



LAUNCH—From left: Founder/Managing Partners, Aruwa Capital, Mrs. Adesuwa Okunbo-Rhodes; Partner/COO, Verod Capital Management, Ms. Nieros-Oyegun Soerensen; CEO, 100 Women in Finance, Ms. Amanda Pullinger; former CEO, Africa Region, Standard Bank Group, Mrs. Sola David-Borha; MD/CEO, ARM Harith Infrastructure Fund Manager, Ms. Tariye Gbadegesin, and Vice President, Africa Finance Corporation, Ms. Taiwo Okwor, at the 100 Women in Finance Nigeria launch, in Lagos, yesterday.

Adamawa gov poll: Court dismisses Aisha Binani's suit against INEC

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri

ABUJA—THE Federal High Court sitting in Abuja yesterday dismissed the suit the candidate of All Progressives Congress, APC, Senator Aisha Ahmed Binani, filed to be affirmed winner of the governorship election in Adamawa State.

The court, in a ruling that was delivered by Justice Inyang Ekwo, dismissed the suit following a notice of discontinuance that was filed by the plaintiff.

However, though the APC candidate, through her lawyer, Mr. Mohammed Sheriff, applied for the matter to be struck out, Justice Ekwo declined, stressing that the appropriate order was dismissal since the court earlier directed the plaintiff to address it on the issue of jurisdiction.

Senator Binani had approached the court with an ex-parte application to stop the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, from announcing any other person as the winner of the Adamawa State gubernatorial election.

The plaintiff, in the ex-parte application marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/510/2023, applied for leave of the court to allow her to seek, "an order of prohibition and certiorari removing to this court for the purpose of being set aside the administrative decision of the 1st Respondent made on 16th April 2023 in respect of the declaration of the winner from the gubernatorial election of Adamawa State held on the 18th of March, 2023 and the supplementary election held on 15th April 2023."

As well as, an order of the court, "preventing the 1st Respondent, its agent, assignee or any person acting on its behalf from taking any further steps towards the declaration of the winner from the gubernatorial election of Adamawa State held on the 18th of March and the supplementary election held on 15th April 2023, pending the determination of the application for judicial review".

Whereas the APC was listed as the 2nd Applicant in the suit, the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and its candidate/incumbent governor of the state, Ahmadu Fintiri, were cited as 1st to 3rd Respondents.

It will be recalled that INEC had initially declared that the Adamawa state governorship election was inconclusive, even as it ordered a supplementary election.

However, midway into the collation of results of the supplementary poll that held April 15, the Adamawa state Resident Electoral Commissioner, REC, Hudu Yunusa-Ari, announced the APC candidate, Binani, as the winner.

The action elicited instant reactions, with the electoral body not only voiding Yunusa-Ari's

action but equally placing him on an indefinite suspension.

In her suit, the APC candidate insisted that she was declared winner of the governorship election after the collation process was completed.

"Pursuant to the declaration of Senator Aisha Dahiru Ahmed as the winner of the gubernatorial election, any dissatisfied candidate is to resort

to the tribunal for redress if any. "The 2nd Respondent, PDP, and the 3rd Respondent Ahmadu Fintiri, who lost in the election resorted to fighting and causing a public disturbance which led to the beating and manhandling of one of the 1st Respondent staff.

"The crisis caused by the 2nd and 3rd Respondents led the 1st Respondent to announce that it had cancelled the initial declaration made by it on 16th April 2023".

She argued that INEC had no

powers to cancel or declare a declaration which has been made as null and void.

"The only court with the power on a declaration made from the conduct of an election is only the Election Petition Tribunal set up by the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended)", the Applicants averred.

Justice Ekwo had on April 18, declined to grant to the ex-parte application, even as he ordered the plaintiff to address him on whether or not the court had the requisite jurisdiction to entertain the case.

Pass Labour Bills into law before May 29 —Employers

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

UMBRELLA BODY for employers in Nigeria and the voice of business, the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association, NECA, has pleaded with the Federal Government and the National Assembly to do everything possible to ensure that the draft Labour Bills become law before the May 29 handover to a new administration.

While commending the Federal Government for giving swift attention to the draft Labour Bills, NECA urged the Ministry of Justice to without delay, transmit the approved Bills to the National Assembly for urgent legislation, the body argued that it is general consensus that the nation's current Labour laws are no longer fashionable and realistic.

In a statement yesterday, NECA's Director-General, D-G, Adewale-Smatt Oyerinde, also congratulated "the Social Partners, the International Labour Organisation, ILO, and other Stakeholders who worked

tirelessly to produce the draft Labour Bills, even though we had hoped these Bills would have long become laws by now. Nonetheless, it is exciting to know that the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has approved the draft Bills, which we expect would now be transmitted to the National Assembly for legislative action.

"It cannot be gainsaid that our current Labour laws are no longer realistic and practical. They lack the force to address emerging contemporary Labour and Industrial Relations issues. In other climes, labour laws continue to perpetually reflect international best practices whilst responding to the ever-changing world of work.

"The first attempt to review our labour laws was in 2001. This simply means that for about 23 years, nothing worthwhile was achieved, while the work-place continues to evolve. While new ILO Conventions were created and ratified by Nations of the world, our Labour laws remained obsolete. This led to many unnecessary industrial conflicts due to poor application of domestic and

international labour standards. Nigeria had had to receive summons from the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations for various reported unfair labour practices. These are some of the inherent consequences of our obsolete Labour laws.

"Now that the draft Labour Bills are on the verge of being transmitted to the National Assembly for its action, we expect that the Legislators would expedite the process. The 9th Assembly can, as a matter of fact, pass the

Labour Bills into law as its parting legacy to the working population and to all Nigerians. In retrospect, we have witnessed legislative processes concluded within a couple of weeks.

"Consequently, we appeal to the Ministry of Justice to, without delay, transmit the approved Bills to the National Assembly. The National Assembly should, in turn, facilitate the passage of the Bills into law and since they are Executive Bills, the President's assent should not pose any hurdle."

We won't allow blackmailers destroy Sylva's name

IMMEDIATE PAST Minister of State for Petroleum, Chief Timipre Sylva, has said he would not allow blackmailers destroy his name.

Sylva in a statement by his Senior Adviser Media and Communications, Horatius Egua, yesterday, said: "In the past few months, there have been series of attacks and campaigns of calumny against Chief Sylva in the media, falsely accusing him of all sorts of

misdeemeanour, including falsification of certificate and defamation.

"A careful analysis of all the publications reveal an orchestrated attempt by some disgruntled elements and known blackmailers to dampen the political enthusiasm and commitment of Chief Sylva to the call to continue his service to the nation and Bayelsa State in particular.

"Since emerging as All

Asset forfeiture: Court strikes out EFCC's suit against Gov Bello

A FEDERAL High Court in Lagos, yesterday struck out an interim order of forfeiture obtained by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, seeking to seize 14 properties allegedly linked to Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State.

Justice Nicholas Oweibo struck out the suit on the ground that Section 308 of the 1999 Constitution prevents the institution of any criminal or civil case against a sitting governor or the President.

The judge had on February 22, granted the temporary forfeiture order, following an ex-parte motion filed by the anti-graft agency seeking to seize 14 properties located in Lagos, Abuja and the United Arab Emirates, UAE.

The Court also directed EFCC to make publication in two national dailies for any interested parties to show why the order should not be made absolute.

However, consequent upon the publication of the preservative order, Governor Bello had filed Notice of Intention to oppose, and an application seeking the vacation of the interim forfeiture order.

The governor premised his application on the ground that the property listed were not proceeds of unlawful act, as they were acquired long before he was elected as Kogi State governor and could not have been acquired from Kogi State funds.

He further stated that by Section 308 of the Constitution, the EFCC is prevented from instituting any civil or criminal suit against him.

He also protested the illegality in the filing of the suit by the EFCC on the ground that the case was in flagrant disobedience to a state high court order, which restrained the EFCC from investigating any account of the Kogi State Government pending the determination of the Motion on Notice.

He stated that the interim forfeiture order was obtained by either suppression or misrepresentation of facts by the Commission.

The governor also said that the Proceeds of Crime Act could not take effect in retrospect as the properties in dispute were acquired before he became Kogi State Governor.

Progressives Congress, APC, gubernatorial candidate for Bayelsa State, a certain Timi Frank, a political prostitute, has been busy making unsubstantiated allegation against Chief Sylva, doing the bidding of his pay master.

"Through his attention seeking and allegations, he has thrown overboard decency and resorted to gutter tactics in confusing the ordinary person on the street."

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAHARU ROUFF ROHEEM SOCIETY OF NIGERIA
RESERVATION CODE: CAC/COM/2023/1681312335914
ADEGBOYEGBA STREET, OKE-AWORI, IBESHE, IKORODU, LAGOS.

This is to inform the general public that the above-named society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Abuja for registration under part "F" of the Companies and Matters Allied Act (CAMA) 2020.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ASHIMI AJAYI ABDUL RASAK (Chairman & Trustee)
2. MUSLIMOT IDOWU GBADEGESIN (Secretary & Trustee)

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To provide worship and spiritual guidance;
2. To promote community gathering and unity;
3. To provide educational and spiritual knowledge;
4. To promote the moral and ethical development of members;
5. To engage in outreach services and social welfare programs;
6. To promote interfaith and intrafaith dialogue, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC); Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

Ganduje, gov-elect mourn as ex-Labour minister dies at 86

By Bashir Bello

KANO—OUTGOING Governor Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano State and the state Governor-elect, Abba Yusuf have extended their condolences to the family of former Minister of Employment, Labour and Productivity, Musa Gwadabe, who died Tuesday night at the age of 86.

They also commiserated with the family of the Registrar, Bayero University, Kano, BUK, Jamilu Salim, who died yesterday.

Gwadabe died in Kano after a protracted illness.

A relation of the late elder statesman, Nasiru Gwadabe, informed that funeral prayer of the late minister took place yesterday at his residence off Maiduguri road, in Kano.

Gwadabe who was a minister during Olusegun Obasanjo's tenure in 1999 was first appointed Minister of Solid Minerals Development before reassigned to Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity.

He was also Secretary to Kano State Government during the tenure of Late Sabo Bakin Zuwo and was a member of several boards.

Until his death he was a member of the All Progressives Congress, APC and Board Chairman, Industrial Training Fund, ITF.

Reacting, Ganduje said the death of the an elder statesman, "a pioneer member of People's Democratic Party, PDP, and a frontline politician in the country, leaves a great vacuum in Nigeria's political development."

According to the Governor, Gwadabe, was one of the principled

politicians in the nation during his time, noting that "His love for his people created corridor for him to be so endeared to his people, both in the state and in the country at large" describing him as "One of the leading political leaders who stood for the downtrodden ones. The loss is not for his family or the state alone, it is for the entire political class and democracy at large."

On his part, the Governor-elect, described the passing of Gwadabe, as a painful loss to the state at a time the leadership needed invaluable counsel from maverick politicians of his status.

He noted among others, that "posterity will be kind to late Gwadabe for his various contributions to democratic entrenchment and political decency he stood for while serving as Nigeria's Minister of Labour and Productivity and Secretary to the Government of Kano State."