

ECOWAS Response to Niger Coup; TINUBU's Second List

August 6, 2023

Note: Please see "Coup in Niger; New Cabinet of President TINUBU and Food Emergency" at <https://diginews360.com/niger-coup-cabinet-food-security-in-nigeria/>

SECONG LIST of Ministerial Nominees by President Tinubu: Please see pages 5-9 and Appendix 1 for detailed information about each of the 19 nominees.

August 5, 2023: Abuja: **The Niger Coup:** www.DiGiNews360.com cannot confirm the following report but the readers may note the 'unconfirmed' reports about the discussions at the closed-door executive session of the Senate on Saturday, 4th August 2023:

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS about the Executive Session of the Senate: The senators were against both the deployment of soldiers and the power supply cut-off already implemented against Niger Republic by the Nigerian government. It is also reported that the Senate might pass a resolution ruling out military action in Niger Republic over the coup in the country, since some of the senators have argued that the United States African command already had a base in Niger Republic and there was no need for Nigeria to deploy troops "to please Americans and other Western countries." A senator noted that USA had refused to sell Super Tucano jets to Nigeria.

Some senators said that the military was highly ill equipped and not prepared to fight any war. They argued that President Tinubu should eradicate banditry in different parts of Nigeria and remnants of Boko Haram.

At the session, Senate President, **Godswill Akpabio** had appealed to the senators to give support to Tinubu's request for support of the Government's policies on the Niger's coup.

The Senate President read out the President Tinubu's letter to the Senate. Some extracts from the letter:

"Following the unfortunate political situation in Niger Republic culminating in the overthrow of its President, ECOWAS under my leadership condemned the coup in its entirety and resolved to seek the return of the democratically elected govt. In a bid to restore peace, ECOWAS convened a meeting and came out with a communique.

"Closure and monitoring of all land borders with Niger Republic and reactivating of the border drilling exercise. Cutting off Electricity supply to

Niger Republic; mobilizing international support for the implementation of the provisions of the ECOWAS communiqué.

“Preventing the operation of commercial and special flights into and from Niger Republic; blockade of goods in transit to Niger especially from Lagos and eastern seaports; embarking on **sensitization of Nigerians and Nigeriens** on the imperative of these actions particularly via social media.

“Military build-up and deployment of personnel for military intervention to enforce compliance of the military junta in Niger should they remain recalcitrant.”

Earlier the Chiefs of Staff of the countries of the ECOWAS had met from 2nd to 4th August in Abuja on the subject of the putsch in Niger.

On Monday, 1st August 2023, **Capt Ibrahim Traore** (*Interim President of BURKINA FASO since October 2022*) and **Assimi Goïta** (*Interim President of MALI since 24th May 2021*) said in a joint statement that any military intervention to restore Mohamed Bazoum would be considered "a declaration of war" on their two countries. and would lead to their withdrawal from ECOWAS, "as well as the adoption of measures of self-defense in support of the armed forces and the people of Niger". They added that they "refuse to apply" the "illegal, illegitimate and inhuman sanctions against the people and the authorities of Niger" also decided on Sunday by ECOWAS in Abuja.

BACKGROUND: It may be noted that relations between Mali and France had deteriorated after two coup d'états and the military regimes refusal to a transition to civilian rule. In February 2022, the French ambassador was expelled from **Bamako** (the capital city of Mali). Later in Feb 2022, France declared withdrawal of its 2400 troops and of several hundred European troops, which had joined the French troops in 2020. President Macron said that the troops were being withdrawn because the Government of Mali was putting obstructions in the working of the troops. He had said that the French forces would remain in the region but would be based in Niger to help the countries, in the region, suffering from jihadists.

President Francois Hollande had deployed the troops in 2013 in Mali to help it against jihadi attacks. The French forces initially succeeded in freeing many cities, including the city of **Timbuktu**, and returning them back to the control of Mali's government. But Jihadis re-grouped and the French were not able to stem the depredations by Jihadis.

in February 2023, **Ouagadougou** (*name of the capital city of Burkina Faso*) had expelled a small French force, cutting military relations with France and said it would develop links with Russia. The government has denied hiring **Wagner mercenaries** - *who are operating in Mali and the Central African Republic* - but says it will use "Russian instructors" to train its soldiers.

August 3, 2023: Abuja: **President Tinubu's Envoys to Niamey and to Libya and Algeria:** The delegation, headed by the 11th Nigerian Head of State, **General Abdulsalami Abubakar** (Rtd) and with the Sultan of Sokoto, **Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III** and the President of the ECOWAS Commission, **H.E. Omar Alieu Touray**, left for Niamey on Thursday.



*General **Abdulsalami Abubakar** GCFR*



*Gambian Diplomat: **Omar Alieu Touray***

A second delegation led by Ambassador **Babagana Kingibe** was sent to engage with the leaders of Libya and Algeria on the Niger crisis.

Before the delegations left, President Tinubu asked them to keep in mind that the objective of Nigeria and ECOWAS was to ensure a conclusive and amicable resolution of the situation in Niger so that development is not adversely affected in the region.

The President said, “**Our concern is democracy and the peace of the region.**”

August 3, 2023: Abuja: The 12th National Executive Committee (NEC) of the **All Progressives Congress (APC)** elected **Abdullahi Ganduje**, the immediate **past Kano Governor**, as the 6th **National Chairman** of the party. **Senator Ajibola Basiru**, the spokesperson of the 9th Senate, was elected, as the National Secretary of APC.

The two leaders were elected unanimously. The oath of office was administered to both of them by **Barrister Mustapha Abubakar**.

The elections were conducted after both **Senator Abdullahi Adamu**, the former National Chairman and **Senator Iyiola Omisore**, the former National Secretary resigned.

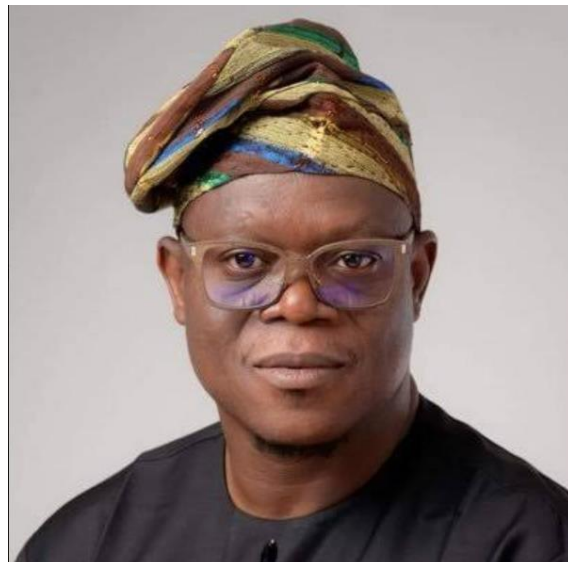
In his acceptance speech, the new Chairman of APC mentioned the challenges of unemployment, poverty, insecurity, social cohesion and the rising cost of living. He

appealed to Nigerians “to bear with the President at this trying moment, considering that the country’s economy had been in shambles for years.”



HE Abdullahi Ganduje: elected as APC’s National Chairman on August 3, 2023

The National Chairman added, “I believe the policies and programs of the President will surely turn around things for the better.” At the end, he asked the party men to close the ranks for winning the forthcoming governorship elections in the states of **Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa.**



Senator Ajibola Basiru: elected as APC’s National Secretary on August 3, 2023

Addressing newsmen after the executive session, the former acting National Chairman of the party, **Senator Abubakar Kyari** said that in line with Article 13(2) of the party’s Constitution, the NEC has ceded its powers to the **National Working Committee (NWC)** to fill the following six vacant positions in the administrative organ of the party:

National Deputy Chairman (North); National Vice Chairman (North West); National Legal Adviser; National Women Leader; National Welfare Secretary and Deputy National Publicity Secretary.

After the election, **President Tinubu**, in his address to the NEC members, commended all the leaders for their commitment at the 2023 general elections and said that it was their hard work, that had earned the party the victory.

On the integrity of the 2023 general election, Tinubu said that the last election was “the most credible election in Nigeria. So, we must congratulate ourselves. **As a democrat, those who cannot accept the results of a free and fair election do not deserve the joy of victory.**”

At the end of his address, the President said, “We must find a way to satisfy the yearnings of the common man and we must ensure that **all the policies we roll out work for the common man. Our policies are for the people**, not to punish the people.”

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) criticized APC for choosing Ganduje as its National Chairman, describing Ganduje as “ethically challenged”. The statement by PDP said, “It (The appointment of Ganduje) also underscores APC’s impunity and insensitivity to the demands of honesty, integrity and moral rectitude required of public office holders”

August 2, 2023: **President Bola Tinubu** has sent, through his Chief-of-Staff, **Femi Gbajabamila**, the second List of **19 additional Ministerial nominees** to the **Senate for confirmation** today. The Senate President, **Godswill Akpabio** read out the names in the second list at a plenary session of the Senate. The second President’s List 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 the President 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.)*



President Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu (GCFR)

Senate President **Godswill Akpabio** announced the names of the second batch of the President's ministerial nominees during the ministerial screening on Wednesday.

The former Speaker, House of Representatives and the Chief of staff to Tinubu, **Femi Gbajabiamila** had, earlier on Wednesday, submitted the remaining list of ministerial nominees to the Senate.

The list is a completion of the remaining eleven states that have not been allotted a ministerial slot.

Orji Uzor Kalu, former Governor of **Abia state**, has commended the President on the ministerial nominations, saying the President has demonstrated understanding of the Nigeria's socio-political landscape.

----APPENDIX 1----

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION of each of the 19 eminent persons on the President **Bola Tinubu's** Second List, sent to the Senate for appointment as Ministers on the **President's cabinet**

1. Ex-Governor CON **ATIKU BAGUDU**, **APC Governor of Kebbi from May 2015 to May 2023**, **Senator for the** Kebbi Central constituency; an associate of former Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha, who was accused of stealing more than \$2.2 billion of public funds during his five-year tenure as Nigerian president in the 1990s, U.S. announced that it was continuing to seek forfeiture of over

\$177 million in laundered funds held in trusts that name Bagudu and his relatives as beneficiaries, was one of the Nigerians unveiled by the 2021 Pandora Papers as hiding dirty money in offshore shell companies; father was the director of Primary Education in Kebbi; a BSc (Economics), Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, Msc (Economics) University of Jos and M.A. (International Affairs)

2. Ex-Governor **BELLO MATAWALLE, Governor of Zamfara from 2019-23**, briefly served in the Abacha-era State House of Assembly, served as a State Commissioner from 1999 to 2003 in the **Ahmad Sani Yerima administration** in the **Fourth Republic**, first won an elected office in 2003 as a member of the House of Representatives for **Bakura/Maradun** and retained the office until 2015 first as a member of the All Nigeria Peoples Party before switching to PDP in 2011, Four years after losing his Bakura/Maradun Constituency seat in 2015, Matawalle won the **2019 governorship on a PDP ticket, in 2021, he defected from PDP to APC**; graduated from VTC Bunza in 1984. He attended Yaba College of Technology, Lagos and later went to Thames Valley University, London; married to four wives and has children

3. Ex-Governor **IBRAHIM GEIDAM, Senator of Yobe East Senatorial District**, since June 2019, the immediate past governor of Yobe State (2011-15), succeeded by the Former APC National Secretary, Mai Mala Buni on 29 May 2019, Deputy Governor of Yobe State on the **All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)** platform, and was sworn into office on May 29, 2007. He was sworn in as Executive Governor on January 27, 2009, following the death of Governor Mamman Bello Ali in Florida of a liver problem. **Alhaji Abubakar Ali**, brother of Mamman Ali, was named as the new deputy governor; attended the Borno Teachers' College (BTC), Maiduguri from 1974 to 1979, where he obtained a Teachers' Certificate. He attended **Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria** from 1981 and 1983, earning a **Diploma in Accountancy** and after a few years, a **BSc in Accountancy** Degree in 1990 and became a member of the Certified Public Accountants of Nigeria

4. Ex-Governor CON **SIMON BAKO LALONG, Governor of Plateau from 2015-23**, 2000- 2006 Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, two times (2001–2002) elected as the Chairman of the Conference of Speakers of the 36 states of Nigeria; worked as an attorney, when not in a political office; In October 2022, a Nigerian national honor of Commander Of The Order Of The Niger (CON) was conferred on him by President Muhammadu Buhari

5. Ex-Governor CON **ADEGBOYEGA OYETOLA** APC Governor of **Osun State** from 2018 to 2022, Chief of Staff to Rauf Aregbesola, his predecessor, as Governor; graduated with MBA and Bachelor of Science honours degree in Insurance from **University of Lagos**; belongs to **Iragbiji, Boripe LGA**

6. **Abdullahi Tijjani-Gwarzo**, 2007-11 **Deputy Governor** of **Kano**, 2004-07 (ANPP) during which he served as the Chairman of **Kano State's Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON)**, 2003-04 Caretaker Chairman, 1997-98 Executive Chairman of **Gwarzo Local Government Council (LGC)**; B.Sc.(Tech) in Textile Engineering from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria

7. Dr. **BOSUN TIJJANI**, Co-founder and CEO of Co-Creation Hub (CchUB), the leading Pan-African innovation and technology centre, in 2019 CchUB acquired **Kenya's iHub**, launched the **CchUB Design Lab in Kigali, Rwanda**, in 2023 opened **CchUB Namibia** at the main tech hub in **Windhoek, Namibia**; earned a PhD in Innovation and Economic Development from University of Leicester

8. Dr. **Mariya Mahmoud Bunkure**, Commissioner For Higher Education, appointed in 2020 by the Governor of **Kano State**, **Alhaji Abdullahi Umar Ganduje**; studied Medicine at **Bayero University Kano**, a consultant in Family Medicine at **Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital**; hails from **Bunkure LGA**

9. Dr. **ISIAK (Ishak) Kunle SALAKO** (Lagos), a Commissioner for Health in **Ogun State**, the Co-Ordinator of the **Ogun West Stakeholders Forum**; a medical practitioner

10. **TUNJI ALAUSA**, a Nephrologist, Executive Chairman & Chief Medical Officer of the Dialysis Care Centre in Homer Glen, Illinois, USA, Assistant Professor & Attending Physician at Rush University Medical Centre – Cook County Hospital, Chicago Ill, USA; studied Medicine at the **University of Lagos (UNILAG)**; (**Lagos**)

11. **YUSUF TANKO SUNUNU**, represented Yauri/Shanga/Ngaski Constituency; Obstetrician and Gynecologist, a Member of the Board of Management **Federal Medical Centre Katsina** (2013), Member of the Board of Management of the **Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital Sokoto** (2018) (**Kebbi**)

12. **LOLA ADE-JOHN** (Lagos), has worked in different ICT positions in several Nigerian Banks: Group Head of Support Services and Technology at Access Bank, Head of Applications at United Bank for Africa, Technology Integration Manager at Ecobank, Principal Consultant at Novateur Business Technology, designed and implemented new technology platform for Magnum Bank subsequent to its takeover by Guaranty Trust Bank; Information and Technology expert and consultant to benefit small, medium, and large-scale central and distributed working environments; degree in Computer Science from University of Ibadan (Lagos)

13. **ABDULRAHMAN SHUAIBU ABUBAKAR**, represents for APC Mubi North/Mubi South/Mahia federal constituency of **Adamawa state** in the **Nigerian House of Representatives**; a commissioner in the Ministry of Land & Survey and a member of Adamawa State Executive Council from 2007 to 2014; a Chartered Accountant, businessman, philanthropist; belongs to **Digil, Mubi North LGA** of Adamawa State

14. **SAN Prof TAHIR MAMMAN**, Vice-chancellor of Baze University Abuja and a member governing board of the **Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)**, **Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN)**, educational administrator and the Director-General of the Nigeria Law School from 2005 to 2013; a recognized member of the Body of Benchers. In 2010 he became a board member of the International Association of Law Schools based in Washington DC; obtained LL.B degree at **Ahmadu Bello University**, Masters and PhD from the **University of Warwick**, Warwickshire England; belongs to **Michika in Adamawa State**

15. **CON ALIYU SABI ABDULLAHI**, Senator from **Niger North District** of Niger State at the Nigerian 8th and 9th National Assembly. He was also the **Deputy Chief Whip** at the Nigerian 9th National Assembly, in October 2022, a Nigerian national honor of Commander Of The Order Of The Niger (CON) was conferred on him by President Muhammadu Buhari

16. **ALKALI AHMED Said**, elected as **Senator for the Gombe North senatorial district** of Gombe State, in August 2010 by-elections after the death of Senator **Kawu Peto Dukku**, re-elected in the 2011 general election on PDP platform, re-elected in 2015 and 2019 on the platform of APC, lost the Gombe North Senatorial seat to former Gov. **Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo** in the 2023 general elections; former Commissioner for Information in the administration of Governor **Danjuma Goje**; obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics; holds the honorary title of **Sarkin Gabas Dukku**

17. **HEINEKEN LOKPOBIRI**, served as Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development in the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015, after he changed over to APC from PDP, **Senator** in April 2007 on the People's Democratic Party (PDP) platform for the **Bayelsa West constituency** and **Chairman of the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Transport**, in July 2009, the Senate passed the **National Agency for Elderly Persons** bill, sponsored by Lokpobiri, for giving legal support, welfare and recreational facilities to elderly people in the country, in 2011, re-elected as the Senator and was appointed **Chairman of the Committee on Water Resources** and a Member of the **Committee on Solid Minerals** ; received an LL.B (Hons) in 1994 from **Rivers State University of Science and Technology**, a **Doctorate degree** from **Leeds Beckett University, UK**

18. **UBA MAIGARI AHMADU**, a former Deputy Governor of **Taraba State**. He was impeached under controversial circumstances shortly after the 2003 elections.

19. **ZEPHANIAH JISSALO** from the **FCT Abuja Municipal/Bwari Constituency** at the Federal House of Representatives, Abuja, ;graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Education from the **University of Jos, Plateau State**
