

## ACROSS THE NATION

## AREWA NEWS

### e-voting: Group canvasses online registration

By Umar Yusuf

**YOLA—RESOURCE** Persons have advocated that as the nation is walking towards electronic voting, electronic voters register should be online for interest party to download in event of any electoral matter.

Speaking at a workshop organized by the Global Rights International and coordinated by Adamawa peace project and democracy initiatives for north-east zone, Innocent 'u' gba said electronic register would end rigging.

Daa' gba maintained that electronic voters registers will prevent politicians from manufacturing figures in order to win elections, bearing in mind that election tribunal can download from the internet the total number of persons that registered in the area.

He added, "this will add transparency to election tribunals and cases that are handled there".

The Yola based legal practitioner argued that the issue of limitation of constituency is national matter and not subject to the control of the state also that voters register is national item not subject to control of state, so the state lacks the constitutional powers to conduct elections using materials it cannot produce for conduct of its elections.

"The independency of such state electoral body even in the immediate past experience in this country has own clearly that such a body is not needed", he stated. Daa' gba further called for amendment of some of the sections in the electoral act in such a way that once a candidate is elected on the

platform of a particular political party he cannot decamp or resign from the said party and join another party while still holding office in which he was elected under the said political party.

He pointed out, "this is because by section 221 of the 1999 Constitution, it is the political party that present candidate for election. So it is cumbersome that a candidate who takes benefit of a political party should be made not to abandoned the sponsor at least in the course of his tenure.

By Aliyu Dangida

**DUTSE—ABOUT** one hundred and five wards representatives that include serving councillors in Hadejia local government area of Jigawa state have appeared before Shari'a court for alleged self-enrichment and siphoning of participatory expenditure management fund in their respective domain.

### Councillors appear before sharia court over embezzlement

The presence of the 105 ward councillors in the shari'a court followed a series of petition written to the court by concerned indigenes of Hadejia local council

which led the court to summon them for necessary and proper explanation on the allegations levelled against them.

Last month concerned indigenes of Hadejia local council concluded arrangement to drag the council chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed Jaga and his councillors to the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFFCC) for alleged diversion of N25million belonging to the council meant for polling unit areas.

Vanguard reports that the N50,000 participatory expenditure management fund mostly being released to polling units across the state meant for development projects was said to have been diverted by the council chairman in collaboration with his council's representatives popularly known as (Yan' goma).

In a paper read by the police first information report at the court, the one hundred and five councillors have jointly collaborated with the council boss and siphoned the said amount for another purpose.

The Presiding judge of Hadejia shari'a court, Mallam Khadi Mohammed had after listening to the accusation asked the defendants whether or not they have diverted the funds for their personal uses.

However, the accused 105 pleaded not guilty the case has been adjourned after sallah celebration to enable police continue with their investigation.



**AWARD:** L-R; Deputy Governor CBN, Mr. Tunde Lemo; Executive Director Nigeria International Bank, Ebenezer Olu-fowoshe and the National Coordinator NAPEP, Dr. Magnus Kpakol at the Global Micro Entrepreneurship Awards held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. Photo by Abayomi Adeshida

### One killed as Fulani herdsmen, Gwari farmers clash

By Wole Mosadomi

**MINNA—ONE** person has been killed in a deadly clash between Fulani herdsmen and Gwari farmers in Tungan Maki, Kuserki local government area of Niger State.

This is coming barely a week when a similar incident occurred in Beji village, also local government area of the State during which a policeman was killed and several others seriously injured. Properties worth thousands of Naira completely destroyed.

The latest crisis in Tungan Maki started when a group of Fulani herdsmen invaded an agribusiness plantation belonging to a Gwari farmer.

This was not the first time the Fulani's had invaded the plantation leaving marks of extensive destruction on the plantation.

Apparently angered by the start encroachment into plantation and the mass destruction last week, the farmer Alhaji Abdulkadir decided to mount surveillance over the farm with sole aim of identifying those involved in the destruction of his farm.

The "trap" even though yielded dividend, the farmer however lost his life during a scuffle with the herdsmen on his farm.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that trouble started when the farmer engaged the Fulanis in a hot argument over the constant invasion and destruction of his farm.

While the cows were busy carrying out their destruction on the plantation, the herdsmen were also busy cutting sugarcane for their consumption without permission from the owner.

The owner of the farm, it was gathered, could no longer bear the invasion and had to accost the Fulanis during which a hot argument ensued between them.

The Fulanis in their characteristic manner brought out their daggers and other dangerous weapons to attack the farmer who is the owner of the plantation in contention.

During the scuffle, the farmer was killed and the Fulanis took to their heels leaving the corpse near a river.

The police immediately swung into action but did not lead to the arrest of the suspects and had to apprehend the parents of the suspected killers.

Homicide detectives are now said to have swung into action towards tracking down the culprits who are still on the run.

State Police spokesman, ASP

### Jigawa pays contractors N290m on roads, bridges

By Aliyu Dangida

**DUTSE—JIGAWA** state government has released the sum of N290million to three reputable construction companies handling various roads and bridges projects across the state.

In an interview in Dutse, the state commissioner of engineering and infrastructure, Alhaji Aminu Sidi Yalleman said the payment was in fulfillment of government pledge during the signing of the contract agreement.

Alhaji Aminu Yalleman stated that it is the hope of the present administration before

Lawan Shinkat could not be reached for comments over the issue but a senior police officer at the police headquarters who craves anonymity confirmed the story and promised that those involved will be tracked down soon.

The State Govt just last week instituted a 10 man investigating panel to unravel the circumstances that led to the clash as a result of a similar problem and are mandated to determine the causes of such communal clashes and come out with a lasting solution to the constant clashes.

the expiry of its tenure to complete the entire roads and bridges awarded to various construction companies.

The companies are Tech Engineering, Danata and Sawoo and Gerawa global engineering. "We charge all the contractors handling these roads and bridges to complete their projects within stipulated time."

Meanwhile, the state government has awarded a contract worth sixty million Naira for the constructions of drainages in Kazaure town.

The contract which was awarded to Messrs Qumees Nigeria Limited is expected to be completed in four months.

### Police arrest nine students for robbery

By Wole Mosadomi

**MINNA—NINE** students of Federal Polytechnic Bida, Niger State are among twenty suspected armed robbers recently arrested by the Niger State Police Command. The suspects are said to have made useful statements to the police who are still investigating the case.

The State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Ernest Ibhaze told reporters in Minna that the suspects were arrested after a tip off from members of the public.

He said the suspected robbers have admitted during interrogation of participating in most robberies that took place along Niger, Kaduna, Sokoto and Kebbi States.

They also admitted being deeply involved in various car snatching in Gyara-Muya-Alawa-Kagara roads and in Pandagori all in Niger State.

Some of the vehicles including Mercedes Benz car, Toyota, Honda Civic among others were said to have been recovered from them. Besides pistols with

rounds of ammunition, cash amounting to N248,350.00, cartons of smoked fish, charms, dangerous weapons like cutlasses, axes were also recovered from the suspects.

Mr. Ibhaze renewed his call to the public to assist the police with useful information that could lead to the arrest of hoodlums in the State pointing out that "the police are not magicians; they are human beings and we can only do our job effectively only if members of the public provide us with useful information."

The police boss commended the policemen involved in the various arrests adding that they will be rewarded accordingly for their gallantry.

Mr. Ibhaze also gave kudos to the vigilante groups in Kagara and Mokwa for complementing the efforts of the police in combating crime especially robbery along the deadly highways.

He called on other communities in the State to come together by forming vigilante groups to complement police efforts adding that by so doing, the total war