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How APC's Unlawful Jagaban Army Threatens Peaceful Elections

By Yakubu Mohammed

They called themselves “Jagaban Army”. Led by Dayo Israel, the national youth leader of All Progressives Congress who named himself the chief of army staff of Jagaban army commanding their so-called foot soldiers of more than 3,000 persons who would work to secure the victory of the party's presidential candidate, Bola Tinubu.

But the bits and pieces of the Jagaban army violate the provisions of the electoral act, WikkiTimes can report.

The seemingly paramilitary group of nearly 4,000 members spread across the country was inaugurated in Kaduna last month.

The APC youth leader, Israel described himself as: “The Wing Marshal of the APC national youth wing and chief of army staff of the Jagaban army.”

Since their inauguration, the foot soldiers have been engaging in several activities, like canvassing for votes, inducing prospective voters and harassing citizens as seen in a video obtained by WikkiTimes.

Israel in a video posted on Twitter said the foot soldiers arrested a woman who tore Tinubu's poster.

“Jagaban soldier [sic] makes citizen arrest on APC poster destroyer,” he tweeted. “Criminals released with caution to go and sin no more. Our soldiers are on guard everywhere. We will not allow you steal our mandate.”

“A citizen of Nigeria cannot arrest another citizen for simple offences or misdemeanours,” said Abba Hikima Fagge, a Kano-based lawyer. “A citizen can only arrest a citizen for a misdemeanour only at night.”

“Removing a poster is a form of simple offence in which the Jagaban army shouldn't have arrested the lady. In fact, they were not only trying to arrest her, but to assault her,” Fagge said.

WikkiTimes observes that the group's activities violate section 92, subsections 5 & 6 of the Electoral Act.

Subsection five of the act reads: “A political party, aspirant or candidate of a political party shall not retain, organize, train or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting any political objective or interest, or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organized, trained or equipped for that purpose.”

“A political party, aspirant or candidate shall not keep or use armed private security organisation, vanguard or any other group or individual by whatever name called for the purpose of providing security, assisting or aiding the political party or candidate in whatever manner during campaigns, rallies, processions or elections,” a part of the section read.

Jide Ojo, a public affairs analyst told WikkiTimes that the group should not have been allowed to be inaugurated in the first place.

When it comes to election security, it is within the purview of the security agencies,” Ojo said, making a reference to a Punch report revealing that the police received about N64 billion for the 2023 elections.

Ojo wondered whether the police were aware of the group's inauguration in Kaduna, adding that the commissioner of police in Kaduna State ought to have cautioned the party that such a group is illegal.

He pointed out that the creation of the Jagaban army did not only violate the electoral act but also section 227 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended) which cautioned against the use of quasi-military groups.

“No association shall retain, organize, train or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting any political objective or interest or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organized and trained or equipped for that purpose,” reads section 227 of the country's amended constitution.

Ojo explained that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), since 2015, has a standing committee known as the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security. According to him, the committee has several security agencies ranging from Nigeria Police Force and Nigerian Army to Economic Financial and Crime Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, among others.

“These agencies should have been aware that the group contradicts some sections of the electoral act as well the constitution and should have called for the disbandment of the Jagaban Army,” Ojo said. “Even by choice of the name — Jagaban Army — it is frightening. You are not allowed to use a private army or private militia for whatever.”

Abba Hikima Fagge, the Kano-based lawyer, shares similar views with Ojo. He believes that the Jagaban army's operations are wrong, especially its name.

“A common and every serious Nigerian believes that they mean army in its strict sense,” he said. “Even by the way they dress, I could see their leaders; they were dressed in attires that looked like a security agency's uniform.”

Apart from the electoral act, Fagge noted that the group, by its members' dressing, violated sections 7 & 8 of the Public Order Act.

“You cannot just wear a uniform that could cause apprehension. Also, you cannot hold flags except a certain one that has been approved,” he said.

Fagge called upon the police to look into the group's activities. “According to section 7 of the Public Order Act, it is only the commissioner of police in each state that can ban them from wearing the uniform which appears offensive or likely to breach public peace and order,” he noted.

Meanwhile, the spokesman for Nigeria Police Force, Olumuyiwa Adejobi told WikkiTimes that the force had received some petitions via its official email address, adding that they had been forwarded to the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

“I will need to find out the position of the petitions so that I have better information on the development,” Adejobi said.

Debo Ologunagba, the spokesman for Atiku Abubakar, presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party, said the party would soon address the public on the illegality of the Jagaban army.

He pointed out that the party had earlier reacted to the creation of the group. “But we will look at this particular aspect and address the public,” he said.

Aziza Uko, spokesperson for Labour Party's Peter Obi and Femi Fani Kayode, spokesman for Tinubu did not respond to requests for comment.

Dayo Israel, the leader of the Jagaban army, also declined to comment.

This report was published with support from Civic Media Lab.

Naira Redesign: Keyamo Slams Buhari, Says President's Action Amounts to Contempt

By Hafsa Mohammed Ibrahim



The Minister of State, Labour and Employment, Festus Keyamo has condemned President Muhammadu Buhari's latest decision on the naira redesign policy.

Keyamo noted that the president, by disregarding the supreme court's order, committed a contempt.

President Muhammadu Buhari while addressing the nation yesterday, directed the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to allow only old N200 notes remain legal tender until April 10, 2023.

Buhari stated that his recent order would improve currency circulation in the country and ease pains experienced by Nigerians due to the decision to retire some denominations of the old banknotes after they were redesigned.

Speaking on Channels TV this evening, Keyamo, a renowned human rights activist alleged that Buhari was deceived about the whole policy.

According to him, the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is playing on Nigerians' emotions by conjuring up a behavioral experiment to rile up the people against the government and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). "In most civilized societies, that's actually treason because if you engage in any act ...remember the Water Gate Scandal..." he said.

Keyamo noted that PDP has been criticizing Buhari overtime, but only to wake up during the naira redesign policy to start praising the president.

"PDP came up from no where and started praising Buhari because the policy in place is designed to harm the opponents," the minister added.

He alleged that PDP in attempt to harm one man, do not care to see Nigerians suffering.

Keyamo noted that Tinubu has no government's support in his ambition, adding that the APC presidential candidate relies on Nigerians to attain the position.

Keyamo refuted claims that many politicians and governors had stashed new notes to buy votes.

He confidently said "nobody wants to buy vote", saying the claims were mere lies.

According to him, the governors of APC are concerned about the sufferings of Nigerians.

Referring to a statement made by Alhassan Doguwa, Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, Keyamo reiterated the APC lawmaker's words saying an aspirant needs about N70 million for electoral processes.

In light of this, Keyamo said with a legal-backed N70 million for an aspirant, no one needs to launder money for vote-buying.

'Paid Protesters' — Northern CSOs Begs Buhari to Ignore Calls to Sack EFCC Boss

By Babaji Usman Babaji

Conference of Northern States Civil Society Networks has enjoined President Muhammad Buhari to ignore some "paid protesters" calling for the removal of Abdulrasheed Bawa, Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The civil group passed a vote of confidence Bawa's leadership, claiming it is always willing to help the commission's anti-graft crusade.

This was disclosed during a press conference in Kano yesterday.

Ambassador Ibrahim A. Waiya, President, Kano Civil Society Forum, claimed that the protesters calling for Bawa's removal were sponsored by a state governor who alongside members of his family were involved in an alleged corruption.

His words: "We, the members of the Conference of Northern States Civil Society Networks, wish to encourage the leadership of EFCC to continue on its current path of chasing the corrupt elements in and within the power irrespective of tribe, religion and region to rid our country of corruption, and to bring them to book.

"And we equally encourage the Commission to continue to uphold the best practices of professionalism and neutrality, and also to implore the Commission to continue to remain focused and should not allow itself to be distracted by noisemakers and politically motivated sentiments. While EFCC currently focuses keenly on ensuring effective trail and arrest of currency speculators and those who stashed funds for illicit purposes, we call on the attention of EFCC leadership to be alert on the after-currency naira redesigned effects, to avoid hoarding of the new notes and other misgivings by financial institutions and politicians across the country.

"We wish to call on President Muhammad Buhari to disregard and completely ignore the calls for the sack of the EFCC chairman by the paid protesters as it is being sponsored by a State Governor that himself and immediate family members are enmeshed in alleged corruption.

"We wish to categorically state that, as members of the Conference of Northern States Civil Society Networks, from the Nineteen Northern States and FCT, pass a vote of confidence on the leadership of Abdulrasheed Bawa of the EFCC, and shall continue to support the Commission in the discharge of its constitutional mandate."

CBN Debunks Asking Banks to Collect Old N500, N1000 Notes



The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has denied news reports saying it directed banks to start accepting the old N500 and N1000 notes.

The central Bank in a statement on Friday evening said the report was fake and unauthorised.

CBN spokesman, Osita Nwanisobi, said the apex bank strictly stands by the directive of President Muhammadu Buhari that only allows the old N200 note to circulate with the new one for a period of 60 days.

His words: "The attention of the Central Bank of Nigeria has been drawn to some fake and unauthorized messages quoting the CBN as having authorized the Deposit Money Banks to collect the old N500 and N1,000 Banknotes.

"For the avoidance of doubt, and in line with Mr. President's broadcast of February 16, 2023, the CBN has been directed to ONLY re-issue and recirculate the old N200 banknotes and this is expected to circulate as legal tender for 60 days up to April 10, 2023."

It was earlier reported that a CBN staffer said the bank would collect old N500 and N1000 notes. This comes a day after President Muhammadu Buhari ordered the apex bank to return old N200 into circulation, giving the deadline as April 10.

Using Fake Contract Deal, Nigerian Man Swindles American Lover Out of \$200,000

By Usman Babaji

Chidozie Kingsley Nwachi, a Nigerian man has allegedly swindled his American lover, Nicole Kierulff Sayers out of \$200,000.

Otherwise known as Dozie, the Nigerian had forged some documents to claim he had been contracted by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Abuja.

He allegedly made his American lover finance the execution of the contract until she later contacted the ministry with the contract papers and discovered that they were fake.

Sayers explained that she has been suicidal since the time she realized Dozie defrauded her when she was financially bankrupt.

She added that she was accustomed to transferring money to Dozie but later felt sceptical following the his dubious behaviours at the time when she had no alternative.

"I was accustomed to transferring money to him and further felt I had no choice, since I had just married him, even though I did not feel confident in my choice to have married him," she explained.

Dozie would be arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) operatives in Abuja on Wednesday, February 15, based on the victim's claims.

How Kano Fraudsters Pirated Vision FM Staff ID Cards to Scam Plaza Owner

Items recovered from the suspect include two cars: a Toyota Venza and Lexus ES300, expensive wristwatches, two Apple iPhones, two iPhone laptops, an international passport and multiple Automated Teller Machines (ATM) cards and a sum of \$2204.

The commission stated that as soon as investigations are concluded, Dozie will be charged in court to face the justice.

Abduction, Assault, Detention... Aisha Buhari's Former Aide Sues Her, Demands N100m Damages

By Yawale Adamu

Following her abduction, assault and unlawful abduction by Aisha Buhari, Nigeria's First Lady, Zainab Kassim, former Special Assistant to the President on Domestic and Social Events in Aisha's office has dragged her ex-boss to court, demanding N100m compensation.

Zainab failed the lawsuit following an in-depth story authored by 'Fisayo Soyombo, FIJ's Founder and Editor-in-Chief. The undercover journalist detailed how Zainab was secretly arrested by operatives of the Department of State Service (DSS) and taken to the first lady who would brutalise her alongside others.

'First Lady, Last Human' — Aisha Buhari's Legacy of Human Rights Violations

During the battering, the first lady threatened to kill Zainab. It would surprise the victim to know that she was been punished for allegedly deleting a post from the Instagram handle of the first lady. According to the report, she had been handling Aisha's Instagram account before she left the presidential villa.

Zainab was later detained and would be rushed to the hospital when she fainted "twice". According to the report, she was released because "she almost died". But the threats did not stop even after she was released. The first lady keep threatening her and warned her not to speak to the press or seek legal redress.

Naira Redesign: Shehu Sani Hits Buhari, Says Policy Inimical to Ordinary Nigerians

In a lawsuit filed by Zainab's counsels, Sterling Solicitors, Aisha Buhari, the Director-General of DSS and the Inspector-General of Police were dragged to the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja.

The counsels noted that the incident violated Zainab's liberty and freedom of movement. They, however, demanded her smartphone, Note 20 Ultra Mobile Phone be immediately released to her. In addition, the counsels also demanded N100 million in damages.

Naira Redesign: Shehu Sani Hits Buhari, Says Policy Inimical to Ordinary Nigerians

Shehu Sani, a former senator who once represented Kaduna central, said Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari has a limited understanding of economics.

Sani made this statement on Tuesday during an interview on Arise TV, where he also criticized the president's naira redesign policy, which he believes has caused hardship for Nigerians.

Sani argued that the government should have engaged in broader consultations before implementing the policy, instead of just seeking the president's approval.

He also expressed his view that the economic turbulence currently affecting the country is a consequence of human actions, rather than external factors.

"But what is wrong in this policy is that there should have been a wide consultation. It's not simply about the CBN governor going to the president to get his approval over an issue that I believe that the president of the country has limited knowledge of because he is not an economist," Sani said.

"Secondly, I expected that before such a decision was made, there could have been a wide consultation with the national assembly and also the civil societies. By doing that, you are carrying the whole country along and then ideas will be crystalised and then problems that may arise will be predicted and then they can be solved.

"But for now, all that we have known was that the governor of the central bank has made it very clear that all he needed was the approval of Mr President and then he got it and now everyone is paying the price.

"Well, to be fair, if this redesigning of the naira and the cashless policy is about combatting or containing vote-buying, that is a very good initiative. But the fallout or the consequences of it on the other side is that people are suffering, and you don't know which of the notes to accept.

"They will tell you today you can use the old notes and you go to buy things the money is not available and if you have to use the cashless system, sometimes the alert doesn't come in time and as such, the whole transaction in the country has become a problem.

"Even our communities in the border areas now are using currencies like the Cefa and other currencies from other countries and then as we have heard people in rural areas have resorted to trade by barter. So, we have just gotten ourselves into an economic turbulence that is man-made that is designed and then it could have been avoided. **Continue reading [here](#)**

Policeman Kills 80-year-old Woman in Adamawa

By Yawale Adamu



Aliyu Yusuf, a sergeant officer with the Nigeria Police Force, attached to Doubelli Division in Yola, Adamawa State has killed an octogenarian woman while struggling to arrest her relative.

The deceased identified as Maryam Abdullahi, was shot on Thursday evening when Aliyu and his colleagues were trying to disperse a crowd preventing them from arresting a young man in Doubelli, a suburb of the state capital.

It was reported that locals in the area had demanded an explanation from the police on why the young man, who was a relative of the deceased, had to be arrested at the entrance of their residence. To scare them away, Aliyu opened fire on them and unfortunately, the 80-year-old Maryam became the victim.

Confirming the incident, spokesman for Adamawa Police Command, Suleiman Yahaya Nguroje said the erring officer has since been arrested and detained for further investigation.

"The Commissioner of Police, Afolabi Babatola on behalf of Adamawa State Police Command, condole with the family and relative of late Maryam Abdullahi over the sudden and unfortunate incident that claimed her life", said Suleiman in a statement via the command's Twitter handle. "The CP directs the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of CID to take over the investigation and ensure the law takes its course."

For Not Receiving Credit Alert on Time, Kano Hospital Left Pregnant Woman to Die in Labour

By Yakubu Mohammed

Shema'u Sani Labaran, a Kano-based woman had laboured for over six hours at Abdullahi Wase Specialist Hospital before she died as a result of negligence by staff over unconfirmed credit alerts.

Her husband, Malam Bello Fancy, told Freedom Radio in Kano that he made transfers twice to the hospital's account but the deceased was left in pain until the credit alerts were confirmed.

Fancy further that explained that the hospital rejected his old naira notes and also had no Point of Sale (POS) terminal. He would be advised to transfer the bill via his account. After making the transfer, it was not immediately confirmed, Fancy said, adding it took more than three hours to confirm the alert.

Fancy had to transfer another money when the doctor told him the deceased would under an operation. This was not also verified on time and the deceased continued child labour in pain.

"My wife walked into the hospital from our house, but before they received the alert, the pains had doubled and she was already bleeding. Still, they didn't touch her until after three hours when they received the alert," the bereaved husband said. "After they admitted her, they discovered that she could not deliver by herself; that she must undergo an operation. I agreed and paid the money; still through transfer. It also delayed for an additional three hours before they received the alert and operated on my wife. Shockingly, the baby was brought out dead and the mother also died."

But Dr Rahila Garba, Chief Medical Director of the hospital denied the allegation, saying it was not true. According to Daily Trust, other patients in the hospital confirmed the incident, alleging that they experienced a similar scenario.

However, spokesman for the Kano State Hospital Management Board, Malam Ibrahim Abdullahi, said the board received information about the incident and would commence an investigation into it.

"We are not certain about the cause of the incident," he had said. "We just got the information. But we have commenced an investigation into the matter."

In the past week, Kano State Government threatened to arrest business owners and residents rejecting old naira notes. This came amid the legal tussle between some state governors and federal government over ban of the old naira notes.

The Central of Bank of Nigeria had redesigned the country's high denominations — N1,000, N500 and N200 — as part of the efforts to foster cashless economy with the initial deadline as January 31 when the old notes would ceased being accepted as legal tenders.

The policy was greeted with public outcry and the federal government extended the deadline to February 10. Yet, hardships waxed stronger in the country as Nigerians called for amednement of the policy. But WikkiTimes understands that the CBN Governor, Godwin Emiefele and President Muhammadu Buhari wanted the policy to survive regardless of the outcry.

In what could be interpreted as party interest, some All Progressives Congress (APC) governors — Yahaya Bello (Kogi State), Nasir el-Rufai (Kaduna State) and Bello Matawalle (Zamfara State) — filed a lawsuit before supreme court to challenge Buhari and CBN. Other governors would later join the legal feud.

The supreme court in an ex parte judgment on February 8, ruled out the proposed deadline, noting that the redesigned old notes should keep being recognized as legal tenders. But CBN disregard the law as commercial banks stooped the cash swap on February 10, urging customers to take their old monies to the CBN pending the supreme court's ruling on the case on February 15..

The apex court, however, adjourned the case to February 25 with the order that the old being accepted as legal tenders.

In his speech during a national broadcast yesterday, Buhari also disregarded the CBN as he only extended deadline for old N200 notes by 60 days. He remarked that N200 coexist with new redesigned notes until April 10.

Adamawa APC Suspends Aishatu Binani, Party's Guber Candidate

The Executive Committee members of Yola South Local Government of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Adamawa State have suspended Senator Aishatu Ahmed Dahiru Modibbo (Binani), the party's Governorship candidate, from the party, TGNews reports.



In a letter signed by 21 party officials, Binani's suspension for six months was endorsed, with the accusation of court contempt levelled against her. The officials also accused Binani of causing factionalization, division, and crisis among the party members.

Binani who is the party's gubernatorial candidate suspension coming barely three weeks before her election.

FULL STATEMENT: Buhari's National Broadcast on Redesigned

Naira Notes

By Usman Babaji

My Dear Compatriots,
I have found it necessary to address you today, on the state of the nation and to render account on the efforts of our administration to sustain and strengthen our economy, enhance the fight against corruption and sustain our gains in the fight against terrorism and insecurity which has, undoubtedly, been impacted by several internal and external factors.

2. Particularly, I am addressing you, as your democratically elected President, to identify with you and express my sympathy, over the difficulties being experienced as we continue the implementation of new monetary policies, aimed at boosting our economy and tightening of the loopholes associated with money laundering.

3. Let me re-assure Nigerians, that strengthening our economy, enhancing security and blockage of leakages associated with illicit financial flows remain top priority of our administration. And I shall remain committed to my oath of protecting and advancing the interest of Nigerians and the nation, at all times.

Breaking: Buhari Extends Deadline of Old Notes by 60 Days — But Only N200

4. In the last quarter of 2022, I authorised the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to redesign the N200, N500, and N1000 Nigerian banknotes.

5. For a smooth transition, I similarly approved that the redesigned banknotes should circulate concurrently with the old bank notes, till 31 January 2023, before the old notes, cease to be legal tender.

6. In appreciation of the systemic and human difficulties encountered during implementation and in response to the appeal of all citizens, an extension of ten days was authorized till 10th February, 2023 for the completion of the process. All these activities are being carried out within the ambit of the Constitution, the relevant law under the CBN Act 2007 and in line with global best practices.

7. Fellow citizens, while I seek your understanding and patience during this transient phase of implementation, I feel obliged to avail you a few critical points underpinning the policy decision. These include:

a. The need to restore the statutory ability of the CBN to keep a firm control over money in circulation. In 2015 when this administration commenced its first term, Currency-in-Circulation was only N1.4trillion.

b. The proportion of currency outside banks grew from 78% in 2015 to 85% in 2022. As of October 2022, therefore, currency in circulation had risen to N3.23 trillion; out of which only N500 billion was within the Banking System while N2.7 trillion remained permanently outside the system; thereby distorting the financial policy and efficient management of inflation;

c. The huge volume of Bank Notes outside the banking system has proven to be practically unavailable for economic activities and by implication, retard the attainment of potential economic growth;

d. Economic growth projections make it imperative for government to aim at expanding financial inclusion in the country by reducing the number of the unbanked population; and

e. Given the prevailing security situation across the country, which keeps improving, it also becomes compelling for government to deepen its continuing support for security agencies to successfully combat banditry and ransom-taking in Nigeria

8. Notwithstanding the initial setbacks experienced, the evaluation and feedback mechanism set up has revealed that gains have emerged from the policy initiative.



9. I have been reliably informed that since the commencement of this program, about N2.1 trillion out of the banknotes previously held outside the banking system, had been successfully retrieved.

10. This represents about 80% of such funds. In the short to medium and long terms, therefore, it is expected that there would be:

- A strengthening of our macro economic parameters;
- Reduction of broad money supply leading to a deceleration of the velocity of money in the economy which should result in less pressures on domestic prices;
- Lowering of Inflation as a result of the accompanying decline in money supply that will slow the pace of inflation;
- Collapse of Illegal Economic Activities which would help to stem corruption and acquisition of money through illegal ways;
- Exchange Rate stability;
- Availability of Easy Loans and lowering of interest rates; and
- Greater visibility and transparency of our financial actions translating to efficient enforcement of our anti-money laundering legislations.

11. I am not unaware of the obstacles placed on the path of innocent Nigerians by unscrupulous officials in the banking industry, entrusted with the process of implementation of the new monetary policy. I am deeply pained and sincerely sympathise with you all, over these unintended outcomes.

12. To stem this tide, I have directed the CBN to deploy all legitimate resources and legal means to ensure that our citizens are adequately educated on the policy; enjoy easy access to cash withdrawal through availability of appropriate amount of currency; and ability to make deposits.

13. I have similarly directed that the CBN should intensify collaboration with anti-corruption agencies, so as to ensure that any institution or person(s) found to have impeded or sabotaged the implementation should be made to bear the full weight of the law.

14. During the extended phase of the deadline for currency swap, I listened to invaluable pieces of advice from well meaning citizens and institutions across the nation.

15. I similarly consulted widely with representatives of the State Governors as well as the Council of State. Above all, as an administration that respects the rule of law, I have also noted that the subject matter is before the courts of our land and some pronouncements have been made. Continue [here](#)

Two-time Bauchi Guber Aspirant, Professor Pate, Emerges Gavi President

By Usman Babaji

The board of directors of Gavi Vaccine Alliance, a global vaccine company have elected a Bauchi-born scholar and a two-time governorship aspirant, Professor Muhammad Ali Pate, as its new president.

Jose Manuel Boroso, Chairman of the Board of Directors and the former Chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Union, announced the development, saying with Pate's vast knowledge and experience, the organisation will continue to build on its vision and missions.

Pate who is a specialist in infectious diseases stood out in a field of world-class candidates, Boroso disclosed, announcing further the health guru will take over leadership of Gavi from August 3 to succeed an American Seth Berkley who had held the position since 2011.



I'm deeply honoured to be joining Gavi as its incoming CEO. Gavi is one of the most impactful organisations in global health.

Dr Muhammad Ali Pate



“With Prof Mohammed Pate’s knowledge and experience of both national immunization programming and international emergency response and global finance, I am confident that Gavi will continue to build on its vision and missions as well as navigate many challenges and opportunities we will face,” he said.

Gavi Vaccine Alliance is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization in poor countries which was established in the year 2000 to provide vaccines to developing countries.

It is a leading organisation to collect drugs donated by major countries and companies as a contribution to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the coalition of organizations fighting epidemics.

Responding to his selection, the 50-year-old professor, thanked the Gavi’s Directors for the given opportunity, pledging to apply his vast experience to the running of the organization.

Professor Pate was a Minister of Health between 2011 and 2013 and also became the World Bank’s Director of Health and Director of the Bank’s Finances between 2019 and 2021.

He aspired for the governorship seat in Bauchi under People Democratic Party (PDP) and under People Redemption Party (PRP) in the 2015 and 2019 elections respectively but could not make it.

Prior to his appointment to lead Gavi, Pate was working as a faculty member at the Julio Frenk Institute for Health Care Leaders at the Harvard Chan University of Health.

Adhere to Electoral Act Guidelines — NYSC Urges Corps Members

By Kamal Ibrahim Idris



The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has called on all corps members participating in the 2023 general elections to adhere strictly with the guidelines contained in the electoral act.

The Director General of NYSC, Brigadier Gen, Yushau Ahmed, made the call at the closing ceremony of the 2023 Batch ‘A’ stream I orientation course at the permanent camp, Wailo, Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State on Tuesday.

Represented by the Bauchi State Coordinator of the scheme, Alhaji Namadi Abubakar, the DG enjoined the corps members to participate in the elections with a high sense of responsibility and remained neutral throughout the exercise.

“As was the case with the previous elections conducted from 2008, Corps members will form the majority of ad hoc personnel that will be enlisted for the conduct of the exercise.

“It will interest you to know that the performance of your predecessors contributed to the credibility of the previous elections and earned NYSC accolades from both local and foreign observers.

“As you get set to partake in this important national assignment, I would like to assure you that we have secured the commitment of the Independent National Electoral Commission and security agencies regarding your welfare and safety before, during and after the elections,” he said.

Abubakar explained that NYSC would continue to liaise with financial institutions and other stakeholders with a view to providing start-up loans to enable the corps members actualise their business dreams which they participated in during the skill acquisition training.

He further assured that management would continue to explore avenues for optimising the impact of the programme.

Also speaking, Gov. Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State, implored the corps members to internalise the ideas of the scheme and pursue with patriotic zeal, the realization of all set of nation’s goals in pragmatic terms.

Bala who was represented by his deputy, Alhaji Baba Tela, congratulated the corps members for their high level of discipline, comportment and resilience exhibited during the orientation exercise.

His words: “You have not only lived up to expectations, but have also completed the orientation programme without any hitch.

“I am convinced that you have not only transformed to greater Nigerians, but you are now poised to putting our dear country on the positive path of sustainable development.”

Meanwhile, WikkiTimes reliably gathered that the scheme would collaborate INEC officials in the state to train corps members who indicated interest to work for the electoral umpire in the 2023 elections.

The training is scheduled to hold at the main campus of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) along Yelwa axis.

Registered Voters Disfranchised by Flood and INEC Ask Nigerians to Elect Good Leaders

Editor

Thousands of Nigerians will not cast their ballots during the 2023 general elections due to the devastating flood across the country last year.

The flood which affected nearly all the states of the federation swept away homes and farmlands, killing several people.

The flood did not only bring hardship and anguish but would also cause the disfranchisement of many registered voters who lost their voter cards to the disaster.

Some victims of the flood in the South-South region of the country told CrossRiverWatch that the Independent National Electoral Commission did not make any arrangements for them to get fresh voter cards after the flood.

Ishioma Dickson, a businessman and a victim of the flood in Omoku town in Ogba/Egbema Local Government Area of Rivers State, said he was disappointed by the failure of INEC to replace their voter card after the flood.

“It is a very painful experience for this coming election for not having PVC and INEC could not give us a clear statement,” Dickson said. “They only told me it is after the election and from the look of things that is the only way now because nobody is registering anybody.”

He added that “I have candidates I really wanted to vote for but now the support is just verbal support, at least my one vote is enough to make up the figure and difference but now I will be just verbal supporter. It is a very painful experience for me.”

Another resident of Ogba/Egbema Local Government Area, Jane Banigo, a woman living with a disability who lost her property to the flood, said she intended to vote for candidates that understand what climate change is and how to tackle it but the flood swept away her voter card.

She expressed displeasure over what she described as incessant “dribbling” by INEC in the process of trying to get another card.

“I had the intention to vote during the election,” she said. “I went to the INEC local government to enquire on how to get another or alternative. They have been dribbling me, telling me to go and come back every time and me who is walking with clutches, how do I cope?”

In Agaba Community in Yenagoa in Bayelsa State, Eno Akpan, a pastor at Liberty Gospel Church, was also affected by the flood, including most of the community members who are predominantly farmers and fishers.

He said while the cost of living is still very high as a result of the negative effects of the flood, the state was completely cut off from the rest of the world during the flood.

The clergyman acknowledged that a good number of his congregation lost their voter cards.

“Some of my members have lost their cards but I sensitize them on the need to vote for credible candidates,” he said.

“We have experienced a lot of things and I made that a point of duty not only to my congregation but go the extra mile to ensure we don’t experience these things again because we have made mistakes as a Nigeria.”

Another Pastor in Liberty Gospel Church, Abel Deriabebe expressed sadness about his lost PVC, noting that it would have made his preaching more effective if he would vote in the election.

“The condition of the election is that without your PVC, you cannot cast your vote and with the situation, we find ourselves we can’t vote,” Deriabebe said.

“For the presidential and other offices, Nigerians should choose wisely, someone who can lead us right,” he added.

In Ikom in Central Cross River, Kingsley Nkoro said that “When the water had cleared, the wallet holding my PVC, ATM card, and other ID cards as well as the file holding my credentials were washed away.”

He said upon visiting the INEC office, he was told nothing can be done until after the elections.

Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage Now Criminal in Bauchi — ‘Trials Won’t Exceed 180 Days’



Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage among other harmful traditional practices and heinous offences would be tried in competent courts of law within 180 days, according to Bauchi State Government.

Abubakar Mohammed, the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, disclosed this during a press briefing at Press Centre where he equally announced that the state government has implemented Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law, Administration of Criminal Justice Law and Penal Code of the state.

Bauchi Woman Suffering Fistula Was Denied Treatment, Kept in Isolation — ‘Because Family Believes Her Condition Enriches Them’

The commissioner while reitearting the 180 days trial benchmark, noted that issues of concealed rape cases would also prosecuted.

“We now have elimination of delay,” Mohammed said. “No matter how weighty an offence is, you must conclude it within 180 days. Also, we now have a limited number of adjournments, which is five.”

To Facilitate Meeting with Emir, Zazzau’s Palace Guard ‘Rapes’ Help-seeking Lady

But the Chief Registrar of the High Court, Bauchi, Subilim Danjuma argued that laws, when assented to would only be existing in “our statute books”. This, according to the scribe, simply interprets that “these laws only existed in the bookshelves of the Ministry of Justice, as they could not be implemented after their assent.”

“The major reasons in the legal cycle were primarily because of the multiple incurable defects associated with the laws,” he remarked. “On the other hand, our Penal Code never saw the light of amendment since September 30, 1960 when it was signed into law; it appears no one ever saw the need to review the law.”

By Disobeying Court Order, Buhari, CBN is Unleashing Anarchy on Nigeria

By Haruna Mohammed Salisu

The land is angry. Tensions are high. The system is collapsing—and those bestowed with the responsibility to ensure Nigeria works are breeding—deliberately new form of terrorism, worse than Boko Haram and the Zamfara bandits. President Buhari and Godwin Emefiele are already carrying the blood of innocent Nigerians in their hands. They continue to do so—and pathetically, they seem not to care even if the country drifts into anarchy by their ill-conceived and poor implementation of the currency redesign policy.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is the apex financial institution in Nigeria, tasked with regulating the country's monetary policy and ensuring financial stability. As a government institution, the CBN is expected to operate within the bounds of the law and follow court orders when issued.

The CBN, backed by Buhari who has a history of impoverishing innocent Nigerians as he did in 1984 has flagrantly failed to obey the supreme court order. They have deliberately left Nigerians in a total quagmire, a state of confusion—the result will unequivocally unleash grave consequences on Nigeria's peaceful coexistence.

The policy of the CBN to redesign the currency is within its routine ritual—backed by relevant laws of the land. But insisting that old currencies must be returned within a few days when there is no commensurate supporting infrastructure to do so shows the desperation of Buhari and the CBN to further impoverish Nigerians.

They have already done so through their toxic, ill-conceived and poorly implemented policies. As if that is not enough, just a few months before his handing over, Buhari is suddenly reminded by Mr Emefiele that he can bring back his money redesign policy of 1984, which subjected the masses to hardship, so that he can finally succeed in bequeathing Nigerians poorer. Buhari, not tired by the already hardship he inflicted for nearly 8 years now, suddenly embraced the ill-informed advice.

This policy has unleashed hardship on Nigerians in many ways. First, there has been a scarcity of new currency notes, which has made it difficult for Nigerians to obtain them. This has led to long queues at banks and other financial institutions, as people struggle to exchange their old notes for new ones.

The scarcity of new currency notes has also led to a shortage of cash in circulation. Many businesses and individuals have been forced to conduct transactions using electronic means, as there is not enough cash available to complete transactions. This has been particularly challenging for people in rural areas, where access to electronic payment systems and the necessary knowledge and awareness is limited. There are so many LGAs in Nigeria without commercial banks. People travel several kilometres and spend days in queues to deposit old notes. This has crippled their already fragile economic means of sustenance and subjected them to so many hardships and frustrations. The anger is glaring in their faces and the curses on Buhari and Emefiele continue.



The shortage of cash and the difficulty in obtaining new currency notes has led to an increase in the cost of living in Nigeria. Prices of goods and services have risen, as many businesses have been forced to increase their prices to cover the cost of the redesign policy. Many businesses have completely shut down—another fertile ground to breed anger, recruit terrorists and unleash anarchy—thanks to Mr Buhari and Emefiele.

The redesign policy has also led to a loss of income for many Nigerians. Some people, particularly those in the informal sector, rely on cash transactions to earn a living. The shortage of cash has made it difficult for them to conduct business, leading to a loss of income.

The economic slowdown of the policy is glaring. The shortage of cash and the increase in the cost of living has made it difficult for businesses to operate, leading to a reduction in economic activity. This has had a ripple effect on the Nigerian economy, leading to a decline in economic growth, another ground to breed more anger, frustration and economic chaos in Nigeria. The ensuing terrorism and anarchy are highly likely—Buhari and Emefiele are the recruiters-in-chief.

The Long queues at banks and other financial institutions, difficulties in obtaining new currency notes, and the shortage of cash have made it challenging for people to carry out their day-to-day activities. Many innocent have died in frustration, some committing suicide and masses held to a stand-still by just two individuals who are hell-bent to cripple the country.

This poorly implemented policy has heightened vulnerability to fraud. With the scarcity of new currency notes, some people have resorted to purchasing them on the black market. This has exposed them to the risk of purchasing counterfeit notes, which could lead to financial losses. Thanks to destitutes of ideas—Buhari and Emefiele who thought the only way to stop vote buying is to punish Nigerians this way

The policy's impact on small businesses has been particularly hard-hitting. Many small businesses rely on cash transactions to operate. This has led to a decline in the number of small businesses in Nigeria, which has had a negative impact on the country's economy. The increased stress and anxiety unleashed on Nigerians who join long queues amid a shortage of cash, and the increase in the cost of living has placed a significant burden on many Nigerians—leading to stress and anxiety.

More importantly, by disobeying the apex court order, Buhari and Emefiele have set a precedence for Nigerians and this has further eroded the public trust in the CBN and the system in general. It is essential for the CBN to maintain its credibility, especially when it comes to managing the country's currency. Disobeying a court order could damage the reputation of the institution and erode public trust in its ability to manage the Nigerian economy. Continues [Here](#)