



Child Labour: Centre Advocates Enforcement Of Child Right Law

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

Center for Regional Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development yesterday called for the enforcement of relevant laws banning child labour and street hawking in the country.

This is just the Vice chancellor, Al-Hikma University Ilorin, and former deputy vice chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Professor Saka Nuru called for implementation of government policies that will improve individual and family income and as well promote investment.

Speaking with reporters at the sideline of a round-table on child labour: The Menace of Street Hawking "held at the University of Ilorin, the focal person for the center, Professor Albert Bamidele said there was no "evidence of any law protecting child rights" particularly child labour and hawking in the society.

"if you say people should not hawk and they are hawking that is to say there is no law when it is not enforced and that is why we are holding this round table to increase awareness," he said.

He decried the non-enforcement of the child right law by those states that have signed them into law.

The non-enforcement of the child right law, he noted has further made many unprotected children vulnerable to rape, inducement and other forms of abuses which they were subjected to while hawking.

Obaseki Warns Warring Communities Over Edo EPZ Gelegele Project

BY PATRICK OCHOGA, Benin City

As tension continue to heighten at Gelegele community, in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State, the site of the multi billion naira Export Processing Zone (EPZ) project of the state government, the Edo State government yesterday read a riot act to indigenes of Gelegele and Ughoton communities warning they should avoid unnecessary crisis that may mar the project.

The state government declared this at a meeting with leaders of Ughoton and Gelegele communities who have been on war path since the commencement of the project.

The meeting yesterday was quite tensed when the Ijaw community leaders walked out of the meeting insisting they will not accept the claim by the Benins that they own the Gelegele land.

They also asserted that the state govern-



N'East Crisis: Again, Suspended SGF Shuns

BY AHURAKA ISAH, Abuja

The suspended Secretary to the Federal Government (SGF), David Babachir Lawal again yesterday failed to appear before the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on mounting humanitarian crisis in the North East to clear allegations levelled against him.

The committee had in a letter dated 15th of March, 2017 and addressed to the SGF, summoned him to appear before it on March 23, 2017 for needed clarification from him on earlier indictment slammed on him over alleged mis-

management of funds given to the Presidential Initiative on the North East, PINE.

Less than 24 hours after he told senators that he would not appear before them, Lawal, made a U-turn asking the committee to reschedule the public hearing to enable him attend.

Consequently, the senate ad-hoc committee slated yesterday for him to appear before it by 10.am and thereafter all the Committee members waited for two hours.

Reacting to the development, the Senate Committee Chairman, Senator Shehu Sani expressed dis-

satisfaction over the recalcitrance of Mr. Lawal, saying the hearing is an opportunity for him to clear himself on some vexed issues.

"The suspended SGF had an opportunity to clear some issues in a public hearing like this which he fixed at his own request. Unfortunately, he refused to come and wait for him for two hours."

"The letter of invitation was sent to SGF's but we could not find him, the messenger took it to his residence, but was turned away by his security personnel," Sani revealed.

"As far as we are concerned,

Minister Inaugurates Taskforce On Decongestion Of

BY DAVID ADUGE-ANI, Abuja

Worried by the perennial traffic congestion along Abuja-Nyanya-Karu-Jikwoyi-Karshi road, FCT minister, Muhammad Musa Bello yesterday inaugurated a task force with the responsibility of decongesting the traffic, as well as evacuating accumulated refuse from that area.

Inaugurating the task force, Bello noted that the dual carriageway on the corridor was constructed to cater for the resi-

dents, but frowned that the road has become a long stretch of refuse dump.

According to him, "For the first time in my life, I have seen a place inhabited by very vibrant people, very affluent, yet it is one aspect of Abuja where I see that people will collect their refuse and drop on the road median.

"I have never seen that anywhere in the world and definitely you all agree with me that this is not acceptable and should

not be part of the Abuja dream."

The minister also charged the task force to reach out to traditional, religious and political leaders along that corridor to work with them and have them buy into the project.

"The ultimate goal of the task force is to have a clean environment. A clean environment means healthy people; a healthy people mean a productive people. A productive people mean a

Tambuwal Commends FG For Donating 1.8m Meningitis

BY ANKELI EMMANUEL, Sokoto

Sokoto State governor, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal yesterday commended the President Muhammadu Buhari-led federal government for its commitment to the well-being of

all development partners as well as traditional and religious leaders, for their sustained commitment to health issues across the federation.

Tambuwal who specifically pointed out that he is particularly happy with the FG donation of about 1.8

State, urged locals to come out in mass for the vaccination exercise.

The governor, who was accompanied by the state commissioner for Health, Dr. Shehu Balarabe, in Shuni town of Denge Local Government while flagging