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Nigerian Governors Bow to Tinubu, Endorse the Tax Reform Bills

The Nigeria Governors' Forum has endorsed the Tax Reform Bills, recommending that there should be no increase in the VAT rate and offering significant recommendations.

"The Forum endorsed a revised Value Added Tax (VAT) sharing formula to ensure equitable distribution of resources: 50% based on equality, 30% based on derivation, and 20% based on population.

"Members agreed that there should be no increase in the VAT rate or reduction in Corporate Income Tax (CIT) at this time, to maintain economic stability. The Forum advocated for the continued exemption of essential goods and agricultural produce from VAT to safeguard the welfare of citizens and promote agricultural productivity.

"The meeting recommended that there should be no terminal clause for TETFUND, NASENI, and NITDA in the sharing of development levies in the bills.

"The meeting supports the continuation of the legislative process at the National Assembly that will culminate in the eventual passage of the Tax Reform Bills."

– AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum

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NNPC Ltd Expresses Deep Sympathy for Victims of Tanker Explosion in Niger State

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) extends its heartfelt condolences to the victims of the tragic petrol tanker explosion that occurred at Dikko-Maje Junction along the Abuja-Kaduna Road in Suleja Local Government Area of Niger State on Saturday.

This devastating incident claimed the lives of several individuals who were attempting to scoop fuel from a fallen tanker, while many others sustained varying degrees of injuries.

During a condolence visit to the General Hospital in Sabon Wuse, Niger State, NNPC Ltd's Executive Vice President, Downstream, Mr. Isiyaku Abdullahi, expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives. He offered prayers for the peaceful repose of the departed souls and wished the injured a swift and full recovery.

In his remarks, Mr. Abdullahi also urged the public to exercise extreme caution and avoid approaching fallen petrol tankers to prevent such heartbreaking tragedies in the future.

NNPC Ltd remains committed to the safety and well-being of all Nigerians and will continue to advocate for greater awareness of the dangers associated with fuel-related accidents.

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Gov. Yusuf Distributes Uniforms to Kano Pupils

In a decisive step to transform Kano State's education sector, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf has distributed 789,000 school uniforms to pupils in 7,092 public schools across the state's 44 local government areas.

The initiative, described as a cornerstone of the administration's strategy to improve access to quality education, was announced in a statement by the governor's spokesperson, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa.

According to the statement, the distribution aims to create a dignified and inclusive learning environment for all children in the state.

Speaking at the distribution ceremony, Governor Yusuf reaffirmed his commitment to overhauling Kano's education system.

"This is just the beginning, after providing these uniforms, we will continue to equip our schools with additional resources to improve learning conditions," he said

In addition to the uniforms, the state government has distributed 53,000 desks to schools, addressing infrastructure challenges that have hindered effective teaching and learning for years.

The initiative has been widely lauded as a game-changer for education in Kano, with stakeholders praising its potential to boost school enrollment, enhance retention, and instill a sense of pride and equality among pupils.

Governor Yusuf's intervention reflects his administration's resolve to leave no child behind in the pursuit of quality education, marking a new chapter for Kano's education sector.



Kano Foreign Medical Scholarship Students Lament Non-Receipt of Certificates Five Years After Graduation

Two former medical students from Kano State, who were sponsored to study at October 6 University in Egypt, have expressed their frustration over the non-receipt of their certificates five years after completing their degrees. Tajuddin Isah Ibrahim and Muzammil Muhammad, among the 40 students sponsored by the administration of His Excellency Engr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso in 2013, have been unable to practice medicine due to the withheld certificates.

Tajuddin Isah Ibrahim shared their plight, stating, "My name is Tajuddin Isah Ibrahim, and I am among the 40 students sponsored by the administration of His Excellency Engr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso to study at October 6 University in Egypt in the year 2013. However, I and my colleague Muzammil Muhammad are yet to collect our certificates after completing our medicine degree in the year 2019."

The students inquired about the reason for withholding their certificates and were informed by the school that the full tuition fees for the two of them had not been received.

"We did everything possible to urge the previous government of Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje to pay the remaining fees, but it failed," Tajuddin lamented.

The students are now appealing to the current administration of His Excellency Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf to address their situation and facilitate the collection of their certificates. "We are appealing to this Government of His Excellency Alhaji Abba Kabir Yusuf to please look into our plight and devise a means to collect our certificates. The knowledge and skills acquired will be of significant value to the health sector of Kano State,"



Nigeria Police Demands Retraction and Apology from Amnesty International Over Publication

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has demanded an immediate retraction and public apology from Amnesty International regarding a publication titled “Bloody August: Nigeria Government’s Violent Crackdown on End Bad Governance Protests.” The demand was formally communicated via a letter dated January 6, 2025.

The publication in question, which Amnesty International released, includes numerous unsubstantiated claims that accuse the Nigeria Police of human rights violations, police brutality, and excessive violence during the August 2024 End Bad Governance protests. “Upon careful review and investigation, the NPF categorically rejects these baseless allegations, affirming that the claims are entirely false and without foundation,” stated the NPF.

The NPF emphasized that during the protests, the Police acted with restraint and professionalism, even in the face of provocation and violent attacks. “The Police adhered to global best practices and used minimal force where necessary. Evidence, including national media coverage, demonstrates the Police’s efforts to maintain law and order while safeguarding peaceful protesters. Criminal elements attempting to exploit the protests were arrested and dealt with according to law,” the NPF asserted.

The Nigeria Police Force strongly believes that Amnesty International’s misleading publication undermines the trust and confidence it has worked diligently to build with Nigerian citizens and residents. “The Force further underscores that such false claims harm the reputation of the organization and demoralize its officers who risk their lives to protect the public,” emphasized ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, Force Public Relations Officer.



Tinubu Rejects Bill for Federal University of Education in Numan

President Bola Tinubu has declined to give assent to the bill establishing the Federal University of Education located in Numan, Adamawa State.

The President gave reasons for his decision in a letter addressed to the President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio on Tuesday in Abuja.

Reports indicate that in the letter which was read during plenary, President Tinubu said his decision stems from unresolved land discrepancies and constitutional issues regarding disposal rights.

Akpabio however assured that other minor concerns raised would be addressed in due course.



Boko Haram Terrorists Strike Chibok Again

The assault resulted in significant loss of life, with the militants also setting fire to a church and numerous homes. Additionally, sources revealed to SaharaReporters that the attackers looted food supplies and livestock from the communities.

Chibok gained international attention in April 2014, after insurgents launched a daring raid on the Government Girls Secondary School, abducting more than 300 students in a notorious incident that shocked the world.



Chairman House Committee on Labour Commends Danagundi on Budget Defence

Chairman, House Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity has commended the Director General of the National Productivity Centre Dr Baffa Babba Danagundi over the successful budget defence.

The Chairman said this shortly after the budget defence at his office when Danagundi visited him on a courtesy call on how to actualise the mandate of the NPC

“Your defence was excellent, I’m impressed with your vision of taking NPC to greater heights. We are ready to give you all the maximum support towards actualising the vision of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu “. He said.



Human Rights Lawyer Advises Emir Sanusi to Continue Advising Federal Government

Renowned human rights lawyer Barrister Abba Hikima has advised the Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, not to stop advising the federal government simply because they are no longer friends. Hikima made this statement on his verified Facebook page, emphasizing the importance of the Emir’s role in providing guidance on economic matters.

“You shouldn’t stop advising the federal government just because you stop being friends,” Hikima stated. He highlighted that Emir Sanusi firmly believes Nigeria’s current economic woes are both “predictable” and “avoidable,” and recognizes that the federal government lacks credible experts to offer viable economic solutions that could bring relief to Nigerians.



Kano State Establishes Debt Offices Across 44 LGAs to Enhance Fiscal Management

In compliance with the Kano State Debt Management Office Law, 2021, specifically section 4, the Kano State Debt Management Office (DMO) has established debt offices across the 44 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the state. This initiative aims to enhance the collation, recording, analysis, and reporting of LG debt data to the state DMO

The establishment of these offices followed a three-day workshop held from January 10th to 13th, 2025, at B. Nakowa Modern Guest Lodge, Dutse, Jigawa State.

The workshop aimed to build the capacity of the appointed debt officers. Participants included the Honourable Commissioner for Local Government, represented by his Permanent Secretary, Director of Training from the Ministry for Local Government, Director General of the Public Debt Management Office, directors from relevant MDAs, CSOs, and media.

In his welcome address, Dr. Hamisu Sadi Ali, the DG of the State DMO, emphasized the importance of debt as an integral part of government fiscal policy. “Debt is an integral part of government fiscal policy,” stated Dr. Hamisu. He cited Section 4 (c, g, and n) of the Kano State Debt Management Office Law, 2021, to justify the creation of the debt offices in the 44 LGAs. Dr. Hamisu also highlighted the successful servicing of N63 billion in loan obligations by the Kano State Government from January to June 2024. He further announced the creation of a Special Unit by the State DMO to coordinate the affairs of the debt offices across the LGAs.

At the workshop’s conclusion, a communique was issued detailing participants’ commendations, observations, and recommendations. The DG of the Debt Management Office emphasized the Kano State Government’s commitment to fiscal sustainability and prudent debt management. “Continued collaboration among stakeholders is essential to achieving these goals and securing a prosperous future for the people of Kano State,” concluded Dr. Hamisu Sadi Ali.



Federal Government Responds to Emir Sanusi's Remarks on Economic Reforms

The Federal Government has issued a press release in response to recent remarks made by His Highness, Emir Of Kano Muhammadu Sanusi II, regarding the economic reforms introduced under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration. The press release, dated January 16, 2025, was signed by Mohammed Idris, Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation.

The Federal Government acknowledged Emir Sanusi's right to express his opinion, whether in the form of commendation or criticism. "First, we acknowledge that Sanusi, and indeed any Nigerian, has the inalienable right to express opinion either in form of commendation or criticism on how the government is being run," the statement read. However, the government found it amusing that a leader from an institution that values forthrightness, fairness, and justice would publicly admit to withholding the truth due to personal interest.

The press release emphasized that Nigeria is at a pivotal juncture where bold and decisive actions are necessary to tackle entrenched economic challenges. "This administration has implemented transformative reforms not because they are easy, but because they are essential for securing Nigeria's long-term stability and growth, as Emir Sanusi had consistently advocated," the statement noted.

The government highlighted the temporary pains currently experienced as a result of these reforms, which Emir Sanusi himself acknowledged as a "necessary consequence of decades of irresponsible economic management." The press release detailed the measurable progress already being delivered by the reforms, including the unification of exchange rates, increased foreign reserves, and the removal of the fuel subsidy, which has allowed for greater investment in critical sectors such as infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

"It is deeply disappointing that reforms widely recognized as essential by global experts—including by Emir Sanusi II himself—are now being subtly condemned by him because of a shift in loyalty," the statement read. The government urged the Emir to rise above personal interests and partisan undertones and prioritize the greater good of Nigerians.



Peoples Daily Newspaper Loses Katsina Correspondent

The Peoples Daily Newspaper has announced the death of its Katsina State Correspondent, Lawal Sa'idu Funtua, who passed away after a brief illness. The announcement has deeply saddened the journalistic community and the people of Katsina State, where Funtua was well-known and respected for his work.

Lawal Sa'idu Funtua's passing occurred in Katsina State, and his remains are set to be conveyed to his hometown of Funtua for burial at 3pm today. Colleagues, friends, and family members are expected to gather to pay their final respects and honor his memory.

Funtua's work as a correspondent for Peoples Daily Newspaper was marked by his dedication to reporting on issues affecting Katsina State and its residents. He was known for his commitment to truthful and unbiased journalism, which earned him the respect and admiration of both his peers and the public.

In a statement, Peoples Daily Newspaper expressed its condolences and paid tribute to Funtua's contributions to the field of journalism. "We are deeply saddened by the passing of our Katsina State Correspondent, Lawal Sa'idu Funtua. He was a dedicated journalist who served the people of Katsina with integrity and professionalism. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time," the statement read.

The announcement also included a heartfelt prayer for Funtua, asking for Allah's forgiveness and that Jannatul Firdaus be his final abode. "May Allah forgive him and make Jannatul Firdaus his final abode," the statement concluded.



Kano State Government Urges Residents to Remain Calm Amid Bird Flu Rumors

Amid growing concerns about a rumored outbreak of avian influenza, also known as bird flu, the Kano State Government has urged residents to remain calm and report any suspected cases to the relevant authorities. This appeal was made following a recent incident involving the disease.

The rumors began after a report surfaced that in December 2024, a young man from Gwale LGA purchased a duck from Janguza market in Tofa LGA and introduced it to his stock, which included hens, guinea fowls, and chickens. The man noticed that his birds were showing respiratory distress, and subsequently, 35 out of his 50 birds died. He then took samples to the Gwale veterinary clinic for diagnosis, and in the first week of January 2025, the bird flu virus was confirmed in the samples.

Upon receiving the results, the State Ministry of Agriculture took immediate action by sealing the affected area, depopulating the remaining chickens, and decontaminating the compound. The ministry also decontaminated the premises selling live birds in Janguza market and sensitized sellers on the effects of bird flu.

In a press release from the Ministry of Health's public relations unit, the State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Abubakar Labaran Yusuf, urged residents to remain calm, stating that the situation was not severe enough to be declared an outbreak. "The ministry is on top of the issue and taking proactive measures to confront the disease to contain its negative effect before it becomes deadly," Dr. Yusuf said.

Due to the fact that bird flu can infect humans and cause significant health issues, Dr. Yusuf convened a meeting with the Emergency Preparedness Response and One Health committees, which include representatives from the ministries of agriculture, environment, and water resources, as well as partners, to discuss and strategize ways to address the situation.

We Must Force Kwankwaso, Ganduje to Reconcile," Says Hon Jibrin

The Member representing Kiru/Bebeji constituency, Kano and Chairman House Committee on Housing and Habitat Dr Abdulmumin Jibrin Kofa has called for an urgent reconciliation between former Governors Rabiu Kwankwaso and Umar Ganduje amidst their lingering feud.

Jibrin who described the situation as unfortunate and a setback for Kano State, made the call on Thursday in an interview with Freedom Radio monitored by Daily Trust. He charged all well-meaning citizens of Kano to join hands together in reconciling the two political leaders for the betterment of the state.

According to him, the two political leaders and long-time friends have excelled in their political careers. While Kwankwaso started in the Kano State Civil Service and later became the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, rising through the ranks to become two term Governor, Minister of defence, Senator, Ambassador, presidential Aspirant and Candidate who remains a potential future president or Vice President; Ganduje was on the other hand a civil servant, Director in FCT, Commissioner, Deputy Governor, Executive Secretary, two term Governor and now the Chairman of the ruling party.

"Not everybody will be chosen by God to hold these offices," Jibrin quipped. They have both been blessed in a special way by God.

"They were friends for a long time, and they started good things together but what is happening between them is sad and painful. This is not a time to open old wounds but a time to embrace a future of peace, unity, tranquility, progress and development.



Kwankwaso/Ganduje Feud: Hon Jibrin Hailed For Reconciliatory Moves

The Chief Executive Officer of Clearview News Desk Sam Odion Bello has hailed the member representing Kiru/Bebeji Federal Constituency Hon Abdulmumin Jibrin Kofa's effort to reconcile Kwankwaso and Ganduje. This is as many citizens of Kano are commending the reconciliation initiative by Jibrin.

Speaking during a radio interview in Kano on Thursday, Jibrin described the lingering feud between the two political heavyweights as unfortunate and detrimental to the state and said if need be, they will force Kwankwaso and Ganduje to reconcile. He urged well-meaning citizens to join hands in reconciling the duo for the progress of Kano and the country at large.

While showering encomiums on Jibrin for this move, Odion Bello is calling on all well-meaning Kano indigenes to consider true reconciliation between these two brothers who have a lot to offer the state in terms of development.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God".

He came up with this quote while reacting to the step being taken by the Member representing Kiru/Bebeji constituency, Kano, Dr Abdulmumin Jibrin for an urgent reconciliation between former Governors of the state, Rabi'u Kwankwaso and Umar Ganduje amidst their lingering feud.

This was just as Jibrin charged all well-meaning citizens of Kano to join hands together in reconciling the two political leaders for the betterment of the state.

Jibrin who is the Chairman House Committee on Housing and Habitat described the feud between the duo as unfortunate and a setback for Kano State.

According to him, "They were friends for a long time, and they started good things together but what is happening between them is sad and painful".

He said Jibrin has to be determined to achieve as those who are feeding fat on the strained relationship will not want it to work.

Bello prayed that may God guide these elements onto the right path. These two gentlemen have paid their dues and, according to Bello, they should be allowed to bring their wealth of experience to bear on Kano.

He concluded that, while Kwankwaso started in the Kano State Civil Service and later became the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, rising through the ranks to become a two-term governor, Minister of Defence, Senator, Ambassador and presidential candidate, Ganduje was, on the other hand, a civil servant, Director in FCT, Commissioner, Deputy Governor, Executive Secretary, two-term governor, and now the Chairman of the ruling party.



Kano State Advocates Cultural Unity, Military-Citizen Collaboration

The Kano State Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, has emphasized the need for cultural unity and collaboration between the military and citizens. The Commissioner made this remark during an interview with journalists at the West African Social Activities (WASA) event hosted by the Commander of the 3 Brigade Infantry, Nigerian Army, at the prestigious Bukavu Barracks, Kano.

The event, renowned for celebrating the rich cultural heritage of West Africa, brought together military personnel, community leaders, and dignitaries in a vibrant display of unity and tradition. "The event highlights the region's cultural diversity and fosters communal harmony," stated Comrade Waiya, commending the Nigerian Army for organizing such an initiative.



Abuja-Kaduna-Kano Dual Carriageway to be Ready in 14 Months, Says Minister Idris

The Abuja-Kaduna-Kano dual carriageway is expected to be completed and ready for use in the next 14 months, according to the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris. Idris made this announcement during the inauguration of the rehabilitation of Section 1 of the road, which extends from Abuja to Kaduna, on Thursday.

The dual carriageway project is divided into three sections: Section 1 from Abuja to Kaduna, Section 2 from Kaduna to Zaria, and Section 3 from Zaria to Kano. The rehabilitation works are focused on improving the quality and safety of the road, which is a vital transport link between these major cities.

“The Abuja-Kaduna-Kano dual carriageway will be ready for use in 14 months,” stated Minister Idris at the inauguration ceremony. He outlined the scope of works, which includes the scarification and pulverization of the existing bituminous surface to be used as sub-base material, as well as filling of embankments.

Additionally, the project will involve the provision of approved crushed rock material to a thickness of 100mm with three percent stabilization in shoulders and carriageways. Reinforced concrete lined drains and other necessary hydraulic structures will also be constructed to ensure proper drainage and road stability.

“Other aspects of the project include the provision of median barriers and median drains where necessary, as well as the installation of Continuously Reinforced Concrete Pavement (CRCP) with a thickness of 200mm on carriageways and shoulders,” Idris explained.

The minister emphasized that these rehabilitation efforts are crucial for enhancing road safety and reducing travel time between Abuja, Kaduna, and Kano. The improved road infrastructure is expected to boost economic activities and facilitate the movement of goods and people across the region.



Depot price hike: Marketers jostle to join Ardova, Heyden in Dangote Refinery bulk-purchase incentives

Attracted by the bulk-purchase agreement incentives being offered by the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, more oil marketers in the country are jostling to be listed as beneficiaries of the agreement.

The bulk-purchase agreement, the petroleum marketers reasoned, offers a guaranteed price stability as against purchase from depot owners whose price is opened to incessant upward review as has just been announced.

Recall that two prominent players in Nigeria’s downstream oil and gas sector – Ardova Plc and Heyden Petroleum – have entered into a bulk purchase agreement with the Dangote Petroleum Refinery after MRS; a situation they have leveraged on to sell petroleum at a much cheaper pump price.

The depot owners recently jerked up their loading price to N950 per liter from N909 citing increase in the price of crude oil in the international market, a situation that has forced most independent marketers to raise their pump price too to reflect the new higher price from the depot owners.

The Independent marketers are referring to the benefits of the bulk-purchase agreement with Dangote Refinery as being enjoyed by the three leading oil marketers, MRS, Ardova Plc and Heyden who have entered into the purchase agreement with Dangote refinery and are able to retain their lower pump price.

National President of Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (IPMAN), Alhaji Abubakar Maigandi Garima has confirmed that the association members are eager to sign on with Dangote Refinery and that they have been advised to do so by organizing themselves to pool resources together to be able to qualify for the bulk-purchase agreement.

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