

Laptops, Hard Drives, Other Valuables Missing in MRA's Burgled Office

PAGE 9

EXCLUSIVE: NAF Jet Bombs Vigilantes Positioned to Repel Bandits' Attack in Niger

PAGE 4

IPC Picks WikkiTimes, Others for 2023 Election Monitoring

PAGE 8

Why Buhari, Entourage Walked Out of APC Campaign Venue in Bauchi Last Monday



NUJ Debate: PDP's Bala Pledges Infrastructure Continuity, APC's Sadique Vows To Revive Education

PG 5

Bauchi Emir Loses Younger Brother

PG 2

Cholera Kills 42

Persons In Bauchi

PG 6

Why Buhari, Entourage Walked Out of APC Campaign Venue in Bauchi Last Monday

By Yakubu Mohammed and Idris Kamal

Last Monday, President Muhammadu Buhari and his entourage walked out of the All Progressives Congress (APC) campaign venue at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium, Bauchi State following an abrupt power outage.

The president could not deliver his speech before leaving the venue as the power outage could not be addressed, according to Punch.

The light went off when the party's national chairman, Abdullahi Adamu, mounted the podium to deliver his speech.

WikkiTimes earlier reported that the president would be in Bauchi to chair a joint presidential and gubernatorial campaign before leaving for Lagos where he is expected to inaugurate some projects.

It was gathered that the president arrived at Bauchi twenty minutes past ten in the morning. He was received by Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) Bala Mohammed, Bauchi State Governor and his major contender in March 11 gubernatorial election, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar.

Other bigwigs who welcomed the president at the airport include; APC party chairman, Abdullahi Adamu; Director-General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council and governor of Plateau State, Simon Lalong; Senate President Ahmad Lawan; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila; former Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Abdulrahman Danbazzau; Andy Ubah, Governors of Borno, Kebbi and Yobe states, Babagana Zulum, Abubakar Bagudu and Mai Mala Buni, respectively, Punch reported.

The president and his entourage paid homage to Dr Rilwanu Adamu, the Emir of Bauchi, before proceeding to the campaign venue.

HOWEVER, Salisu Ahmad, Director, of Media and Publicity of the Bauchi Gubernatorial Campaign Council of APC, said the president left the campaign venue happily.

“President Muhammadu Buhari smilingly gave APC flag to the party's Governorship candidate Sadique Baba Abubakar. He also raised his hand that of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to a yelling crowd of supporters.

“We took the incident of microphone failure that impedes the President from speaking loudly to the hearing of everybody as a natural electrical failure that could be recorded anywhere in the world. Therefore, to us, it was not a prearranged scenario to mar our campaign.

“Postmortem findings revealed that vehicles overmatched the cables, thus causing damage to it.

“it was evident to anybody who attended the event that Buhari left waving hands to the cheering crowds who turn out en mass to show solidarity to the party's Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, his running mate, Kashim Shetima and Bauchi Governorship candidate, Sadique Baba Abubakar,” he said.

Salisu said the mammoth crowd that turned up for the rally is one that goes down in history books as the most populous, adding that it shows the pedigree of acceptance of APC among people of the state who over the years proved to Nigerians that they are true ‘Buharists.’

He called on other political parties in the state to ensure peaceful electioneering campaigns and polls in the best interest of citizens.

Bauchi Emir Loses Younger Brother

Emir of Bauchi, Alhaji Rilwanu Sulaiman Adamu has lost his younger brother, Ibrahim Suleiman Adamu, to the cold hands of death yesterday.

The deceased, according to family sources was in his early 30s and was the last sibling of late Emir Sulaiman Adamu.

The royal blood died two days earlier but was not discovered until yesterday evening and was buried this night at the Emir's Palace.

Katsina Gov Takes Over N400m from LGAs Account to Welcome Buhari for Campaign

By Usman Babaji

Aminu Bello Masari, the Katsina State Governor took N499,650,000 from local governments treasury to mobilise party supporters in welcoming President Muhammadu Buhari for All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign.

President Buhari and other party bigwigs are expected to be in Katsina to campaign for Bola Tinubu, APC presidential candidate from January 26 to 27.

Governor Masari's approval is contained in a letter addressed to Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, dated January 18, 2023.

According to the letter, the funds are expected to be withdrawn from the Local Government Joint Account and each of the 34 LGs will pocket over N14.6 million.

The letter read: "I am directed to refer to your letter No. S/MLGCA/GEN/259/C/IV of 17 January 2023 and to convey the approval of His Excellency, the Governor for the release of N14,695,588.00 to each of the 34 LGCs totalling N499,650,000.00 (Four Hundred and Ninety-Nine Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira Only) from the available balance of the 34 LGCs in the Local Government Joint Account to enable the LGCs to cater for adequate and effective mobilisation of citizens to receive Mr President during an official visit to Katsina State from 26 to 27 January 2023."

Buhari had on several occasions lamented that local governments had been exposed to unnecessary sufferings by governors, who he often accused of diverting the LGs' allocations from the federation account.

Two months ago, Buhari openly accused the state governors of misappropriating funds meant for the LGs in their respective states when speaking at the Conference Hall of the State House, Abuja, at an event hosted for members of the Senior Executive Course 44 (2022) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru.

The president expressed concern over what he described as governors' unfair treatment of the administration at the local government level.

Business Owners in Gombe Still Accepting Old Notes Amid Scarcity of New Ones

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim

The scarcity of new naira notes is forcing business owners in Gombe State to keep trading with old notes. In October last year, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), revealed its plan to redesign the N200, N500 and N1000 notes.

The apex bank noted concerns about "illicit" funds in circulation, which it said bandits and kidnappers had been exploiting in perpetrating their crimes. It further said it will be introducing the redesigned notes into the financial system on December 15, 2022, and gave January 31, 2023, as the deadline.

However, Nigerians have bemoaned the new naira policy and how it is affecting their day-to-day activities. In Gombe metropolis, businesses have been suffering as the deadline draws closer.

Mohammed Gwani who owns a business centre at the Federal College of Education in Gombe said he had to collaborate with a bank agent to deposit old naira notes at the bank.

Gwani told WikkiTimes he collects old naira notes from his customers unlike his fellow businessmen at the market.

"I have a POS agent who collects the naira notes because he has a direct connection with a banker. So that makes it easier for him to deposit the money without stress," said Gwani. "But this morning he called me to inform me that he no longer accepts old naira notes as well."

Gwani said he will only accept new naira notes from customers henceforth.

Kabiru Mohammed, a fruit seller at Kundulum market told WikkiTimes he has no choice but to accept the old naira notes even though he has no means of depositing them.

"I sell perishable goods as you can see," he said. "How else do you expect me to insist on new naira notes in a local market like this?"

Musa, another shop owner who runs a provision store bemoaned that the new naira notes are not available even at the commercial banks.

He said: "Politicians are the ones hoarding the new naira notes, that is why it is not in circulation.

"There are few POS stations that trade the new notes but it comes with a fee. Although, I am not sure how much they charge."

Another business owner who sells grains, Kawule Hashidu said he still accepts the old notes despite knowing the risks he is taking.

"If I insist on collecting new naira notes, people don't even have it with them. So I will rather take the risk of collecting old notes, he said. "I will go to the bank next Monday which is the deadline and see if I can deposit my money. But if I can't, so be it."

EXCLUSIVE: NAF Jet Bombs Vigilantes Positioned to Repel Bandits' Attack in Niger

By Yunusa Umar

Throughout the week, terrorists locally known as bandits have been invading some communities in Niger unhindered and some local vigilantes making efforts to confront them were killed by mistargeted airstrikes fired by a Nigerian Air Force (NAF) jet.

A discreet source told WikkiTimes that the airstrike killed not less than 30 vigilantes while targeting some terrorists at Galadima Kogo, a village being ransacked by the terror elements.

WikkiTimes learnt that the village was attacked twice this week. This is in addition to some communities in Shiroro and Munya local councils that have been suffering terror attacks since Monday.

The source told us that the terrorists being targeted were en route to Iburo village which is some kilometres away from Galadima Kogo where the airstrike killed the repellent vigilantes. The incident, the source said, happened on Tuesday around 11 am.

"The DSS hunters and the local vigilantes mobilized themselves on Tuesday morning after intelligence information that a large number of bandits were sighted from a village heading to Iburo a village before Galadima Kogo," said the source.

He explained that the vigilantes had posted themselves in some strategic locations to repel the bandits' attack. "But unfortunately, they were killed," he wailed.

THREE AIRSTRIKES FIRED IN SUCCESSION

According to our source, the leader of DSS Hunters had gone to one of the strategic locations where his boys were stationed and was preparing them to launch an offensive against the bandits before the explosives dropped in three successions.



He explained that the terrorists were not able to kidnap any local as they were all scampering for safety.

"About 30 lost their lives. The vigilantes' leader and DSS Hunters were largely affected by the airstrike," the source reaffirmed, adding a political elite of Erena visited the Air force command in Minna to lodge complaint of the incident.

"A pilot contacted on phone admitted that he took out the operation, following a distress call that bandits were at Galadima Kogo and a geocoordinate was given to him before launching the airstrikes," he added.

He said the pilot only saw some people moving with arms and decided to unleash the fireballs on them.

According to the source, the surviving securities officers left the village to camp in Zumba and Gwada town for a while. He decried that the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in the towns are occupied at the moment.

"The Leader (Sarki) of the DSS Hunters was injured too. But what we keep asking is why the wrong information and after the mistake, the aircraft didn't continue serving the bandits as they headed straight to other villages including Kaffin Koro," he noted.

He lamented that the incident was not the first of its kind around the axis, faulting the state government and airforce command to be silent on the incident.

Another source told WikkiTimes he has details of the incident that occurred in the affected communities.

"I was fully updated regarding the explosion because it was a helicopter that killed and injured the people of the community," he said. "The helicopter killed and injured almost about 20 security personnel."

Air Commodore Wapkareem Maigida, the newly appointed spokesman for Nigerian Air Force could not be reached for comment. Also an enquiry sent to the force had not been responded to at press time.

NOT THE FIRST TIME

In August last year, NAF jet killed eight villagers in Kurebe, Shiroro local council. The slain villagers include seven males and one unmarried female. A month before, the force also bombed six minor girls who were orphaned by the bandits.

But the Niger State Government and NAF also countered media reports about the miscalculated bombings. Ahmed Matane, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), described the news as fake. However, an investigation by Premium Times, unveiled how the government silenced the relatives of the slain minors.

NUJ Debate: PDP's Bala Pledges Infrastructure Continuity, APC's Sadique Vows To Revive Education

By Idris Kamal Ibrahim



As the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Bauchi State Council holds a debate for Governorship candidates in the state, Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed of PDP promised to continue delivering infrastructure and life-supporting policies and programmes to the people of the state if reelected.

The Governor said over the last three years of the PDP administration in Bauchi, it is evident that the state saw a tremendous infrastructure revolution cutting across all sectors.

He said at the time his administration came on board in 2019, a baseline study was conducted where data-supported ideas were generated and are being used to drive socio-economic growth and development of the people of the state with visible multiplier results. Bala said the policy thrust of his administration if reelected will be continuity rather than invention having pinpointed the needs and aspirations of the citizens of the state based on a 'multi-dimensional approach.'

"The PDP has been here in Bauchi for the last three and a half years. When we came, we had a baseline study to know where we are, where we want to go and how we will go there.

"We are not just extrapolating or guessing or being presumptuous. Our figures are based on data and information. We are not to malign anybody.

"Our achievements are tangible and measurable. We drew a line from where we took off from a clueless APC administration where everything has deteriorated in terms of services and infrastructure," the governor said.

On his part, the APC gubernatorial candidate, Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar (retired) said if elected Bauchi State Governor in March, his administration will place a premium emphasis and attention on revitalizing the education sector of the state.

He said it is unacceptable that Bauchi accounts for the highest number of out-of-school children in the country. Sadique said governance is about human beings, therefore, there is a need to bridge the gap between the government and the governed.

"An APC government will create an enabling environment where the citizens will have the sense of ownership of governance itself. Governance is about humanity.

"Currently what we have is a wide gap between those in positions of leadership and those that they are leading. Governance is about providing answers to fundamental problems of society," he said.

Speaking, PRP Governorship candidate, Umar Farouk Gwadabe said if elected, he will pay special emphasis to fight corruption and budget embezzlement.

He said the rate at which food production stood in Bauchi, is unacceptable given the vast expanse of land that the state has.

The debate was organised by the NUJ in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and Nigeria Medical Association (NMA).

Cholera Kills 42 Persons In Bauchi

By Idris Kanmal Ibrahim

In the year that Bauchi State saw the most devastating flood, Cholera has claimed the lives of 42 persons in the state in 2022.

Mr Sukumun Ezekiel, the Programme Manager of the Women Development Association for Self-Sustenance (WODASS), disclosed this during a Bauchi State Emirate Council meeting on Health.

He said of the 2,874 persons hospitalized for Cholera, Bauchi Local Government account for the highest casualties with 2,185 persons being affected representing about 77 percent of the overall reported Cholera cases.

The Programme Manager said Toro LGA recorded 212 cholera cases within the period while Dass and Tafawa local government areas had about 100 cases each.

Mr Sukumun said of the 20 local government areas of Bauchi State, it was only Bogoro that did not report a confirmed cholera case.

He said Cholera has been on the rise nationwide since the beginning of the year, with 74 deaths reported so far by NCDC, said children below five years are the most affected by this life-threatening and primarily waterborne disease which thrives in places with poor hygiene and sanitation.

He pointed out that beyond health implications, cholera also has a socio-economic impact, including affecting productivity, work-related activities and income/finances.

In order to curb future cholera outbreaks, Mr Sukumun said that the scope of the hygiene behaviour change campaign to include hygiene education needs to be widened.

Mr Sukumun Ezekiel further explained that hygiene education should focus on key behaviours such as respiratory hygiene, hand washing, physical distancing, safe excreta disposal, water storage and COVID-19 vaccine uptake.

He also called for the routine provision of sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in communities and LGAS with poor access, especially those with endemic trends.

CBN Takes Cash Swap To Bauchi Rural Communities

By Idris Kanmal Ibrahim

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has taken new Naira notes swap to rural communities in Bauchi State to help replace the old Naira notes in possession of people where access to banks is difficult.

The move is coming as the 31st January deadline the apex bank dished out for the use of the old Naira notes as legal tender in the country draws nearer.

Hassan Yunusa Yole, Deputy Director CBN Bauchi, said this in Darazo, the headquarters of Darazo local government area of the state during an inspection of the cash swap drive of the apex bank across the state.

Bauchi Cattle Dealers Bemoan Alleged Fraudulent POS Operators, Seek CBN's Intervention

The Deputy Director said CBN embarked on this cash swap exercise to bring the new naira notes closer to the people at the grassroots ahead of the deadline.

He said as the nation's financial regulating body, the CBN has come up with this initiative to sensitize the public on the importance of the new naira notes to avert any possible financial losses on the side of members of the public.

The Deputy Director said already the CBN is currently undertaking the cash swap across the country, for the new naira notes to be circulated in the hands of the public in good time.

He, however, enjoined people of Darazo local government areas, to use all commercial banks or point of sales centres nearby, for financial transactions.

Alhaji Hassan Yunusa, who is in charge of the North East Cash Swap Exercise, expressed satisfaction with the massive turnout the stressed the need for the public, to evacuate their money to any commercial banks to provide all the necessary support and cooperation, for the success of the exercise.

The CBN's cash swap involving old naira notes in exchange for the redesigned currencies allows rural dwellers to swap N10,000.

For Having No Bank Account, Niger Family Rejects Old Naira Notes Bride Price

By Babaji Usman

Because they do not have an account with any of Nigeria's commercial banks, a family in Gbako local government area of Niger State has rejected an undisclosed amount of bride price for their daughter paid in old N1000 note.

While the wedding preparation continues, the bride's family insisted it will not accept the bride price paid in old Naira note because businesses in the community are refusing the old notes in commercial transactions.

Daily Trust reports that money was meant to cater for other necessities needed for the wedding.

"We took money to the family of the girl we want to marry. They called me on Sunday to come and take the old currency notes back pending when we have the new naira notes. They said they don't have anywhere to change the old notes. So, I want to take it to the bank pending when we get the new notes," a family member of the groom-to-be said.

WikkiTimes recalls that the CBN had issued a January 31st deadline for the use of old N1000, N500 and N200 notes following redesigning of the currencies.

Kano Mother Dissolves Marriage, Weds Daughter's Suitor

One Malama Khadija, a resident of Rano local government area of Kano State has ended her marriage and married the suitor of daughter.

The woman resolved to go for the man who was about to be her son-in-law after her daughter, Aisha rejected him.

She said after careful consultations with Islamic clerics in Kano, it became apparent to her that Islam does not prohibit such acts, hence she wasted no further time and go for the man.

Malama Khadija said she now leaves happily with her new husband, adding that it would have been a great catastrophe to let the man go

Malama Khadija's uncle, Abdullahi Musa Rano, said they refused to allow her to marry the man because she deliberately dissolved her first marriage in order to marry her daughter's suitor who was not qualified to be her husband.

He explained that "She mounted pressure on her husband to divorce her just to marry the man. We can't do this shameful thing in our family which was why we refused to join them in marriage. We are not happy with what Hisbah did and we are reporting to bring out our daughter. We want the general commandant and the state government to look into the matter."

Emir of Katagum Demands Improved Circulation Of New Naira Notes

The emir of Katagum, Umar Kabir II has tasked the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ensure increased circulation of redesigned Naira notes to all nooks and crannies of the country before the January 31st deadline.

The emir said this when he received a delegation of the CBN at his palace on a courtesy visit on Saturday.

Kabir II warned that failure to release the quantity of the new notes required to be in circulation may plunge people into hunger and destitution.

The emir said that the policy is not new and nations of the world change their currencies almost every decade so as to improve their economies.

He assured the CBN of his determination to summon all his district heads with a view to ensuring that the apex bank's deadline is well communicated to their subjects.

Speaking, the Director of Medical Services of the CBN, Dr Abdulkadir Jibrin informed the emir that the Central Bank of Nigeria after wide consultation reviewed the policy and will now exchange old notes with new ones for low-income earners.

redesigned naira notes.



IPC Picks WikkiTimes, Others for 2023 Election Monitoring

By Yakubu Mohammed

The International Press Centre (IPC) has selected WikkiTimes, a Bauchi-based data and accountability platform and four others to join 20 media houses that would monitor the 2023 elections.

WikkiTimes, Qualitative Magazine, Next Edition, PenPushing and IKENGA would join other 15 platforms that had been selected for the exercise.

The centre's Executive Director, Dr Lanre Arogundade, disclosed this in Abuja on Tuesday during stakeholders' Roundtable on Media Monitoring Report On Election Coverage of 2023.

Arogundade stated that the roundtable was in furtherance of the objectives of Component 4: Support to Media of EU-SDGNII Project being implemented by the IPC and the Institute for Media and Society [IMS] to enhance the role of the Nigerian media in promoting democratic governance through Fair, Accurate, Ethical and Inclusive Coverage of Electoral Processes and Elections in Nigeria.

He noted that the scope of activities under the project; which include improving the capability of journalists to give issue-focused, factually accurate and conflict-sensitive reporting of elections and the use of media engagements on countering disinformation and misinformation; are designed to ensure that journalists and their news media apply ethics, professionalism and inclusivity in their work.



According to him, the Nigerian Media Code Of Election Coverage (Revised Edition 2022), had been amended and improved with an emphasis on curbing disinformation and misinformation, to ensure the credibility of electoral information.

In light of this, the centre urged the government, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political parties and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to help provide an enabling environment for the media to perform its functions during elections. Similarly, law enforcement and security agencies were enjoined to ensure safety and protection of journalists covering the election.

Arogundade explained that monitoring helps to measure the amount of professionalism, ethical compliance and access to parties and candidates, especially in the context of the guidelines relating to media's role in elections; which include the Electoral Law, statutory regulations such as the Nigeria Broadcasting Code and self-regulatory like the Media Code of Election Coverage.

“In view of the importance of the exercise, IPC has over the election cycles always monitored media coverage and reportage of elections,” he said. “Over a two-year period under EU-SDGNI, from May 2018 to April 2020, it monitored media coverage of the 2019 elections by twelve print and online newspapers. These were: The Punch, The Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, ThisDay, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation, Leadership, Daily Trust, Blueprint (online), The Cable (online) and Premium Times (online).”

According to him, results of the 2019 monitoring exercise facilitated the design and the approach of the current monitoring exercise for the upcoming 2023 elections.

As a result, the number of print and online newspapers was increased to fifteen from twelve, consisting of 10 print newspapers — Punch, The Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, ThisDay, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation, Leadership, Daily Trust, and Daily Independent — and four online newspapers namely: The Cable, the Premium Times, Eagle Online, RealNews and Authority.

WikkiTimes and the other four outlets earlier mentioned made the number 20. They were considered “based on feedback from the field.”

In addition, a reward system has been launched under the current exercise, says the centre. It notes that news media that excel in the coverage of the issues of women, youths and persons with disability (in terms of the volume of reports and the prominence given to the reports), shall be recognized and presented with awards every quarter of the year. The winners for the first quarter (October to December 2022) will be announced soon, it says.

In her remarks, Professor Abigail Ogwezzy-Ndisika presented a review of the media monitoring report on coverage of the 2023 electoral process stating that the report was part of 18-month media monitoring activity involving the examination of the trends in print/online media coverage of the 2023 electoral/democratic governance process including the reportage of post-election issues, campaigns by candidates/political parties; issues of the elections/voting; and post-election/democratic accountability issues.

Ten print newspapers (Punch, The Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, ThisDay, Nigerian Tribune, The Nation, Leadership, Daily Trust, and Daily Independent) and four online newspapers (The Cable, the Premium Times, Eagle Online, and RealNews) were sampled and monitored. Also monitored were the News Portal (website) and the Twitter handles of Nigeria’s election management body, INEC.

Laptops, Hard Drives, Other Valuables Missing in MRA’s Burgled Office

Properties worth two million naira including nine laptops, hard drives and other equipment were carted away when unknown burglars broke into the office of Media Rights Agenda (MRA) in Lagos. MRA, a non-governmental platform that defends media freedom and access to information says the invasion took place over the weekend.

In a statement signed by its communication officer, Idowu Adewale, on Monday, MRA’s Head of Legal Department, Ms. Obioma Okonkwo, described the incident “shocking and frightening.”

Okonkwo said MRA was still trying to determine whether the action was simply a robbery incident or a more sinister effort to cripple MRA’s operations or access its records and information since only laptop computers and other digital tools and equipment were taken away.

She explained that the incident took place sometime between the evening of Saturday and Sunday morning where the intruders gained access into the office, climbing over a side fence and cutting through the ceiling to enter one of the offices on the upper floor.

Okonkwo noted that the intruders also took away external hard drives used by MRA, Internet modems and routers, some documents and petty cash, noting that the organization was not ruling out the possibility that they were not burglars and

that their primary objective was MRA’s information and communication devices as there were many other valuable assets in the office that were not stolen.

“Although it is not clear why our office was raided and what the motivation might have been,” she said. “We are obviously concerned about the fact that such a large number of laptop computers as well as hard drives and other communication devices were taken while other valuable assets were left untouched.”

She continued: “Whatever the motive behind this attack on us, we will not relent in our work of promoting and defending media freedom, freedom of expression and access to information in Nigeria and elsewhere.”

However, MRA says it has reported the incident to the police.

Police Confirm One Killed As Sara-Suka Thugs Clash in Bauchi

By Yawale Adamu

Police in Bauchi has said that a clash between two warring groups of notorious thugs locally known as Sara Suka boys in Wunti market, Bauchi has claimed the life of one Musa Shadow.

WikkiTimes learnt that the two warring groups of Bashir Bakaji of Nassarawa/Bakin Kura and Musa Shadow Jaja were engaged in a verbal exchange of words before it turns into a violent one.

Confirming the incident in a statement issued in Bauchi, the Bauchi State Police Command PPRO, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakili said it was Bashir Bakaji that mobilized ten of these boys armed with dangerous weapons and attacked Musa Shadow in Wunti market, Bauchi Town.

”On 21st January 2023 intelligence at the Command disposal reveals that one Ahmad Bashir “m” A.K.A Bakaji of Nassarawa ward Bauchi criminally conspired and mobilized ten (10) of his thugs (Sara-suka) members armed with dangerous weapons all of Nassarawa ward Bauchi and Bakin Kura respectively, attacked one Abdullahi Musa “m” A.K.A shadow of Jaja ward Bauchi now deceased at Wunti market Bauchi.

“After a little altercation between them which led to engaging in fighting in the process the said Ahmad Bashir stabbed the said Abdullahi Musa with a sharp knife on his back, as a result, he fell unconscious,” the statement read in part.

Wakil added that on receiving the information, a team of detectives attached to Area Command Metro arrived at the scene, and evaluated the victim to ATBU Teaching Hospital Bauchi for immediate attention but pronounced dead by a medical doctor, saying “the prime suspect (Ahmad Bashir) was arrested on the 24th of January, 2023 after hiding for days. Meanwhile, an effort is intensified to arrest his cohorts to face the full wrath of the law.”

Kano Police Arrests Kidnapper Trying to Bribe Officer

By Yawale Adamu

Kano State Police Command claims a suspected kidnapper, Alhaji Bamuwa Umaru, was arrested while trying to bribe its operative with N1 million to secure get his colleague out of detention.

The suspect who hails from Shika town in Sabon Gari local council, Kaduna State was aid to have approached the Officer in Charge of the command’s Anti-Kidnapping Squad, Aliyu Mohammed with the bribe to bail a Zamafara-based kidnapper, Yusuf Ibrahim.

Spokesman for the command, Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, said the police officer “rejected” the bride and arrested Bamuwa, who later confessed to being a member of a kidnapping gang that terrorized locals in Sheme, Yankara, Kucheri and Faskari local areas of Katsina and Zamfara States. According to a press statement by Kiyawa, Yusuf was earlier arrested at a motor park by Kano police operatives after he was identified by a driver whom he had kidnapped and collected N500,000 ransom before releasing him.

The statement read: “On 16th December 2022 at about 1400hrs, one Alhaji Bamuwa Umaru, ‘m’, 62 years old, of Shika town, Sabon Gari LGA.

Kaduna State approached the Officer in Charge of Anti-Kidnapping Squad, State Criminal Investigation Department, Kano State Command, SP Aliyu Mohammed and offered him the sum of One Million Naira (N1,000,000:00) as bribe to secure the release of one Yusuf Ibrahim, ‘m’, 27 years old, of Danjibga Village, Tsafe LGA, Zamfara State, a suspected kidnapper arrested at

“Yusuf Ibrahim was arrested by a team of Operation Restore Peace led by CSP Usman Abdullahi, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Rijiyar Zaki Division Kano after he was identified by a driver they kidnapped along Funtuwa-Gusau Road, and collected the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000:00) as ransom before his release.

“He further confessed that their syndicate members killed about Ten (10) of their kidnapped victims, and he alone killed Two (2) of the victims.”

Kiyawa stated that the suspect would be arraigned in court after investigations.

Rijiyar Zaki Motor Park Kano.

Weekly Bauchi Livestock Market Scanty Over Fears of Trading in Old Notes

By Usman Babaji

Yesterday was supposed to be a busy day in Mararaban Liman Katagum, a Bauchi suburb hosting a weekly livestock market that operates on Thursdays. But the market was scanty unlike its atmosphere in the previous weeks, WikkiTimes' Babaji Usman observes.

Local traders who deal in livestock at the market have deserted the market over fears of trading with old notes which are still much in circulation despite the fast-approaching deadline to get rid of them.

During yesterday's market day, both the livestock section and other shops were crowd-free as the deadline for old naira notes sparks reaction across the country.

Godwin Emefiele, Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had reiterated that the January 31 deadline remains sacrosanct had no intention to extend it.

The CBN Governor announced this in a media briefing after the apex bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held a meeting in Abuja on Tuesday.

The new notes N1,000, N500 and N200 were launched by President Muhammadu Buhari as part of the federal government's plan to implement the cashless policy in Nigeria. But the given deadline is taking tolls on business activities across the country, according to media report.

Hashimu Isa, Chairman of Cattle Dealers Association in the Mararaba market told WikkiTimes that the new naira notes are not in circulation for the deadline to stand.



He pleaded with the government to reconsider the date, explaining that a larger proportion of villagers have huge amounts of the old currencies and don't have access to the new notes.

Saleh Gambo, a trader who sells goats said from the time the policy was announced about two months ago, several businessmen were in a panic, "but it became worse when the deadline was approaching and they insisted on it."

Gambo explained that he came to the market to observe the situation without any plan to buy or sell anything at his disposal. "I will not do anything these days, I will observe the situation till next week because I am afraid of the consequences," he said.

In many places, marketers are lamenting the stiffness of the policy and how it affects common men and the country's economy at large.

Previous pictures of market days could give one a clear definition of how the deadline negatively affects businesses in the market.

With N100 Note, 50-Year-Old Man, 5 Others Gang-Rape Preteenager In Bauchi

By Usman Babaji

The Bauchi State Police Command has confirmed that its operatives have arrested six persons suspected to have gang-raped a 12-year-old girl in Yayu, a community in Katagum local government area of the state.

Rape has been pronounced a capital offence in Bauchi after Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed assented to Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) into law in the state last year. The law provides the death penalty for rape suspects if found guilty.

SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, the Spokesperson of the command in Bauchi stated this in a statement on Friday, pointing out that a 50-year-old Abubakar Bello, Idris Sarkin Ruwa, 50, Mustapha Kawu, 40, Idriss Yakubu, 40, Nasiru Dalhatu, 40, Mustapha Kawu, 40, and 37-year old Abubakar Jallaba all residents of Yayu village in Katagum local government of the state lured the victims before raping her.

He said following a discreet investigation by the Gender Unit attached to the command's Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), the suspects confessed to having on different occasions enticed the little girl with monetary gifts ranging from N100 to N200 naira "and having canal knowledge of her."

Wakil explained that the case was referred from the Lower sharia court, Yayu community on January 18th for discreet investigation regarding the girl who according to the statement, was raped on different occasions.

The police spokesperson identified rape as a capital offence and also against humanity that contravened section 283 of the penal code, Section 1(2a-c) of the VAPP ACT of Bauchi state which prescribes the punishment for Rape.

He added that during the investigation, the detectives uncovered all facts and point to establish a prima-facie case against the accused persons respectively.

WikkiTimes recalls that while signing the VAPP bill into law, governor Bala said, "Though it is going to be a tough decision to sign a death warrant, but we will have no option other than to do just that because it behoves us to ensure that justice was served."

NASS Demands Six Months Deadline For Old Naira Notes

By Idris Kanmal Ibrahim

Following an outcry over the January 31st deadline the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) issued for use of old Naira notes as legal tender in the country, the National Assembly (NASS) has asked the apex bank to add six months to the initial deadline given to allow Nigerians gradually take the old notes to banks.

The National Assembly said numerous Nigerians will lose a lot of money should the CBN go ahead with the January 31st deadline, arguing that the new notes are not sufficient in circulation, thus posing danger to the already ailing economy.

Senator Ali Ndume, APC Borno South, said the new notes are not sufficient enough in circulation to support the economic life of the nation at the moment, hence the need for additional time to allow the new notes to trickle into the economy.

"Apart from the new N1000 note, I have not seen other denominations printed as part of the new notes," He said.

On the other hand, the House of Representatives said if the new Naira notes policy meant for the country is to be implemented successfully, the CBN must consider the plight and cries of Nigerians.

The Lower Chamber said it is concerned about the refusal of some businesses in the country to accept the old Naira notes in commercial transactions, while banks are complaining about the lack of new Naira notes dispense to customers.

The House requested President Muhammadu Buhari intervene in the matter to find a quick solution to it.

The lawmakers established a committee to meet with the Governor of the Central Bank, Godwin Emefiele and other directors of banks regarding the complaints over the lack of new Naira currencies.

Earlier today, the governor of the CBN said the apex bank will not shift its ground on the January 31st deadline it allowed for the use of old N1000, N500 and N200 notes as legal tender in the country following redesigning of the notes.

OPINION

Argentina and Brazil's Uniform Currency, Lessons for Africa

Adamu Muhammad Hamid, PhD

Brazil and Argentina, giants of Latin America, recently finalized arrangements to adopt a single currency. According to reports, this move came as their strategy to strengthen regional economic cooperation and reduce the reliance of Latin America on dollar. Simply put, a single or uniform currency is when a number of countries join their currencies into one currency operational in their territorial domains. The main example of this is the introduction of the Euro by the European Union. The common currency was conceived for trade in the two countries, and it is hoped to be adopted by other countries in the region. Though the two countries have decided on the move, details about the methodology are blurry. Argentine President Alberto Fernandez said it was not yet clear how the sole currency could function in the region but Brazil's President Lula da Sylva and he agreed that depending on foreign currencies for trade was harmful.

Brazil's Finance Minister Fernando Haddad said the adoption of a common currency was not designed to replace the Brazilian real or the Argentine peso. And he reportedly added that the conceived currency is yet to have a name or deadline, nor would the two countries seek a monetary unification that is of euro-style. One wonders what these statements mean.

Experts highlight that it took European countries decades to reach a point where member states became satisfied that they were ready to proceed with a common currency. And even after adopting the common currency, the process went through a sustained period of coordination and high level alignments in macroeconomic policies. There are arguments for and against the adoption of single currency in a region, and below are some of the issue which the two countries may grapple with.

When the common currency is finally adopted, the participating countries in South America would reap enormous advantages. For example, the costs of converting currencies will be Eliminated. Inter-currency conversion between real and peso or between both currencies and the dollar has a cost for individuals and firms. A single currency for the two countries will remove these costs, thereby easing and increasing volume of trade. The move will also increase price transparency. Prices in different currencies are usually difficult to compare. Common

example is that individuals often travel around with a calculator to check the price of something in another country. If everything is in the same currency, price comparison is straightforward. This would promote economic cohesion between the countries. The adoption of common currency will also increase competition and efficiency. A single currency encourages greater competition as there is greater transparency in prices; they are made to go down, thereby increasing efficiency as firms are forced to remain competitive.

Other relative advantages are that single currency leads to increased inward investment. Europe had the greatest story to tell when they adopted the Euro. As countries adopt a single currency, it adds up to the possibility of increased inward investment from the rest of the world into Europe. They had less need for investment outside of their territories. Common currency has also the capacity for the elimination of exchange rate uncertainty. One of the problems associated with trading with other countries is that you never know which way the exchange rate will move. It may move in your favour, and sometimes negatively against you. A single currency gets rid of all this uncertainty within the single currency zone, and should encourage trade (within the zone). As uncertainty reduces, associated risks are also lessened. Further, single currency promotes trade Improvements. When transaction cost in cross-border businesses are eliminated in using a single currency, this leads to increased trade among nations. Going by these benefits, Brazil and Argentina would realize an economic potential against external forces on their economies never experienced before.

The above attendant advantages cannot just be considered as given. The two economies must work hard and persevere associated teething problems.

They must also work against the following odds which are some of the dysfunctions of common currency adoption. First, the two countries are likely to lose financial autonomy. Loss of financial autonomy by individual countries is imminent and both countries will have to be subjected to one monetary policy, which would likely lead to policy decisions capable of benefiting one country at the expense of the other. Again, one policy may have different effects on the individual countries.

Differing policy effects result even when countries are uniform. It is possible that a single policy will have different effects on different countries. For example, a much larger proportion of people own their own houses in the UK than the people in many other European countries. This makes the UK much more reliant on mortgage lending. A change in interest rates may then have a different effect on the UK from other countries. Single currency may also result in External Shocks. External economic shocks may have adverse effect on countries. A close example could be a rapid rise in oil prices or the adverse effect of corona pandemic. This may affect different countries in different ways, depending on how strong a country is. There is also the tendency for Transition costs – moving into a single currency economic union involves short term transition costs (which would disappear once the new currency was fully established). For example, new money has to be issued and the old withdrawn. As experienced in Europe, uniform currency led to loss of jobs. Foreign exchange departments may shrink in some financial institutions and other related businesses. If this happens many citizens are going to lose jobs.

Having discussed briefly the pros and cons of the adoption of a single currency by Brazil and Argentina, the question that comes to mind is, is the move likely to succeed? First, it is difficult to believe Argentina and Brazil would actually move in the direction of common currency given the discrepancies in their economies at the stage now. Blanco, head of Americas at risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft, described the talks on unifying the currency as “a “flamboyant” announcement designed “to bring major attention to an otherwise inconsequential” regional summit. As it is now, neither Brazil nor Argentina is enjoying the political or economic conditions necessary to provide smooth ground to such a fundamental shift, which would accordingly take decades to roll out effectively. Despite the seeming accompanying advantages, it is rather difficult for Africa to contemplate single currency. It is difficult for Africa or any region in the continent to implement common currency majorly due to poor institutional quality or weak institutions.

In Europe where common currency was implemented, it is a region characterized by strong institutions that work.

Institutions able to provide conditions conducive for a major shift such as adoption of common currency would have to be strong and virile. Financial institutions in Africa literally serve the whims and caprices of strong individuals. Majority of African countries lack functional systems. Their central banks aren't capable of developing and pursuing currency policies that work. The Central Bank of Nigeria is currently battling with the systemic failure of the implementation of currency redesign.

Another important factor on the way between Africa and the implementation of single currency is poor democratic principles. The weak democracies are emasculated and asphyxiated of producing the right leaders to develop policies and implement them. The weak democracy has just been producing inept rulers who think of themselves as bigger than the institutions of their countries. Examples abound where leaders do not respect agreements within their countries, much less of agreements or pacts among countries in a regional cooperation or policy. The regional volume of trade which is the major purpose of common currency is also likely to be a mirage because of African countries' over-dependence on import from Europe and Asia. In addition, most of the economies in Africa are unstructured. The changing balance of output, trade, employment, etc. are not drawn from different economic sectors (primary, secondary or tertiary). Common currency does not flourish in monolithic economies. So, though there are lessons to learn from Argentina-Brazil's bold attempt at unifying their currency, in Africa we must first address the overweening weakness in our system before contemplating anything economically dramatic but useful.

Buhari Came to Bauchi, Asks for My Votes for Tinubu and Sadique: I Promise to Give Him and Here's Why You Should Give Him Too

By Saad Umar

Giving president Buhari what he asks for, on Monday, January 23, 2023 in Bauchi – our votes for Tinubu, Sadique and Shehu Buba et al – is the way of Allah. Here's why. We read in the Qur'an, the 106th Surah and Ma'un before it, how Allah asked the Quraysh to worship Him for the favours He bestowed upon them.

Part of the favours Allah bestowed upon the Quraysh were 1) He defended them against and destroyed the invading Elephant Army of Abraha and 2) He kept them safe, free from fear.

Hence, for 1 and 2 above, Allah asked the Quraysh to worship Him thus: "Fal ya'buduu Rabba haazal Bait" as a token of their gratitude.

Buhari learnt lessons from the two cited Surahs and did something similar to Bauchi State. He protected us from the repeated attacks of murderous barbarians and removed the clouds of fear that hovered over our heads. Below is a reminder.

Buhari came in, in 2015, when we were gripped by fear. Fear of Boko Haram. Fear of bomb blast. Fear of death – miserable death. Fear of loss of limbs. Fear of loss of property. The fear was so palpable that we feared ourselves. We feared our brothers. We feared our neighbours. We feared our guests – and we were known to be the most hospitable lot.

Places of worship were barricaded. We couldn't get into the mosque without being screened with a metal detector. Oh yes, we were that frightened.

Do you remember? Alas, we have short memories. And the PDP, under whose watch we endured those dark days want us not to remember. Well, we will never forget.



How can we, when we were hit hard, so close. The lives of our loved ones were ripped apart. Many souls, near and dear, were incinerated by the raging blaze of barbarous bomb blasts.

One of such bomb blasts rocked the Bauchi Central market in the evening of Monday, December 22, 2014. The Nation, amid manymedia outlets, reported the then Chairman of the market, Alh Adamu Musa Noma saying the bomb burnt 78 shops, destroyed goods worth over ₦1 billion, maimed many men and slew somesinless souls: not less than ten.

On that ill-fated evening, among the dead, there she laid asleep, our sister in-law, the beautiful spouse of our younger sibling. For privacy purposes, I will not mention their names here. Our sisterdied and gone forever with another tiny beautiful soul in her womb. She left behind two little kids; orphaned by the misrule and wickedness of the PDP.

She went to the market that day to buy some stuffs she needed on her way to Gombe where her hubby was working at. They never meet again. How can I and the victims forget this so easily? Sadly, the PDP wants us to. We will never forget.

Before the Central market bomb blast, there was another explosion at Bayan Gari.

This occurred on Friday June 27, 2014 around 10pm. At least ten persons were killed and another fourteen people were injured according to police sources as reported by the Vanguard of June 28, 2014.

Similarly, on June 4, 2012 News Agency of Nigeria reported that a car bomb driven by a suicide bomber targeted the Harvest Field of Christ Church, Yelwa, Bauchi killing at least nine people and injuring 40 others.

These brutal bomb attacks were not limited to Bauchi town. Azare, the second largest city in the state, was not spared either. The hitherto serene city recorded quite a number of attacks under the watchful eyes of the then PDP government.

On October 23, 2014, a motor park in Azare was attacked with a big bomb which killed many people and destroyed property worth millions of Naira as reported by the TheCable.

Cont. reading [here](#)