiftly across the state.

"We are doing our best with the little resources available, but the issue of operational vehicles is a serious challenge. Bauchi State is vast, and to effectively cover the nooks and crannies, we require more functional vehicles," he said.

Mr. Yaqub emphasized that improved logistics would significantly enhance patrols, surveillance, and rapid response to intelligence reports.

The commander reiterated the agency's commitment to intensifying the fight against drug abuse, stressing that enforcement would be carried out without regard to social status or influence.

"We will continue to arrest anyone involved in drug trafficking, irrespective of class or status. Nobody is above the law," he declared.

Beyond enforcement, he noted that the command is strengthening public enlightenment campaigns.

The agency has embarked on at least six advocacy and awareness programmes targeting schools, mosques, churches, motor parks, and private organisations.

"We educate communities about the dangers inherent in drug abuse. Prevention through awareness is just as important as enforcement," he added.

He assured residents of Bauchi State that the command remains determined to curb drug trafficking and abuse through sustained operations, rehabilitation efforts, and community engagement.

ADC youth ambassadors clear Kashim Imam, Maina Waziri of Interference in Bauchi Crisis

By Mijinyawa Ahmed

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) National Youths Ambassadors Initiative (ANYA) has absolved two prominent party leaders, Alhaji Kashim Imam and Adamu Maina Waziri, of allegations of interference in the internal affairs of the party's Bauchi State chapter.

The National Convener of ANYA, Ahmad Shehu Hassan Na Allah, made the clarification on Monday at a press conference held at the NUJ Secretariat in Bauchi.

Na Allah, who was represented by the Zonal Coordinator of ANYA, Hashimu Hassan Pali, said the two leaders acted in good faith and in the interest of peace and unity within the party.

The clarification follows a petition reportedly signed by 18 members of the Bauchi State Executive Committee and other critical stakeholders.

The petition, addressed to the ADC National Chairman, David Mark, accused Imam and Waziri of undue interference in the state chapter's affairs and urged the national leadership to restrain them.

Responding to the allegations, Na Allah described the claims as misleading and lacking factual basis.

He stated that the names of Alhaji Kashim Imam and Adamu Maina Waziri were mentioned in connection with the ongoing leadership misunderstanding in Bauchi, but insisted that their actions were geared towards reconciliation rather than division.

FG assures mining investors of asset protection

The Federal Government has assured investors in Nigeria's mining sector that their assets will be fully protected, as part of efforts to attract more investment into the industry.

Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr Dele Alake, gave the assurance during a recent engagement with stakeholders, stating that the government is committed to safeguarding investments and creating a stable business environment.

He explained that Nigeria's adoption of international standards,

According to him, tensions escalated following the alleged announcement of the removal of Local Government Chairmen across the 20 local government areas without formal letters, documented authorisation, or clear directives from the National Working Committee.

"At that critical moment, these respected leaders stepped forward not to divide but to reconcile.

They convened meetings, listened to grievances from both sides, and insisted on due process over unilateral actions," he said.

Na Allah added that their stance was consistent with the principles of fair hearing as enshrined in Section 36 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

He maintained that no duly elected Local Government Chairman should be removed without following established procedures.

He further noted that Imam and Waziri, as members of the party's national leadership structure representing the North-East, were well within their rights to mediate in disputes within the region.

ANYA also alleged that those accusing the duo were the real instigators of the crisis, naming Nazif Gamawa and Garba Dahri, popularly known as Salanke, as individuals allegedly disrupting the peace of the Bauchi ADC chapter.

The youth body called on party members to remain calm and allow the national leadership to address the matter in accordance with party rules and constitutional provisions.

including the Cape Town Convention, provides legal backing and protection for mining equipment and other movable assets used in the sector.

According to him, "the move is expected to boost investor confidence, improve access to financing, and encourage both local and foreign participation in the mining industry".

The minister added that the ongoing reforms by the Federal Government was aimed at strengthening regulations, improving transparency, and positioning Nigeria as a competitive destination in the global mining sector.



News

National Assembly slams Nigerian govt over inadequate funding for Livestock Ministry

The National Assembly has criticized the Federal Government for what it called empty promises about developing Nigeria's livestock industry, two years after the ministry was created for the sector.

The criticism came during a budget discussion between a joint committee on Livestock Development and the Ministry of Livestock Development.

The Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Mukhtar Maiha, told lawmakers that even though Nigeria has significant agricultural potential, around 65 percent of the animals consumed each year in the country come from outside the nation.

He said the trend persists despite Nigeria being capable of earning about N3.2 billion from exporting red meat.

Maiha added that out of the N70 billion approved as start-up funds for the ministry in



2024, only N20 billion has been released. She also noted that none of the N10 billion set aside for capital spending in the 2025 fiscal year has been disbursed.

The information drew strong reactions from committee members, with Senator Shehu Buba (Bauchi South) leading the response

and expressing surprise over the lack of adequate funding.

Lawmakers urged President Bola Tinubu to take immediate action to ensure the ministry receives sufficient funds to support the government's plan to diversify the economy.

Senate Whip Senator Tahir Monguno (Borno North)

said the lack of proper funding is inconsistent with the original goal of the ministry.

The Ministry of Livestock Development, created in 2024, was intended to broaden the country's economic base.

"It's really surprising and upsetting that we're now only paying empty compliments to the livestock industry. It

doesn't make sense to set up a ministry and then not provide adequate funding," Monguno said.

Senator Abdul Ningi (PDP, Bauchi Central) suggested that sabotage may be the reason the funds have not been released, adding that the situation may not reflect the President's intentions.

"This is a ministry that needs to be fully backed and funded by the Federal Government. I think someone is trying to block the capital allocation, even though the President intended to support livestock development," he said.

Ningi urged the committee's leaders to quickly engage the President on the matter.

The committee also recommended reducing dependence on a single-product economy and pledged to work harder to secure adequate funding for the ministry to achieve genuine economic diversification.

NAHCON clarifies Hajj 2026 guidelines, urges pilgrims to remain calm

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has provided clarifications regarding recent concerns over the fate of some Nigerian intending pilgrims for the 2026 Hajj, explaining that nothing has changed from the earlier guidelines issued by the Saudi Arabian Government.

NAHCON spokesperson Hajiya Fatima Sanda Usara said in a release that the Saudi deadlines significantly affected late remittances by states that failed to abide by the December 2025 guidelines.

The Commission recalled that Nigeria's Hajj quota was reduced to 50,000 pilgrims.

Following this development, NAHCON convened a meeting with State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards and formally withdrew earlier allocations, introducing a first-come, first-served policy based strictly on confirmed payments.

According to the Commission, states that completed their remittances early were allocated camp bookings in line with payments received on or before January 2, the officially communicated deadline. NAHCON emphasized that the deadline was not arbitrary but aligned with Saudi Arabia's operational calendar



and portal requirements.

Hajiya Fatima Sanda Usara noted that some states were able to secure limited additional allocations at a later stage. This was achieved

through internal rebalancing from states that had paid in excess of their approved slots.

She said Kaduna and Niger were among the states that benefited from this

adjustment.

However, NAHCON stressed that it had repeatedly cautioned stakeholders against late registration, warning that Saudi authorities would strictly enforce timelines. Although the Commission subsequently sought additional slots to accommodate more pilgrims, approval was received only after key Saudi Hajj operational portals had already closed, making further processing impracticable.

The Commission appealed to affected intending pilgrims to remain calm and assured them that any new developments would be communicated promptly.

Taraba judiciary undergoing major reforms – Chief Judge Agya

The Chief Judge of Taraba State, Justice Joel Agya, says the state judiciary is undergoing significant reforms aimed at improving service delivery and ensuring transparent administration of justice.

Justice Agya made the disclosure in Jalingo while receiving the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Corps Commander Anna Attah, who paid him a courtesy visit.

According to the chief judge, the judiciary has reviewed several rules and operational guidelines to enhance efficiency, fairness

and transparency in the dispensation of justice across the state.

He highlighted the digitization of the High Court as a major milestone in the ongoing transformation of the judicial system, noting that the initiative would improve case management and access to justice.

Justice Agya also revealed that several new legal frameworks have recently been signed into law to strengthen court processes.

These include the Area Court Civil Procedure Rules 2026, the District Courts Rules 2026, the High Court

Civil Procedure Rules 2026, and the Taraba State Sentencing Guidelines 2026.

"Upon my confirmation as Chief Judge in 2024, we initiated reforms to reposition the Taraba State Judiciary.

We have signed into law several rules of court, including the Area Court Civil Procedure Rules 2026, the District Courts Rules 2026, and the High Court Civil Procedure Rules 2026," he said.

"We have also signed into law the Taraba State Courts Sentencing Guidelines to guide judges in sentencing criminal defendants who

appear before the courts."

Earlier, the FRSC Sector Commander, Mrs Attah, said her visit was necessitated by the critical role of the judiciary in enforcing road safety regulations.

She appealed to the chief judge to appoint more magistrates to the mobile courts, particularly in Bali and Jalingo Local Government Areas, to strengthen enforcement efforts.

Attah expressed concern over a Court of Appeal judgment that bars the corps from carrying out enforcement activities in the city centre, noting that the restriction had

contributed to an increase in crashes involving tricycle riders.

She commended the judiciary for its continued support, stressing that the corps operates within the framework of the law and in collaboration with the courts.

"We cannot operate outside the court. The support of the judiciary is vital to the sustainability of our operations," she said.



Foreign News

113 Nigerians face US deportation over criminal offences - DHS



The United States Department of Homeland Security has expanded its deportation list targeting Nigerian nationals with criminal records, with at least 19 new names added to bring the total to 113 individuals slated for removal.

According to information sourced from the DHS official website, the newly included individuals face deportation following convictions spanning a range of serious offences — among them sexual assault involving a minor, fraud, assault, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers carried out the arrests, and those listed are expected to be returned to Nigeria once immigration proceedings are concluded. The DHS described the listed individuals as foreign nationals with established criminal records, apprehended as part of ongoing enforcement operations tied to directives issued under President Donald Trump's administration, which

has placed priority on removing non-citizens convicted of serious crimes.

Among the newly named individuals are Adeolu Solabu, Oladayo Agboola, Chinonso Ochie, Oluchi Jennifer Chimdimma Chime, Samuel Omorodion, Sunday Adediora, Sunday Kunkushi, and Mkpouto Etukudoh. The list also includes Marcus Unigwe, Kehinde James, Blessing Uchanma, Victor Adebisi, Richard Ugbah, Olaniyi Ojikutu, Oluwamuyiwa Olawoye, Okechukwu Amadi, Femi Jolayemi, Anthony Asanya, Izuchukwu Okoye, and Ebele Agbasiele.

The current figure marks a sharp escalation from an initial count of 79 Nigerians that had earlier been named for deportation — a number that climbed to 113 within just three weeks. The removals are part of a sweeping U.S. crackdown targeting both undocumented migrants and legal residents with criminal convictions.

U.S., S/Korea postpone announcing date for major springtime military drills

The U.S. and South Korean militaries have decided to postpone announcing a date for their major springtime exercise for this year due to differences over the scale of on-field drills, the Seoul-based Yonhap News reported on Sunday.

The two militaries had planned to make the announcement in a joint press briefing on Wednesday, but it was postponed after the U.S. military expressed reluctance over Seoul's proposal to minimise field training during the Freedom Shield exercise, the news agency reported, citing security sources.

The Freedom Shield drill takes place every spring under an all-out war scenario as the allies seek to enhance readiness against North Korea's "advancing nuclear and weapons programmes."

President Lee Jae Myung's administration has sought to

scale back the allies' on-field drills in an apparent reconciliatory gesture to Pyongyang, which has long denounced them as preparations for an invasion against it.

The announcement was postponed due to coordination issues over on-field exercises as Seoul seeks to minimise on-field training.

The U.S. military, however, has reportedly expressed disapproval of South Korea's proposal, as additional troops and equipment have already arrived in the country to take part in the drills.

The two sides plan to coordinate further and announce the exercise later this month or in early March.

According to Seoul's Defence Ministry, the Freedom Shield exercise, planned for March, "will take place normally." (NAN/AA)

Arab and Islamic world explodes in fury after US Ambassador says Israel should take over half of the Middle East

By Salihu Makera with agency report

The Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have strongly condemned recent remarks by US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, describing them as extreme, unacceptable, and a clear violation of international law and diplomatic norms.

According to a report by The Times of Israel on February 21, 2026, the criticism stems from an interview Huckabee gave to right-wing commentator Tucker Carlson, which was broadcast recently.

During the discussion, Huckabee stated that it would be fine if Israel assumed control over so-called Greater Israel, a concept that encompasses territories belonging to several Arab and Muslim nations.

He later clarified that the statement had been intended as hyperbole. In its official response, the Arab League declared that Huckabee asserted Israel's right to dominate the Middle East by citing religious texts from the Old Testament.



The organization emphasized that such comments violate all fundamental principles and established norms of diplomacy while defying basic logic and reason.

The group of twenty-two Arab nations further pointed out that Huckabee's words contradict longstanding US policies and positions on the region.

They argued that the ambassador appeared to tailor his rhetoric to gain favor with right-wing audiences in Israel rather than uphold official American diplomatic stances.

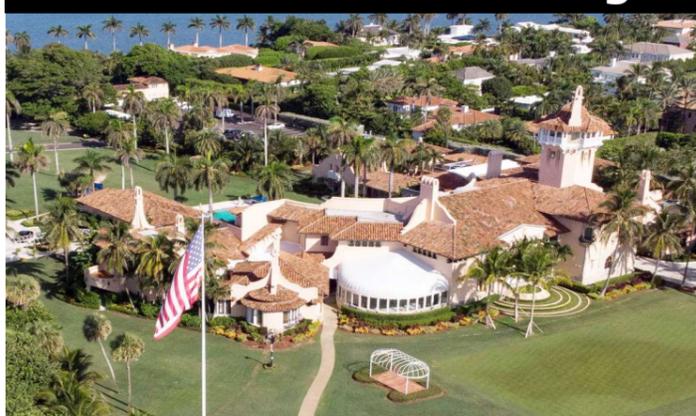
The Arab League stressed

that these extremist and unfounded statements risk inflaming religious and nationalistic tensions across the region.

This comes at a particularly sensitive moment when Arab states are convening under the Board of Peace framework to explore practical ways of implementing the Gaza peace agreement.

Leaders view the current period as a critical opportunity to initiate a genuine and sustained peace process that addresses longstanding grievances and promotes stability.

Armed man killed entering Trump's residence



A man has been shot and killed after entering the secure perimeter of Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence, the US Secret Service has said.

Officers say the suspect was a white male carrying a shotgun and fuel can when he was spotted near the north gate of Mar-a-Lago.

BBC reported that the US president was not in Florida during the incident.

While the motive of the man who was shot and killed is still not completely clear, this isn't the first-time officers have dealt with armed suspects while protecting Donald Trump.

In September 2024, a US Secret Service agent spotted a rifle sticking out of bushes at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach. The

man, later identified as Ryan Routh, fled but was caught.

Routh was later found guilty of attempting to assassinate Trump, and was sentenced in February 2026 to life in prison.

And in July 2024, a would-be assassin shot at Trump as he spoke at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The 20-year-old attacker, Thomas Matthew Crooks, was

killed in the incident. One other person was also killed, two others were seriously injured, and Trump was shot in the ear.

Known as the Winter White House, Mar-A-Lago is President Trump's Florida residence.

He bought the sprawling Spanish style mansion in 1985 for \$10m (£7.4m), and it became the Trump family's winter getaway.

During his presidency, Trump has frequently used the estate to host world leaders, celebrities and business bosses at glittering parties and fundraisers.

Built in 1927, Mar-A-Lago is also an exclusive private members' club, where guests have access to the whole estate apart from the Trump family's private area.



Politics

Emulate DSS, arraign or release El-Rufai – ADC Chieftain Okai to ICPC



Achieftain of the African Democratic Congress, ADC, Usman Okai Austin, has called on the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, to follow the legal precedent set by the Department of State Services, DSS, by either charging former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai to court or releasing him immediately.

In a statement he issued on Saturday, Okai criticized the ICPC's decision to detain the former Governor of Kaduna State before concluding its investigation.

He contrasted this with the recent conduct of the DSS, which he noted has prioritized judicial process over “drama and a show of power.”

According to Okai: “The DSS's decision to approach a court of law rather than resorting to arbitrary detention is both civil and democratic.”

“The proper way to handle such matters is to let the court decide through merit-based arguments. In contrast, the ICPC's current trajectory appears to place the agency above the law.”

Okai argued that detaining an individual before completing an investigation is “retrograde, undemocratic, and

illegal.” He pointed out that El-Rufai demonstrated full cooperation by voluntarily honoring an invitation from the EFCC, proving he is not a flight risk.

The statement also questioned the lack of transparency regarding El-Rufai's transfer between agencies.

“The EFCC has yet to clarify whether Mallam El-Rufai was officially handed over to the ICPC or re-arrested after being granted administrative bail. This ambiguity undermines the rule of law,” he said.

Okai emphasized that protecting the rights of the innocent until proven guilty is a fundamental requirement of international best practice.

He warned anti-corruption agencies against becoming “tools of oppression.”

“Detaining a suspect before commencing an investigation is a gross abuse of the right to a fair hearing.”

“The ICPC must uphold the standards of a civilized society. If there is a case against El-Rufai, argue it in court. If not, he must be released immediately,” he added.



I didn't collect money to defect to APC, says Taraba gov

Taraba State Governor, Agbu Kefas, on Wednesday, denied the allegation that governors, who dumped the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, to the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, were induced monetarily to decamp their former party.

The governor also dismissed speculations of a strained relationship with the elder statesman and former Defence Minister, General Theophilus Danjuma (retd).

Speaking with State House correspondents after meeting behind closed-doors with President Bola Tinubu at the presidential Villa, Abuja, Kefas insisted that his defection from the PDP to the APC was neither controversial nor financially induced.

Addressing rumours that financial incentives influenced his defection to the ruling party, Kefas flatly denied receiving any money, describing such claims as unfounded political gossip.

“Nobody gave me money to defect to the APC,” he said, stressing that his decision was driven by conviction and strategic considerations for the development of Taraba State rather than pecuniary benefits.

He also expressed satisfaction with his new political platform, saying he remains optimistic about the opportunities it presents for the state.

The governor further declared confidence in his ability to deliver Taraba State for President Tinubu in the 2027 presidential election, citing what he described as visible improvements in security and governance outcomes across critical sectors.

“Delivering Taraba will not be difficult because our policies are already impacting the grassroots,” he said.

On the insinuation that he has frosty relationship with Gen. Danjuma, Kefas denied that such existed, describing Gen Danjuma as a father figure whose guidance and goodwill remain intact despite his political realignment.

He said his recent visit to the retired general was personal and symbolic, aimed at appreciation and reaffirmation of their long-standing bond.

According to the governor, there has never been any misunderstanding between them, noting that their shared military background and years



of association have continued to define their relationship.

“I don't have any problem with TY Danjuma; he is my father. Since we started politics, nothing has ever come between us. People just speculate, but there is no issue at all,” Kefas stated, adding that Danjuma, though not a member of any political party, was duly informed before his move to the APC and gave his blessing. “Before I defected, I secured his approval. He assured me of his support whenever I need it.”

Speaking on his visit to the seat of power, the governor stated that his closed-door meeting with President Tinubu centred on security, agriculture and the welfare of Taraba residents, as well as strategies to strengthen collaboration between the state and the Federal Government.

He described the engagement as “very meaningful,” noting that it marked his first formal interaction with the President since joining the ruling party and would open the door for deeper intergovernmental cooperation.

Responding to concerns over political resistance following his defection, he maintained that he remains firmly rooted among the people, insisting that performance in office has earned him public confidence.

On security, Kefas said Taraba is now comparatively safer than it was before he assumed office, acknowledging that while no society is entirely crime-free, incidents of violence and unrest have reduced significantly, allowing

residents greater freedom of movement.

He also highlighted progress in agriculture, particularly the introduction of mechanised farming through the importation of tractors and expansion of access to modern equipment, which he said has boosted productivity.

According to him, the next phase of the agricultural drive will focus on establishing local processing facilities to enhance value addition and create employment.

The governor further described the near alignment of the Christian Lenten season and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan as symbolic, urging citizens to use the period for prayer, unity and renewed commitment to national peace and development.

Governor Kefas formally defected from the PDP to the APC between late 2025 and early 2026, a move that has continued to generate mixed reactions within Taraba's political landscape.

While several political leaders, lawmakers and local government officials welcomed the switch as a pragmatic alignment with the Federal Government for development gains, segments of the opposition and some citizens have criticised the decision as politically motivated.

Nevertheless, a wave of defections by state assembly members, council chairmen and party executives has gradually reshaped the state's political configuration, signalling a significant shift from Taraba's long-standing PDP dominance toward a more competitive multiparty environment ahead of the 2027 elections.

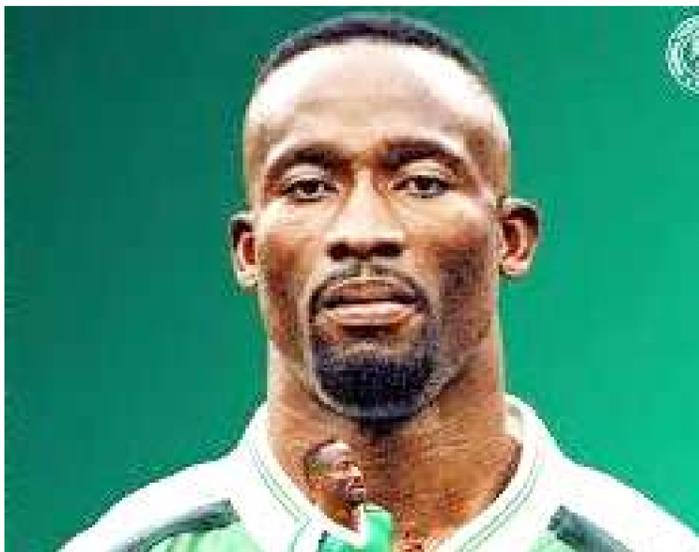


Former Super Eagles player Matiu Adepaju faults Govt interference in Management of Enyimba FC

Former Super Eagles midfielder Matiu Adepaju has faulted what he described as government interference in the management decisions of Enyimba FC, insisting that key technical appointments should be the prerogative of the club's leadership.

Adepaju's comments follow reports that the Abia State Government installed Emmanuel Deutsch as Technical Adviser and Daniel Eke as Sporting Director, despite earlier nominations by the club's management team led by former Super Eagles captain Nwankwo Kanu.

While acknowledging the government's stake in the club, Adepaju maintained that operational decisions — particularly the appointment of a Head Coach and Sporting Director — should originate from the club's management structure.



“Government can have a say, but appointments should come from the club's management,” Adepaju said.

He urged both parties to prioritise collaboration and stability, stressing that Enyimba's stature in Nigerian football must not be undermined by administrative disagreements.

Adepaju called for harmony between the club's leadership and state authorities to ensure that sporting considerations remain central to decision-making and that Enyimba continues to set standards in the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL).

Niger Delta Games, Event for Breeding Athletes Development - Sabina Chikere

As the 2nd edition of the ongoing Niger Delta Games colorfully advancing, the Executive Director Sports Development and Operations, Edo State Sports Commission, Sabina Chikere has described the Games as a breeding ground for development of athletes in the region.

According to her, the essence of the tournament is to develop athletes in the Niger Delta region who will be nurtured to become future champions.

“We're using this Games to develop our athletes because we discovered that we don't really have many athletes at the top of the ladder. It's also an opportunity for each of the states in the region to be able to develop their athletes and with it stand out the region in the country, so that other regions can emulate what's happening in the Niger Delta region.”

“The purpose of the tournament is also to get raw talents from the hinterlands and bring them up to the elite level and am happy, we're achieving that objective”, she said.

Chikere who is also a member of the screening committee of the Games explained that the committee did their best towards ensuring that only those within the age bracket of 19 years participates in the championship which is a U-20 event.

“It will interest you to

know that before the commencement of the Games, messages were sent out to all the states involved in the competition, spelling out conditions that qualifies one to participate in the tournament.

“One of the criteria is that since it's a U-20 event, it's expected that a participant should be 19 years in the year of the competition. Apart from this, the person must be an indigene of the state that they're representing, they are also expected to come along with their NIN, birth certificate and letter of Local Government and state of origin. So, it's really not a difficult thing and I can beat my chest to say that the screening committee did a good job.”

On the issue of talent identification at the Games, she noted that there are people in charge of talent hunt just as she expressed happiness that a lot of young talents have been identified in the course of the Games.

The Executive Director



THE TRUMPSPORTS

With
Usman Abbas Shehu



Gombe Athletic Association honours athletes, journalists, sponsors, administrators



The Gombe State Athletic Association has organized a civic reception in honour of athletes, journalists, administrators and sponsors of sporting events who have contributed towards the development of Sports in Gombe State.

Alhaji Inuwa Kari, the Chief of Staff, Government House Gombe, was presented with a Sports Excellence award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sports development in the State.

Chairman of the Association and veteran Nigerian athlete, Alhaji Adamu Bello, explained that the event was organised to motivate athletes to excel in their various competitions.

He stated that the dinner event was an effort aimed towards promoting sports development, encourage young talents, and recognise outstanding performance. The event attracted several dignitaries in the State.

Alhaji Adamu Bello, an active athlete in his hay days who won laurels for the State and country in the 90s, advised the athletes to remain disciplined, focused, and to shun all forms of social vices.

He also pledged to sponsor the educational scholarships of five athletes in Texas University United States of America.

Alhaji Abdullahi Garba Talase who served as Chairman of the occasion, expressed satisfaction with the initiative and commended the organiser for his commitment to sports development. He called on other sports administrators to emulate such efforts in supporting athletes to make Gombe state greater in sports.

The state's Director of sports Malam Manga Saleh, urged the athletes to remain committed and improve on their performances. He advised coaches to ensure that

the sports items distributed are used judiciously for the benefit of the athletes.

Athletes that were honoured at the event included those that participated at the recent first edition of the North East u-17 athletic championship held in Bauchi between 20th to 22nd November 2025 and won 11 medals.

The athletes are lamech Danladi 2 bronze medals in (800m, 1500m), Adamu Abdullahi I silver 1 bronze medals in (100m, 200m), Elisha Kengs 2 gold medals in (200m, 400m), Catherine Kimenson 4 bronze and 1 gold medals in (100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and long jump) who was recognised as the best performing athlete with the highest medals of the competition.

They were presented with certificate of participation, medals, sports kits, school bags, trophies, and cash prizes.

Also, recognised with an award was Mr Jafaru Tijjani, the presenter of Midweek Sports on Gombe Media Corporation (Radio and TV). Mr. Tijjani described the honour as a collective achievement and dedicated it to the management and staff of the GMC.

Sports presenters from NTA, Amana Radio, Vision FM and Gombe state chairman of SWAN were recognized and honored with gifts for their deduction and resilience to duty.

Alhaji Ibrahim Inuwa Salisu, the Managing Director of White Light Badminton Club, was awarded with a trophy and gifts to encourage and appreciate him for building a badminton hall and establishing a badminton club to boost sports activities in the State, while the state chairman weightlifting association, Alhaji Sule Usman, received an award in recognition of his contribution to weightlifting in the state.

Bauchi Chief Judge decries low turnout of Judges

By Mohammed Kawu, Bauchi

The Bauchi State Judiciary has expressed concern over what it described as the nonchalant attitude of some judges and magistrates during the first quarter inmates' case review exercise conducted across correctional centres in the state.

The State Chief Judge, Justice Rabi Talatu Umar, voiced her displeasure at the poor attendance of judicial officers during the two-day 2026 first quarterly review undertaken by the Administration of Justice Committee, which she chairs. The exercise covered custodial Centres in Misau, Azare and Jama'are.

Justice Umar warned that she would no longer tolerate absenteeism during such critical assignments, particularly those aimed at reviewing the cases of long-awaiting inmates.

She stated that any judge or magistrate who fails to attend future review exercises without valid justification would face appropriate disciplinary action.

According to findings at the exercise, attendance at some of the centres fell below 30 per cent, a development the Chief Judge described as unacceptable.

She emphasised that the presence of trial judges and magistrates is vital during review sessions, as they provide clarifications, case histories and other relevant information that facilitate speedy and fair decisions.

Justice Umar directed the representative of the State Grand Khadi on the Administration of Justice Committee to compile the names of all judges and magistrates who were absent during the exercise. She ordered that the list be submitted to her office by Monday for further action.

Despite the low turnout, the committee proceeded with the review and granted freedom to 14 awaiting trial inmates who had spent between three and five years in custody without conclusion of their trials.

One inmate was released at Jama'are Correctional Centre, while 13 others regained freedom at the Bauchi Custodial Centre.

Those released included inmates who were ill, mentally challenged, or whose case files could not be readily traced during the review.

The Chief Judge noted that prolonged detention without trial contradicts the principles of justice and fairness, adding that the judiciary remains committed to decongesting custodial facilities and safeguarding the rights of detainees.

Addressing the freed inmates at the Bauchi Custodial Centre shortly after their release, Magistrate Safiya Musa urged them to reflect deeply on the circumstances surrounding their freedom.

She reminded them that beyond the judgment of the courts lies a higher moral accountability.

"You are fortunate to regain your freedom during the blessed month of Ramadan. Consider it an act of divine mercy," she said.

Also speaking, the Bauchi State Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association, Dr. A.G. Haruna (Esq.), advised the released inmates to guard their conduct and utterances going forward.

He encouraged them to embrace positive change and avoid any actions that could return them to conflict with the law.

Haruna explained that every individual is accountable for their deeds and that sincere repentance attracts mercy, while persistent wrongdoing may lead to consequences.

He added that even wrongful incarceration could serve as a test of faith and an opportunity for spiritual growth.

Speaking on behalf of the released inmates, Sani Sale expressed appreciation to the Chief Judge and members of the committee for what he described as their compassion and sense of justice.

The quarterly inmates' review exercise forms part of ongoing efforts by the Bauchi State Judiciary to fast-track pending cases, reduce congestion in correctional facilities and uphold the constitutional rights of persons awaiting trial.

Justice Umar reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to ensuring that justice is dispensed fairly, promptly and without prejudice, while also holding judicial officers accountable for their responsibilities in the administration of justice.

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later rescued during a joint operation involving police, army and vigilante groups.

In another incident, suspected bandits abducted a councillor, Hon. Dan Musa Garin Kwairi, alongside his two wives from their residence in Futuk community of Gwana District.

Police further confirmed a separate attack on the Joint Task Force base in Gwana District, during which two soldiers attached to the 33 Artillery Brigade and a vigilante lost their lives. Seven bandits were reportedly neutralised in that confrontation.

The Commissioner of Police reiterated that intelligence gathering and coordinated operations were ongoing to track down perpetrators and rescue remaining victims.

Community Determined to Stand

Despite the losses suffered, Kafin Duguri residents remain resolute.

Governor Mohammed described the community as resilient and deeply connected to its ancestral land, where farming constitutes the primary source of livelihood.

Security analysts note that the swift mobilisation of local hunters and youths prevented what could have been a more devastating massacre and mass abduction.

For residents, however, the scars remain fresh.

...How Kafin Duguri community repelled deadly bandit assault in Bauchi



"Our people died protecting this land," a community elder said quietly. "We have no other home. We will continue to defend it while we pray for stronger government support."

As security agencies intensify operations in the troubled axis, residents hope that sustained federal and state intervention will restore lasting peace to Duguri Gwana and neighbouring communities.

For now, the story of Kafin Duguri stands as one of grief, courage and communal resistance in the face of violent adversity.

At least five persons have lost their lives following an attack by Christians Terrorist in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, prompting renewed calls for peace and strengthened security in the area.

A security source said the incident occurred on February 19 at about 7 p.m. when the victims were returning from Dorowan Babuje and passing through the Jong Fulani community in Barkin Ladi LGA.

The victims were identified as Tahiru Muhammad, Jibrin Salisu and Abdulmumin Isyak, while two others were yet to be formally named at the time of filing this report.

According to information shared by security analyst Zagazola Makama, the victims were ambushed by suspected armed assailants.

Items reportedly recovered at the scene included empty 7.62mm cartridges and a motorcycle.

Sources within the affected community disclosed that families of the deceased had been informed of ongoing efforts by security

personnel to trace those responsible.

Residents expressed hope that the deployment of security operatives would help restore confidence and prevent further violence.

The incident comes amid rising tension in parts of Plateau State. Earlier on February 11, livestock belonging to residents in Rwam Village, Mushere District of Bokkos Local Government Area, were reportedly poisoned, resulting in the loss of several cows.

Similarly, in Tulus Village, Horop, two houses were set ablaze during an attack on a Fulani settlement. Community leaders have urged residents to remain calm and avoid actions that could escalate tensions.

Stakeholders continue to call for dialogue, justice and proactive security measures to foster peaceful coexistence among diverse groups across Plateau State.

Tinubu appointed Tunji Disu as acting IGP

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has accepted the resignation of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, following the submission of his letter citing pressing family considerations.

According to a statement by Bayo Onanuga, president's special adviser on information and strategy, Tinubu received Egbetokun's resignation earlier on Tuesday and expressed his profound appreciation for his decades of distinguished service to the Nigeria Police Force and the nation.

The President acknowledged his dedication, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to strengthening internal security architecture during his tenure.

Appointed in June 2023, Egbetokun was serving a four-year term scheduled to conclude in June 2027, in line with the amended provisions of the Police Act.

"In view of the current security challenges confronting the nation and acting in accordance with extant laws and legal

guidance, President Tinubu has approved the appointment of Assistant Inspector-General of Police Tunji Disu to serve as Acting Inspector-General of Police with immediate effect.

"The President is confident that AIG Disu's experience, operational depth, and demonstrated leadership capacity will provide steady and focused direction for the Nigeria Police Force during this critical period.

"In compliance with the provisions of the Police Act 2020, President Tinubu will

convene a meeting of the Nigeria Police Council shortly to formally consider the appointment of AIG Disu as substantive Inspector-General of Police, after which his name will be transmitted to the Senate for confirmation."

The statement added that the President reiterates his administration's unwavering commitment to enhancing national security, strengthening institutional capacity, and ensuring that the Nigeria Police Force remains professional, accountable, and fully equipped to discharge its constitutional responsibilities.