

Coup in Niger; New Cabinet of President TINUBU and Food Emergency

July 30, 2023

July 30, 2023: Niamey, Niger: **ECOWAS Imposes Sanctions** on Niger to counter the Coup by Soldiers: ECOWAS threatens use of force if coup leaders fail to re-instate **President Mohammed Bazoum**. ECOWAS said that with immediate effect borders with Niger would be closed, commercial flights banned, financial transactions halted, national assets frozen and aid ended.

In response, **General Abdourahmane Tchiani** said " We want to once more remind ECOWAS or any other adventurer, of our firm determination to defend our homeland."

The world till now has refused to recognize the new regime led by General Abdourahmane Tchiani, who commands the presidential guard.

The crowds in Niamey burnt French flags and stoned French embassy. They waived the Russian flags and shouted "Long Live Putin".

Earlier thousands of French troops were forced to withdraw from neighboring **Mali** and **Burkina Faso** following coups, on May 24, 2021 and on Nov 22, 2022 respectively, there.

French foreign minister **Catherine Colonna** said," "The era of coups d'etat in Africa must stop. They are not acceptable. They threaten the security of a country, the stability of the region." *(Please see page 3 for older news about the coup in Niger.)*

Russia's Wagner mercenary boss **Yevgeny Prigozhin**, who was reportedly present at the Russia-Africa summit of 27-28 July, 2023, in spite of reports of a mutiny against President Putin and the top brass of the Russian army last month, has hailed the coup as good news and offered his fighters' services to bring order, according to a Reuter's report of 30th July 2023. (Reference: <https://tinyurl.com/54u48k3f>).

Reuter's report also mentions that **Mahamat Idriss Deby**, President of Chad, met President Bola Tinubu, Chairman of ECOWAS, volunteered to speak to the military leaders in Niger on behalf of ECOWAS. The **irony** is that President Deby came to power in 2021 after a coup in Chad.

----Comments by www.DiGiNews360.com ----

When www.DiGiNews360.com looks at the two options, available to Presidents of Nigeria, France and USA: **FIRST: They can negotiate with the coup leaders to**

arrange elections at the earliest. If this demand is accompanied by a credible threat to attack, the coup leaders may agree to hold the elections under their own auspices. It may result in one of the coup leaders getting elected as the new President.

SECOND OPTION: The second option is for the three Presidents to agree to send their soldiers to Niger to forcibly eliminate the leaders of the coup. If the three Presidents are ready to take the risk and to suffer the results of a war, the next coup may be averted. Otherwise, this may not be the last coup in Africa.

*Another issue is lack of credibility of leaders, elected through a democratic process. The credibility is NOT as high as it should be for leaders, who get elected, because of the high costs of any democratic election. If national parties are able to manage their financial systems, in a reasonably transparent manner, it may become possible to have honest leaders from poor or lower middle-class families, as has been the case of **Narendra Modi** emerging as the Prime Minister of India. Democratic leaders can then have a higher credibility than is the case today for **intelligent** leaders like **Rishi Sunak** (UK) and **Emmanuel Macron** (France), and, for an **experienced** leader like **Joe Biden** (USA). (Reference: <https://pro.morningconsult.com/trackers/global-leader-approval>)*

July 29, 2023: President of the Senate, **Godswill Akpabio** said, “ **The National Assembly is the symbol of democracy.**” He said the untidy environment needs to be cleaned up and the entry of non-Members and non-Officers must be stopped while the Senate was busy in important work, including study of the List of 28 Ministerial nominees, sent by the President on July 27, 2023, to the Senate for confirmation today.

July 27, 2023: **President Bola Tinubu** has sent, through his Chief-of-Staff, **Femi Gbajabamila**, a List of **28 Ministerial nominees** to the **Senate for confirmation** today. The Senate President, **Godswill Akpabio** read out the names at a plenary session of the Senate. The President’s List, sent on the 59th day of this Presidency, includes some ex-Governors of States and ex-Senators and Members of House of Representatives; some Professors and academic administrators, some technocrats and some Nigerians from other fields to help him conduct the affairs of the State during the 4 years of his presidency. To make his cabinet a national one, he has selected some cabinet members from PDP and Labor parties also, though a

majority is from APC. There are seven prominent women also in the proposed cabinet. *(Please see **Appendix 1**, on pages 6-11, for a brief introduction of each of the 28 eminent persons on the List.)*



The constitution requires that the List of Ministers be submitted within 60 days. Moreover at least one minister should be included from each of the country's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT. President Bola Tinubu's letter to the Senate President states that the remaining names would be forwarded to the Senate in the coming days. The next List is, therefore, expected to include at least one minister each from the following 11 States:

Adamawa, Bayelsa, Gombe, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Plateau, Lagos, Osun, Yobe, and Zamfara.

July 27, 2023: Niamey, Niger: **Coup by Soldiers**: Colonel Amadou Abdramane, seated and flanked by nine other officers wearing fatigues, appeared on Niger TV and announced the removal of President **Mohamed Bazoum** from power, due to the deteriorating security situation and bad governance". He said the country's borders were closed and all institutions of the republic suspended, and announced a national curfew. The soldiers warned against any foreign intervention. The coup seemed to be led by the elite Presidential Guard. *(News of July 30 on the coup in Niger is the first news-item above.)*

Initially it seemed that the elite Guards were not supported by the wider Army and National Guard. Whether the Army can work to call off the coup will be known in due course of time.

The chair of the **African Union** Commission, **H E Moussa Faki Mahamat**, condemned what he called an “attempted coup”. If confirmed, it would be the fifth attempted coup in west Africa in the past four years.



*President of Niger: **Mohamed Bazoum** (assumed office on 2 April 2021)*

Bola Tinubu, the President of neighboring Nigeria and Chair of the **Economic Community of West African States** (ECOWAS), called the events “unpleasant developments” and said he was already in “close consultation” with other leaders in the region about the situation.

“The ECOWAS leadership will not accept any action that impedes the smooth functioning of legitimate authority in Niger or any part of west Africa ... we will do everything within our powers to ensure democracy is firmly planted, nurtured, well rooted and thrives in our region,” he said in a statement.

ECOWAS told the plotters to free Bazoum immediately.

US Secretary of State, **Antony Blinken**, had spoken to the captive Bazoum and “conveyed the unwavering support of the United States ... the strong US economic and security partnership with Niger depends on the continuation of democratic governance and respect for the rule of law and human rights”.

Blinken, visiting New Zealand, later said: “I spoke with President Bazoum earlier this morning, and made clear that the US resolutely supports him as the democratically elected president of Niger. We call for his immediate release.

“We condemn any efforts to seize power by force. We’re actively engaged with the Niger government, but also with partners in the region and around the world, and will continue to do so until the situation is resolved appropriately and peacefully.”

The UN Secretary General, **António Guterres**, also spoke to Bazoum and offered his “full support and solidarity”. Guterres called “on all actors involved to exercise restraint and to ensure the protection of constitutional order”.

BACKGROUND: Lying in the heart of the Sahel, Niger is two-thirds desert and persistently ranks near to or at the bottom of the UN’s human development index, a benchmark of prosperity. It has a growing population of 22.4 million, driven by a birthrate averaging seven children for every woman.

The country is struggling with two jihadist campaigns – one in the south-west, which swept in from neighboring Mali in 2015, and the other in the south-east, involving jihadists based in north-eastern Nigeria.

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, receiving close to \$2 billion a year in official development assistance, according to the World Bank.

The United States, France, Italy and Germany have troops and military bases, in Niger, for military training and for missions to fight Islamist insurgents. Niger is also the world's seventh-biggest producer of uranium, the radioactive metal widely used for nuclear energy and in nuclear weapons, as well as for treating cancer.

July 13, 2023: Abuja, Nigeria: **Emergency due to Food Insecurity:** www.DiGiNews360.com notes that **President Bola Tinubu**, the President of Nigeria, by declaring an immediate “State of Emergency” on food insecurity in Nigeria, has shown that the President cares for about 88 Mn Nigerians, living below the poverty line. Rising food prices are making food unaffordable for the poor.

In the statement announcing the Emergency, **Dele Alake**, the Presidential spokesperson, said that the Government would release fertilizers and grains to farmers and households, without any delay. In addition, he said the Government would protect “farms and the farmers so that farmers can return to the farmlands without fear of attacks.”

Food Insecurity is defined, according to the **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO), as the inability of an individual to access food, that generates the minimum Calorie requirement of 2,900-3,000 calories per day for males and 2,200-2,300 per day for females. (For children, a lower calorie level, depending on age is required.)

Esther Adegunle, Associate Director, Business & Economic Growth, **Development Alternative Incorporated** (DAI), said that **Nigeria can do what Ethiopia was able to achieve** recently. Ethiopia was able to get help from India and other international partners for accomplishing the job.



She pointed out that by implementing appropriate policies and reforms, Ethiopia became **from a wheat importing country** to a country, that is able to meet its own demand and is **able to export wheat**.

www.DiGiNews360.com may point out that a large country, like India, during the drought years of 65-67, lived from ship to mouth. But it ensured, by taking a loan of wheat from USA, and by efficiently managing supply of rations to even far-flung areas, that no one died of hunger during those harsh years. Moreover, it implemented policies that have made India a country with a healthy surplus of grains. (On the other hand, China is reported to have lost about 60 Mn people due to famine in 65-67. Though China is the Workshop of the World today and its manufacturing sector has made it a rich country, it continues to require large imports of wheat and rice.)

----APPENDIX 1----

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION of each of the 28 eminent persons on the President **Bola Tinubu**'s List, sent to the Senate for appointment as Ministers on the **President's cabinet**

1. Ex-Governor **Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai**, APC, Governor of **Kaduna** from 29 May 2015 to 29 May 2023, Minister of the **Federal Capital Territory (FCT)** from 2003 to 2007, former director of the Bureau of Public Enterprises; **Graduate of Quantity Surveying** from the **Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria**.

2. Ex-Governor **Ezenwo Nyesom Wike**, PDP, Governor of **Rivers** from 29 May 2015 to 29 May 2023, a two-time **Executive Chairman** of Obio Akpor **Local Government**

Area (LGA) from 1999 to 2007; Bachelor of Law from the **Rivers State University of Science and Technology** before proceeding to Law School in 1997

3. Ex-Governor **David Nweze Umahi, APC, Senator** from Ebonyi South from June 13, 2023, Governor of **Ebonyi** from 29 May 2015 to 29 May 2023, Deputy Governor of **Ebonyi** from 29 May 2011 to 29 May 2015, fought for APC nomination for Presidency for 2023 but was placed 3rd at the Convention, where Bola Tinubu was elected as the APC candidate for Presidency in 2023; Graduation in Civil Engg from Enugu State Univ of Science & Tech; Co-Founder jointly with Ombo Isokarari & GM of **Norman Engineering and Construction Nig. Ltd**

4. Ex-Governor **Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, APC**, Governor of **Jigawa** from 29 May 2015 to 29 May 2023, Chairman, Presidential Committee on Fertilizers, Chairman, Presidential Committee on Non-oil Revenue; owner of Talamiz group of industries, a conglomerate with interest in automobiles, manufacturing, agriculture and animal husbandry, as well as commodity distribution; Graduate in B.Sc Accounting of **Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria**, Alumnus of the **National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)** in Kuru

5. Senator **Abubakar Kyari**, represented Borno North Senatorial District of **Borno State** at the 9th National Assembly (from 2015 to April 2022), resigned from Senatorship in April 2022; acting national Chairman of APC; son of Late Brigadier Abba Kyari – Former military administrator to North Central from 1967 to 1975; Bachelor's degree from Univ of Tennessee Martin, USA in 1986, MBA from Webster University, St.Louis, Missouri USA in 1989

6. Senator **John Eno**, represented Central Senatorial District of **Cross River State** in the 8th Assembly, a PDP member till May 2017, shifted to APC and unsuccessfully contested for Governorship

7. Senator Sani Abubakar Danladi, former Acting Governor and Deputy Governor of **Taraba State**, represented Taraba North Senatorial Zone from PDP, before he was impeached; belongs to Bachama, Karim Lamido LGA of Taraba State, shifted to APC and unsuccessfully contested for Governorship in 2019

8. Amb **Yusuf Maitama Tuggar**, Ambassador of Nigeria to Germany since June 2017, APC Member, House of Representatives from **Gamawa, Bauchi State** from May 2007 to May 2011

9. **Waheed Adebayo Adelabu**, former Deputy Governor Operations of Central Bank of Nigeria from April 9, 2014 to May 24, 2018, appointed by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former governorship candidate in May 2019, of APC in Oyo State; received a first class degree in Accounting from **Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife**; a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria and an Associate Member of the Institute of Directors of Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Waheed Adebayo Adelabu

10. Chief **Uche Nnaji Nwakaibie**, governorship candidate in May 2023, of APC in **Enugu**, belongs to Akpugo in Nkanu West **Local Government Area** (LGA) of the State; Business of supplying and installing medical equipment like **CT Scan**; a brother to **Hon Nnoli Nnaji**, Member House of Representatives from Nkanu East and West Federal Constituency

11. **Ekperipe Ekpo**, Director General of **Akwa Ibom** Democratic Forum (ADF), a former Member, the House of Representatives from 2007-2011
12. **Nkiru Chidubem Onyeojiocha**, Member of the Federal House of Representatives from Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Constituency of **Abia State**, in 2003 **Commissioner for Resource Management and Manpower Development** in the executive cabinet of **Abia State**, in **2002** Executive Transition Chairman of **Umunneochi LGA** of Abia State
13. **Olubunmi Tunji Ojo**, Member of the Federal House of Representatives from Akoko North East/Akoko North West Constituency of **Ondo State**; Master's degree in Digital Communication and Networking University of North London (now London Metropolitan University) and Certified Ethical Hacker from Royal Britannia IT Training Academy, UK

14. Professor **Muhammad Ali Pate**, former Global Director for Health, Nutrition and Population and Director of the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) at the World Bank Group, the former Minister of State for Health in Nigeria; **Misau** LGA of Bauchi State; graduated from **Ahmadu Bello**

University (ABU) medical school in **Kaduna State**, worked in rural hospitals of **Gambia**

15. Professor **Joseph Terlumun Utsev**, former Commissioner in the government of Samuel Ortom, Associate Professor at the **Univ of Agriculture, Makurdi**, a civil engineer and former Rector of Federal Polytechnic, Wanune, Tarka LGA of **Benue state**; belongs to **Buruku** LGA; Utsev is a **Tiv**, the dominant ethnic group in **Benue State**
16. Dr. **Dorris Aniche Uzoka-Anite**, former Commissioner for Finance and Coordinating Economy, **Imo State**; a former General Manager of Zenith Bank Plc; hails from Oguta LGA of **Imo State**
17. Dr. **Betta Edu**, Special Adviser on Women's Affairs for the *defunct* Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Committee, elected as 'National Women Leader of APC', in March 2022 at the APC National Convention; was **Commissioner for Health of Cross River State** and **National Chairman of Nigeria Health Commissioners Forum**; Graduate of medicine and surgery from the **University of Calabar**, **Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, United Kingdom**
18. Barrister **Hannatu Musawa**, Deputy Spokesperson & Deputy Director Public affairs APC PCC, Secretary General **Katsina** Campaign Council, her father is a veteran politician Alhaji Musa Musawa; degree in Law from the **Univ of Buckingham**, UK, a Master's degree in the Legal aspects of Marine Affairs from the **Univ of Cardiff Wales**, a Master's degree in Oil & gas from the **Univ of Aberdeen**.
19. Arch **Ahmed Dangiwa**, Architectural Consultant, Secretary to Katsina State Government. Under the APC Governor **Dikko Umaru Radda** Ph.D. of Katsina; MD/CEO of the **Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria**, **Dangiwa**; had been managing partner of **AM Design Consults** since 1996; **B Arch** and **MBA** from **Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria**, and an alumnus of the **Wharton University**, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

20. Engr **Abubakar Momoh**, a two-time member of the House of Representatives, changed from APC to PDP and unsuccessfully contested for Senatorship from the Edo North senatorial seat in 2019, returned to the APC. ; M.B.B.S. (ILORIN Univ), StartUp in AI & Machine Learning, belongs to tsako East LGA of **Edo state**
21. **Stella Okotette**, was the National Women Leader of the APC Caretaker/Extra-Ordinary Convention Planning Committee (CECPC), in 2017; served as the **Executive Director, Business Development, Nigeria Export-Import (NEXIM) Bank** in 2017. Between 2011 and 2015, she served as the Special Assistant and Adviser to the Executive Governor of **Delta State** on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution and Bachelor's degree in International Studies and Diplomacy from Benson Idahosa University. She also has a Diploma in Law from the Rivers State College of Arts and Sciences. Stella Okotette has to her credit Certificates from Harvard Kennedy School Certificate Program for Emerging Leaders and the Entrepreneurial Management program at the Lagos Business School.
22. **Uju Kennedy Ohaneye** had participated in the primaries for electing the presidential nominee of APC in 2022. However, she withdrew her name in favor of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu at APC's Special Convention; is a businesswoman with stakes in real estate and education
23. **Bello Muhammad Goronyo**, a former **Commissioner for Information in Sokoto State** during the tenure of Governor Aminu Tambuwal and a former Chairman, Publicity and Media Committee of PDP Governorship Campaign Council in **Sokoto State**. However, he was removed from both the positions, when he changed over to APC.
24. **Henry Dele Alake** is the Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Special Duties, Communications, and Strategy; from 1999-2007 was **commissioner for Information and Strategy in Lagos State** under the government of Bola Ahmed Tinubu; worked at MKO Concord Press as **Editor of the National Concord** from 1995 to June 1999, a former vice President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Member of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the West African Union of Journalists; Political Science graduate from Univ of Lagos; hails from **Ekiti State**

25. **SAN Lateef Fagbemi**, Senior Advocate of Nigerian (SAN) and a Jurist who has made a significant contribution to the development of Law and Justice in Nigeria.
26. **Mr. Muhammad Idris**, publisher of Blueprint Newspaper, from 2007-09 served as Communications Consultant on the **Promotion of Nomadic Education in Northern Nigeria** by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, from 2009-11 led the committee that developed and implemented **Training Guide for Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND)** across Nigeria, from 2017-21 worked as **Communications Consultant** by the **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)**, from 2019 to 2022 facilitated the Design and Implementation of **Strategic Communications Guidelines** for the **Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development**; Niger-born media entrepreneur has Masters in English Language from Bayero University **Kano**.
27. **Olawale Edun**, former the Honorable Commissioner for Finance in Lagos State for two unprecedented terms (1999-2007) during Tinubu's tenure; strong background in economics, merchant banking, public finance, international finance, and corporate finance at national and international levels; International Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation and the Chairman of the Lagos Boxing Hall of Fame, a registered non-profit youth development group that runs amateur boxing in Lagos, Chairman of the Livewell Initiative, a health sector Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), and a Trustee of Sisters Unite for Children, an NGO that helps children in need; earned Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Univ of London and a Master's Degree in Economics from Univ of Sussex, England
28. **Iman Suleiman Ibrahim**, formerly the director-general of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) from 1 December 2020 till 27 May 2021, when former President, Muhammadu Buhari announced a swap and she was redeployed as the Honourable Federal Commissioner of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons; graduated from University of Abuja with a degree in sociology. received two master's degrees from Webster University, an MBA and MA; born in Jos, **Plateau**, but she hails from Keffi, **Nasarawa State**.
