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FAAC: FG, states, LGs share N1.678trn for February

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PHOTO: KHADIJAT/ABUBAKAR

Kwara State Deputy Governor, Mr Kayode Alabi and Co-chair National Coalition of Civil Society to end child marriage in Nigeria, Mr Kolawole Olatosimi during a courtesy visit by members of the Coalition to the office of the Deputy Governor, Ilorin.

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Why I'll not comment on emergency declaration in Rivers – Jonathan

Former President Goodluck Jonathan, yesterday shied away from commenting on the recent declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers and the suspension of the governor, his deputy and members of the state House of Assembly.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that President Bola Tinubu had, in a nationwide broadcast on Tuesday, declared the state of emergency, citing the escalating political crisis in the state as reason for the action.

NAN also reports that the suspension of the governor, his deputy and members of the house of assembly was for an initial period of six months.

Jonathan, while speaking at a colloquium organised by Haske Satumari Foundation in Abuja on Saturday, said that a lot of people had reached out to him for his comment on the political situation in Rivers.

"As a leader from the Niger Delta, people had been reaching out to me for my comment on the political situation in Rivers State," he said.

The former president, however, said that it was not the norm for former presidents to comment on policies and actions of their successors, to avoid heating up the polity.

Jonathan, who refused to make any specific comment on the development, however, went proverbial.

"The situation in Rivers State is like an Indian proverb which says that if somebody is really sleeping, you can easily wake up him, but if the person is pretending to sleep, it will be difficult to wake such a person up," he said.

The former president, who was the chairman of the occasion, urged the country's leadership avoid taking actions that can negatively impact the image of Nigeria.

NAN reports that the colloquium was on promoting social change and empowerment through diversity, equity and inclusion.

Jonathan particularly called on the leadership of the executive, the legislature and the judiciary to always do the right thing while in office.

He also advised them against compromising their offices and positions.

"Whatever happens in a country, the decisions taken by the executive arm of government, the parliament and the judiciary affect everybody.

"Whatever we do affects everybody, and if we must build a nation for our children and grandchildren, no matter how painful it is, we must try to do what is right," he said.

Jonathan stated that assessment of Nigeria by the international community and how much investment it would be able to attract would depend on the positive actions of its leaders toward advancing democracy and good governance.

According to him, building the society where no one is oppressed is the hallmark of good leadership, leveraging the transformative power of

diversity, equity and inclusion for social change.

"I believe that it is the hallmark of good leadership and governance to be able to leverage the transformative power of diversity, equity and inclusion for social change.

"As a leader, I have seen how these values can bring people together, foster a sense of belonging and unlock the full potential of individuals and communities.

"I have also seen how the absence of these values can lead to division, inequality and social unrest.

"It is, therefore, our responsibility as leaders

and change-makers to promote a culture of diversity and inclusion; one that values and respects the dignity and worth of every human being and protects the interests of all," he said.

The former president further stated that any society with these attributes would be deemed to be innovative, resilient and harmonious.

"I know this because I saw how policies that promoted gender equality, youth empowerment and regional balance during my time as president helped bridge divides and foster national unity," he said.

First Lady to orphans: Dream big, you have a bright future

First Lady Oluremi Tinubu has urged children at the newly commissioned Nana Berry Orphanage and Children's Home to embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and become the best version of themselves.

Addressing the children, the First Lady said "you are special, you are loved, and you have a bright future ahead of you.

"This home is a stepping stone towards your dreams, and I encourage you to embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and become the best version of yourselves", she told them.

Her words came as she officially inaugurated the newly constructed and furnished orphanage, a project made possible through collaboration between the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The facility aims to provide a safe and nurturing environment for vulnerable children.

Designed to house 118 girls and 118 boys, the orphanage features hostel blocks, a dormitory, a multipurpose hall, classrooms, and living quarters for staff.

It also aims to provide a nurturing environment for learning and holistic development, in line with SDG Goal 4: Quality Education and SDG Goal 5: Gender Equality.

While acknowledging the efforts of the orphanage's founder, Mrs. Aishatu Kwalmi, and the caregivers, the First Lady charged them to continue their work with kindness, compassion, and discipline to ensure that every child grows into a

responsible citizen.

However, she firmly rejected a request for additional land for farming, emphasizing that the orphanage should focus on innovative agricultural practices rather than land expansion.

"Mrs. Kwalmi was telling me that they needed another land for farming, and I said no. This place is big enough. Nowadays, we have something called smart gardening. You can grow in your bucket, and this is the time to introduce this to the children", she stated.

She encouraged the orphanage to adopt smart farming techniques using buckets and used tires to grow crops like yams and potatoes.

"If you don't know, we're going to send people to you, and they will teach you what to do. But it's very, very easy," she assured them.

Reflecting on the inspiration behind the project, the First Lady recalled how she first learned about the orphanage in early 2023 through a television interview with Mrs. Kwalmi.

Deeply moved by the conditions of over 200 children living there, she mobilized immediate assistance and later spearheaded the construction of the new facility.

"This project also reflects

the commitment of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to the well-being and development of all children, irrespective of their background," she said.

She expressed gratitude to Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, for donating the land and ensuring the swift provision of a Certificate of Occupancy.

She also commended Hon. Adejoke Orellope-Adefulire, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, for overseeing the project's execution.

The First Lady also highlighted the broader vision of the administration to ensure decent housing for vulnerable children across Nigeria.

She thanked the Nasarawa State Government for pledging continued support, noting that while many orphanages exist, not all have such facilities.

"So we've started with this one, and it's the responsibility of the government to do that. Mr. President is very keen on this," she stated.

With the commissioning of the Nana Berry Orphanage and Children's Home, the First Lady reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing a brighter future for every Nigerian child, ensuring that they are nurtured in love and given the tools to succeed.



Wike working for Nigerians, not APC –PDP chieftain

National Vice-Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Dan Orbih, says the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, is working for Nigerians and not for All Progressives Congress (APC).

Orbih in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja yesterday said having sought permission through the relevant organs of the party, PDP permitted Wike to serve in the President Bola Tinubu administration.

He said that in view of this, there should not be any issue with Wike working with the APC-led Federal Government.

"And I can tell you there is no record that the current acting national chairman and the members of the national working committee, or any of the organ wrote him in reply to his letter that he should not participate in this government.

"He wrote to the South-South Zonal executive. We had a meeting in Port Harcourt and unanimously we said it was a call to national service, and we gave him our nod.

"He wrote to the state chapter of his party and the response was positive; that he should take the appointment as a national call for service.

"He wrote to his ward and Local Government chapters of the party. There is no organ of the party that came out to say no, don't accept this appointment.

"He wrote to the Governors Forum and I can tell you, that at the end of the first meeting held by the forum, a delegation of that

body went to congratulate him in Abuja," he said.

He noted that political parties must be careful how they treat their members.

"Now I have told you that his participation in this government is not an issue, except for those who are mischievous.

"When he was given an invitation to serve in this government, he wrote to every critical organ of the party, informing them that Mr President has invited him to be part of his government.

"I am also aware, that not too long ago, the members of the Board of Trustees met him in his official residence, and throughout that meeting, none of them raised this issue."

"So, Wike, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, is not working for APC; he is working for the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria," he said.

The PDP National Vice-Chairman also said that his relationship with the FCT minister and his friends in other political parties could not be defined by his politics.

"Let me make it abundantly clear here that my membership of PDP cannot determine those who are my friends and those who should be my enemies.

"If at my age, I now belong to a political party and the party tells me, this man cannot be your friend, then it is wrong.

"I have friends across board. I have friends in Labour Party, APC, and in many other parties, but that doesn't affect my membership and commitment to the PDP.

"I want to say it very clearly, PDP cannot determine my friendship with Nyesom Wike, a very dependable, hard-working friend of mine, he added.



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Kwara Art Gallery: A Visionary Initiative by Sardauna (Page 30)

By SILEP

The decision by the Sardauna of Ilorin, to construct a state-of-the-art art gallery in Ilorin, the state capital, signifies a transformative step in Kwara State's cultural and economic development. This landmark initiative reflects the Governor's dedication to preserving the state's rich cultural heritage, promoting creative expression, and ensuring socio-economic growth.

Preserving Kwara's Cultural Heritage

The State is renowned for its diverse cultural traditions, which include music, dance, crafts, and visual arts. The establishment of the Art Gallery will serve as a custodian of this cultural legacy, providing a space to showcase traditional and contemporary artworks from local and international artists. It will act as a living archive, preserving the history, values, and identity of the people of Kwara for future generations.

Promoting Artistic Expression

The art gallery will serve as a platform for local artists to display their creativity and talent. It will encourage artistic expression by offering a space where painters, sculptors, and other visual artists can exhibit their work. This initiative will inspire budding artists and facilitate a thriving art community in Kwara.

Boosting Tourism and Economic Growth

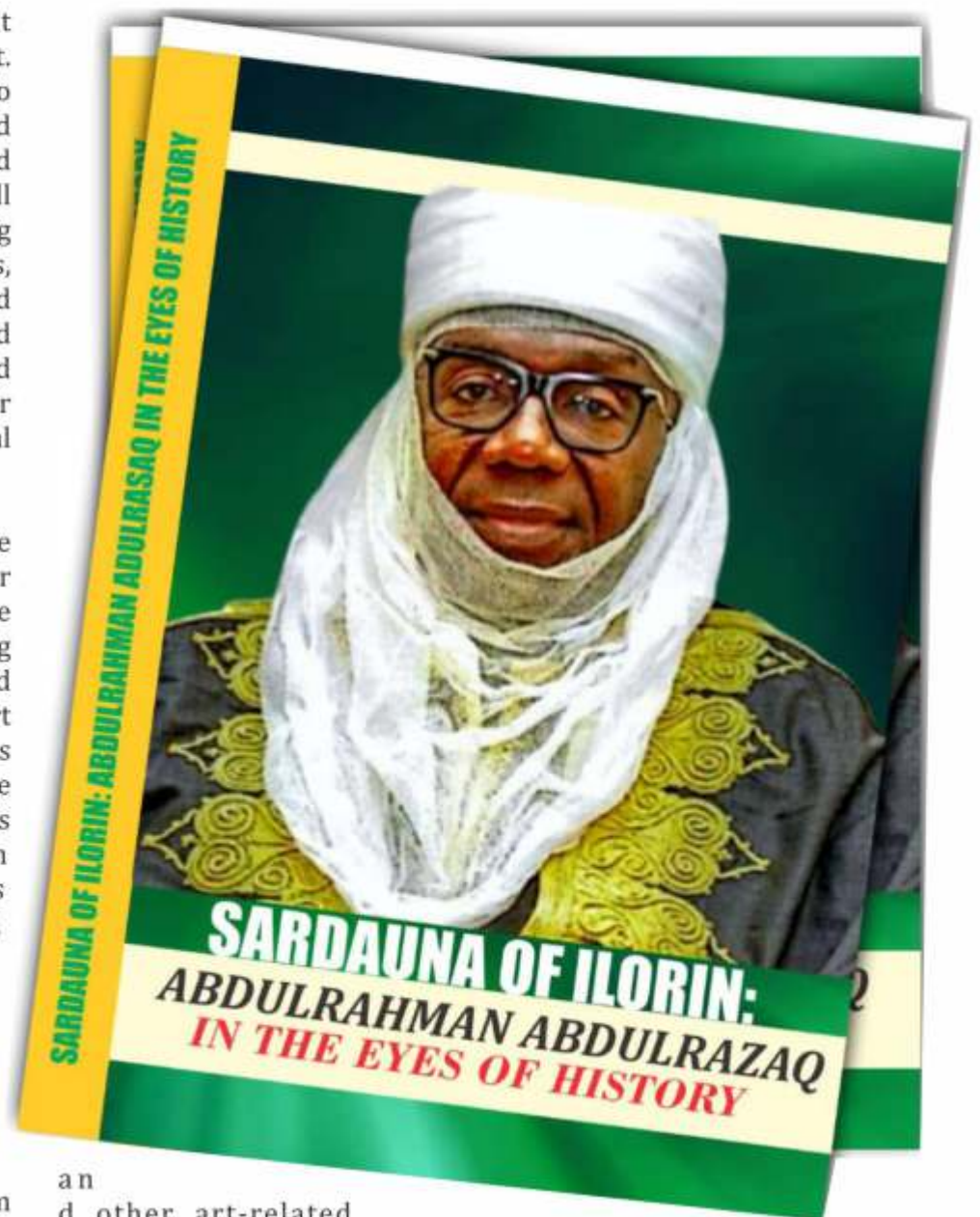
Cultural tourism is a significant driver of economic development. The Art Gallery is expected to attract tourists, art enthusiasts, and scholars from across Nigeria and beyond. The influx of visitors will boost the local economy by creating demand for hospitality services, transportation, and other related industries. Again, the gallery could host exhibitions, art fairs, and cultural festivals, further establishing Kwara as a cultural hub.

Educational Opportunities

The art gallery will provide educational opportunities for students, researchers, and the general public. By offering workshops, lectures, and guided tours, the gallery will promote art education and raise awareness about the importance of culture and creativity in society. Schools across Kwara will benefit from having a resource to teach students about the visual arts, history, and cultural heritage.

Job Creation and Economic Impact

The operation of the art gallery will generate numerous employment opportunities. Curators, administrators, and support staff will all benefit from the project. Furthermore, the presence of an art gallery will stimulate local industries, such as art supply stores, frame makers,



and other art-related businesses, thereby creating a ripple effect throughout the economy.

Aesthetic and Social Value

Ahead of its economic and cultural benefits, the art gallery will enhance the aesthetic appeal of Ilorin. Its modern architecture and serene environment will provide a space for leisure and reflection, ensuring a sense of pride and ownership among residents. The gallery will also serve as a venue for community engagement, where people can gather to celebrate and appreciate the arts.

Enhancing Governor AbdulRazaq's Legacy

Governor AbdulRazaq's vision for the Art Gallery reiterates his commitment to holistic development. The Sardauna is not only preserving the state's heritage but also empowering its people to participate in the global creative

economy. This initiative aligns with his broader vision of transforming the state into a giant of progress and innovation.

The construction of the Art Gallery is a symbol of cultural pride, economic potential, and artistic excellence. It promises to elevate Ilorin's status as a cultural and intellectual centre while contributing significantly to the state's socio-economic development. Sardauna's commitment to this visionary project demonstrates his dedication to creating a prosperous and culturally vibrant state for generations to come.

COURTESY:- Research, Publication and Documentation Unit, SARDAUNAN ILORIN LEGACY PLATFORM (SILEP): Mentoring, Leadership Development Initiatives.

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KWSG's Commitment to Quality Education, A Step Towards Sustainable Growth

By SILEP

The reaffirmation of Kwara State Government's (KWSG) dedication to quality education, as expressed by the Honourable Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hajia Sa'adatu Modibbo Kawu, is a demonstration of the AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq administration's progressive vision for the educational sector. This commitment, particularly demonstrated through the establishment of the Kwara State University of Education, Ilorin, reiterates Governor AbdulRazaq's determination to transform the state's academic landscape.

Education is the cornerstone of development, and Kwara's proactive steps towards improving tertiary education signal a strong resolve to create a knowledge-driven economy. The recent engagement with the Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU) reflects the government's willingness to engage stakeholders in shaping a responsive and efficient educational system. Addressing the concerns of COEASU and ensuring a seamless transition for the Kwara State College of Education into the new university structure will be pivotal in sustaining this progress.

Moreover, the prompt payment of salaries and allowances, acknowledged by COEASU Chairman, Comrade Yahaya Ndagi, highlights the

administration's commitment to staff welfare, an essential factor in maintaining academic excellence. However, as the transition unfolds, the need for clear policies on leadership structures and operational frameworks remains crucial. The government's assurance of responsiveness and the recognition of educators' contributions should now be matched with swift and strategic actions to resolve outstanding issues.

With the National Universities Commission (NUC) officially recognising the Kwara State University of Education and the inauguration of its governing council, led by Professor Shuaib Oba AbdulRaheem, the stage is set for a transformative era in tertiary education. The success of this initiative, however, will depend on sustained investment, strategic policymaking, and continuous engagement with

key stakeholders.

Governor AbdulRazaq's track record of proactive governance instils confidence that Kwara's educational sector is on an upward trajectory. Moving forward, ensuring a smooth integration of institutions, maintaining academic standards, and enhancing a conducive environment for both students and staff will be essential in realising the full potential of this ambitious educational reform.



Empowering Kwara's Youth as Collective Stand Against Drug Abuse

The fight against drug abuse is not just about law enforcement; it is about building a future where young people have the opportunities, skills, and support needed to make positive life choices. The second edition of the Kwara State Stakeholders' Summit on Drug Abuse, Prevention, and Control reflects this commitment, bringing together policymakers, up rulers, educators, and youth to tackle the rising crisis of synthetic drugs.

Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq's administration has taken a holistic approach to youth empowerment, recognising that preventing drug abuse requires more than just punitive measures. Initiatives like the Ilorin Innovation Hub, the Sugar Film Factory, and Kwapreneur provide employment opportunities, facilitate entrepreneurship, and equip young people with skills that steer them away from substance abuse.

Additionally, Kwara has also introduced a mandatory drug testing policy at the tertiary level. This proactive measure aims to identify and rehabilitate students struggling with substance abuse, ensuring they receive the help they need rather than being left to spiral

deeper into addiction. The unveiling of the State Drug Prevention Campus Ambassadors further strengthens this strategy, enabling peer-led advocacy in educational institutions.

Stakeholders at the summit, from government officials to traditional rulers and experts, highlighted the need for a multi-sectoral approach. Strengthening community involvement, promoting responsible parenting, and discouraging the glorification of drug-abusing celebrities were key themes. As noted by the Oloro of Oro Kingdom, true inspiration does not come from intoxication but from focus and determination.

The summit put together to address drug abuse being a front runner societal challenge requiring sustained collaboration. With continued investment in youth-focused policies, stronger enforcement of drug laws, and increased public awareness, Kwara is taking bold steps towards a safer, healthier future. The success of these efforts depends not just on government actions but on collective responsibility; families, educators, and community leaders all have a role to play in guiding the next generation away from the path of addiction.

PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT

Jomo Kenyatta's Remarkable Quotes & Reflections

Jomo Kenyatta (1897-1978) was a charismatic and visionary leader who played a pivotal role in Kenya's struggle for independence. As the first President of Kenya (1964-1978), he championed the principles of unity, self-reliance, and economic development. Known for his diplomatic skills, pragmatic leadership, and deep understanding of both African traditions and Western governance, Kenyatta sought to build a stable, prosperous nation. His strong yet sometimes authoritarian style ensured Kenya's early post-independence stability, though it also

attracted criticism for suppressing dissent. Some of his notable quotes include:

"Our children may learn about heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future."

Reflection: This statement highlights Kenyatta's belief in forward-thinking leadership. He recognised the importance of history but emphasised the responsibility of the present generation to shape a better future.

"The basis of any independent government is a national language, and we cannot be truly independent until we

have our own."

Reflection: Kenyatta saw language as a key pillar of national identity and independence. His promotion of Kiswahili aimed to unite diverse ethnic groups and strengthen Kenya's sovereignty.

"When the missionaries arrived, the Africans had the land, and the missionaries had the Bible. They taught us to pray with our eyes closed. When we opened them, they had the land, and we had the Bible."

Reflection: This quote encapsulates Kenyatta's critique of colonialism, highlighting the

economic and cultural exploitation of Africans. However, it also suggests a lesson in awareness and self-determination for future generations.

"Unity cannot be taken for granted. It must be fostered and sustained."

Reflection: Kenyatta understood that national unity required continuous effort. Given Kenya's ethnic diversity, he sought to create a cohesive identity through policies of inclusivity and economic integration.

"Let us not dwell on the past, but rather focus on the future, for therein lies our hope and strength."

Reflection: This



demonstrates his pragmatic approach to governance. While acknowledging the struggles of the past, Kenyatta urged Kenyans to concentrate on nation-building and development.

Jomo Kenyatta remains a towering figure in African history, remembered for his role in securing Kenya's independence and laying the foundation for its political and economic trajectory.

Food security: Kwara commissions Soil Assessment Laboratory

Kwara State is taking a major step toward modernizing agriculture with the installation of a pilot Soil Assessment Laboratory at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

This initiative, under the Nigerian Farmers' Soil Health Card Scheme (NFSHCS) and spearheaded by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, positions Kwara among the select states leveraging scientific advancements for agricultural growth.

This was contained in a Press Statement signed by, Omotola Ashaolu the

Press Secretary, of the ministry

With the planting season approaching, the laboratory will provide farmers with accurate soil analyses, enabling informed decisions on fertilizer use, crop selection, and land management. By understanding their soil's specific nutrient needs, farmers can boost yields, reduce costs, and enhance farm efficiency, leading to greater profitability and sustainable practices.

This development aligns

with the Kwara State Agricultural Transformation Plan, which prioritizes soil health management as a key factor in boosting agricultural efficiency. The plan emphasizes scientific soil testing, precision fertilization, and sustainable land-use practices to help farmers maximize their

output while preserving soil quality for future generations.

Through initiatives like this, Kwara is equipping farmers with data-driven solutions that promote efficient resource utilization and long-term agricultural sustainability.

Speaking on this development, the state

Sheikh Alounmata tasks traditional healers, as Kwara PAN holds 1st Ramadan lecture

By Jimoh Bashir

Traditional healers have been charged to always discharge their duties truthfully, and do away with any form of discrimination in caring for the welfare and wellbeing of patients and their customers.

Sheikh AbdulRazaq Alounmata, while delivering a lecture at the maiden Kwara Phytherapists Association of Nigeria (PAN) Ramadan Lecture on Tuesday March 18, 2025, in Ilorin added that everything should be done in accordance with God's directives, as spelt out in the Holy Qur'an.

According to him, God Almighty doesn't frown at any form of healing process or processes, as virtually all things in the Holy Qur'an are all about care and cure for soul, mind and body, as there is no disease on earth that has no cure.

He however, warned against the temptations of healing people in the traditional and other means, and the grave consequences of doing so without taking into consideration the rules and regulations as contained in the Holy Book.

"Traditional healers must always be upright, truthful and disciplined. The usage of leaves and roots for healing is

acceptable, and conforms with God's principles, if done the right way", he averred.

From the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Mrs. Mustapha Aminat, who is the Customer Service Officer of the body said that more people now use herbal drugs because of many reasons, which includes packaging and branding, even as she urged PAN members to respect production protocols, as outlined by NAFDAC.

She advised PAN members to seek proper and legitimate certification before practice, and to observe all production protocols through proper registration and identified trade marks, before making their products public.

The National President of PAN, Alhaji Sulyman Tijani Ede, who led National Executive members to the occasion commended PAN members nationwide for their sacrifice and resilience, even as he charged them to invest more on research, so as to produce products that have meaningful impact on healthcare.

He urged NAFDAC to extend their period of registration, and equally review some of their protocols, to give herbal medicine practitioners some level of independence.

While welcoming PAN members from far and near to the occasion held at Amuleya House, Olorunshogo, Ilorin, the Chairman of Kwara PAN, Dr. Sikurullahi Orelope charged members to be united, do more on research and always be conversant with rules and guidelines laid down by the authorities.

Describing the job as delicate and more demanding, Dr. Orelope said that it requires high level of discipline to achieve and deliver excellent services.

Among those that attended the gathering are Baloguns, Daudus Magajis in Ilorin, the Baba Isale of Ilorin, Alhaji Abdullahi Sodiq, Oba Abdulafeez Olasunkanmi, the Onidun of Igbo-Idu in Offa Local Government Area of the state, and Chief Jimoh Olayiwola Rabi, the Bajimo of Ijebu-Jesa.

Others are Dr. Abdulrazaq Dangado, Dr. Abdulrasheed Olayinka SabMak, both Patrons of the Association, Alhaja Risikat Balogun, Alhaja Kudirat Omialaju and Dr. Iyalaje Halima, among others.

He commended the Governor and Hon. Aileru for championing the campaign, pledging the NOA's continued support to eradicate criminality.

Prof. Awoye said drug abuse and addiction are major public health concerns, with millions of people worldwide affected by the negative consequences of drug misuse.

He commended the Governor and Hon. Aileru for championing the campaign, pledging the NOA's continued support to eradicate criminality.

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agricultural innovations that enhance food security and economic prosperity in Kwara State, in line with the Kwara State Agricultural Transformation Plan. The Commissioner further emphasized that this initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of making the state a model for modern, technology-driven agriculture.

KWSG to partner NAEAP for development of tertiary education

By Zarumi Mashood

The Kwara State Government has expressed its readiness to collaborate with the National Association of Educational Administration and Planning (NAEAP) to enhance the administration and planning of tertiary education in the state.

The state Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hajia Sa'adatu Modibbo Kawu, stated this while receiving members of NAEAP, during a courtesy visit to her office, according to a statement issued by the Press Secretary in the Ministry, Omotayo Ayanda.

She emphasized the government's commitment to improving the education sector, noting that Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq's administration has prioritized policies that strengthen tertiary education and ensure access to quality learning.

"The Kwara State Government is open to strategic partnerships that will complement our efforts in improving tertiary education. We welcome NAEAP's expertise in educational administration and planning, especially in areas such as capacity building, policy formulation, and institutional governance," the commissioner said.

She commended NAEAP for its dedication to advancing educational management and assured the team of the state's willingness to explore meaningful collaborations that align with its development goals.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Association, Dr. Muritala Tuku, said that NAEAP is committed to promoting excellence in educational administration, planning, and policy implementation.

He explained that the association plays a crucial role in strengthening the governance of educational institutions across Nigeria through research, advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives.

Dr. Tuku stated that NAEAP seeks to support the Kwara State Government in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of tertiary education institutions.

He emphasized the need for continuous professional development for educational administrators, the integration of data-driven decision-making in policy formulation, and the adoption of global best practices in managing higher institutions.

Kwara holds 2nd drug summit as govt explains efforts to empower youths

By Zarumi Mashood

The Kwara State Government has said it will continue to invest in initiatives and policies that empower young people and make drug abuse and crimes unattractive to them.

Speaking at the 2nd edition of the Kwara State Stakeholders' Summit on Drug Abuse, Prevention and Control in Ilorin, Special Assistant to the Governor Hon. Aileru Olalekan Mukail said some of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq's legacy projects and social protection programmes such as the Ilorin Innovation Hub, the Sugar Film Factory, the Garment Factory, and Kwapreneur have been designed to create employment, foster entrepreneurship, and empower young people with the necessary skills to build successful careers.

The programme was organised by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Drug Abuse, Prevention and Control, Hon. Aileru Olalekan Mukail. It was themed 'Synthetic Drug Crisis: United for Safer Kwara'.

"This gathering reflects our collective commitment to tackling the growing menace of drug abuse, particularly the rising crisis of synthetic drugs, which poses a significant threat to public health, security, and the future of our

youth," Aileru said.

"The administration of His Excellency the Governor is investing in youth empowerment programmes and projects to create employment, foster entrepreneurship, and empower our young people with the necessary skills to build successful careers."

Such initiatives not only secure the economic future of our youth but also steer them away from the dangers of drug abuse, Aileru said.

He added that the administration has introduced a mandatory drug testing policy for students at the tertiary level as part of measures to easily identify students who abuse drugs and rehabilitate them, noting this will ensure a safer and more productive academic environment.

"As part of our continued efforts, today marks another significant milestone as our government unveils the State Drug Prevention Campus Ambassadors - a group of dedicated volunteers who will work closely with us in addressing drug use across tertiary institutions," he said.

He said the government would continue to strengthen policies, enhance awareness, and invest in prevention and rehabilitation programmes to safeguard the future of the

state.

Attended by senior government officials, traditional rulers, youth, and students, the session also featured paper presentations, panel discussion, award presentations, and dramas displayed by students.

Top attendees included Chairman, Kwara House Committee on Information and Youth, Rukayat Shittu; Deputy Chief of Staff to the Kwara State Governor Princess Olubukola Babalola; Commissioner for Communications, Bola Olukoju; Commissioner for Social Development, Dr Maryam Nnafatima Imam; Oloro of Oro Kingdom and one of the keynote speakers, Oba Joel Olaniyi Oyatoye Titiloye Olufayo II; Director General National Orientation Agency (NOA) Mallam Issa Lanre Onilu; Chairman, Kwara State Sports Commission Coach Bola Magaji; Medical Director, Federal Neuro-psychiatric Hospital, Budo Egba, Issa Baba Awoye; a lecturer University of Ilorin, Dr Mahmoud Danjuma; Pastor Oyedapo Ademuyiwa; representative from NDLEA and other agencies of government; and dozens of Corps members.

Hon. Shittu said findings show that most drug addicts are products of poor parenting or matrimonial crisis, and called



Kwara State Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hajia Sa'adatu Modibbo Kawu (3rd right) Alhaji Muritala Tuku and other executive members of NAEAP during their visit to the Ministry for Tertiary Education.

Ramadan: FAAN MD urges prayers for industry growth

The Managing Director of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Mrs Olubunmi Kuku, has urged Muslims at the nation's airports to pray for industry growth.

A statement issued on Friday said Kuku made the appeal during an Iftar dinner she hosted for the airport Muslim community evening.

She encouraged Muslims and all Nigerians to foster unity and peaceful coexistence, helping to build a harmonious airport environment and a more peaceful nation.

Kuku also urged Muslims to exemplify good morals in their personal and public conduct.

She noted that Nigeria is blessed with God-fearing people across various faiths, contributing positively to national development in many areas.

Recalling her childhood, she said, "My grandmother is Muslim. I grew up in a Muslim home, but religion does not define or divide us."

"It is our hearts that reflect our values and legacy. Religion neither defines us nor separates us — it unites when we focus on humanity."

"This season of Lent and Ramadan highlights our shared purpose. Regardless of faith, we are one people," she added.

Kuku expressed gratitude to the Muslim community for their prayers, noting their positive impact on airport development.

She said recent progress under her leadership is partly due to the Muslim community's prayers and supplications.

"I urge you to embrace unity, reflect on your journey, and support others as you move forward," she advised.

She prayed for healing and Allah's mercy throughout the remainder of the holy month of Ramadan.

FAAN's Director of Airport Operations, Capt. Abdullahi Mahmood, praised Kuku's inclusive approach toward religious groups at the airports.

Zakat: Anonymous donor donates N10 million to 73 indigent Muslims in Ibadan

No fewer than 73 indigent Muslims, benefited from N10 million Zakat distributed by an anonymous donor in Ibadan.

Zakat is one of the pillars of Islam, which makes it obligatory for wealthy Muslims to remove a certain per cent from their wealth once in a year and donate to needy Muslims in the society.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the beneficiaries of the N10 million Zakat were given between N110,000 and N200,000.

The Coordinator of the Zakat distribution, Malam Ismail Saka, said that the beneficiaries were categorised into three main groups — the sick, students, widows and other needy Muslims in the society.

Saka said that out of the 73 beneficiaries were six

Mahmood said, "This month is for prayer, giving, and sharing with family, friends, and colleagues, regardless of religion."

"The MD saw value in gathering the Muslim community within FAAN and its environs for Iftar."

"The Prophet Muhammad taught that the best meal is shared with others, as blessings come from such gatherings."

He emphasised that inviting someone, even a rival, brings blessings —

hospitality fosters unity and friendship.

"This Iftar dinner shows the MD's desire to extend friendship, signalling that everyone present is part of her community," Mahmood said.

The Iftar event was held at Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos, drawing Muslims from FAAN and nearby airport communities.

Over 300 Muslim men and women attended, breaking their fast and observing Maghrib prayer with the FAAN MD.

students in various higher institutions who received N110,000 each.

He said that the sick person, who was currently at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, was given N200,000.

The coordinator said that other beneficiaries were given N140,000 each for empowerment and to cater to their financial needs.

He said the donor of the N10 million Zakat preferred to be anonymous and handed over the fund to him for distribution to indigent Muslims in the society.

"This is the fourth annual Zakat distribution that I have been handling for the donor."

"In the previous editions we shared N7.5 million Zakat to indigent Muslims and you can see now that the money has increased to N10 million this year."

"This should be a lesson to wealthy Muslims who don't

give Zakat, thinking that their wealth will reduce."

"The blessing from Allah is that the more you give the more your wealth increases," Saka said.

He called on wealthy Muslims in the society to emulate the donor in order to reduce suffering among Muslims in the society and as well purify their wealth.

In his remarks, the Guest Lecturer at occasion, Alhaji AbdulMumeen Olapade, attributed the large population of poor Muslims to the fact that many wealthy ones were not paying Zakat.

Olapade urged the affluent Muslims to prioritise payment of Zakat in order to purify their wealth — obey the commandment of Allah and assist the needy in the society.

The Chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Daud Afolabi, advised the beneficiaries to use the money wisely and to emulate their benefactor and give Zakat in future.

Ramadan: Sen Abiru tasks Muslims on devotion, collective advancement of society

Sen. Mukhail Abiru (Lagos -East) has urged Muslims to use the period of Ramadan to reflect on their collective advancement and that of the larger society.

Sen. Abiru made the call during a Ramadan lecture he organised for Muslim constituents in Ikorodu, according to a statement issued by his media aide, Mr Enitan Olukotun, on Friday, in Lagos.

The lawmaker said the gathering had fostered a stronger bond among his constituents and encouraged dialogue on Islamic values.

Abiru, represented by Dr Saheed Ibikunle, Special Adviser on Constituency matters, advised Muslims not to relent on their devotions.

"This year's lecture series has served as more than just a forum for religious discussion."

"It has been a veritable platform for the Muslim

community to reflect on the collective advancement of Muslims, and the society at large.

"Let us continue to support one another, extend kindness to the needy and pray for the peace and prosperity of our dear nation, Nigeria," he said.

Earlier, Sheikh Sefiudeen Olowooribi, Chief Imam of Ikorodu Division and Sheikh Yahya Oshoala, As-Samadaani, of Oriwu Mosque, commended the lawmaker for organising the Ramadan lecture across the division.

According to the Islamic clerics, the lectures have fostered unity, and deepened peaceful co-existence among the residents.

Olowooribi said the lawmaker had a great pedigree in Ikorodu following in his father's footsteps, who he described as a lover of Islam.

"We should thank God for

Ikorodu. He has done really well. May he not be weary", Olowooribi said.

Also, Sheikh Muritador Amokomowo, the guest lecturer, while speaking on the theme, "Unity as Essential Tool For Community Development", urged unity among Muslims.

Amokomowo, who is Chief Imam at Ayangburen Palace, stressed that Almighty God expect Muslims to collectively push for causes that would advance political, socio-economic interests of all faithful.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Sen. Abiru Ramadan Lecture Series took place across the 16 Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas of Lagos East.

Muslim Ummah, numbering about 1,500, attended the grand finale at the Ikorodu Eid-el prayer

ground, Ota-Ona, on Thursday.

Ramadan packages from Senator Abiru were shared to all attendees.

Ramadan: JNI seeks prayers for Nigeria's security, economy

The Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) has called on Muslims to intensify prayers against all manners of misfortunes, security and economic challenges bedevilling the nation.

The JNI's Secretary-General, Prof. Khalid Aliyu, made the appeal in a statement issued on Friday in Kaduna.

Aliyu also urged Muslims to intensify acts of worship in the last 10 days of Ramadan.

"As the Holy month of Ramadan enters its final stretch, JNI is calling on Nigerian Muslims to

| RAMADAN NIGHT NAFILATS | | | | |
|------------------------|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | 5 | 1 | Inna Anzalnahu2, Qui-ya Ayyual Kafiruna2, Qui-Huwa Ilahu Ahadu2 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Inna Attayina 5 |
| 3 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Inna Anzalnahu 1, Qui-ya Ayul-Kafiruna 1 |
| 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Qui-ya-ayyual-Kafirun 3 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | Alam-Nazira 1, Qui huwa Ilahu 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Qui-huwa Ilahu Ahadu 10 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Qui-ya-ayyual-Kafirun 7, Qui-huwa-ilahu 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Qui-Huwa Ilahu Ahadu12, Qui-auzu birabil Falag 12, Birabi Nasi 12 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | Tabbat-yada 3, Qui-huwa-ilahu 12 |
| 10 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Kurisiyu 1, Inna Anzalnahu 12, Qui-huwa-ilahu 12 |
| 11 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Inna Anzalnahu 7, Qui-ya-ayyual 7, Qui-huwa-ilahu 7, (After Salamo Say: Laola 70, Asalet 70) |
| 12 | 10 | 5 | 1 | Qui-huwa Ilahu 6 |
| 13 | 10 | 5 | 1 | Ishaja 7, QuiHuwa Ilahu 7 |
| 14 | 8 | 4 | 1 | Ishaja 7, QuiHuwa Ilahu 7 |
| 15 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Ishaja 7, Qui-huwa Ilahu 35 |
| 16 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Isa-Zul 10 |
| 17 | 10 | 5 | 1 | Inna Anzalnahu 2, Qui-huwa-ilahu 2 |
| 18 | 12 | 6 | 1 | Sabih 1 Qui-yaayyual Kafirun 1 |
| 19 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Qui-huwa Ilahu 7 |
| 20 | 10 | 5 | 1 | Inna Anzalnahu 1, Qui-huwa-ilahu 3 |
| 21 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Qui-huwa ilahu 10 |
| 22 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Sabih 1, Inna Anzalnahu 3, Qui-huwa-ilahu 3, Qui-ahusu Birabi Falag 3, Birabi Nasi 5 |
| 23 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Ishaja 5, Qui-huwa Ilahu 5 |
| 24 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Qui-huwa-ilahu 6, Qui-ahusu Birabi Falag 6, Birabi Nasi 3 |
| 25 | 8 | 4 | 1 | Qui-huwa Ilahu 4 |
| 26 | 10 | 5 | 1 | Al-Quaratu 1, Qui-huwa-ilahu 5, (After Salamo Say: Astagfuru-lahi 25) |
| 27 | 12 | 6 | 1 | Inna Anzalnahu 10 |
| 28 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Qui-ya-ayyual-kafirun-1, Qui-huwa-ilahu 1, (After Salamo Say: Astagfuru-lahi 100 Asaiatu 100) |
| 29 | 6 | 3 | 1 | Qui-huwa Ilahu 10 |
| 30 | 4 | 2 | 1 | Qui-yyual kafirun 25 |

maximise the last 10 days of fasting to seek the blessed night of Laylatul Qadr," he said.

Aliyu also urged the Muslims to increase their recitation and understanding of the Holy Quran as well as engage in more acts of worship.

He also reminded the Muslims of the importance of Zakatul-Fitr (Ordained Alms Giving) and encouraged them to extend more alms giving to the poor, needy, orphans, and handicapped in the society.

He said that JNI prayed for Allah's acceptance of the Muslims' Ramadan

fasting; while urging them not to return to sinful acts after Ramadan.

"The JNI reiterates its call for prayers for the Muslim Ummah, seeking relief from misfortunes, security challenges and economic hardship."

"Ramadan mubarak and happy 'Eid-el-Fitr in advance. May Almighty Allah, the Most High accept all our respective acts of worship. Amin," Aliyu prayed.

According to him, JNI encourages Muslims to make the most of this sacred time and strive for spiritual growth and development.

MARCH 23, 2025

Kogi govt to build 46 schools, renovate 728 for critical life skills

From Gold Rahman, Lokoja

The Kogi State Government is set to establish about 50 new secondary schools to provide critical life skills for over 20,000 adolescent girls in the state under the Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE).

The state government also plans to renovate over 726 secondary schools, equipping them with critical tools such as computers and other innovative technologies to enhance the skill set female students in basic secondary education, and help them attain essential life skills.

This was disclosed at a stakeholders workshop organized in collaboration with the New Initiative for Social Development (NISD) to implement safe spaces in 100 secondary schools across Kogi State.

Dr. Abdulhakeem Bello, the AGILE State Coordinator, explained that the safe spaces will provide mentorship, peer support, and guidance to adolescent girls, helping them navigate academic and social challenges.

He emphasized that the initiative, supported by the World Bank and the Federal Government of Nigeria, is designed to equip young girls with essential skills in health, relationships, advocacy, and decision-making.

"As part of the programme, safe spaces will be created in 100 secondary schools to

provide adolescent girls with mentorship, peer support, and guidance in navigating academic and social challenges. Additionally, 21 vocational centers will be established across the state to provide out-of-school girls with literacy and vocational training. The programme will also offer scholarships

ranging from N10,000 to N50,000 to girls in public secondary schools, ensuring greater access to education," he said.

Bello further disclosed that AGILE Project also aims to enhance secondary education in Kogi State by providing conditional cash transfers for female students noted that project

will improve infrastructure with modern furniture, instructional materials, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene facilities, including solar-powered toilets.

He added that ICT hubs will be established to promote digital literacy, equipping students with essential technological skills.

Also speaking, Commissioner For Education, represented by the permanent secretary, Dr. Saidu Alhaji emphasized that the government alone cannot address all the challenges in the education sector, stressing the importance of partnerships with organizations like Project AGILE.

Kogi Central women group supports Senator Natasha's suspension, recall drive

From Gold Rahman, Lokoja

The Kogi Central Women Development Association has endorsed the suspension of Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, describing it as a necessary disciplinary action.

The association also announced plans to initiate a recall process against the senator, citing concerns over her conduct and representation of the district.

At a press briefing held in Lokoja the spokesperson of the group, Omole Charity Ijese expressed disappointment over Senator Natasha's handling of her dispute in the Senate, particularly her allegations of sexual harassment against Senate President Godswill Akpabio.

The association criticized her decision to take the matter to the United Nations

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) rather than addressing it through established legislative and legal channels in Nigeria.

"He who accuses must prove. We had expected Senator Natasha to present a petition before the Senate with solid evidence instead of making allegations on television without legal backing," the statement read.

The association argued that the senator's actions have cast a negative light on Nigeria's legislative institution and questioned her priorities as a representative of Kogi Central.

"The Senate is not a show business platform. It is a place for serious legislative duties. Her appearance before an international forum has given undue negative coverage to both the Senate and Nigeria."

The group also expressed concerns that Senator Natasha's six-month suspension equivalent to a full legislative year would leave the district without representation, further justifying their push for her recall.

"Her refusal to apologize and acknowledge her wrongdoing shows a lack of regard for those who elected

her. She appears self-absorbed and has failed to uphold the virtues of a strong and responsible female politician."

The Kogi Central Women Development Association stated that it would mobilize other groups within the senatorial district to commence a recall process, seeking a new senator who is "people-centered, law-abiding, and drama-free."



Plateau Govt launches campaign to end open defecation

The Plateau Government has launched a special campaign to support the ongoing fight against open defecation in the state.

Gov. Caleb Mutfwang, represented by Dr. Nicholas Baamlong, the Commissioner for Health, launched the campaign on Friday in Jos to commemorate the 2025 World Water Day.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Plateau is ranked second, after Kwara with high rate of open defecation in the country.

Mutfwang said that the campaign, tagged "Clean Plateau, Use the Toilet", aimed at raising awareness on the importance of using sanitation facilities by residents of the state.

"I am pleased to announce the launch of the 'clean Plateau, use the toilet' campaign, an initiative that seeks to raise awareness about the importance of using sanitation.

"This aims to ending open defecation, which directly impacts water quality and human health.

"By promoting the use of toilets and improving sanitation practices, we can ensure the preservation of our valuable water sources, including glaciers and protecting our communities from water-borne diseases.

"To combat this ugly trend, we are doing everything to promote good hygiene practice particularly in our rural communities," he said. Earlier, Mr. Bashir Lawandi, the Commissioner for Water Resources and Energy, called on the residents of the state to support government's efforts towards ending open defecation and ensuring a more safety environment for all.

He maintained that the state

government had initiated some policies and programmes aimed at promoting access to clean and safe water.

"Ending open defecation requires access to safe and clean water as sanitation facilities depend on the adequate water resources.

"The water treatment Plants in Langtang North, Bokkos and Wase Local Government Areas are currently under

rehabilitation.

"Only recently, we commenced the rehabilitation of 300 hand-pump and 60 motorised boreholes in Jos North and Jos South Local Government Areas.

"We are also constructing isolated water schemes in 13 communities in five LGAs of the state under the World Bank intervention," he said. Speaking, one of the partners in the programme, Dr. Nelson

Mkparu, the Chairman, Nelmaco Industries Ltd, called for collaborative efforts towards tackling the menace of open defecation in Plateau.

He promised to support government's efforts in providing clean, safe and affordable water for the citizens of the state.

NAN reports that the World Water Day 2025, which falls on March 22, has as its theme "Glacier Preservation."

FG is interested in Benue livestock development project - Minister

The Minister of Livestock Development, Alhaji Idi Maiha, has said the Federal Government is interested in the Benue Livestock Development Project.

Maiha, who made the disclosure on Friday in Makurdi during the Benue Livestock Summit 2025, said that the state has vast opportunities in the livestock sector.

The minister stated that the trajectory for sustainable economic development of the state was in place and urged the state government to leverage it by reawakening

the livestock sector.

He pointed out that the establishment of the livestock ministry was a clarion call to national transformation, adding that several countries have indicated interest in partnering with Nigeria in the sector.

"We intend to reactivate the grazing reserves and turn them into ranches with all amenities provided. We have asked all sub-nationals to provide land for ranches.

"I told the governor to give 1000 hectares of land, which the Qatari government is ready to pay for.

"Brazil's government is also interested in the choice of

land, and Benue will benefit from this. In all these, we

need peace and dialogue to achieve a lot," he said.



Benue executive council approves N149.5bn for infrastructural projects

The Benue State Executive Council presided over by Gov. Hyacinth Alia has approved the sum of N149.5 billion for infrastructural projects in the state.

The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr Tersoo Kula, announced approval in a statement, weekend in Makurdi.

Kula said the the approval was aimed at transforming the state's economy and improving the lives of the citizens.

"The council approved the immediate payment of N1.5 billion to CGC, a Chinese company that constructed the Otobi/Otukpo and Katsina-Ala Water Works about 10 years ago.

"The council also directed the Ministry of Water Resources, Environment, and Climate Change to invite CGC to commence the rehabilitation of the facility and restore water supply in Otobi, Otukpo, and their environs.

"The council also approved several other key projects, including the extension and dualisation of the Wurukum-Airforce Base Road, the upgrade of the Mbawuar to Bako-Negher and Spur to Mbaakon Road.

"The rehabilitation and upgrade of the Deputy Governor's Lodge, and the reconstruction of the Assembly Complex and Clinic," he listed.

The CPS listed the other projects to include extension and dualisation of the Wurukum-Airforce Base Road, which was approved at a cost of N68.3 billion was expected to improve transportation and boost economic activities in the area.

He said that the other project to be handled by M/S Bahaus Global Investment Nigeria Ltd., included the construction of a 5-span bridge at Mu.

"The upgrade of the Mbawuar to Bako-Negher and Spur to Mbaakon Road, which was approved at a cost of N73.9 billion would improve road safety and reduce travel time for commuters.

"The project would be handled by M/S Bahaus Global Investment Nig. LTD.

"The rehabilitation and upgrade of the Deputy Governor's Lodge, which was approved at a cost of N1.1 billion would provide a conducive environment for the deputy governor to perform his duties.

KWSG reaffirms commitment to agricultural innovation, strengthening agribusiness

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Afees Abolore Alabi, attended the "Strategy Co-Creation Workshop" organized by the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) in Abuja.

The event, themed "Alliance for Sustainable Agricultural Land Development and Food Security," brought together key stakeholders to discuss strategies for optimizing land use and boosting food production across Nigeria.

This was contained in a Press Statement signed by Ashaolu Omotola, the Press Secretary, Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ilorin

Dr. Alabi reaffirmed Kwara State's commitment to fostering agricultural innovation and strengthening the agribusiness value chain through strategic collaborations. He emphasized the State's proactive approach to engaging with relevant stakeholders to advance large-scale food production, agro-industrialization, and modern farming practices.

"Kwara State remains committed to transforming agriculture by enhancing productivity, expanding access to critical resources, and ensuring sustainable land development. Our goal is to equip farmers with the

right tools, technology, and financial support to drive food security and economic growth," Dr. Alabi stated.

He commended the Executive Governor of Kwara State and Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), His Excellency Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (CON), for his visionary leadership in driving policies that support mechanized farming, improve farmers' access to essential inputs, and promote food security both within the State and beyond.

As the planting season approaches, the state government is intensifying

efforts to ensure that farmers benefit from quality inputs, modern techniques, and financial support. Through sustained collaboration with key stakeholders, Kwara is reinforcing its agricultural base while strengthening rural development.

Dr. Alabi also engaged with some of his counterparts from other states, exchanging insights on innovative approaches to agricultural transformation. Additionally, he held further discussions with the Executive Secretary of NALDA, Mr. Segun Corneleus Adebayo, an indigene of Kwara State, on expanding opportunities for

sustainable agricultural development in the State.

The workshop was attended by key stakeholders, including the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Special Duties, Senator Kaka Sheu; the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. (Dr.) Aliyu Kora Sabi; the Minister for Humanitarian Development, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda; the Minister for Livestock Development, Mr. Idi Mukhtar Maiha, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Chinyere Akujobi; and the Executive Secretary of the National Agricultural Development Fund, Mr. Muhammed Abu Ibrahim, among others.



Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Afees Abolore Alabi (2nd Left), at the NALDA event in Abuja, Thursday

Olupo charges newly installed Aguma Bassa on community devt

The Olupo of Ajasse-Ipo in Irepodun Local Government area of Kwara State, Oba (Barrister) Ismail Yahaya Alebiosu has called on the newly installed Aguma Bassa of Ajasse-Ipo, Aguma John Emmanuel Daruwan not to relent in contributing his quota to the developmental drive of the present administration under the leadership of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq.

The call according to the monarch would go along way in complementing the track record of achievements of the Governor at turning round the fortune of the down trodden members of the society.

Oba Ismail Yahaya made the call in his palace while turbaning John Emmanuel Daruwan as the new Aguma of Bassa of Ajasse-Ipo.

According to the first class traditional ruler the call has become necessary in order to

facilitate the realization of the laudable agenda of the government.

The Olupo of Ajasse-Ipo assured the newly Aguma of Bassa of the total support of the Irepodun traditional council towards achieving the desire objectives.

Also speaking, the Head of Bassa Community Association in the state, Aguma Shadow Daniel Zhokwo applauded Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari and the Olupo of Ajasse-Ipo among others for their support and cooperation through the spreading of hands of friendship to non-indigenes in the state.

He reassured the traditional rulers and the state government of the continuous support his people at all times.

Aguma Shadow however

appealed to the state government to carry his people along through the empowerment programme, office accommodation and other logistics support.

Earlier, the newly turbaned Aguma of Bassa of Ajasse-Ipo, Aguma John

Emmanuel Daruwan acknowledged his people for the opportunity to serve in that capacity.

While promoting not to disappoint the confidence reposed on him, he solicited for the support of his people and other relevant stakeholders to enable him to succeed in his new office.



FAAC: FG, states, LGs share N1.678trn for February

The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC), has shared N1.678 trillion among the Federal Government, states and the Local Government Councils (LGCs) for the month of February.

This is according to a communiqué issued by FAAC and made available by Bawa Mokwa, the Director, Press and Public Relations, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation (OAGF).

According to the communiqué, the total revenue of N1.678 trillion comprised statutory revenue of N827.633 billion and Value Added Tax (VAT) revenue of N609.430 billion.

It also comprised Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL) revenue of N35.171 billion, Solid Minerals revenue of N28.218 billion and Augmentation of N178 billion.

It said that a total gross revenue of N2.344 trillion was available in the month of February.

"Total deduction for cost of collection was N89.092 billion while total transfers, interventions, refunds and savings was N577.097 billion," it said.

The communiqué said that gross statutory revenue of N1.653 trillion was received for the month of February, which was lower than the sum of N1.848 trillion received in January by N194.664 billion.

It said that gross revenue of N654.456 billion was available from VAT in February, lower than the N771.886 billion available in January by N117.430 billion.

The communiqué said that from the total distributable revenue of N1.678 trillion, the Federal Government received total sum of

N569.656 billion and the state governments received total sum of N562.195 billion.

It said that the LGCs received total sum of N410.559 billion, and a total sum of N136.042 billion (13 per cent of mineral revenue) was shared to the benefiting states as derivation revenue.

"On the N827.633 billion statutory revenue, the Federal Government received N366.262 billion and the state governments received N185.773 billion.

"The LGCs received N143.223 billion and the sum of N132.374 billion (13 per cent of mineral revenue) was shared to the benefiting states as derivation revenue," the communiqué said.

It said that from the N609.430 billion VAT revenue, the Federal Government received N91.415 billion, the state governments received N304.715 billion and the LGCs received N213.301 billion.

"A total sum of N5.276 billion was received by the Federal Government from the N35.171 billion EMTL. The state governments received N17.585 billion and the LGCs received N12.310 billion.

"From the N28.218 billion Solid Minerals revenue, the Federal Government received N12.933 billion and the state governments received N6.560 billion.

"The LGCs received N5.057 billion and a total sum of N3.668 billion (13 per cent of mineral revenue) was shared to the benefiting States as derivation revenue," it said.

It said that Oil and Gas Royalty and EMTL, increased significantly while VAT, Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT), Companies Income Tax, Excise Duty, Import Duty and CET Levies recorded decrease.



It is exactly one year that His Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulrafiu Olaniyi Ajiboye Oyelaran I bade this world farewell. March 23, 2024 has come to register itself in the history of Oro's monarchy as a date never to be forgotten, that was the day the then reigning Oloro of Oro Kingdom changed base from the terrestrial to the celestial.

When the news filtered into town that Oba Ayanda Olaniyikaiye (using his panegyric cognomen) has joined his ancestors, it was indeed a rude shock to many - his subjects, colleague monarchs, government officials, professional associates, friends and admirers. Personally, the shock gripped me that I was unable to pen anything as tribute then; this 365 days after, present the opportunity.

One could say, without mincing words, that he was indeed 'every inch a king'. Whenever he stepped out, he was usually enrobed with royalty; when speaking, he does that with nobility. He was never caught unawares of his monarchical responsibilities as the custodian of his people's culture and tradition. He ruled Oro kingdom with Solomonic wisdom, promoting peace at all times.

Today, while remembrance prayers were being said simultaneously in designated places in Lagos and Kwara States, one can attest to the fact that he's being joyfully remembered for the many developmental strides he championed, and for the gallant victories he had in the battles he fought. For the two decades he ruled as monarch, Oloro and Paramount Ruler of Oro Kingdom, all the federated constituent communities in his territory grew geometrically in all ramifications, population surged up, facilities that make life comfortable increased.

It is heart-warming to recall the words of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq when he paid condolence visit to the princes and princesses in the palace on March 28, 2024. He was just returning from a trip, from the airport, rather than



Oba Abdulrafiu Olaniyi Ajiboye Oyelaran I (Reigned 2002 - 2024)

Oba Ajiboye Oyelaran, one year after with pang's of nostalgia

going straight to Government House to rest and relax, he took the detour and faced the journey to Oloro's Palace in Okerimi Oro, the same place he was conferred with the Chieftaincy title of Akorede of Oro

Kingdom over a year earlier.

In his remarks, the ebullient Governor described the late traditional ruler as a peacemaker, father figure to all and a monarch who was passionate about the

development of his people and kingdom. The Kwara No. 1 citizen was full of praises for the late royal father as a king who knew his onions, never found wanting in playing his patriarchal roles even for the officials with civil

authorities.

As someone who came to study and understood the many hurdles he faced, the many battles he won and the many triumphs he had; one cannot but praise the Almighty for giving him

to Oro Kingdom at the time he reigned. He came, he saw and he conquered, as many wont to say. While he reigned, he did with gut and gumption. He was always blunt when faced with the stark reality of laying out the truth.

He was a leader with great understanding, generously kind-hearted, humble and progressive-minded. He ruled with love and compassion. As space would not permit cataloguing his many achievements in terms of people development and physical environment elevation (history book will surely do that), one can simply say: He was an enigmatic phenomenon. He ruled as father figure to all, who was conscious of the peace building initiative of Kwara State as "State of Harmony," he would always make efforts bringing to roundtable, warring factions for amicable resolutions.

No one can take it away from late Oba Ajiboye Oyelaran that his dreams for Oro kingdom were largely unfulfilled; simply because they were big dreams, laced with great vision. It is equally worthy to note that fostering united front was one of the tough challenges he had but he was able to entrench unity among his subjects despite the odds. However, if he could look back today, he would definitely shake head over the vicissitudes in the kingdom he left behind. Why? Those challenges are still like recurring decimal. The understanding here is that a man who was hungry and got fed doesn't stop him from getting hungry again. The solution is that there must be a mechanism of making food available every time, all year round.

It's just one year that Oba Abdulrafiu Olaniyi Ajiboye Oyelaran I joined his ancestors, but it seems so long a time. Such is the life of great achievers who imprinted their names on golden epitaph of human mind. The remembrance prayers of today ricochet and resonate with the saying: "To live in the hearts of the loved ones is not to die." Oba Abdulrafiu Olaniyi Ajiboye Oyelaran I was loved in his lifetime; remembered, with memories of warm affection, in his death.

In the multifaceted journey of life, every believer has a fundamental obligation to worship none, but Almighty Allah. This divine mandate defines human existence and profoundly influences decisions, particularly in marriage.

For aspiring Muslim spouses, selecting a partner grounded in devotion to Allah is crucial. Such a choice significantly impacts the spiritual trajectory of their union and establishes the moral and religious foundation for future generations.

In a Hadith narrated by Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him), Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) shared enduring wisdom on the criteria for marriage, noting that people typically marry for four reasons: wealth, lineage, beauty, and piety. He stressed the importance of selecting a pious partner, advising, "But you should choose the one who is pious, for her hand will bring you prosperity".

This guidance highlights the value of prioritizing religious commitment over worldly attributes when choosing a spouse, as it fosters a harmonious marital relationship and creates an environment where faith becomes a shared legacy for future generations.

Scholars further interpret this Hadith as encouraging association with the religiously committed, which cultivates good character and positive influence while protecting against harmful behaviors and attitudes.

Parents are not merely caregivers but custodians of their children's spiritual and moral education. Their actions serve as the blueprint for their offspring's religious identity. A household devoid of worship—be it prayer, Qur'an recitation, or remembrance of Allah—cannot expect its children to embrace these practices wholeheartedly.

Contemporary society often reflects this reality, with secular values dominating many homes, resulting in children grappling with their religious identity both within and outside their homes.

Parents should strive to create an environment that fosters their child's holistic development, encompassing their religious, spiritual, and moral growth. In Surah Al-Araf, Verse 58, Allah presents a poignant analogy: "And as for the good land, its vegetation springs forth (abundantly) by the permission of its Lord, and (as for) that which is inferior (its herbage) comes forth but scantily; thus do We repeat the communications for a people who give thanks." This parable encapsulates the



Cultivating a heritage of faith: The essential role of devotion in family life and legacy

By **Abdulbāsit Mahmood Adewole**

principle that fertile land yields vegetation rapidly and efficiently with Allah's permission, whereas barren land fails to retain water and produce vegetation.

This analogy reflects the profound impact of parental traits and behavior on their children. A parent who understands and embodies Allah's teachings, thereby enriching their generation through knowledge and instruction, is akin to fertile land. Conversely, a parent who disregards divine guidance resembles barren land, lacking the capacity to nurture their children

spiritually.

Consequently, if the parental home is devoid of ritual acts of worship, such as prayer, remembrance of Allah, and Qur'an recitation, it becomes challenging to expect the next generation to appreciate the significance of these practices, let alone adopt them as part of their daily lives.

Similarly, parents must consider their child's religious well-being as a critical factor when selecting an educational institution. The risk of children drifting away from their faith can be mitigated by choosing institutions that respect and

accommodate their religious identity.

Government or private schools that promote inclusivity are suitable options. However, if financially feasible, Islamic faith-based private schools offer an ideal environment where children can openly practice their faith, fostering a supportive space for spiritual development. It is essential for parents to make informed decisions that align with their religious values and priorities. By doing so, they can avoid inadvertently undermining their own goals.

The Qur'an repeatedly emphasizes the

significance of intentional upbringing of offspring. In Surah Al-Tahrim, Verse 6, Allah commands: "O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones." Ibn Abbas explained this verse as an obligation to obey Allah and guide one's family toward His remembrance. In a hadith reported by Ar-Rabi' bin Sabrah, who said that his father said that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) reinforced this by instructing parents to teach their children prayer by age seven and discipline them by age ten for neglecting it.

It follows that the spiritual training provided by parents or guardians directly influences their children's faith both at home and in society. Notably, a family and society rooted in acts of worship and various religious practices offer children an environment conducive to internalizing Islamic values more effectively than secular settings. This context underscores the argument that a partner's piety and behavior can have a cascading effect on future generations.

In conclusion, navigating the complexities of relationships and family life requires deliberate choices anchored in piety. The selection of a spouse should prioritize devotion over superficial preferences. Through such partnerships, seeds of faith are sown in future generations. As believers, we must strive to make choices that draw us closer to Allah while ensuring our descendants inherit a vibrant faith.

We beseech Allah to guide us in choosing righteous companions, instill devotion in our hearts, and grant us wisdom to raise generations dedicated to worshipping Him. May our families flourish in faith and love, and may our efforts be crowned with His guidance and mercy. Ameen.

Abdulbāsit Mahmood Adewole Esq is an Ilorin-based Legal Practitioner





Coalition trains stakeholders on action against child marriage

By Ramat Ayo Ismail

A Non Governmental Organization, National Coalition of Civil Society to End Child Marriage has trained relevant stakeholders on effective programming and action to end child marriage.

The 3-day Non Residential Capacity Building was organized in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital and had relevant stakeholders in attendance.

Speaking at the event, the Coalition National Co-Chair, Mr Kolawole Olatosimi explained that the programme was organized with the support of "Girls Not a Bride" aimed at ending child marriage and propagating the development of the girl-child in Nigeria.

He stated that the organization, established in 2015 and formally set up in 2019, aims to amplify members' activities, encourage greater engagement, and strengthen collective advocacy efforts to eradicate child marriage in Nigeria.

Olatosimi explained that education, women affairs and justice ministries needed to be properly funded, because child marriage is now a national emergency, as the rate had soared to 43.1 per cent.

According to him, about 43 per cent of girls are married before the age of 18, while 17 per cent are married before age 15.

"Child marriage is against the Child Right Act, while it is

rooted in social norms", he said.

Olatosimi stated that the Child marriage leads to extreme poverty, limits access to education, health challenges and gender inequality.

"Cultural norms and patrilineal structures emphasise female submissiveness, and are drivers of child marriage. The training is for members and stakeholders in capacity building on their responses to intervention on ending child marriage in Nigeria", he said.

He therefore urged government at all levels to

allocate proper funding to relevant ministries for eradication of child marriage in the country.

Declaring the training open, the state Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs Afolashade Opeyemi, described child marriage as a scourge, which affected the girl-child and the nation as a whole.

Opeyemi, who spoke through the Director of Personnel, Finance and Supply, Hajia Ramat Akanni Adenike, explained that child marriage perpetuated poverty, illiteracy, and poor

health outcomes.

According to her, this undermines the potentials of our girls to contribute to the development of our society.

"The workshop is a critical step in our collective efforts to end child marriage in Nigeria.

"It will examine the situation analysis, develop a resource mobilisation plan, strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, and understand power dynamics in communities," she said.

In her goodwill messages, the Special Adviser to Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq

on Girls Child, Mrs Juliana Kolo appreciated the training which she said came at right time when government is committed to girls child education in the state.

She said Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq is a gender friendly Governor that prioritizes the welfare of women and girls in his administration.

Kolo added that the present administration has put mechanisms in place to give all stakeholders in this fight an enabling environment for success,

noting that all hands must be on deck to achieve the target objectives.

She however called on the participants to work together to create a future where every girl child in the state will have the opportunity to thrive and use their potential beyond limit.

Earlier in his opening remarks, The Coalition State Focal Person, Mr Femi Oyedeji, explained that "girls should not be married off, but should be put in schools".

He stated that girls should be given emotional support and protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.

According to him, child marriage should be abolished because it has health implications including forced abortion, Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF), HIV/AIDs and ultimately, death due to complications.

"Kwara Government should legislate more stronger laws, specifically on ending child marriage and ensuring that girls are in schools," he said.

Oyedeji also commended the state government for enacting Child Rights Law and Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act in Kwara and called for full implementation of Law.

At the end of the training, the participants plan to strengthen community based awareness campaign to change cultural attitudes toward girls child education and early marriage.



In a momentous celebration of academic achievement and humanitarian service, the Islamic Welfare Foundation (IWF), alongside notable scholars and public figures, was honoured by the National Association of the Deaf in Nigeria (NADN). The event, held at the IWF Secretariat in Ilorin during a special Ramadan Tafsir session, saw Shaikh Yusuf Kolawole Jumuah, JAMB Registrar, Prof. Is'haq Oloyede, and Prof. Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali (SAN) receive the Award of Excellence in Humanitarian and Islamic Service.

The award recognised their dedication to Islamic service and their support for individuals with special needs. The IWF Kwara State Chapter was also commended for its commitment to integrating people with disabilities into Islamic activities and ensuring their well-being.

Delivering sermon at the event, Shaikh Jumuah urged Muslims to fear Allah and adhere strictly to the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith to attain divine mercy and rewards. He stressed that for any nation to achieve peace and prosperity, Islamic legal principles must be embraced to ensure justice and fairness for all citizens.

The revered scholar also called for a holistic approach in addressing Nigeria's socio-political challenges, advocating for the application of Islamic teachings in daily life. He prayed for divine intervention in Nigeria's affairs, seeking Allah's mercy upon the nation.

During the ceremony, Prof. Oloyede was represented by his wife, Alhaja Oloyede, while Alhaji Kehinde Eleja (SAN) accepted the award on behalf of Prof. Ali (SAN). Expressing gratitude, Prof. Ali acknowledged NADN's recognition as a motivation for further service to Allah and humanity.

Speaking on behalf of NADN, its National Ameer, Alhaji Sulaiman Saka Dagbo, appealed for greater support for deaf Muslims, urging well-meaning individuals to assist in ensuring inclusivity.

"We need attention and support to ensure that deaf Muslims are not left behind. We urge well-meaning Muslims to support our cause and prevent our members from being enticed by other religions," he stated.

..... As IWF Celebrates Four New Professors

In addition to the humanitarian recognition, the IWF Kwara State Chapter celebrated the academic milestones of its members, honouring four distinguished scholars who recently attained professorship. The honourees included: Prof. Abdullateef Oladimeji, Prof.



Islamic Welfare Foundation, Shaikh Jumuah, JAMB Registrar, Prof Ali Honoured by NADN

....As IWF Celebrates Members' Academic Achievements, Honours Four New Professors

Uthman Abdullateef, Prof. Rafiu O. Yusuf and Prof. Abdulkareem Oloyede (son of JAMB Registrar).

Speaking at the event, IWF State Coordinator, Hon. Is'haq Sabi, emphasised the foundation's commitment to recognising academic excellence and career progression.

"We are delighted to honour these distinguished members who have achieved professorship. This is just the beginning of our celebration of academic excellence, and we look forward to recognising more members in the future," he remarked.

Accepting the honour on behalf of the recipients, Prof. Oladimeji, a former Registrar and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, expressed gratitude to IWF for the recognition.

"We are honoured to receive this recognition, and I am confident that more members of the IWF will attain professorship and greatness in our various walks of life by the special

grace of Allah," he stated. During the ceremony, Imam AbdulMumeen Afodun encouraged members to strive for excellence in promoting Islam and ensure their

children follow in their footsteps.

Similarly, the IWF Deputy Coordinator highlighted the importance of perseverance and good deeds, praying for the continued success of

members in their endeavours.

The event was graced by distinguished dignitaries and Muslims from all walks of life, including, Dan Madami of Ilorin, Alhaji Shehu Gafar, Chairman, Olanrewaju Group of Hospitals, Dr AbdulWaheed Olanrewaju;

Prof. Kolawole Yusuf, National Coordinator, IWF; Dr Kalejaye Hassan; Kwara State Coordinator, IWF, Hon. Is'haq Muhammed Sabi; Deputy Coordinator, IWF, Professor Rauf Olasunkanmi; Director, Water Quality Control and Assurance, Kwara State Water Corporation, Dr AbdulRahaman Babatunde among others.

Reflecting on the significance of the event, participants acknowledged it as a remarkable massive drive in IWF's dedication to academic achievement, humanitarian service, and the promotion of Islam.



CAN urges Nigeria's leaders to embrace righteousness in governance

The Vice President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Stephen Panya, on Friday called for national unity, urging the nation's leaders to embrace righteousness in governance.

Panya made this call in Abuja at the National Day of Prayer 2025, organised by the CAN with the theme: "Dependable God."

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the event brought together religious leaders and citizens to reflect on the nation's challenges and seek divine intervention.

The event underscored the role of faith in uniting citizens across denominations to pray for solutions to insecurity, economic uncertainties, and other challenges facing the nation.

Panya emphasised the importance of collective prayer for national progress and divine intervention.

Speaking to journalists in an interview, he said that such gatherings are crucial for fostering unity and addressing pressing national challenges.

The cleric expressed confidence in the power of prayer, citing biblical promises that encourage seeking God's guidance.

He said, "We believe God has heard our prayers, and in the coming days, we trust to see manifestations of peace, progress, and prosperity in Nigeria, spiritually, socially,

and economically." He also urged national leaders to embrace righteousness in governance, referencing the book of Proverbs which says, "Righteousness exalts a nation."

According to him, moral leadership is essential for uplifting Nigeria among the global community.

Panya urged leaders to obey the Constitution, adding that Nigeria should not be a lawless country.

"This country should be

ruled based on the Constitution," he said.

The guest speaker at the event, Rev. John Praise, explained the importance of coupling prayer with action, urging Nigerians to uphold justice, obey the Constitution, and combat corruption.

Highlighting past national recoveries during crises, he expressed faith in God's mercy while stressing individual responsibility for change.

"It's not just about

Bishop calls for sustained economic policies, improved security

The Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN), Rev. Nelson Malau, on Tuesday urged the Federal Government to sustain the current economic policies that have led to reduction in petrol and food prices across the country.

Malau, spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), on the sidelines of LCCN's Annual National Convention and consecration of 36 pastors in Numan Local Government Area (LGA) of Adamawa.

The Bishop commended the government over its efforts at improving security nationwide and encouraged continued action until criminal activities were eradicated.

He acknowledged the hardship Nigerians were facing due to economic policies and praised the government for responding to citizens' concerns.

"Nigerians are going through

a lot of untold hardships largely because of the economic policies of the Federal Government.

"However, we want to appreciate the Federal Government for listening to the yearnings and cries of the citizens, and today, things are beginning to get better.

Malau, however, appealed to President Bola Tinubu's administration to prioritise healthcare development and address the country's persistent electricity challenges.

The Bishop further appreciated Gov. Ahmadu Fintiri's developmental strides and efforts in fostering peaceful coexistence among religious groups in the state.

He celebrated the recent release of two kidnapped reverend fathers in Numan and called on Nigerians to pray for their leaders while contributing meaningfully

leaders; every Nigerian must commit to righteousness and integrity.

"This event teaches us that collective effort and faith can guide the nation toward progress and unity.

"So, we came to pray depending on the God who never fails. The God that has stood for us as a nation, even when things were so bad and we never thought we'd come out of it.

"We believe that as we keep praying, God will keep showing us mercy. But more so, we want to ask our leaders to do the needful," he said.



Theme: Jesus Calms the Storm

Text: "And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm" (Matthew 8:26)

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ. I sincerely welcome you to another day of the Lord. We shall rejoice and be glad in it. The text we are considering today is the gospel of Saint Matthew 8:26. "And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm".

The story is found in the three Synoptic gospels of Mark 4:36-41, Luke 8:22-25 and Matthew 8:23-27. There was an encounter between Jesus Christ and His disciples in a boat on the sea. According to the story, there was a sudden storm "that the ship was covered with the waves; but he was asleep". The disciples were troubled, because of fear of untimely death. He was woken up to intervene in the unfortunate incident. The summary of the episode was His intervention and calmness of the situation. I pray for everyone reading this column to experience the intervention of God in your troubled situation in Jesus name.

Nigeria as a nation is going through another political storm, especially in Rivers, Lagos and Osun states. There is fear of political manipulation and unstable polity. In Rivers State, the democratically elected Governor Siminalayi Fubara was removed unceremoniously, unsung and uncelebrated some days ago by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He cited some sections of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in exercising his power. A State of emergency was declared in the state. A Sole Administrator, Vice Admiral Vice Admiral Ibok-Eye Ibas (rtd) has been appointed to administer the state. There was a misunderstanding between Governor Fubara, his godfather Wike, the Minister of Federal Capital and majority of the State Legislature. The judgement of the Supreme court on the lingering misunderstanding did not end the issues at stake. This eventually led to crisis, burning of state and federal properties. There is no doubt, that there is fear, intimidation, oppression and injustice in the state. As of the time of writing, the Sole Administrator is trying to restore peace and orderliness in the state. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He will restore peace in the state. The Sole Administrator is hereby advised to go about his duties without fear or favour. It is rather unfortunate, that the old community infighting, killings and burning of properties resurfaced between Ilobu and Ifon in Osun State. The Governor of the state, His Excellency Ademola Adeleke has imposed curfew on the two communities. The crux of the misunderstanding is on land boundary. The two communities should remember that "the earth is the Lord's and fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). We are appealing for peaceful co-existence in the communities.

Let us continue to pray for peace in the Lagos House of Assembly and Local Government Areas of Osun State. The Prince of Peace shall restore peace in all states of the Federation in Jesus name.

The Living Church

With Reverend
Dr. Idowu Ibitoye
08032381615



Ritual killings and its Societal implications

"Like a partridge that hatches egg it did not lay are those who gain riches by unjust means. When their lives are half gone, their riches will desert them, and in the end they will prove to be fools" (Jer. 17:11).

Continued from last Edition

RECOMMENDATIONS

I suggest the following recommendations and possible solutions to the rampant cases of ritual killings:

- 1) Proper children upbringing** - Parents must return to their God-given sacred assignment and duties of proper and effective way of training children in the ways of the Lord. The Bible commanded that train a child the way he should go and when he grows up he will never depart from it (Prov. 22:6 cf. Ps. 78:1-6).
- 2) Instilling the fear of God upon the children** - The fear of God must be inculcated into the life of a growing child. Such must be taught that God is watching from heaven and He will judge accordingly. "To fear the Lord is to hate evil..." (Prov. 8:13). Likewise, the scripture further admonishes the youths that "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..." (Prov. 1:7).
- 3) Effective discipleship and mentorship** - Jesus Christ spent quality time with his chosen disciples and he mentored them well, no wonder they turned the world positively after Jesus left. Apostles like Peter and Paul mentored their followers well, through which the gospel were spread rapidly. Church leaders must mentor the younger generation. It was revealed that most of the contemporary pastors that engages in rituals are not adequately mentored. Rushing into ministry without proper training and mentorship may end in disaster (II Tim. 2:2). Young minister must submit themselves for mentoring under a God fearing senior minister.
- 4) Creation of jobs for youths** - It is always said that, "an idle hand is a devil's workshop". If youths are gainfully employed they will not engage in frivolous activities, calling on government of the day and well-meaning individuals to create jobs for our teeming youths, in order to shift their focus away from rituals activities.
- 5) Security of lives and properties** - There is need for our government to rejig the security architecture in order to address the present day security challenges of ritual killings. All the security agencies and apparatus must rise up to their responsibilities of securing lives and properties.
- 6) Good governance** - This simply refers to the effective, efficient and accountable management of public resources and institutions to enhance the welfare of citizens and the sustainable development of a country. This should involve; transparency, accountability, effective participation, equity and rule of law. By good governance the society will transform positively and even the grass roots will feel the dividends of effective leadership.

Continued from last Edition

I will abide in Your tabernacle forever, I will trust in the shoulder of Your wings" (Psa. 61:3-4). Only very small percentage of those who call themselves believers in Jesus Christ are willing to abide. Many prefer to be very occasional guest. That is not the mind of God. Jesus expressed His frustration when He declared to the children of Israel, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings but you were not willing" (Matt. 23:37 cf. Luke 13:34).

Jesus stressed the importance of abiding in Him in John 15:1-7. Please remind yourself of its content by reading it again. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in Him bears much fruit, for without Me, you can do nothing...If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:5-7). Someone who knows the benefits of abiding declared, "Because you have been my help, therefore in the shadow of your wings I will rejoice" (Psa. 63:7). That joy and rejoicing can be yours today if you will make him your habitation. I declare an end to all forms of barrenness as you take up your habitation in Him in



LIVING LETTERS
With
Pastor Dr. Mrs. M. O. Agboola
08035782368

WINGS OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD

Jesus Name. Amen. No more unanswered prayers in Jesus Name. Amen. Beloved, abide in Him.

Protection & Provisions:

This was clearly seen in the relationship of God with the children of Israel. Don't ever forget what God said in Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob". If He did it for Israel of old, He will do it for anyone who runs to Him. God protected them from everyone/anything that could hurt or destroy them.

• **Pharaoh & His army:** Read Exo. 14:9-end. "So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, ...And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them, so

they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord...And Moses said to the people, Do not be afraid...For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you will hold your peace" (Exo. 14:9-14). "So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore (Exo. 14:30).

God will fight for you if only you cry genuinely cry to Him.

• Adverse Weather:

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people". EXO.

13:21-22.

The children of Israel needed the cloud by day to keep them from being hurt by the scorching sun in the wilderness, the fire was to give the light so they could travel at any time of the day. God does the same thing today. Some years back, there was a city-wide crusade at Ilorin when the ministers conference was held at Word Assembly in Ilorin. The conference was held outside the church auditorium during the day. The intensity of the sun would have sent people fainting, all of a sudden, a cloud was spread like a tent over us. Everybody saw it. It was there. It is an experience I can never forget. I have heard testimonies of how God change weather condition for the sake of His children. If He did it for some, He can do it for you.

• Hunger & Thirst

These are adversaries also because if not checked, they may terminate lives. The Psalmist said "The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand, And satisfy the desire of every living thing". (Psa. 145:15-16). If God gives food to all those who look expectantly to Him, do you think He will not give you? For the children of Israel, He fed them with manna for forty years (Exo. 16:45, 16:35,

To be Continued



Dr. Bashir Gidado is a year older; congratulations!



The couple, Tolulope Elizabeth and Oluwaseun with the bride's parents, MD/ CEO of Ade Super Fotos, Ilorin, Mr Adeyemi Amanda (right) and Mrs Abigail Atanda (left) at their daughter's wedding reception in Ilorin recently



Hon. Medinat Giwa adds a year to her age; birthday wishes from family and friends



Kuliya of Ilorin, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN (right) and Adedayo Adelodun SAN (left) with the couple, Tolulope Elizabeth and Oluwaseun Ashaolu (middle) at the wedding reception in Ilorin



Phebe Oladipo of Victory Gospel of Christ, Ilorin is a year plus; congratulations!



Tolulope Elizabeth and Oluwaseun Ashaolu (middle) with the groom's family during their wedding reception in Ilorin

Phebe Oladipo of Victory Gospel of Christ, Ilorin is a year plus; congratulations!



Ruth Adepoju Awotoye of RCCG, Kilanko Ilorin is a year older; congratulations!



THE HERALD ON SUNDAY SPORTS

Encourage youth participation in sports to combat drug abuse – Mogaji

The Executive Chairman, Kwara State Sports Commission, Mallam Bolakale Adisa Mogaji, has called on parents and guardians to encourage their children to actively participate in sports as a means of preventing drug abuse and other social vices.

He made this appeal during his closing remarks at the 2nd Kwara Stakeholders' Summit on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control held at the weekend in Ilorin.

Mogaji emphasized that the Kwara State Government, under the leadership of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, remains committed to youth engagement, empowerment, and development, with sports playing a crucial role in keeping young people positively engaged.

"I urge every parent to support the Kwara State government by encouraging their children to participate in sports.

Engaging in sporting activities will help them stay focused, develop discipline, and avoid the temptations of drug abuse and other criminal activities," Mogaji stated.

He further assured stakeholders that the Sports Commission would continue to implement initiatives aimed at preventing drug abuse within the sports sector, stressing the importance of clean sportsmanship and a healthy lifestyle for young athletes.

The summit, which brought together government officials, sports administrators, educators, security agencies, and civil society organizations, focused on strategies to curb drug abuse among youths in Kwara State.

Experts at the event highlighted the need for multi-sectoral collaboration, community sensitization, and the creation of more opportunities in sports, education, and vocational training to keep young people engaged productively.

Mogaji also reaffirmed the state's commitment to hosting more grassroots sports programs and talent development initiatives, ensuring that Kwara continues to nurture future champions while promoting a drug-free society.

The event concluded with a call for collective efforts from parents, schools, religious institutions, and community leaders to support the government's vision of using sports as a tool for youth development and crime prevention.



Kwara unites against synthetic drug abuse: Olaide Ahli advocates sports, media solution

The 2nd Kwara Stakeholders Summit on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control brought together key figures in governance, sports, and community development to address the growing crisis of synthetic drug abuse.

The event, held at the Kwara State Banquet Hall on March 20, 2025, was organized by the Kwara State Government under the leadership of Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq through the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control. The summit focused on the theme: "Synthetic Drug Crisis."

Among the distinguished panelists was Olaide Ahli, a young and vibrant sports administrator, community development advocate, journalist, and socioeconomic development expert. Known for his passion for youth empowerment, Ahli shared insightful perspectives on how sports can serve as a powerful tool for preventing drug abuse in society.

Drawing from his experience in sports administration, entertainment management, and social work, he emphasized the transformative power of sports in youth engagement, empowerment, and development.

He further outlined how well-structured sports programs, grassroots competitions, and recreational activities can divert young people from substance

abuse by keeping them actively engaged in meaningful pursuits. Initiatives such as the Kwara Kiddies YEG League, he explained, provide young people with positive alternatives, channeling their energy into productive activities that reduce vulnerability to drug abuse.

He however, also highlighted the importance of fitness and wellness campaigns in promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

As a journalist, Ahli underscored the critical role of media in shaping public perception and spreading awareness about the dangers of synthetic drug abuse. He called for more awareness campaigns through television, radio, online, and social media to educate young people.

He also stressed the importance of showcasing role models by featuring successful, drug-free athletes from Kwara to inspire the younger generation.

Additionally, he advocated for digital media engagement through platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to share motivational content, anti-drug messages, and fitness challenges.

Beyond sports and media, Ahli emphasized the need for stronger community-based outreach programs. He proposed school-based initiatives that integrate sports into anti-drug campaigns, mentorship programs led by former athletes and social workers to guide at-risk youth,

and partnerships with religious and traditional leaders to reinforce anti-drug messages within communities.

During his speech, Ahli commended Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq for his administration's commitment to tackling drug abuse in Kwara State. He acknowledged the government's efforts in addressing the synthetic drug crisis and ensuring that young people have access to meaningful development opportunities.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to community development and youth empowerment, Ahli was honored with an award by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control. The award serves as a testament to his dedication to making a positive impact in Kwara State.

As the summit concluded, Ahli reaffirmed his commitment to leveraging sports, media, and community initiatives to combat drug abuse. He called for greater collaboration among stakeholders, government agencies, sports administrators, and media practitioners to ensure a drug-free future for Kwara youth.

The 2nd Kwara Stakeholders Summit on Drug Abuse Prevention and Control provided a platform for critical discussions and concrete solutions, with Ahli's contributions serving as an inspiring call to action for all stakeholders.

Osimhen, Lookman among world's top attackers – Troost-Ekong

Nigeria's Super Eagles Captain, William Troost-Ekong, has lavished praise on Victor Osimhen, ranking him among the world's top attackers alongside teammate Ademola Lookman. Speaking in Kigali weekend, Troost-Ekong singled out Osimhen's impressive performance, which saw him score a brace in Nigeria's 2-0 victory over Rwanda.

While acknowledging Osimhen's outstanding display, Troost-Ekong emphasised the collective effort that led to the team's success.

He said, "It is not about individual performances.

"The win against Rwanda was a testament to the team's hard work and dedication. Everyone played their part, and it is this unity that will drive us forward."

He said it was important also to see player like Tolu Arokodare making his debut from the bench and applauded Alhassan Yusuf who Troost-Ekong said was played out of position.

Troost-Ekong also congratulated Eric Chelle for his first win, adding that "the game was not easy."

"We try to understand what the coach want from us. We have only had two training sessions and lots of video sessions too.

"Today's win is a glimpse of what we should expect under Coach Eric Chelle" Troost-Ekong said. He attributed the highlight of his career to being part of the team over the past decade, during which he had the privilege of learning from numerous captains.

These experiences, he noted, have greatly facilitated his role in coordinating the team, allowing him to create an environment where new players can thrive and express themselves freely.



PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT

“The basis of any independent government is a national language, and we cannot be truly independent until we have our own”.

JOMO Kenyatta Page 4

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SWAN urges Ondo Govt to create more jobs through sports

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Ondo State Chapter, has urged Gov. Lucky Aiyedatiwa to create more jobs for the teeming youths through sports.

The call is contained in a communique issued weekend at the end of the association's meeting held at the Ondo State Sports Complex, Akure.

The communique which was signed by Omotoyo Adekojo and Ayo Fanuloyo, called for deliberate policies and investments to enhance sports infrastructure, grassroots development and athletes' welfare.

It called for adequate and continuous preparation of Ondo state athletes ahead of the next National Sports Festival with government and relevant authorities to ensure early and proper camping for a good outing.

"SWAN Ondo state chapter urged the State Government to expedite the renovation of the Sports Complex, Akure.

"A standard and well-maintained stadium is crucial for hosting local and national sporting events, as well as for the overall development of sports in the state.

"The congress emphasised the need for all stakeholders to rally round Sunshine Stars FC to ensure the club retain its place in the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) with the warning that relegation could negatively impact football development in the state.

"We are calling for maximum support from the Government, private sector, and football enthusiasts," the communique read in parts.

The communique also congratulated Aiyedatiwa and his Deputy, Olayide Adelami, on their successful inauguration as Governor and Deputy respectively.

It also congratulated the State

NPFL: Nasarawa Utd stun Rangers 1:0

Nasarawa United Football Club pulled off a stunning 1-0 victory against third-placed Rangers International Football Club in a thrilling Matchday 30 fixture of the 2024/2025 Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL).

The highly anticipated match, played behind closed doors at the Lafia Township Stadium weekend saw the home team seize the initiative, boosting their chances of escaping relegation.

The decisive moment came in the 89th minute when Kabir Balogun calmly converted a penalty, sealing a crucial win for the Lafia-based side.



Kwara United optimistic as Akwa United come calling

Kwara United FC are highly optimistic of home victory today as they brace up for visiting Akwa United for the Nigeria Professional Football League match day 30 cracker at the Rashidi Yekini main bowl in the General George Innih stadium complex Ilorin.

This match is highly anticipated as Kwara soccer fans look forward to emphatic victory to cool frayed nerves from the last disappointing three goals defeat in the hands of Rangers International at the cathedral last weekend.

The Harmony boys are aware of what is at stake in today's crucial encounter and must come out in their best form for fine display in this must win home match.

Coach Tunde Sanni must come out with a game plan that will ensure Kwara United come out victorious with wide goal margin to ease the battle ahead in the subsequent games to the end of the season.

Kwara soccer fans and supporters were disappointed by the result at Rangers International and they believe that the Harmony boys can equally inflict such defeat on Akwa United today.

This game must be approached with determination of purpose as team have good players capable of getting the job done

They must however be up and doing in all departments of the game to ensure victory to ensure victory.

At this stage of the season, you don't leave anything to chance as victory must be ensured in all matches home and away for good finish at the end of the season.

Kwara United must brace up for a big fight as Akwa United will approach this match with intent in the desperate battle for survival.

The Promise keepers are not relenting even in their current 19th

position on 31 points, they believe it is not over until it is over as the struggle for survival continue.

Better still, the Uyo side could play the spoiler game and Kwara United must be wary of the eminent challenge the visitors pose in the game.

Kwara currently pitched 12th on the log with 39 points and victory today will be heartwarming as they look forward to positive results in the remaining matches ahead in the season.

NSF Gateway 2024: Kwara to host Torch of Unity March 28

Kwara state Sports Commission will host the Torch of Unity for the 2024 National Sports Festival, Gateway 2024 on March 28.

The Torch of Unity which will be flagged off in Abuja Tuesday, March 25 by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu marks the beginning of the movement of the Torch of Unity round the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

According to the schedule, **Super Eagles will bounce back to winning ways - LSFA**

The Chairman of Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), Olawale Liameed, says that Nigeria's Super Eagles will bounce back to winning ways at the ongoing FIFA 2026 World Cup qualification.

Liameed made this known to nwsman in Lagos.

He said that in spite of their current position, the team could work their socks off to pick the first place ticket in the group.

Nigeria is currently campaigning in Group C, alongside South Africa, Benin, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Lesotho.

the movement will go through the six geo political zones of the country.

The North Central zone movement will kickoff from Abuja on March 26 then to Minna, Niger state on March 27 and to Ilorin, Kwara State on March 28.

From Kwara, it will move to Lokoja, Kogi State March 29, to Makurdi, Benue State April 2, to Lafia, Nasarawa State April 3 and Jos, Plateau State April 4.



Football fans commend Super Eagles victory over Rwanda

Football fans at the weekend commended the Super Eagles of Nigeria as they beat Rwanda 2-0 in their Group C encounter of the ongoing 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification series.

They told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in different interviews that the result was a very good one as they believe the victory will spur them to achieve more wins.

Victor Osimhen's two first half goals was good enough to seal the victory for Nigeria as new coach, Eric Chelle, picks his first win.

Olayinka Akintola, a football fan, congratulated the Super Eagles for an all-important win.

"This now the qualification has started for us; we have to get more results like this and hope that other teams like South Africa who are leading with 10 points can also slip.

"We have to play very well in our next match; it is very important we get the three points available, we cannot afford to play draw or lose any other match," Akintola said.

Similarly, Agbo Adeola said that the match was well contested, and Nigeria deserved the result they got.

"We are obviously in a tight corner; teams like South Africa, Benin and even Rwanda with 10, 8 and seven points will not be easy to overtake.

"They will want to work very hard to hold on to their points and build on it to be better placed in the group.

"We can only hope on luck and work very hard to at least win our other matches to give us the morale booster we need to go into each game," Adeola said.

Another football fan, Gift Murphy, said that Nigeria was playing in a difficult situation having played poorly in the other previous matches.

"We can only pray that other teams also do not win their matches, such as South Africa, Benin and Rwanda, but it is hard to say such.

"Every other team wants to be at the mundial come 2026 and for Super Eagles to be able to turn things around, it would be something special.

"I congratulate them in the victory against Rwanda and wish them all the luck they need to go to the next world cup," Murphysaid.

Ghenga Olaseni, a football analyst, said that the team was waking up at a very crucial time and that all hope was not lost.

"We just have to keep winning, initially the group did not look like a threat to us but unfortunately we played ourselves into difficult circumstances.

"It is very important we continue to back the team to pick their good result, especially when they play teams like South Africa and Benin.