# Dangote Cement to Gov Bello: We Own Obajana Cement 100%

**Bennett Oghifo** and **Dike Onwuamaeze**

The Management of Dangote Cement Plc. yesterday firmly declared that the Obajana Cement plant in Kogi State is owned 100 per cent by it and that the invasion of the plant last Wednesday by armed vigilantes "on the orders of the state government" was illegal.

In a swift reaction, the Kogi State Government said the state "has all the relevant documents to prove that the purported acquisition of Obajana by Dangote is null and void."

Dangote Cement Plc, in the statement signed by its Group Managing Director (GMD) Michel Puchercos and titled, "Illegal Shutdown of Dangote Cement, Obajana Plant", declared the firm's full ownership of the Obajana plant, while berating the attack on the plant.

Puchercos said: "The Management of Dangote Cement Plc. wishes to inform members of the public, especially its customers and other stakeholders of the recent invasion of its Obajana Cement Plant, Kogi State by armed vigilantes on the orders of the state government.

"The vigilantes, led by some officials of the State government were apparently acting on a resolution of the Kogi State House of Assembly on controversial tax claims; claims that the state governor had also contradicted when he said the shutdown was due to an alleged invalid acquisition of the company by Dangote Industries Limited."

He said in the process of forcefully evicting the company's workers, to enforce the illegal shutdown, the vigilantes shot at 27 of the workers and also destroyed some of the company's property

**Continued on page 5**

**Chimamanda Adichie Receives Harvard's Highest Honour... Page 8**

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**GLO PUSHES THE FRONTIERS...**

L-R: Globacom's National Sales Coordinator, David Maji; Chairman, Committee of E-Business Industry Heads ( CeBIH), Mrs Celestina Appeal; Vice-Chairman, Committee of E-Business Industry Heads (CeBIH), Mrs Folasade Femi-Lawal; and Head, Enterprise Business Group, Globacom, Zakari Usman, at the "Pushing the Frontiers –An Evening with Glo" event held at Eko Hotel and Suites in Lagos…Thursday

# Return to Classrooms Immediately, A'Court Orders ASUU

**Alex Enumah** in Abuja

The Court of Appeal, Abuja Division yesterday ordered striking members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), to end the nearly eight months strike they embarked upon since February 14, 2022 and resume

**Continued on page 5**

# President: Oil Subsidy Ends Next Year, It's Unsustainable

*Unveils N20.51tn budget, N5.35tn capital expenditure, N6.31tn for debt servicing, N8.80tn new borrowings, with N10.78tn deficit*

**Deji Elumoye, Sunday Aborisade** and **Udora Orizu** in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday, while presenting a record N20.51 trillion 2023 appropriation bill to a joint session of the National Assembly in Abuja, announced the discontinuation of subsidy on petrol in the country effective next year.

The President, who did not indicate the specific month the removal would take effect, described the subsidy regime as grossly unsustainable "in the current reality of low revenues occasioned by oil theft and insecurity."

President Buhari indicated that budget 2023, which is almost N3 trillion more than the N17.126 trillion budgeted for 2022, will also have a record N10.78 trillion

**Continued on page 5**

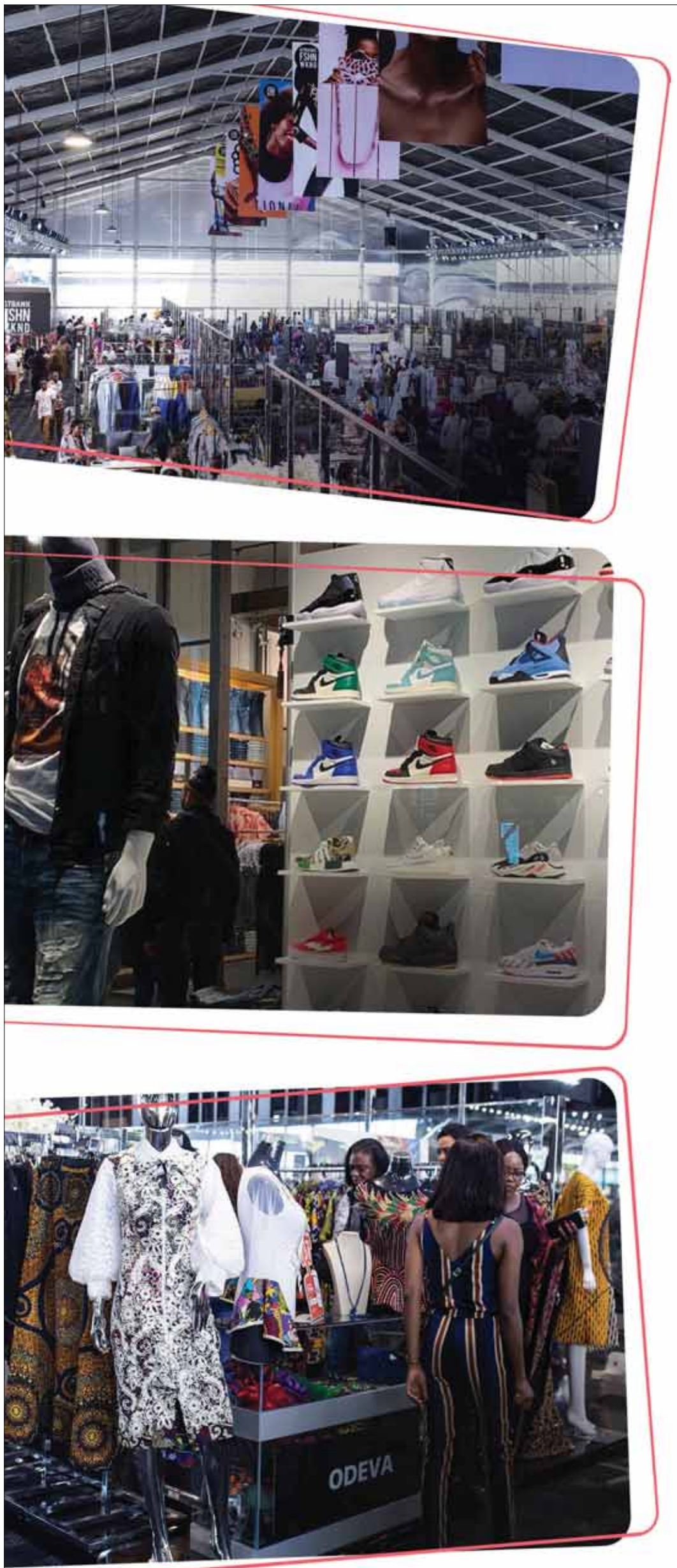
**Vincent Ogbulafor Passes on at 73... Page 14**



**BUDGET OF TRANSITION...**

President Muhammadu Buhari Presenting Budget 2023 to the National Assembly in Abuja.... yesterday GODWIN OMOIGUI






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# PAGE FIVE

## PRESIDENT: OIL SUBSIDY ENDS NEXT YEAR, IT'S UNSUSTAINABLE

deficit, which is above the three per cent threshold set by the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007.

He said the proposal tagged, "Budget of Fiscal Consolidation and Transition", the last by his administration, was designed to address critical issues and lay a solid foundation for the incoming administration.

The President said: "We expect the total fiscal operations of the federal government to result in a deficit of N10.78 trillion. This represents 4.78 per cent of estimated GDP, slightly above the three per cent threshold set by the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007.

"As envisaged by the law, we need to exceed this threshold, considering the need to continue to tackle the existential security challenges facing the country."

He explained that the budget deficit would be financed mainly through borrowings.

Buhari said this would include new borrowings totaling N8.80 trillion, N206.18 billion from privatisation proceeds and N1.77 trillion drawdowns on bilateral/ multilateral loans secured for specific development projects/ programmes.

President Buhari said: "Over time, we have resorted to borrowing to finance our fiscal gaps. We have been using loans to finance critical development projects and programmes aimed at further improving our economic environment and enhancing the delivery of public services to our people.

"As you are aware, we have witnessed two economic recessions within the period of this Administration. A direct result of this is the significant decline in our revenue generating capacity.

"In both cases, we had to spend our way out of recession, resulting in higher public debt and debt service. It is unlikely that our recovery from each of the two recessions would have been as fast without the sustained government expenditure funded by debt."

Based on fiscal assumptions and parameters, total federally-collectible revenue is estimated at N16.87 trillion in Budget 2023. Oil price benchmark was pegged at $70 per barrel; with a daily oil production estimate of 1.69 million barrels, inclusive of Condensates of 300,000 to 400,000 barrels per day. Exchange rate was pegged at N435.57 per US Dollar with projected GDP growth rate of 3.75 per cent and 17.16 per cent inflation rate.

The expenditure comprises of statutory transfers of N744.11 billion, non-debt recurrent costs of N8.27 trillion, personnel costs of N4.99 trillion, pensions, gratuities and retirees benefits of N854.8 billion; overheads of N1.11 trillion; capital expenditure of N5.35 trillion, including the capital component of statutory transfers; debt service of N6.31 trillion; and sinking fund of N247.73 billion to retire certain maturing bonds.

The President said: "Total federally distributable revenue is estimated at N11.09 trillion in 2023, while total revenue available to fund the 2023 Federal Budget is estimated at N9.73 trillion. This includes the revenues of 63 Government-Owned Enterprises.

"Oil revenue is projected at N1.92 trillion, non-oil taxes are estimated at N2.43 trillion, FGN Independent revenues are projected to be N2.21 trillion. Other revenues total N762 billion, while the retained revenues of the GOEs amount to N2.42 trillion.

"The 2023 Appropriation Bill aims to maintain the focus of MDAs on the revenue side of the budget and greater attention to internal revenue generation. Sustenance of revenue diversification strategy would further increase the non-oil revenue share of total revenues."

President Buhari disclosed that N470 billion intervention had been provided for in the 2023 budget estimates to fund tertiary institutions.

While urging varsity lecturers under the aegis of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to show understanding in government efforts to address the concerns, the President noted that the government alone cannot provide the resources required for funding tertiary education.

He nevertheless said the federal government would not sign any agreement that would be difficult to implement with ASUU.

"In most countries, the cost of education is jointly shared between the government and the people, especially at the tertiary level. It is imperative therefore that we introduce a more sustainable model of funding tertiary education. The government remains committed to the implementation of agreements reached with staff unions within available resources.

"This is why we have remained resolute that we will not sign any agreement that we would be unable to implement. Individual institutions would be encouraged to keep faith with any agreement reached in due course to ensure stability in the educational sector," said the President.

He also announced the discontinuation of the oil subsidy regime from next year.

He described the oil subsidy regime as grossly unsustainable in the current reality of low revenues occasioned by oil theft and insecurity.

Buhari said: "The 2023 Appropriation Bill aims to maintain the focus of MDAs on the revenue side of the budget and greater attention to internal revenue generation. Sustenance of revenue diversification strategy would further increase the non-oil revenue share of total revenues."

In his welcome address, the President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan proffered suggestions on how to reverse the increasing trend of deficits in the nation's budget.

Lawan told President Buhari that the nation's economy was still challenged by dearth of revenues, and the idea of deploying revenues from the Oil and Gas sector to support the diversification into real sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, mining, etc, was now under serious threat.

According to him, oil thieves have declared war on the country and its people, and if necessary measures were not taken to stop the thieves immediately, the economy would be devastated.

Lawan said, "The large-scale and massive stealing of our oil, is concerning, as this reduces drastically the revenues available to the government. With conflicting figures, projections have put our losses from this malaise at between 700,000 to 900,000 barrels of crude oil per day, leading to about 29 to 35 per cent loss in oil revenue in the first quarter of 2022. This represents an estimated total fall from N1.1 trillion recorded in the last quarter of 2021 to N790 billion in the first quarter of this year.

"The situation has worsened. Recently, the loss of our oil has reached 1 million barrels per day. Translated into monetary terms, our loss is monumental. The figures show we are not able to meet the OPEC daily quota of 1.8 million barrels per day. Mr. President, I consider the oil thieves the worst enemies of our country. The thieves have declared war on our country and our people."

Speaking further, the Senate President suggested taking off some of the major revenue generating agencies from direct funding by placing them on the cost of collection of revenues, as we did for Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Nigeria Customs Service.

In this regard, Lawan said agencies like Nigeria Ports Authority, (NPA), Nigeria Communications Commission, (NCC), Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, (NIMASA), etc can be given encouraging cost of collections of revenues.

### CUPP Knocks Budget

The Coalition of United Political Parties, (CUPP) has described the 2023 budget proposal as one with unrealistic projections, lacking in substance and as empty as the government that presented it.

In a statement by its spokesman, Ikenga Ugochinyere, CUPP said the fiscal document would be a budget to draw the curtain on eight years of "malfeasance, budget padding, unbridled borrowing, unprecedented corruption and wasteful expenditure."

The group opined that a budget with far less than 30% vote for capital expenditure was not a budget meant to serve the people and accused the APC of presenting it so as to enable it to loot the money since most of the money was tied to consumables and recurrent expenditure which is easy to loot.

He said, "How can a government whose first full budget in 2016 was just N6.06 trillion, justify and celebrate over N20 trillion budget in 2023. The indices were still the same. It is all about padding, borrowing, shortfall in revenue generation and vision-less implementation which has not meant well for Nigerians and for which the government really has nothing to show."

## DANGOTE CEMENT TO GOV BELLO: WE OWN OBAJANA CEMENT 100%

at the plant.

Puchercos declared: "We have taken steps to get the hoodlums apprehended by the law enforcement agencies, and we will ensure that full legal action is taken against them.

"We therefore appeal to all our staff and our esteemed customers to remain calm while we explore all possible legal steps to address the situation. The welfare of our staff remains our key focus as we work hard to minimize further impact on our people and operations.

"While we reiterate that Obajana Cement plant is 100% owned by Dangote Cement PLC, we remain resolute in transforming Africa, while creating sustainable value for our people, communities, investors and customers."

### Invasion of Obajana Cement

Several workers of the Dangote cement plant in Obajana, were shot on Wednesday during a faceoff between the state's security outfit and workers at the plant.

The vigilantes forced out the workers, before sealing the Obajana plant.

A statement by Dangote Group said the vigilante group was led by the state Director-General of Lands, Commissioner for Solid Minerals, and Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Security, Commodore Jerry Omodara (rtd).

"Others were Chairman of Kabba/Bunnu LGA, Chairman of Ijumu LGA and the State ALGON Chairman, Alhaji Taofeek; Senior Special Assistant on Job Creation, Mr. Dele Iselewa, and Chairman of Lokoja LGA, Alhaji Mohammed Dansabe," said the statement.

Meanwhile, members of the mining and host communities have condemned the Kogi State Government for what they described as an extrajudicial and unlawful deployment of the vigilantes to cause chaos in the Obajana community.

Spokesman for the Oyo Mining host community, David Oluruntoba, condemned the act, stating the company had established a cordial relationship with the local community.

He said, "They called us to join them. But I told them that the company has not offended us. We just signed a Community Development Agreement (CDA) and the company has been helping us and providing us with jobs. What has the government done for us, nothing. There is no basis to support the government."

A staff of Dangote Cement, Jibrin Abubakar, said the company's workers who were shot during the invasion were currently receiving treatment at a medical facility.

Abubakar said, "They were hired by the government, the hunters. They are like the Amotekun of Kogi State. The workers that were shot are currently receiving medical treatment. We just hope that they survive. Some of the cases are very pathetic. We don't know what will happen, but by the end of today or tomorrow, we should know how many of them survived."

### Kogi: We Have Documents to Prove Dangote Wrong

The Kogi State's Commissioner for Information, Kingsley Fanwo, insisted that the state's government has all the relevant documents to prove that the purported acquisition of Obajana by Dangote was null and void.

He said Kogi State indigenes would not be intimidated into forgoing their birth rights to any individual or institution, no matter how highly placed, adding that Governor Yahaya Bello is committed to his inaugural promise that his administration "shall exist for the sole purpose of serving the superseding interests of the people of Kogi State".

"We want to assure the good people of Kogi State that, with God on our side, what belongs to the state shall be recovered, including all dividends and interests on profits from inception till date. The Dangote Group is just distorting facts to save its face," Fanwo said.

Last Thursday, the Kogi State Government presented a report of its "Specialised Technical Committee on the Evaluation of the Legality of the Alleged Acquisition of Obajana Cement Company Plc by Dangote Cement Company Limited", declaring that the transfer of Obajana Cement to Dangote Cement was "invalid, null and void."

The report, which was submitted to Governor Bello last month, was presented to the public by the Secretary to the Kogi State Government (SSG), Mrs. Folashade Ayoade at the Government House in Lokoja.

Ayoade alleged that the transfer of Obajana to Dangote Industries Limited, was "invalid, null and void."

According to her, the Committee in view of its findings therefore recommended that Kogi State should take steps to recover Obajana Cement Company from the Dangote Group.

The Committee also recommended: "The Kogi State Government should take steps to recover all accrued dividends from profits made over the years, including accrued interest on same.

"Kogi State Government should take steps to cancel the existing seven Certificates of Occupancy in the name of Dangote Cement Company."

The SSG added, "Agreement between Kogi State Government of Nigeria and Dangote Industries Limited, dated 30th July 2002, and supplemental agreement dated 14th February 2003, as contained in Exhibit 71 of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry Report, purporting the transfer of Obajana Cement Company Plc to Dangote Industries Limited, are all invalid, null and void.

"There is no evidence of consideration paid by Dangote Industries Limited to Kogi State Government from the alleged transfer of Obajana Cement Company Plc and no dividend was paid to the state from the profits realised from the inception of Dangote Cement Company Plc to date.

"By the assignment of the three certificates of occupancy, the title in Obajana Cement Company Plc, still vests in Kogi State government as the sole owner."

Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Matthew Kolawole, noted that the acquisition of the Obajana Cement Company by Dangote was without the resolution of the House of Assembly, which made the process null and void.

"It is clear that you cannot sell a state government property of any form without the resolution of the Kogi State House of Assembly. All the transfer process of the share capital to Dangote from Obajana by the previous administration was without any law backing it by the state House of Assembly," Kolawole stated.

In his remarks, the governor said he took the bold step in line with his mandate to safeguard the lives and livelihood of the people of Kogi State, including residents, and to ensure their wellbeing.

Bello said this was also coming on the heels of protests by the people of the state who felt they had been suppressed and marginalised by the Dangote Group which he alleged was ripping them off.

The governor, however, said that the state was open to discussions once the Dangote Group was ready to come clean.

"We received several petitions from the general public over this particular subject matter. In the past five to six years, all efforts to sit with the proprietors of the Dangote Conglomerate failed.

"We set up a committee to look into this and invited the Dangote company to discuss with them and tell them the imminent dangers they are exposing the people to, but it all fell on deaf ears.

"I am here to defend my people, and from all reports, it is clear that Obajana Cement Company does not belong to Dangote," Bello declared.

## RETURN TO CLASSROOMS IMMEDIATELY, A'COURT ORDERS ASUU

immediately.

The three-man panel of the appellate court ruled that ASUU must first obey the order of an Industrial Court, Abuja, ordering them back to work before coming to the court for leave to appeal the order of the lower court.

The appellate court gave the order while ruling in a motion by ASUU seeking leave to appeal the order of Justice Polycarp Hamman of the National Industrial Court.

Following the breakdown of negations between the federal government and ASUU, the federal government through the Ministry of Labour had dragged ASUU before the Abuja Division of the Industrial Court, seeking an order that will compel ASUU to go back to the classroom pending the resolution of disagreement that brought the strike in the first place.

Justice Hamman, on September 21, ordered ASUU to go back to the classroom in the interest of the nation and suffering students.

But rather than comply, the striking lecturers, approached the appellate court for leave to appeal Justice Hamman's order, as well as another request for the same to be set aside.

Delivering ruling in the motions yesterday, the appellate court held that before leave to appeal is considered, the union must first obey the order of the trial court and call off the eight-month old strike.

The appellate court held that if the union complied with the order, then it should file its appeal within seven days.

Presiding Justice of the three-man panel of the appellate court, Justice Barka Akawuu, had last Thursday adjourned to yesterday (Friday) for ruling after taking arguments from parties for and against the motion.

The striking lecturers had on September 23 brought a proposed notice of appeal to the Court of Appeal seeking, amongst others, leave to appeal the ruling of Justice Hamman which ordered them to resume work immediately, pending the resolution of their dispute with the government.

The judge had predicated his action on Section 18 of the Trade Dispute Act that empowers him to make such decisions in the interest of the nation.

In arguing the motion for leave to appeal, ASUU's lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana, SAN, had claimed that it was the right of his client to file an appeal against the interlocutory injunction because it was against them.

Falana cited several authorities to the effect that ASUU must first seek and obtain leave of the court of appeal before filing notice of appeal so as to ensure validity of the appeal.

The senior lawyer urged the three-man panel of the appellate court headed by Justice Barka Akawuu, to reject the FG's opposition of the application, adding that it would amount to a dangerous decision for his client to be denied the right of appeal.

Falana had also informed the appellate court of ASUU's desire to request for a stay of execution of the ruling of the industrial court.

However, in a vehement opposition to ASUU's application, the federal government prayed the court to dismiss the entire application on grounds of incompetence and jurisdiction.

FG's lawyer, Mr. James Igwe, SAN, drew the attention of the court to the fact that the Industrial Court order made since September 21, had not been obeyed by the lecturers till date.

He also opposed the decision of ASUU to jettison the stay of execution of the Industrial Court order, adding that both parties have already joined issues.

The senior lawyer argued that ASUU, having been in contempt of court, cannot come before the Court of Appeal with unclean hands to ask for a favour or attention of the court.

Specifically, he cited order 6 rule 4 of the Court of Appeal, adding that ASUU's application, is in breach of the order, thereby making it incompetent and should not be granted.

Similarly, Igwe argued that proper parties were not before the court because the parties were wrongly and unlawfully listed on the application paper against the parties at the industrial court.

He said: "ASUU is in contempt of court, it is illegal for ASUU to remain on strike in the face of the Industrial Court order. Section 18(1) of the Trade Dispute Act, does not allow a party in contempt to come before the Court of Appeal with the type of ASUU's application."

Igwe therefore prayed the Court of Appeal to dismiss the request of ASUU for leave to appeal against the Industrial Court order that has not been obeyed.

# NEWS

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# Omehia's Derecognition: Wike Defends Action, Assents Resolution

**Blessing Ibunge** in Port Harcourt

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, has defended the motion approved by the State House of Assembly which de-recognised Celestine Omehia as a former governor.

Governor Wike while assenting to the motion yesterday in Government House, Port Harcourt, explained that the recognition given to Omehia was made in error.

He said with the signing, the recognition that accorded Omehia the status of a former governor of the state, with accruable rights and benefits are presently cancelled.

Wike, who received the legal instrument presented by the state Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Professor Zacchaeus Adangor, said he had always respected resolutions from the State Assembly and never had any reason to disagree with them.

"Yesterday, I received a resolution from the Assembly de-recognising Sir Celestine Omehia, who had enjoyed the privileges of a former governor of the state.

"But you will recollect that some time in 2007/2008, my predecessor, His Excellency Chibuike Amaechi did not recognise Sir Celestine Omehia as a former governor of the state.

"When we came on board, there were issues and the Assembly felt that, having served as governor, he should enjoy the status of a former governor. I've always respected the resolutions of the Assembly. I've never one day disagreed with anything the Assembly has sent to me."

Wike pointed to the reasons adduced by the Leader of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Hon. Martins Amaehwule, that the strength of the information they have now had completed them to reverse what they did in 2015.

The governor noted that to be the hallmark of leadership, being able to acknowledge that there was error done in the course of administration and having the courage to correct such error.

"The Leader of the House said they have better facts and what are the facts? The facts are there. The Supreme Court judgment categorically stated that Sir Celestine Omehia was never a governor, because he never stood for any election and that it would be inappropriate for their (Assembly) legacy that they didn't respect the judgement of the Supreme Court."

"In this part of our country, people will praise you when it suits them, but when you do the uncommon thing, people will not praise you."

He stressed the need for people to keep politics away from what had been done. The governor urged people to get a copy of the Supreme Court judgement and understand that it is the right thing to derecognise Omehia in the eye of the law.

"I had to call the Attorney General for him to give me his legal opinion as regards the resolution of the Assembly, and rightly the Attorney General said they (Assembly) are right.

"That in the first instance, the recognition was extra-judicial, that the Assembly has no power to change the judgment of any court, not to talk about the Supreme Court. So, people should understand and not begin to play politics."

The Rivers State governor dismissed the insinuation that Omehia was derecognised because he had ceased to be his ally, and now a member of the Presidential Campaign Council of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He said the Assembly had woken to its conscience and did not want posterity to blame them for an error they had made which they could correct.

Wike likened it to the position members of the National Assembly also found themselves in when they were working on the Electoral Amendment Bill.

# Buhari to Politicians: Avoid Campaign of Calumny

## • *Urges Muslims to imbibe noble virtues of Prophet Muhammad*

**Deji Elumoye** in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari has charged politicians to avoid campaign of calumny in the build up to the general election scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

In his goodwill message to Muslims on the occasion of Maulud to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the President in a release issued yesterday by his Spokesman, Mallam Garba Shehu, urged politicians, in this season of elections, to avoid using expletives and curs words, and to avoid the unwanted culture of demeaning and humiliating opponents.

The President for the umpteenth time promised that he will ensure free, fair and transparent elections in 2023.

President Buhari also called on all Nigerians to join the government in on-going efforts to eradicate insecurity and corruption; to increase their respect for women, children and the less able; and to show love and understanding for one another.

He urged Muslims to "practice the noble and shining virtues of the Prophet Muhammad" saying that "the best way to honour him is to follow his good examples."

The President explained that "the Prophet became famous for his life of humility, justice and fairness."

According to him, "the Prophet attracted people to Islam through personal examples of honesty, trustworthiness, justice, patience and tolerance."

He explained that the Prophet demonstrated "a remarkable life of patience under provocation and honoured treaties with non-Muslims for peaceful coexistence."

President Buhari added that "honesty was one of Muhammad's greatest virtues and every good Muslim should follow his examples."



**EMPOWERED TO REIGN…**

L-R: Deputy Governor of Ekiti State, Otunba Bisi Egbeyemi; Olori Folashade Olalade Aladesuyi; the New Onijan of Ijan -Ekiti, HRM, Oba Lawrence Adebanji Aladesuyi and second Olori, Stella Mosunmola Aladesuyi, during the presentation of Instrument of Appointment and Staff of Office to the Onijan by Ekiti State Government in Ijan-Ekiti..... On Wednesday.

# Atiku Campaign Reveals How APC Chairman, Adamu Forced Tinubu to Return

**Chuks Okocha** in Abuja

The Atiku Abubakar Campaign yesterday mocked the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, for making a return home from the United Kingdom after hearing of a 'riot act' from the party's National Chairman, Senator Abdullahi Adamu.

Speaking in an interview on Arise Television yesterday morning, Atiku's Campaign Spokesman, Dr. Daniel Bwala, also mocked his counterpart in the APC Presidential Campaign Council, Festus Keyamo, SAN, over his lack of access to Tinubu.

Giving a background of the events that precipitated the return of Tinubu following the trip to the United Kingdom 13 days ago, Bwala said, "Two days ago, spokesman for APC was asked where is your principal Tinubu? He said he doesn't know where the principal is. But they said but you are the spokesman, he said, yes, and they said you are the spokesman and you are supposed to speak for him. He said, honestly I don't know but what I know is that he will come back.

"Then the next day in the morning, he appeared on your show and he was also interrogated but they were not straightforward with the Nigerian people," Bwala said after the return home of Tinubu.

"At any given time when you call me, where is Atiku Abubakar, I will tell you where he is. If I call Atiku Abubakar, he answers. If he is busy he responds one way or the other. But the spokesman of the other party came here and you asked whether he had spoken with the man and he said no, that the son said that Papa is sleeping.

"So it is ether there is no confidence in the spokesman himself or that what they are doing is shrouded in secrecy and you know that Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu came back because the day prior, the national chairman of the party appeared in the meeting at the campaign headquarters and rather than having a negotiated meeting, he read the riot act to them about the supremacy of the party and the decision the party will take if they don't concede to their idea of harmonsing the list and Asiwaju had to return home.

"So, this is the reason why he returned," the Atiku campaign spokesman noted.

# Bauchi Gov Describes Jonathan As the Best President Nigeria Has Ever Had

**Segun Awofadeji** in Bauchi

Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, has described former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as the best President Nigeria has ever had.

Governor Mohammed made the declaration yesterday when the former President paid him a condolence visit over the death of his elder brother, late Abubakar Bappa Mohammed.

"You remain the best thing to have happened to this country called Nigeria. Your selfless service and sacrifice has made Nigeria greater than how you met it," the governor emphasised.

According to him, "Many are now struggling to become the next President of Nigeria but no one can match your qualities. You are outstanding, you gave the best to the country which will be difficult to equal by anyone."

"You are part and parcel of us in Bauchi, but your position and achievements are beyond me, Bauchi State or anybody. As somebody has said, you have carved a niche for yourself as a humane and simple leader, a leader who lives very well, peacefully with people. For someone like me, I always look to cherish our relationship where I came to national limelight and prominence through your benevolence and act of Allah," Mohammed said.

He added that, "We hardly had anything in common even at party level but because of nationality and patriotism placed in your heart and the need to create unity you made me come to national relevance and limelight. So, Your Excellency, even my late brother recognised your benevolent posture.

"With humility, through your office, we built over 10,000 millionaires in Nigeria, through your benevolence we have helped so many people, there are so many people who rose during your tenure. This is the extension of the goodwill you have created across the board. You gave me trust and I will always remember that you did that without my input, without anyone talking to you on my behalf," he added.

# Tinubu Sympathises with Flood Victims in Kogi, Edo, Nasarawa

**Adedayo Akinwale** in Abuja

The Presidential Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, has called on the federal government and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately provide relief materials for the victims of flood in Kogi, Edo and Nasarawa states.

Tinubu, who returned to Nigeria on Thursday evening after a short trip abroad, said he had followed the news of recent flooding in some states.

The former Lagos State governor in a statement issued yesterday by his Media Office and signed by Mr. Tunde Rahman, said he was particularly touched by the hardship the flood had caused in Kogi, Nasarawa and Edo states.

The APC presidential candidate while sympathising with governors Yahaya Bello, Godwin Obaseki and Abdullahi Sule, urged them to be strong in the face of this challenge.

He urged them to provide succour to the victims who are still in distress.

Tinubu said, "I returned to Nigeria yesterday (Thursday) evening. And having been following the sad news of flooding that wreaked havoc and brought untold hardship on our people in Kogi, Nasarawa and Edo states.

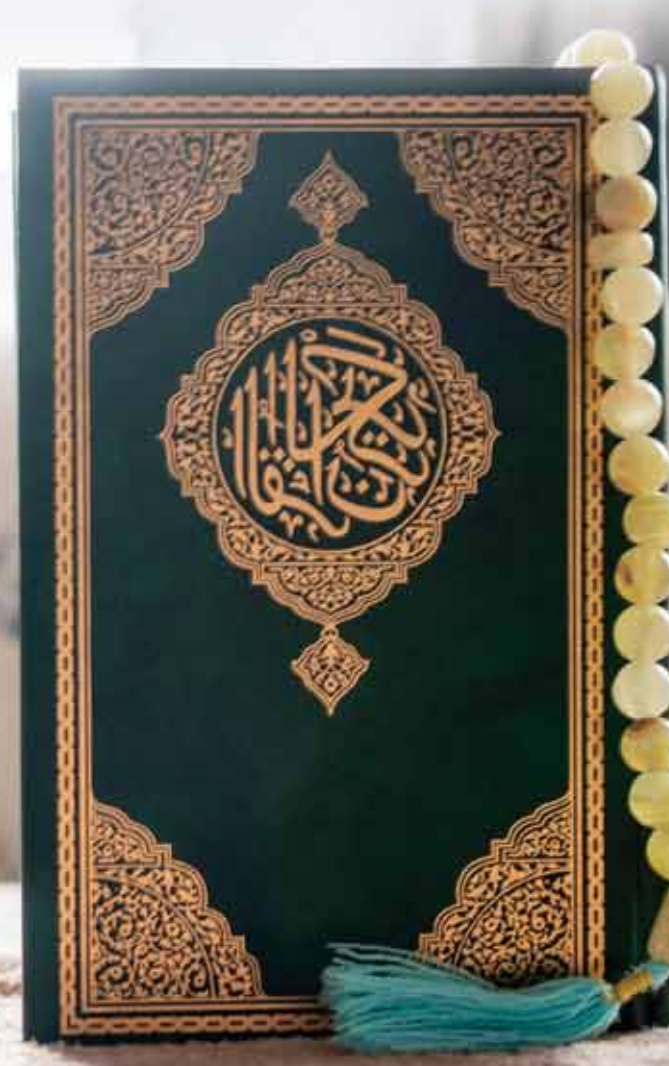
"I sympathise with the governors of these states who as first responders are battling to provide succour and support to the victims. I am deeply saddened by the news of loss of unquantifiable properties, farmlands and huge investments in agricultural produce in Nasarawa.

"The images of this flood in Lokoja and its environment call for a fast and coordinated response to bring immediate relief to our people while the government works on lasting solutions to this problem."

Tinubu also called on the federal government to work with the affected states so that the people who have been displaced from their homes can return to normal life as soon as possible.

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NEWS

# Abuja-Kaduna Train Services to Resume Operations January Next Year

**Kasim Sumaina** in Abuja

The Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Jaji Sambo, yesterday said the suspended Abuja-Kaduna train services would resume operation in January 2023 following the release of the remaining 23 kidnapped victims.

Sambo added that the federal government did not pay any ransom for the release of the victims.

While briefing journalists in Abuja, the minister said: "I want to state categorically that because this government does not support or approve ransom payment, no Kobo was paid in exchange for the release of the 23 hostages and even for the release of the other hostages."

Sambo said the victims were released following the combined efforts of a committee set up by the federal government, made up of retired generals and some retired public officers of high ranking and status who assisted the military and the security agencies throughout the process of securing the release of the hostages.

According to him, "after securing the release of the victims, they were taken to the Nigeria Air Force Hospital and are currently recuperating at the Nigeria Defense Academy Hospital in Kaduna State.

"It is not appropriate to reveal exactly what measures were taken in order to secure the release of hostages of this nature. The security agencies were charged to ensure no collateral damage in freeing the victims and that is to make sure that no one hostages' life is lost in the process of securing them."

When probed further if the victims would be compensated, Sambo said, "honestly I have no answer for that question."

He however disclosed that commercial services may resume in three months after all necessary security measures have been put in place, noting: "in the next three months, we will put in place a sustainable plan that will ensure that our rail lines are safe and secure and people can travel on them with their minds and hearts assured of safety."

He added, "Now, I can tell you, we are going to resume very soon and in order to resume train services, we have to put in place measures that will ensure that going forward such an incident never ever happens in this country. And so, we have a short term and a long term plan."

He added that both long term and short term measures have been designed by the ministry, stating: "in the meantime the short term measures will be urgently put in place to ensure resumption of train services very soon."

## Chimamanda Adichie Receives Harvard's Highest Honour

Renowned Nigerian writer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, has received the highest honour of Harvard University, the W. E. B. Du Bois Medal.

She received the medal at a ceremony in the university on Thursday.

The W. E. B. Du Bois Medal is Harvard's highest honour in the field of African and African American studies.

It is awarded to individuals in the United States and across the globe in recognition of their contributions to African and African American culture and the life of the mind.

The Hutchins Center for African and African American Research had stated that the medal was for people "who embody the values of commitment and resolve that are fundamental to the Black experience in America".

Other recipients include Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Laverne Cox, Agnes Guns, Raymond J McGuire, Deval Patrick and Betye Saar.

Director of the Hutchins Center, Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., in an official statement, had said that the 2022 honourees represent "unyielding commitment to pushing the boundaries of representation and creating opportunities for advancement and participation for people who have been too often shut out from the great promise of our times."

Dubois was the first African-American to earn a Harvard Ph.D. in 1895. Past recipients of the medal have included scholars, artists, writers, journalists, philanthropists, and public servants.



**CHEERS OF ACCEPTANCE…**

Governor of Enugu State and candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for Enugu North Senatorial District, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (right) acknowledging cheers from youths of Igbo-Eze South Local Government Area of the state, when members of Great-16 visited the governor to declare their support for his senatorial bid in 2023 and that of other PDP candidates, at the Government House, Enugu... yesterday.

## Folasade Ogunsola Becomes First Female Vice Chancellor of UNILAG

**Bennett Oghifo** and **Uchechukwu Nnaike**

The governing council of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) yesterday announced the appointment of Folasade Ogunsola, a Professor of Medical Microbiology, as the incoming Vice Chancellor of the university.

Prof. Ogunsola will take over from incumbent Vice Chancellor, Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, who served for five years, on November 11, 2022. She will be the first female to hold this position in the nearly 60-year history of the university and its 13th Vice Chancellor.

She emerged the preferred person to be VC out of seven shortlisted candidates that went through a very keen selection process, according to sources familiar with the sober event.

Other shortlisted candidates were: Professors Abayomi Akinyeye of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts; Mathew Ilori and Adeyinka Adekunle both of the Faculty of Sciences; Imran Smith of the Faculty of Law; Timothy Nubi of the Department of Estate Management, Faculty of Environmental Sciences; and Ayo Olowe of the Faculty of Management Sciences.

Ogunsola specialises in disease control, particularly HIV/AIDS, she was provost of College of Medicine, University of Lagos and is reputed as being the first woman to occupy the position. She was also the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Development Services) of the institution between 2017 and 2021. She was elected as the acting vice chancellor of University of Lagos on 24 August 2020, by the university's senate.

## Nigeria Has Spent $100m in Feeding 10 Million School Children, Says FG

**Onyebuchi Ezigbo** in Abuja

The federal government has said almost $100 million was spent in feeding 10 million Nigerian children under the National School Feeding Programme, as part of efforts to eliminate the scourge of child labour in the country.

Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige, stated this in his office, yesterday, while receiving the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Beth Leonard and officials of the Department of State who paid him a courtesy visit.

Ngige explained that the Nigerian government introduced the school feeding programme under its social security programme, to lure children engaged in child labour, back to school.

In a statement signed by the Head of Press and Public Relations of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, Olajide Oshundun, the minister said that federal government also introduced social protection programmes to fight poverty, which is the major contributory factor to the prevalence of child labour in Nigeria.

## Ayu: I Came Not to Loot but Return PDP to Power

**Chuks Okocha** in Abuja

The National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, declared yesterday that he was elected to restore the party to power and not to loot or mismanage the party's funds.

He also disclosed that he has instructed the Finance Department to maintain an update of the income and expenditure account for presentation to the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) at the first-year anniversary of the present NWC in December.

It was his first reaction to charges against him in the media of bribery and illegal payments to members of the party's National Working Members (NWC).

Ayu in a statement by Simon Imobo-Tswam, Special Adviser to the National Chairman on Media and Communication, said although he has many faults as a human being, stealing was not one of them, adding that the present NWC was being guided by the principles of transparency and accountability.

He spoke while welcoming the Forum of Elected Ex-Officio Members of the party who paid him a solidarity visit at the PDP National Headquarters, Abuja.

According to Ayu, "The PDP was not founded to be in opposition. We founded the party to access power and develop the country. And my historic task is to return the party to power. I won't be Chairman forever. For now my preoccupation is to return the party to power. I did not come to steal. My public service record is there.

"I have been a leader of the National Assembly. I have been a minister many times. As a person, I have many faults, but stealing is not one of them. I am conscious of my place in history, and the NWC that I lead is guided by the twin-principles of transparency and accountability. "You may be reading many things and expecting my reaction. If we don't always talk, it is because we want to maintain and build cohesion in the party. We don't want continuous altercations in the PDP family. Our eyes are on the big picture, that is winning the 2023 general elections."

He went on: "Therefore, let us not lose focus. Let us keep our eyes glued on the big picture. Everything else is secondary. We took office because there was crisis in the party.

## FG Introduces Reward System to Keep Best Brains in Civil Service

**Olawale Ajimotokan** in Abuja

The Head of Service of the Federation, Folasade Yemi-Esan, has disclosed that the federal government instituted a mechanism to ensure that hardworking and committed civil servants are fairly and timely appreciated and rewarded while serving.

She disclosed this yesterday at the 2022 maiden edition of the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation's Recognition and Award Ceremony in Abuja.

She said the policy was conceived with the objectives of improving productivity as well as attracting, nurturing and retaining the best employees within the service.

She acknowledged that civil servants are the pillars of national development while reiterating the words of Vice President Yemi Osinbajo that "the Civil Service must not be seen as a dumping ground for job seekers but must attract the best and the brightest, who will contribute fresh ideas and show a determination to solve our socio-economic problems."

She added that the commitment towards ensuring that government initiatives are sustained in the spirit of rewarding and recognising excellence, innovation and dedication in the civil service, as a motivated and efficient workforce, is now fully entrenched.

## UNESCO to Train 500 Nigerian Artists on Financial Stability

**James Sowole** in Abeokuta

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has disclosed a plan to train no fewer than 500 young Nigerians on financial stability with the use of Non Fungible Tokens (NFTs) in 2023.

The organisation disclosed this in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, during a workshop themed 'Utilising Digital Platform to Enhance The Creativity of Artists for More Revenue'.

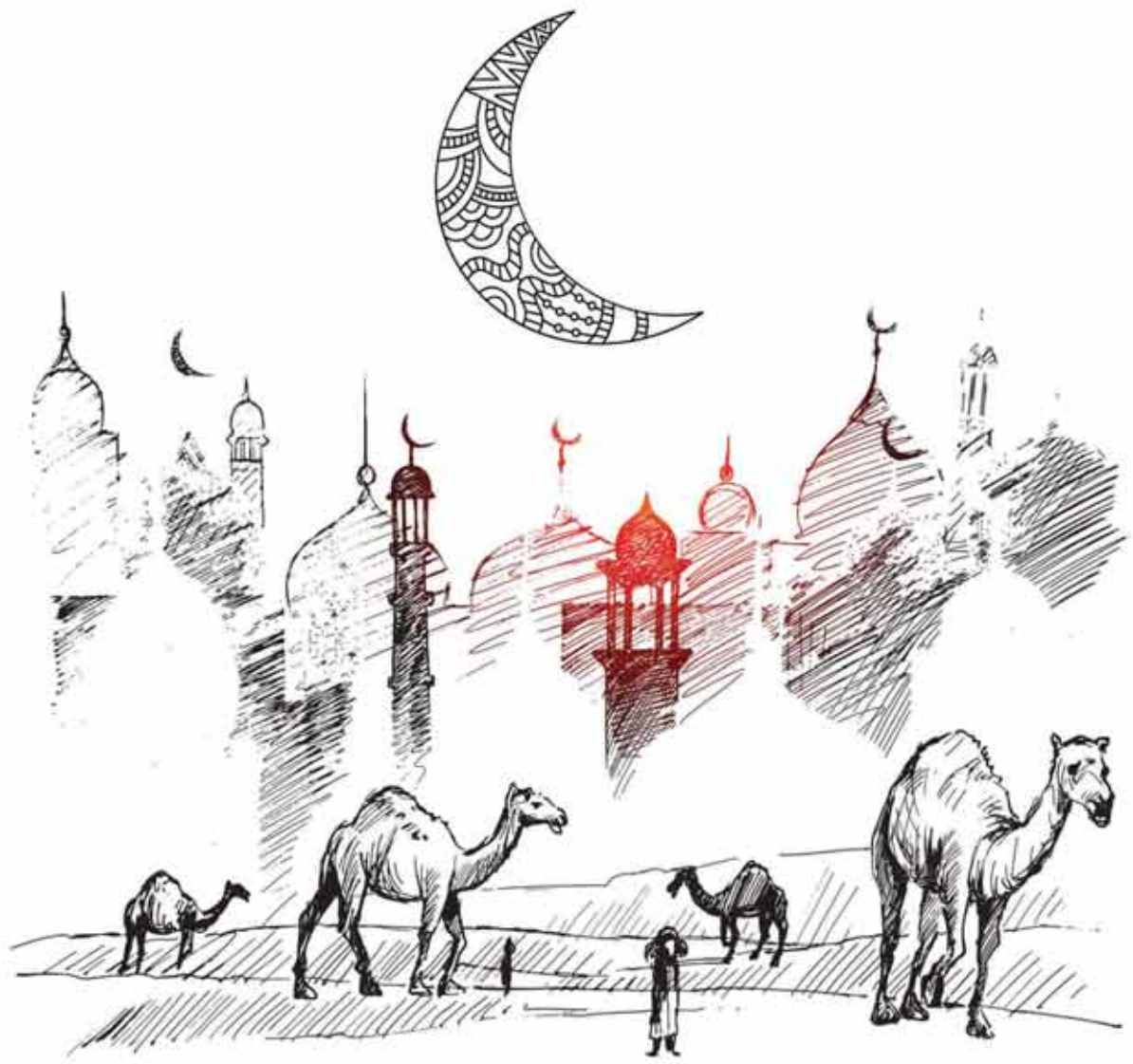
The workshop was organised through its Institute for African Culture and International Understanding.

Speaking at the workshop held at Agunbiade Victory High School in Abeokuta, the Director of the Institute, Professor Emeritus Peter Okebukola, noted that young creative and cultural artists in the nation, were being hindered from enhancing their creativity due to the lack of access to proper skills and tools and the ever evolving nature of technology.

Okebukola said the institute convened the programme in order to teach participants on how to navigate the world of Non Fungible Tokens (NFTs) so as to encourage the promotion of their cultural works in the digital environment, generate more revenue for themselves as well as become self-reliant.

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# INSIGHT



**Freedom at last...**

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## National Honours and Hoaxes

What has not lost its value in Nigeria today? In fact, even the depreciation of the naira seems to have taken a cue from the fact that life itself has lost its value in Nigeria and has instead become as cheap as salt.

The road Nigeria has taken to this point of no return where everything has taken a hit and lost most of its value and validity has been a long and rough one. It is a road that has witnessed all manner of feet and stampedes along the line. The Giant of Africa was always supposed to be a country of giants. However, no sooner did independence come than the Lilliputians came in their legion and seized control of the levers of power.

It began with the military, those men who took leave of their professionalism and barracks to launch themselves into the corridors of power they were ill-equipped to traverse.

Of course, with the staggering struggles that quickly followed on the heels of Nigeria`s independence in 1960 came the notion that independence had come too soon for Africa`s most populous country. However, as with new beginnings, Nigeria`s struggles between 1960- 1966 could well have been teething problems. If they were, then the military had no business intervening. The elected leaders of the people should have been allowed to abide global best practices in a bid to iron out the many challenges that convulsed and confronted the country at that point. But as it stands, the military intervened, and in the process hacking open a wound that has simply refused to heal.

For many years, Nigeria has struggled to grow as a country. In this time, many national values have been lost. Nigerians have remained the enterprising bunch they always have been but as corruption has grown in size and scale and patriotism shrunk, Nigeria has become a country where anything goes.

Because there is honour even among thieves, it has become a tradition in Nigeria that every few years, national honours are conferred on individuals deemed deserving of such honours by the president whose prerogative it is to decide whom to honour. Many Nigerians have been honoured over the years for their contributions to the country.

The federal government recently released a list of those it intends to honour at a ceremony at the State House Abuja on October 11, 2022 and while some Nigerians were conspicuously missing like in the case of former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, the inclusion of the Minister for Education, Adamu Adamu, on the list of proposed honourees even as the strike embarked by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) enters its eight month has drawn curious glances.

The question of those deserving of national honours in Nigeria remains as does the gravity of such honours. For optics, the awards may amount to something in a country where whitewashing graves has been elevated to an art. However, beyond that, there is nothing much to excite discerning observers.

For this year, over 400 Nigerians are set to be honoured. While some of those who have made the list are eminently deserving of the honours, many others are not for the simple reason that for many years they have been active contributors to the problems currently hampering Nigeria`s development as a country.

The irony of the entire exercise is that while some of those who should be honoured can only dream of being honoured, many of those who should be shamed are about to be honoured. There have been several notable rejections of the honours in the past few years. Those who offered such poignant rejection undoubtedly saw the honours for what they really and truly are: hoaxes.

***Kene Obiezu, @keneobiezu***

## Auxiliary Reign of Terror in Ibadanland

Over the last three decades, Oyo State has always been notorious for bloodletting, maiming and high profile killing whenever general election approaches. Some hoodlums would just offer themselves as readymade tools and instruments of human destruction onto the hands of political leaders.

Tokyo reigned supreme during the PDP era of Senator Rasheed Ladoja/ Otunba Alao-Akala. The NURTW warlord was indeed lord unto himself. For many years, he was inciting violence, chaos and pandemonium in the pacesetter state. On behalf of politicians, he maimed and destroyed at will. He was in control for so many years until his regime of horror was brought to a close by late Abiola Ajimobi. The man who thousands of people of the ancient city dread so much like a plague is lucky to be alive today.

After Tokyo came another king of hoodlums, Eleweomo. The modus operandi is the same. They create pandemonium and confusion and in the ensuing battle, they snuff life out of the perceived political foes. Eleweomo also established an imperial reign of terror for years in Ibadanland and beyond, until he met his waterloo in a crunchy battle.

Presently, another warlord with the name Auxiliary has emerged in the ancient city. His stock in trade is to always threaten fire and brimstones reminiscent of Tokyo and Eleweomo days and also, drumming it to the hearing of whoever cares to listen to him of his capacity to kill, destroy and maim. The strategy is essentially to coercing political opponents into submission.

Meanwhile, the news in the public domain is that, he's working for the PDP government in the state, a fact that the government had not denied.

He has not only picked on APC gubernatorial candidate for the forthcoming general elections, distinguished Senator Folarin, he's also promised to dispatch him to the great beyond.

Just two days ago during the APC rally in the ancient city of Ibadanland, he was in his best element with his team of hoodlums and urchins attacking the procession with cudgels, machetes, sword and guns and leaving on his trail blood, flowing endlessly from hundreds of APC faithful.

The pertinent question we need to ask here is, when has our nation turned into the land of blood suckers, hyena, hit-men and cannibals who at slightest provocation snuff life out of fellow countrymen simply for political reasons?

It's also tragic that this threat to life is being directed to no less a person than a distinguished senator of federal republic and governorship candidate of the nation's ruling party in the state.

***Kola Amzat, (FCA, FCIB), Financial Consultant, Lagos***

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NEWS



**CHANGE OF NGF BATON…**

**L-R: Governor Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State; President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State, during the visit of the governors to the Presidential Villa, Abuja… yesterday.** GODWIN OMOIGUI

# Former PDP National Chairman, Vincent Ogbulafor is Dead

**Chuks Okocha** in Abuja

Former National Chairman and first National Secretary of the opposition party, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Chief Vincent Ogbulafor is dead.

He has been confirmed dead by a family source which further told THISDAY that he died Thursday in Canada at the age of 73 from an undisclosed ailment.

He died in Canada on Thursday, a family source said.

Ogbulafor is from Olokoro, in Umuahia South local government of Abia State.

He was born on May 24, 1949, and died peacefully on Thursday night, the family source stated.

Ogbulafor was first PDP's National Secretary before he later became National Chairman after a bitter national battle between Senator Sam Egwu and Senator Anyim Pius Anyim.

He was forced to resign as PDP national chairman by the powers that be, when he fell out with them.

Ogbulafor was later charged with an alleged financial recklessness while serving as a minister.

.He was reputed to have boasted that the PDP will rule for 40 years which did not come to pass, as the All Progressives Congress (APC) truncated that dream and eventually defeated it in 2015.

Ogbulafor became PDP national chairman on March 8, 2008 and started his tenure on a controversial note with his comments in which he sounded magisterial that he did not care if Nigeria became a one-party state.

He was succeeded as national chairman by the former governor of Enugu State, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo.

# Abia 2023: Again, Emenike Wins as Court Dismisses Suit Seeking to Nullify APC Guber Primary

**Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo** in Umuahia

A Federal High Court sitting in Umuahia has dismissed a suit seeking to nullify the primary election that produced High Chief Ikechi Emenike as the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Abia State.

Delivering a judgement yesterday in suit No. FHC/UM/CS/96/2022 filed by Chief Daniel Eke, the trial judge, Justice Evelyn Anyadike, dismissed the case on the ground that the plaintiff has no locus standi to challenge the outcome of the governorship election which he did not participate in.

"This suit is hereby dismissed and there is no need to look into the merits," she declared.

Eke had gone to court claiming that the primary election conducted by the national leadership of APC on May 26, 2022 did not comply with the provisions of the Electoral Act as well as the party's own guidelines.

Apart from listing APC, Emenike and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as defendants, the plaintiff also joined the former Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Mr. Uche Ogah, who purportedly conducted his own primary and awarded himself a "governorship ticket".

The plaintiff further claimed that the governorship primary that produced Emenike was conducted through an indirect process while Ogah merely wrote results, claiming that he conducted direct primary without party and INEC involvement.

But Justice Anyadike held that all the claims of the plaintiff were a bundle of contradictions since he claimed that there was no primary election and that he did not participate in any of the "parallel primaries" but in the same breath, stated that he witnessed the primary in which Emenike emerged.

The court spotted contradictions in the plaintiff's claims as he had admitted in a supporting affidavit that he participated in the indirect primary conducted by the committee sent by the national leadership of APC. Eke claimed he was not aware of the primary but after discovering the venue at Chidiebere Park Field Umuahia he scored 16 votes when the result was announced.

# Buhari: We"ll Use Technology to Tap Seabed Resources

**Deji Elumoye** in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari has disclosed that

Nigeria has strategic mineral resources in its seabed, which will be exploited through adequate deployment of technology.

The President spoke yesterday at State House, Abuja, while playing host to Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority, Mr. Michael Lodge, who was attending a workshop on Africa Deep Sea Resources in Abuja.

According to him, resources would be deployed, and studies done, believing it would be worth the while.

The President also used the forum to applaud the Nigerian Navy for its role in protecting the country's maritime domain, urging it to "continue to guard us jealously."

Earlier in his speech, Mr. Lodge thanked Nigeria for hosting the international workshop, and lauded the country for the leadership it provides on the African continent.

He encouraged the country to explore her deep seabed resources "to support the blue economy," and pledged solidarity with Nigeria during his administration as the Secretary General.

# Pharmacists Demand Full Autonomy for LASU Pharmacy Faculty

Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) Lagos branch has advised the Lagos State Government to grant the newly approved Faculty of Pharmacy at Lagos State University full autonomy for maximum benefits of collegiate status.

The Chairman of the Society, Pharm. Gbolagade Iyiola, who spoke during the society's Scientific Week in Lagos, commended the state government for approving the establishment of a Faculty of Pharmacy at the university.

"We congratulate Governor Sanwo-Olu and encourage him to normalise the complications around the new Pharmacy School, so that it can enjoy take-off," he said.

He advised that the focus of the faculty must be on the award of degrees in PharmD and "not aligned or subsumed in marriages of inconveniences with any other structure of a calling in the Health profession."

"The PSN (Lagos State Branch) finds it necessary to commend the Lagos State Government for finally giving a nod to the establishment of a Faculty of Pharmacy at the Lagos State University.

The training school deserves to become the benchmark in national discourses as we strongly clamour that its focus must be degrees in PharmD which will become the minimal registerable degree by the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria in a few years.

# Aisha Buhari to Speak on Encouraging Women to Save for Rainy Days

**Kuni Tyessi** in Abuja

The wife of President Muhammadu Buhari, Mrs. Aisha is set to speak today on the need for women to imbibe the culture of saving for rainy days, particularly for themselves and their children.

She will be speaking at the public presentation of the book, The Audacity of an African Girl, a novel that serves as a prototype to the average African woman who is determined to be educated and stand tall in a patriarchal society.

Author of the book and American returnee, Khuraira Musa, who made the announcement using herself as an example, said as a child who was determined to be educated despite being born in penury has been able to heat all odd to soar and shine due to encouragement and savings that were done in that regard.

She called on the government at all levels to engage parents more in the menace of out of school children, particularly in the North if it has been discovered that the children seen around are of school going age.

Speaking to journalists on the public presentation of the book, Ms. Musa emphasised that even though the government cannot bear the cost of education alone, it behooves on it to provide a conducive learning environment, qualified teachers and the necessary tools for better understanding.

"Whatever you're doing, have something by the side for that raining day. That is what has helped me over the years. I had a son whose 20 per cent lungs were damaged as a result of sickle cell anemia, and he had to be induced into coma for six weeks. Imagine if I didn't have anything on me, or wasn't financially stable? So no matter how little you're earning as a woman, try to see that you make savings for that rainy day which will surely come.

"It is important we realise that every country has their headaches. America does have hers, and what you see on the television is not what is all about America. They pick and choose what they show you about their own country, and they pick and choose what they show the world about your own country.

"The country has no control over what you should be. I was at Ruga, I didn't even know what government was. But I wanted to go to school and my parents supported me. So people can't always blame the government. You must show that you want something so bad. Your parents also need to push you. Everything needs to start from home. Sometimes the parents are not doing their part. Why don't we start looking at the parents before pointing our hands to the government?

"Then in America, if a child is of school age and hasn't been enrolled, the parents are going to get a visit. What the Nigerian government needs to do is that if they find out children of school going age not going to school, then they need to find out why the parents are not sending them to school. That is the role of the government."

# Obi Unveils Campaign Website, Seeks Nigerians Support to Fund Campaign

**Emameh Gabriel** in Abuja

Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi, yesterday unveiled a website for donors and supporters of his presidential ambition to lodge funds into for the party's presidential campaigns and election.

Obi made the announcement yesterday in a tweet via his verified Twitter handle.

The Labour Party standard bearer who was in the United States in continuation of his international consultations with the Diasporas where he deliberated with Harvard scholars and critical thinkers on the policy thrust that will drive his government if elected president next year, twitted: "I invite every member of the #OBIdient Family, and every supporter of our march to a new Nigeria to visit the official campaign website for the Obi-Datti Campaign organisation:

"You can use that medium to support and donate in cash and kind to the campaign."

# IMO President, Lim Delivers Keynote Address at Nigeria International Maritime Summit

**Kasim Sumaina** in Abuja

The Secretary General, International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Kitack Lim, is set to deliver a keynote address at the forthcoming Nigeria International Maritime Summit (NIMS).

The visit by Lim will be the first by an IMO Secretary General to Nigeria in more than 20 years, and is facilitated by the Ministry of Transportation, in collaboration with the Governing Board of NIMS.

The summit, according to the governing board and Transportation Ministry, will increase investment and efficiency in the Nigerian maritime sector.

The duo said this in a statement signed by Dr. Magdalene Ajani, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation and Mfon Usoro, the Governing Board Chairperson of NIMS.

The statement in Abuja noted that the Minister of Transportation, Mu'azu Sambo, will host the summit next month, stating: "We are pleased to have this rare opportunity to host the world's top global maritime diplomat in Nigeria and to showcase the significant milestones achieved by this administration in the maritime industry.

"NIMS 2022 will feature government-to-government, government-to-business and business-to-business exchanges towards increasing investment and efficiency in the Nigerian maritime sector."

# RingTrue

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Yemi Adebowale



# Nigeria's Consciously-Exposed Crude Oil Pipelines

It is disgraceful that for the first time in 50 years, Nigeria is unable to meet its crude oil quota. The quota is 1.8 million barrels per day but this country is struggling to deliver around 900,000 barrels, no thanks to theft and shut-in of wells caused by vandals. The crises assumed this deadly dimension in the last quarter of 2021. So, for about a year now, Nigeria has hugely increased production of crude oil for thieves. For example, at the Brass terminal in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Eni, an Italian oil firm, reported that a low amount of oil was reaching the terminal because of extensive illegal bunkering. The Trans-Niger Pipeline, capable of transporting about 180,000 barrels of crude per day, has ceased work due to theft. Bonny terminal is similarly recording zero.

Production companies have been forced to shut-in wells in several fields, equally caused by thieves, who have damaged transportation pipelines. There is also the troubled Forcados terminal, forced to shut down for several months now, resulting in the loss of 258,000 barrels a day. Since August last year, Shell has been repairing a subsea hose which stopped the export of Forcados crude, one of the country's largest export grades. This is the same Forcados where an illegal oil connection was used for oil theft for years. It was discovered after the impairment to the terminal. There is indeed a multiple-barrel attack on crude oil production in Nigeria.

The theft of Nigerian crude oil has been on for years. This is no news. Crude theft has always been a "legal and registered" business. But for this current unprecedented level that disrupted this country's OPEC quota, the noise by government won't be this loud. The truth those in government and the NNPC are running away from, is that it is impossible for crude oil to be stolen without the connivance of security agencies. This country has an armada of security agencies in the Niger Delta and on the high sea, monitoring facilities and movements, without result. This is disgusting.

The biggest problem this country is facing now is that the man that should be asking proactive questions about the failings of all our security agencies regarding crude oil theft has not been doing so in the manner it should be done. I stand to be corrected. There are hardly penalties for crude oil breaches from the Commander-in Chief. I'm talking about President Muhammadu Buhari. Our President must persistently demand results because this country has huge number of security men monitoring oil facilities.

Just last April, the Nigerian Navy further inaugurated what is evidently its biggest operation aimed at ending theft and illegal refining, with the deployment of 40 ships, five helicopters and 200 boats for "Operation Dakatar Da Barawo" (stop the thief) across the region. Yes, 40 ships



Gambo

and thousands of personnel!

I vividly recall the NNPC boss, Mele Kyari, assuring Nigerians on that day that with this special operation by the Navy, Nigerians would begin to see measurable results in two to three weeks. It is almost six months and nothing has changed. Rather, things are deteriorating. So, where are the Navy's "resolute and deep commitments" to end the menace of crude oil theft, as avowed by the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo, last April?

What happened to Gambo's promise, while inaugurating "Operation Dakatar Da Barawo" to ensure the unhindered exploration and exploitation of the nation's maritime resources for national development? What happened to the CNS's vow that the Nigerian Navy, under his watch, remains committed to eradicating all acts of criminality in Nigeria's maritime domain and by extension, the Gulf of Guinea for the economic wellbeing of the people? What happened to his promise that the Navy would dominate the nation's backwaters through aggressive and intelligence-driven patrols?

I clearly heard the Navy Chief saying his men would be dedicated to monitoring pipelines, blocking identified strategic estuaries to prevent conveyance of stolen crude oil from inshore to sea and maintaining credible presence along the coastline of areas prone to crude oil theft.

Where are the Special Forces deployed by the Navy Chief? Obviously, the President has not been questioning Gambo. There have not been repercussions for the failings. Those who should be questioning Gambo and his boys are tactically silent. The Chief of Naval Staff himself estimates that Nigeria lost about $3.2 billion to crude oil theft and illegal bunkering between January 2021 and February 2022, yet, he has failed to end the menace.

Nigeria is bleeding as a result of huge losses to crude oil theft. Instead of tackling crude oil theft to increase revenue, the federal government is focusing on borrowing. That says a lot about a government that claims to be committed to ending crude oil theft. No wonder human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, recently alleged that about N17 billion allocated for acquiring technology needed to track the movement of crude oil by the Buhari government had been diverted.

Falana stated: "I have not been challenged, that on the 8th of August 2018, the Federal Executive Council approved N17 billion for the acquisition of software to track ships that are loading crude oil in Nigeria and to monitor where the crude oil is being taken to, and also to track tankers loading fuel anywhere in Nigeria and taking them wherever."

The desperate NNPC recently awarded pipeline surveillance contracts to some private Nigeria companies to checkmate crude oil theft. It is expected to gulp over N130 billion this year. Have previous pipeline protections contracts awarded to these private firms yielded results? Kyari needs to answer this question. If he is honest, the answer will be a capital NO! The contract was just jobs for the boys. This latest contract would be free money for the three firms - Pipeline Infrastructure Nigeria Limited, Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited and Maton Engineering Nigeria Limited – and their sponsors.

The world has gone beyond this crude method of protecting crude oil pipelines. Mele Kyari should know this. Our security agents know this. NNPC should be talking about installing drone surveillance and attack stations for our oil and gas pipelines, instead of wasting money on useless pipeline surveillance contractors.

There is also a protection technology called PipeGuard, designed by an Israeli company. It significantly improves the security of buried gas and oil pipelines. PipeGuard is based on the principle of seismic sensing of underground vibration. Using highly sensitive geo-phones tuned and calibrated to the required wavelength, the system can detect intrusion signals at a significant distance.

In case a real threat is identified, the corresponding sensing unit transmits a message to the control room, alerting the security crew and guiding them to the location of the event. PipeGuard has a unique patented algorithm for analyzing signals and distinguishing an intrusion from background noise. In addition, PipeGuard defines the unique characteristic of each and every component of the overall signal, and then compares it to the signals stored in a vast library of seismic signal "footprints".

Once there is a definite resemblance to a signal registered as a threat - the unit will declare an alarm, and the system will act accordingly. The unique capability to sense, analyse and identify a real threat immediately as it is introduced, enables the controller to take action and guide the closest response team to the accurate location of the event. In most cases, the system will notify the controller as early as the saboteur is organising himself in the vicinity of the pipe, by for example, unloading heavy equipment. In most cases, this will leave the pipelines' security team with about 30 minutes to react before a contact with the pipe is made by the intruder.

The Nigerian government should be looking towards installing PipeGuard, if it is really interested in protecting this country's oil and gas pipelines.



Mbaka

## Tears Not Needed for Father Mbaka

By now, the Chaplain/Spiritual Director of Adoration Ministry Chaplaincy, Enugu, Rev. Fr. Ejike Mbaka must be struggling to adjust to life in a monastery. This is his new pastoral place of work, thanks to the Enugu Diocese of the Catholic Church. The notorious clergy was this week transferred to the monastery by the Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese, Most Rev Callistus Onaga.

Fr. Mbaka's followers are rebelling against the decision. The new Chaplain, Rev Fr Anthony Amadi was initially chased out of the ministry by adorers, as Mbaka's followers are fondly called. A priest is moved by his Bishop and his followers go about making noise. Wonders shall never end in this country. This is absolutely unnecessary. The Catholic Bishop of Enugu, as the Chief Shepherd, with the obligation to promote and safeguard the Catholic faith and morals in the diocese, has the power to send Mbaka anywhere.

Besides, Mbaka, a "political cleric" and master of double talk, deserves a new challenge that will take him away from mischiefs for a while, as politics become intense ahead of 2023.

For Mbaka, his unhappiness about this fresh posting is logical after enjoying a good time at the Adoration ground. Mbaka is weeping because he has lost his big apple. At the Adoration ground, whenever Mbaka makes biting political statements, it resonates across the nation, generating praise and disgust, depending on the side one belongs.

This priest has profited a great deal in the name of God with his "divinely-inspired" messages. The result is obvious. His business empire is now stretching from manufacturing to schools. His followers also purchase a customised recharge card at different rates through which they call him for prayers and counseling. Mbaka's companies, under the parent name of Aquarapha, produces consumables such as sachet water, bottle water, vegetable oil, yoghurt and olive oil. He also owns a recycling plant, and produces exercise books, AMEN stickers, AMEN recharge cards and AMEN prayer books. With his array of companies, Mbaka has proved how profitable it is to do business in the name of God. What a lucky chap.

# Evil Vladimir Putin

Seven days back, Pope Francis at St Peter's Square appealed to Russia's evil President Vladimir Putin to stop the "spiral of violence and death" in Ukraine. It was the first time the Pope will be directly addressing Putin. The head of the Catholic Church is haunted by "rivers of blood and tears" in Ukraine triggered by this mad man called Putin.

He also lamented the annexation of four Ukrainian regions by Russia's troops, saying it risked nuclear escalation, hence urging Putin to think of his own people.

Putin belittles life. He is of low minds and has no conscience. He brazenly proclaimed the annexation of the four partially occupied Ukrainian regions, calling the residents of occupied Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhia "our citizens forever". He is obviously senseless. Is there any country in the world that will allow any part to secede? Will he allow this in Russia? This is a man that brutally repelled separatists in Chechnya, killing thousands of Muslims. Putin is inflicting so much pain on innocent people in Ukraine because of his territorial ambition.

Begging calamity Putin is no longer necessary. He is already feeling the heat of his irrational invasion of Ukraine, with hundreds of Russian soldiers killed. I am consoled by this fact. Malicious Putin thought the invasion was going to be a walk in the park. Ukrainian soldiers are proving to be a formidable force. Many Ukrainian territories have been regained and Russian invaders pushed to the North of the country. Thousands of Russian reserves called to check the Ukrainian progress are fleeing the country. I see Putin pulling out in shame or Russian Generals killing him and pulling out of Ukraine. One thing is certain: Forces of good will soon overrun Putin's forces of evil.

NEWSXTRA

# Gumi's Aide, Mamu Allegedly Stalled Train Victims' Rescue, Fuelled Ransom Demand

**Bennett Oghifo**

A member of the Presidential Committee that engaged in the rescue of the passengers on the Abuja-Kaduna bound train in March has alleged that an aide to Islamic Cleric, Sheikh Abubakar Gumi stalled earlier efforts to free them.

The committee member, Dr. AbdulMalik Atta, who spoke on television yesterday, alleged that Gumi's aide, Tukur Mamu introduced ransom-taking into the rescue efforts before the Chief of Defence Staff intervened.

Atta, whose father was among the abducted passengers, alleged, "Because of Mamu's introduction of money into the rescue process, the victims' families had parted with over $200,000 prior to the Chief of Defence Staff's intervention.

"The Presidential Committee made life-threatening sacrifices, as we had to go into the forest to meet with the terrorists and even slept in the bush.

"It has been six months and one week, but we thank God everything has come to an end now, thanks to the support from the federal government through the office of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). We were able to go into the bush and bring back the remaining of our family members.

"We achieved this not through somebody who betrayed the committee and the government, I am talking about the person of Tukur Mamu who did everything within his reach to thwart the efforts of the government for his own interest. As we all know, he is in the hands of the government now. But we thank God, all our family members are back now.

"The bandits never asked for money ab-initio, Tukur Mamu introduced money into the whole thing and derailed the process and kept everybody for the past six months.



**ACCEPT MY CONDOLENCES…**

**L-R: Former President Goodluck Jonathan condoling Bauchi State Governor, Abdulkadir Mohammed, over the demise elder brother, late Abubakar Bappa Mohammed who died and was buried in Turkey...recently**

# 180 Stranded Nigerians Return from Niger Republic

**Ibrahim Shuaibu** in Kano

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has received 180 Nigerians that were stranded in Niger Republic on their way to Libya and Algeria to seek greener pastures.

Receiving the returnees in Kano yesterday, the NEMA Coordinator, Kano Territorial Office, Dr. Nuradeen Abdullahi, said the victims include 144 male adults, 13 female adults and 23 children (17 female and six male).

"The returnees are from different parts of the country, some from Lagos, Katsina, Cross River, Kaduna, Bauchi and Kano states among others. They will be trained for four days to be self-reliant and will be given a grant," Abdullahi said.

According to him, the returnees were brought back to Kano through a voluntary repatriation programme for the distressed who had left the country to seek greener pastures in various European countries and could not afford to return when their journey became frustrated.

"Nigerians should avoid endangering their lives by travelling to seek for greener pastures in other countries no country better than our country Nigeria," the Coordinator said

The NEMA territorial officer noted that the agency between May and August had received 380 Nigerians stranded from Agadez in Niger Republic, Khartoum in Sudan, who were trained on various skills acquisition.

# NIS Arrests Cleric While Moving 21 Children to Mauritania

**Ismail Adebayo** in Birnin Kebbi

The Nigeria Immigration Service Kebbi State Command has arrested a cleric while trafficking 21 children from Nigeria to Mauritania and Senegal through the Kebbi border post.

The Islamic cleric whose name was given as Husseini Sulieman Idris, a native of Bida in Niger State was arrested at Kangiwa Border Post of the Nigeria Immigration Service in Arewa Local Government Area of Kebbi State as he tried to move the children out of the country with fake ECOWAS passports.

While briefing journalists at the NIS Command in Birnin Kebbi, the State Comptroller Rabi Bashir Nuhu said upon interrogation, the cleric claimed he was taking the children to Senegal for Maulud celebration from where he planned to move them to Mauritania to seek Islamic knowledge.

The Comptroller said in their investigation it was discovered that the ECOWAS passports with which the cleric was moving the 21 children out of the country were fake.

She said, "From what he told us, we suspected the cleric was trafficking the children out of Nigeria. What is disturbing is that the victims are minors, particularly the two girls that are among the 19 boys.

"Though the cleric, Sulieman claimed he was moving the children to Mauritania with the consent of their parents but we don't believe him. We know the children are being trafficked.

# PSC Promotes 40 DCPs to CP

**Kingsley Nwezeh** in Abuja

The Police Service Commission (PSC) yesterday approved the promotion of 40 Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) to the substantive rank of Commissioners of Police.

The commission also approved accelerated promotion for two Assistant Commissioners due to existing vacancy in the medical cadre.

The new commissioners of police were promoted after an interactive session / interview with the commission at the plenary meeting chaired by Justice Clara Ogunbiyi (rtd).

A statement issued in Abuja said the commission also approved the promotion of CP Abdul Yari Lafia and CP Rudouf Echebi to the rank of Assistant Inspector-General General of Police.

The date of promotion of CP Yari, who was until his elevation, Commissioner of Police, Training, was earlier considered and adjusted by the commission which qualified him for promotion.

The leadership of the commission also paid a courtesy visit on the Minister of Police Affairs Mohammed Maigari Dingyadi and had visited the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba Wednesday at the Force Headquarters, Abuja.

The new Commissioners of Police are; Adebola Ayinde Hamzat, presently DCP, SCID, Ondo State Command; Idegwu Basil Okuoma, DCP Federal Operations, Force Headquarters Abuja; Zachariah Dera Achinyan, National Defence College Abuja; Sule Balarebe, DCP DFA, Sokoto State Command; Zango Ibrahim Baba, DCP SFU, FCIID Annex, Lagos; Maiyaki Mohammed Baba, DCP Admin, Kebbi State Command; Ishiaku Mohammed, DCP Finance Force Headquarters; Margret Agebe Ochalla, Team Leader, IGP Monitoring Unit and presently Gender Coordinator of the Nigeria Police Force; Benneth Igwe, DCP OPs FCT Command and Mohammed Abdul Suleiman, second in command, Force Education Officer.

# NGO Makes Case for Children with Cancer

**Kuni Tyessi** in Abuja

With the rising cases of children suffering with cancer and parents having to pay from their pockets for treatment, a bingo governmental organisation has called on the federal government to include cancer treatment for children in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

Referring to children's cancer as a neglected concern, the founder of the NGO, Okapi Children Cancer Foundation, Ms. Kemi Adekanye, said the need for children to be supported in the scheme cannot be underestimated in bringing the scourge under control.

Adekanye who spoke during the foundation's 2022 Walk of Hope for Children Fighting Cancer, said the aim of the walk is to create awareness and sensitisation towards the plight of cancer children and the need for support.

"We try to raise money, last year we raised six million, this year we are trying to do more than that.

"Children with cancer are not covered with NHIS, we are trying to see a situation whereby children are being considered. Our theme for this year is 'Make Cancer a National Priority'. "We would like to see a situation whereby children have been considered and that they are being supported sociologically," she said.

# Nigeria's Diverse Tongues, Asset for National Development, Says Expert

**Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo** in Umuahia

A language expert has said that the over 500 languages spoken in Nigeria is potentially a huge asset for national development and should be harnessed for that purpose.

Professor Francis Egbokhare, who is a renowned Professor of Linguistics and Chairman of the Governing Council of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN), expressed this view at 27th regular meeting of the Council in Aba, Abia State.

He said it was wrong for people to regard Nigeria's multiplicity of languages as a liability.

"The truth is that language is an asset; what you have to know is how to use diversity to your advantage. It is not language that is the problem; it is the management of language; it is the politics - the political process that is the problem.

"It is the policy framework that makes diversity an asset or a problem. For us as Nigerians, I think we have to take advantage of this diversity," he said.

According to the University of Ibadan linguist and immediate past President of the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL), Nigerians had hitherto focused on the negative side of multilingualism hence the perception

He therefore advised Nigerians to start looking at the potentials of language itself and see it as a vehicle through which all things hold together.

# EnterpriseNGR to Launch Nigeria's State of Enterprise Report 2022

**Dike Onwuamaeze**

The EnterpriseNGR would launch the maiden edition of its annual publication titled 'The State of Enterprise (SOE) Report, 2022: Analysing Nigeria's Financial and Professional Services Sector' as part of the activities to mark its first year anniversary.

A press release issued by the EnterpriseNGR, yesterday, said that the SOE report would be a first-of-its-kind annual industry publication that would analyse the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) sector holistically and individually spotlights the key sub-sectors of the FPS universe by highlighting the significant achievements of the FPS sector and its contributions to Nigeria's economy.

According to the EnterpriseNGR, the SOE report, which has been scheduled to be launched on Wednesday, October 12, will present "accurate and up-to-date insights into the (FPS) sector's impact as a growth catalyst for the economy, while identifying the challenges facing the sector."

It said that the launch of the SOE report would kick off with a welcome address by the Chairman of the Board of EnterpriseNGR, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, and followed by an insightful keynote address to be delivered by a Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Oxford, Director, Center for the Study of African Economies, Oxford, Professor Stefan Dercon, who is also the author of the bestselling book: 'Gambling on Development: Why Some Countries Win and Others Lose'.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS UCHE CHRISTIANA CHIZURUM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS OKONKWO CHRISTIANA CHIZURUM.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MANDELA ADAMU,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MANDELA OSIZORKHAI ADAMU.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS GLORIA UKAMAKA OKORO,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS GLORIA UKAMAKA NDUDI.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **FRANCIS EMMANUEL,** now wish to be known and addressed as **FRANCIS ISAAC ORJI.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

Ferdinand Ekechukwu **08035011394**
Email: **ferdi_adthisday@yahoo.com**



# Niniola Seals Deal with Diddy

**Ferdinand Ekechukwu**

Lovers of Afrobeats are having it good as the genre gets a record that is expected to further its international ascension. Thanks to Nigerian Afrobeats star, Niniola Apata (Niniola) who recently sealed a new collaboration with American singer and music mogul Diddy, real name Sean Combs.

Niniola secured the music collaboration with Diddy four years after she sent him a message expressing her desire to work with him; a mix of fate and talent. An excited Niniola took to her Instagram page to share a video of her phone conversation with Diddy, who spoke about how he wanted them to work on the project. In the video, Diddy stated that he had wanted to make an African remix for one of his songs and someone on his team recommended Niniola.

Diddy revealed that he went to DM the Nigerian queen of Afro-House only to find that she had earlier sent him a message in 2018 stating her wish to one day work with him.

"Dreams do come through" Niniola captioned the video that reveals another milestone for the 2-time joint-Grammy nominee. According to Diddy: "I want you to do it all and send it to me one time when you feel like I've given this song my all cause it's our song. This is what you manifested a long time ago."

He said: "I was looking for somebody to be on the Afrobeats remix and Spinalk told me about her. I go to message her then I see that you sent me a message…2018 saying I want to work with you one day but I'm calling her saying I want to work with her." The American music icon continues his connection with Nigerian music stars. Diddy has been seen vibing with Nigerian stars like Tiwa Savage.

In 2020, Diddy served as executive producer on Burna Boy's Grammy-winning 'Twice As Tall' album. Since then, he



Niniola



Diddy

has maintained a close connection with Nigerian music and restated his desire to keep collaborating with Nigerian creatives. His chat with the 'Maradona' crooner is his latest effort. Fans can expect that the result of the duet will be a sensational record that is expected to further Afrobeats' international ascension.

# 'Assurance' Ship Renewed for Davido, Chioma

**Ferdinand Ekechukwu**

Davido, and his baby mama, Chioma Rowland have continued to give life to speculations that the pair are back but the nature of their new relationship remains one to be figured out going by recent events around them. Though, they continued to celebrate each other's birthdays, the lovebirds have been seen a couple of times together this year since their estranged romance in 2021. Davido and Chioma were captured together at Dubai Expo 2022.

The superstar artiste and the celebrity chef were also at a gathering in January where she was spotted hanging out with some of Davido's family members. The duo had first reunited late last year to celebrate the second birthday of their son, Ifeanyi. Even though many of their followers had kissed their ship, goodbye, they continued to hint on rekindling their romance. The latest being just last week after Davido's concert attended by Chioma who was spotting a 30BG gold neckpiece.

In a new video that made the rounds online, both were spotted partying, with Chioma all smiles and cozy together with Davido as they vibed to his song at the club. Hours after, both were together at a church service where Davido confessed to attending church for the first time in three years. Taking to Instagram to



Davido and Chioma

share a photo Chioma's hand in church, Davido wrote; "First time in church in 3 years... God is good"

There's also indication that both are now living together. Recall that Davido's aid, Isreal DMW shared a photo of Chioma joining Davido at the dining table. In his caption, the quite obtrusive aide noted that it is unwise for anyone to meddle in the business of a man and woman. Isreal did not stop there. The DMW star took to his Instastory channel with photos of Chioma rocking nightwear inside Davido's house.

The photos sparked reactions online with many believing that Chioma would soon birth another child for the Afrobeats superstar in the coming year. Davido and Chioma's relationship took a nosedive in Feb 2021. After revealing in an interview that he called off his wedding plans with Chioma because of the coronavirus pandemic, it became clear all was not exactly well in the 'Assurance' ship.

The supposed breakup was spurred by loved-up photos of Davido and Instagram model Yafai on holiday in the Caribbean. This was followed, by a series of loved-up photos of the two that broke the internet in March 2021. Prior to that moment, there's been the case of Davido having a fourth baby mama. Immediately, the rumour mills went into overdrive and different tales began to emerge. It then appeared months later there was actually a Davido's fourth baby mama with a son.

However, amid the report of the fourth baby mama scandal, Davido and Chioma unfollowed each other on Instagram, giving room for their fans and followers to question the state of their relationship. The action of Davido and Chioma resulted in several speculations about what had gone wrong between them. Davido has never hidden his love for Chioma, his special one whose relationship with became public after she celebrated her 23rd birthday in 2018.

When asked about his lover Chioma, in comparison to the other first two baby mamas shortly before he proposed to her. Responding, 'OBO' said, "This one is special to me". He formally proposed to Chioma at a dinner held at a restaurant in London in 2019 and welcomed their son Ifeanyi, the same year. The engagement came 10 days after the couple's family had an introduction ceremony 'in Chioma's family home in Lagos.

# Enters Season 3 of 'The Gang Reality Show'

**Ferdinand Ekechukwu**

Breeze Production, organisers of The Gang Reality Show, a talent hunt and reality game, is gearing up for the third edition with the theme, "The Ballers Vibes". It's social media handle @thegangrealityshow is buzzing already.

Contestants have an opportunity to entertain a global audience with their creativities. The Gang Reality Show is a 30-day TV programme which will air on Dstv and Gotv and is open to Nigerians age 18 from different socio-cultural backgrounds.

"30 Days of luxury celebrity living while in The Gang House, activities and lifestyle of gang-mates will be aired on TV and Online platforms daily to sell each gang-mate lifestyle and influence to fans and brands," the organisers noted.

The show is a 21-Gang-mate celebrity apprentice programme where gang-mates are mentored by noteworthy role models, celebrities and influencers to become celebrity personalities. The show group gang-mates together to become 'The Gang', The best Gang-mate wins the show. The maiden season saw the emergence of Ilikwu Christiana Odinaka as winner in season 1. While Ezeh Chinecherem Innocent emerged winner in season 2.

This new season of the TV show offers mouth-watering prizes and lots of benefits to participants. In The Gang Reality television show, the winner takes it all! This could be your chance to be famous. According to the organisers, "The winner goes home with a car, a cash prize, an all-expense-trip to Dubai, plus a feature in a Nollywood movie."

"We hope you are getting ready for the new season of The Gang Reality Show. With two seasons already, 'Paparazzi Edition' and 'Baddest Cruise', the vibes of the third season will soon be upon us. Get your fans and followers ready to vote for you to be the winner," said the organisers.




The Gang Reality Show maiden winner, Ilikwu Christiana Odinaka.

SHOWBIZFLAIR

# Funke Akindele Drops Teaser for 'Battle on Buka Street'

**Ferdinand Ekechukwu**

Nollywood actress, Funke Akindele has teased fans with her latest directorial, "Battle on Buka Street". In an Instagram post last Tuesday, Akindele offered viewers the first look at the highly anticipated comedy with its first teaser. The movie, which parades an array of stars, will hit cinemas nationwide on December 16.

The new title joins other titles including Inkblot production's Palava!, and the Toyin Abraham produced Ijakumo, all coming to the cinemas in December. Teasing, Akindele wrote, "Shey make we drop am??? We go drop am!!!! We know say you wan see am!!!" The hilarious teaser elicited comments from her industry friends and colleagues.

The new project follows a food challenge which would focus on who wins the crown as the 'King of Buka Streets'. Produced by the newly unveiled Funke Ayotunde Akindele Network (FAAN) and FilmOne Entertainment, the comedy stars Mercy Johnson, Tina Mba, Sola Sobowale, Nkem Owoh, Bimbo Ademoye, amongst several others.

Co-Directed by Tobi Makinde, "Battle on Buka Street' will be the actress's third directorial project since EbonyLife's Your Excellency and the record breaking Omo Ghetto: The Saga, which she co-directed with JJC Skillz.



Funke Akindele

# *Soólè*, Becoming Abi, others Coming to Netflix

**Ferdinand Ekechukwu**

Streaming giant, Netflix is set to thrill fans with lots of exhilarating content, ranging from local titles like Soólè to the much anticipated Conversations with a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes, this October. In a statement, the top streaming platform revealed that it would be releasing originals that cut across multiple genres this month.

Soólè leads the pack of local titles, making its grand entrance on October 14. It tells the story of a group of eccentric strangers who are caught in a cat-and-mouse game with dangerous criminals while travelling from Lagos to Enugu. However, that's not where the excitement of October ends.

Movie watchers can also sit back and gear themselves for some well-deserved fun with some interesting local titles like Dwindle, Lockdown, Omo Ghetto: The Saga and Osuofia in London continuing their unending streak of entertainment. Fans will be excited to know that there's more to the story of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and his 17 murders.

And they'll get to see it all in Conversations with a Killer: The Jeffrey Dahmer Tapes. Fan favorite reality show, Love Is Blind is also making a comeback with its third season. In the series, men and women put the power of blind love to the test after courting through the walls of private pods.

The streamer also revealed that branded titles are making their way to the platform this October month. Subscribers can expect Togo on the 5th of October. The Netflix original tells the story of a man who looks after cars parked on his turf and must protect his livelihood when traffickers attempt to make him and his pals sell drugs on the streets.

Viewers will get to enjoy the incredible world of science fiction with Glitch also this month, as it follows the life of a young woman who joins forces with a UFO enthusiast to investigate her boyfriend's sudden disappearance and stumbles into a wild conspiracy. There's also something in store for lovers of a good documentary with *I Am a Stalker.*

# Shade Oshoba Rebirths Career with 'Kikida' Concert

**Oluchi Chibuzor**

Barring any further delay, the much-anticipated musical concert of Shade Oshoba, a praise and worship leader is set to hold Sunday, 9th of October, 2022 at the Oranmiyan Hall, Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja. The concert which is themed "Kikidá Bountiful Praise Concert', will feature other fellow gospel artistes like Pastor Kunke Ajayi, Dami and Bukky Bekes, Raphael Olatunji, BeeJay Sax, Odunayo Aboderin and Foluke Omodara.

Speaking about the show in Lagos, recently, the winner of the Applause Achievers' Awards, Best Discovery 2016, Oshoba said she had waited a long time for the concert to rebirth her musical career. "Kikida Concert is my debut music concert. I have waited this long to hear God give me directions on how to go about my first concert and I can say Kikida was birthed out of the passion to praise God in an unusual way because he had also, one way or the other, been good to humanity in different ways.

Over the years, she has been described as naturally imbued with the unflinching passion for the restoration of hope of the broken hearted through soul lifting songs. Having started her musical career in a small church in Abeokuta in 1998, where she was appointed a worship leader, she later co- founded 'The Celebrity Band', in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.

She noted, "The band was distinguished for unique and outstanding music performances in churches, wedding ceremonies and other occasions."



Shade Oshoba

On her journey is far, the Industrial and Labour Relations graduate of Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun, said: "I became a professional in 2002 and has four albums to the glory of God. I have been privileged to perform on stage alongside top Nigerian artistes like Nathaniel Bassey, Mike Abdul, Tope Alabi and Frank Edwards to mention but a few."

Since being nominated for TAVA Awards and Gospel Mega Awards, Oshoba became the delight of gospel music lovers and sought after for glory-filled performances in churches, wedding ceremonies, parties, events and concerts.

# Naija Star Search: Eviction Hammer Hits ID Cabasa's Team

Thekhaleed and Esjay are the first housemates to be evicted from the ongoing Afrobeats premiere music reality show, Naija Star Search.

Recall that the show took a new dimension when Team ID Cabasa was served an eviction notice last week.

As part of the game's twist, the team with the lowest audience rating would be on probation. Teammates would battle to save themselves by eliminating the weakest contestants among them.

=Unfortunately, the sledgehammers of the team fell on Thekhaleed and Esjay.

However, they could still perform in the final by audience vote.

Meanwhile, bubbling with an energetic spirit, street credibility, and raw talent, the contestants – grouped into three bands – ignited the hall with eclectic performances from blasts of legendary Tuface & Olamide.

The audience was engulfed. They merrily sang along and clapped their hands as each team gave an electrifying performance.

In the end, ID Cabasa's team, down to four after 2 members were evicted, surprisingly gave the best performance, according to the audience votes.

Even though the judges, Kenny Ogungbe, ID Cabasa and Asha Gangali, gave a critical review of the performances, however, they agreed that there is a fast progression in the performances of the contestants, with ID Cabasa admitting that he has identified talents in the early stage of the competition who have the potentials of being the next Afrobeats superstar, but then warned them not to be too comfortable with their crafts.

Were TheKhalleed and Esjay the weakest singers in the team? Perhaps, the weakest have kicked against the strongest? You can watch the survival instinct of these contestants in the recap of the show on the Naija Star Search's YouTube channel.

Naija Star Search airs every Sunday at 8 pm on the following StarTimes channels: ST Nollywood Plus, ST Nollywood and ST Yoruba. You can also watch on the StarTimes-ON mobile app.



Thekhaleed

SHOWBIZFLAIR

Tosin Clegg 07062816737 e-mail: tosinclegg@hotmail.com

## Ibrahim Bashir

# I'm Still Paying My Dues and Will Continue Doing So

Ibrahim Bashir is an actor and a filmmaker. His muscular look has earned him several roles in movies with characters where he has had to show strength. His recent movie, Four Lions, is already giving him a much-needed ground to expand his reach in the industry and further enrich the value of his artistry and excellent craftsmanship. In this interview with **Tosin Clegg**, Bashir talks about getting into Nollywood, his new movie, his discography, rising through the ranks in the industry and a lot more

**The story of 'Four Lions'**

The story "Four Lions" was inspired by some individuals who are close to me. Those who had experienced some sort of cult activities while in school, of course, I wouldn't mention their names but I picked from different stories and experiences that I heard from them. I didn't have the experience personally, while I was in the university, but their stories were quite touching as they face some form of violence in school and being an actor for years and a movie maker, I felt the need to educate people and let people see the negative side of cultism, the effect it has on the family and the society at large. I put the movie together to let people know that cultism is not good, cultism is bad, and there is no benefit. Those involved can mask it, make it look good to our kids, and of course, let people know that they need to protect their kids when they send them to school and ensure they follow up with them. That's how the story came about, with different ideas from different people.

**Challenges of movie making in Nigeria**

As you know, making movies in Nigeria is not easy. But of course, we thank God that we are able to manage the production cost by getting money to meet our budget, and there are also location issues trying to ensure we get the right casts. In fact, I contacted some people but one way or the other, they couldn't make it, so we had to replace them and when we get to locations some people always feel entitled as they get to your location and they request for some sort of payment for you to film at the location. We had a lot of that which I feel it's a normal thing and then post-production where you have a lot of back and forth till we got here, where we are.

**Our films are developing**

We have had a lot of influences from popular countries that produce movies. Such as Hollywood, Bollywood, and all that and our films are really developing. You would agree with me that we've moved into different phases and in the phase, we are in now, I will say our movies are doing better, our movies are telling African stories with more originality with our movies taking over the big platforms abroad. We have people coming in to partner with filmmakers here to create original stories, original content for their platform, so we are doing well, we are not doing bad and yes for the cinema audience, that is a different market. Movie makers need to understand what the cinema wants at a particular time and also ensure that the movie is up to standard but for a movie to be up to the standard they are challenges like finance, getting the right hand, getting the right casts, the right story and all that. It's a phase, we are getting there, we are getting better, as you can see from the calibre of movies that goes on streaming platforms and the cinemas. Coming back from let's say 2010, 2012, to now, you can really see the changes and it can only get better. Nigerians should watch out and encourage us, they should see the good that we have been able to achieve and they should encourage us, that is all we need.

**We are just helping each other to get better**

The industry is a very big one and there is enough space for everyone to flourish. As we are not competing, we are just helping each other to get better, and of course, as a talent, it is important that one understands that growth is a continuous element. It continues so I cannot just sit down and just relay back, I keep pushing, keep improving, there are courses I even want to go for to improve my skill and there are people I look up to whom I call my mentors, they have helped me as they keep pushing me, helping me to become better and I give God the glory because when I look back I see that I have moved from point A to point B. Like I said, it is a career that I have decided to stay in, a career that will put food on my table; also, I keep partnering because I know partnership helps to improve the quality of the content you can deliver.

**Other challenges**

I could say maybe getting good jobs, the kind of jobs that I want. As I want to get my face



Ibrahim Bashir

out there and the more jobs you do, the more recognition you get as you can never be so sure of which job will become so big. Right now, I am still paying my dues and will continue paying them as I move forward and move toward the top. I won't say there are challenges because for me, it's fun and I am enjoying what I do which I think is important that people enjoy what they do. I am enjoying it, having fun and at the same time putting food on my table.

I look forward to seeing our movies begin to compete favourably. It seems like a dream that cannot be achieved but I pray, wish and want to see that possible, where we can see Hollywood and Bollywood freely coming to Nollywood to work with us. I want to see that we also get to the level where our films also have good recognition and of course, it will be a piece of really good news for a Nigerian movie winning the Oscars. Again, for Nigeria in particular, for Nollywood, there is this divide I see between English films and Yoruba films. A film for me transcends language barriers, I mean we watch Korean movies and we watch it passionately and they speak Korean all the way, we watch Chinese movies and they speak Chinese all the way and Nigerians watch them. I remember those days when we used to go to video clubs to rent Chinese films and they speak Chinese with subtitle, so why see a Yoruba film or a Hausa film and segregate it saying it's a Hausa. A film is a film as long as you can watch and understand by reading the subtitle and it passes across a message. So, don't let us begin to stereotype films into a particular section, segment, or region, no it's a film, it communicates and that is what is important. I would like to see that togetherness within our film circle.

**My decision to join Nollywood**

In those days, when I was young, I used to watch home videos. I love the way those stars were looked at and loved, so I said to myself one of those days when I was watching those movies, 'I think I will love to do this.' That was my first line of thought. I started trying it out, sometimes I will face the mirror and act to myself. I practice, rehearse, demonstrate on a role of a particular actor and I enjoy it a lot. As I started getting close to some actors, I try to get information, about what can I do to improve myself, and what can I do to join the industry. I looked up to people like Saheed Balogun, Ibrahim Chatta, Taiwo Hassan, and Ronke Odusanya. They are people I saw doing well and I also want to do this, try the big screen and of course, while joining I started seeing that there are other things to it and I also found out that the Nollywood industry can change the mind of the society. I started researching what exactly I could do and that brought me to the line of making films.

I want to be known as a great producer, and Africa's best actor. I'm putting a lot of work to ensure that I will be the best within the resources I have, and I also strive beyond my limit sometimes. I pray and I hope that my dreams come true. Maybe win an Oscar too if God permits, I hear that the Oscar is quite competitive. May God help us.

# Lancelot Imasuen Premieres Movie

Tosin Clegg

Last week, One of Nigeria's foremost filmmakers, Lancelot Imasuen hosted a variety of guests, such as stake holders, Nollywood veterans, media and more at Blue Pictures Cinema, The Lagos City Mall, Onikan, Lagos for the special pre-release screening of arguably the biggest film ever made from South-South Nigeria, Gbege 'The Omodion Saga'.

Nollywood legends like Tade Ogidan, Zeb Ejiro, Victor Okhai, Ini Edo, Osita Iheme, Charles Inojie, Nosa Rex, Mercy Aigbe, Yetunde Barnabas, popularly known as "Miss Pepeye", Grace Osaretin and a host of other top-notch actors were present at the event.

After this successful pre-release screening of the film, several cities have been lined up to have this production showcased. The multi-million Naira movie will be distributed across Nigeria by KADA Film Entertainment.

The Filmmaker said the twists in the storyline are so captivating that moviegoers are assured of a worthy time at the cinemas. Known for his love for cultural preservation, he said he was able to creatively infuse tradition in his new film.



Stars at Gbege Premiere

The movie had a beautiful cast of Sam Dede, a troubled man, whose father died while he was serving life imprisonment. All he wants is a chance to be released from prison to perform his father's burial rite, but the law is no respecter of tradition. So, it journeys with beautiful character interpretations by Jide Kosoko, Ini Edo, Nosa Rex, Zubby Michael, Mercy Aigbe, Charles Inojie, Harry B, Junior Pope, Ebele Okaro, Sanni Muazu, Brother Shaggi and some of the best actors across the industry.

# Ozee B Releases 'Ex Man'

Nigerian/Canadian artiste Ozee B has released a new single "Ex Man," for the enjoyment of music lovers. "Ex Man" is a love-themed heart break anthem in which the musician talks about his ex who left him for someone else. This mid-tempo song is one that's definitely an anthem for heartbroken people.

Ozee B started as a sound engineer from the earlier years of his career in 2012-2014. Through mixing and mastering music for many Afro Pop, Afrobeats, and Reggae artistes, he found the undying passion to create his own music with his own type of stream. His inspiration was not just the desire but his natural love for good music and sound. As a Nigerian from Benin-Edo State; he felt the need to captivate a bit of his dialect in his music and give it a stamp of his own.



Ozee B

From the release of his first single, he has been able to perform on so many shows outside Nigeria and opened up for artistes such as Flavour, Davido, and Olamide. Ozee B is currently signed to Ruffnodd Entertainment managed by the pioneer Afrobeat music legend Executive producer Ayo Jos-Ogbebor in Toronto, Canada.

PERSPECTIVE

# Yemi Osinbajo, Bola Tinubu and Queen Elizabeth's Funeral

**Femi Fani-Kayode**

Yemi Osinbajo, a legal guru, a jurisprudential genius, a Professor of Law, a highly-acclaimed pastor, a well-respected servant of the Living God, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a writer and author of many books, an expert on the law of evidence and our nation's vice president came from very humble beginnings and yet has done so well.

His story is one that we can legitimately describe as an excellent example of the accomplishment of the Nigerian dream. God is clearly with this man and no-one can take that away from him. His humility appears to have opened many doors for him and the Lord has granted him favour both before the Heavens and before men.

Yet, in my view, the greatest honour that has been bestowed on him so far in his life was to have had the privilege of representing President Muhammadu Buhari and our beloved country Nigeria at the historic and utterly resplendent state funeral of Queen Elizabeth 11.

He was there with no less than 200 other Heads of Government, 500 officials representing various countries from all over the world and Kings, Queens and members of all the Royal families of Europe.

In addition to that, he was there with a sea of adoring faces and a massive and utterly devoted Union Jack-waiving crowd that lined the streets of Central London from the gates of the 319 year-old Buckingham Palace, leading up to the 753 year-old Westminster Abbey and to the beautiful country roads leading to the 952 year-old Windsor Castle just outside the nation's capital.

This was an event that was dramatically and dazzlingly remarkable in its pomp, pageantry, ceremony, magnificence, historical content, military precision, unprecedented perfection and mind-blowing splendour.

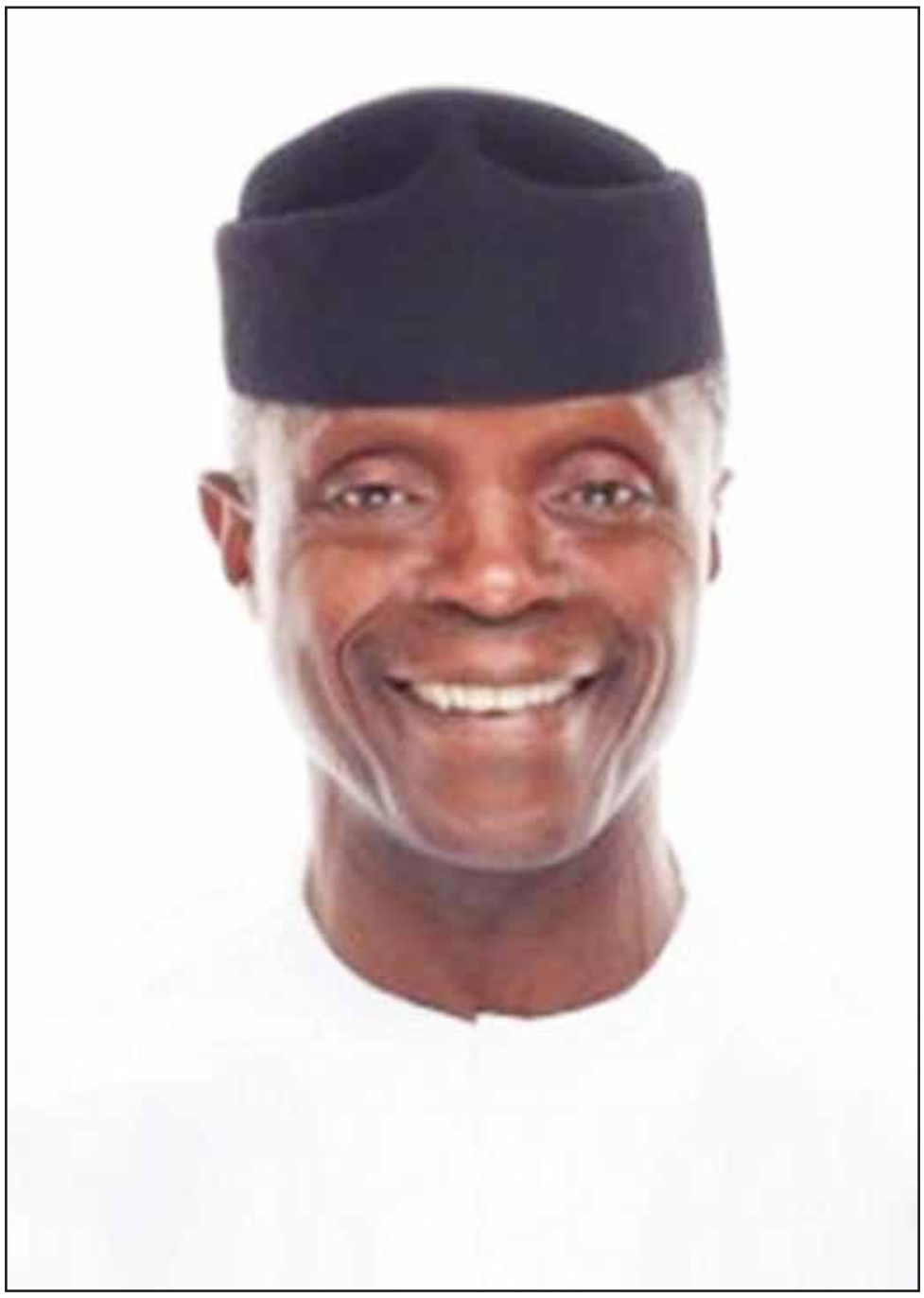
It was also an event which was done in honour of one of the greatest, most majestic, most revered, most respected, most disciplined and most-loved monarchs of not just the Royal House of Windsor but also of Great Britain, Europe and indeed the entire world.

Yet it didn't stop there. She was also a monarch who sat on the throne of her ancestors and forefathers and reigned for longer than any other in the history of Great Britain whilst in the history of Europe, the longevity of her reign was second only to King Louis X1V of France (the Sun King) who built the beautiful Palace at Versailles and who ruled his nation for 72 years from 1643 till 1715.

Queen Elizabeth's reign, which spanned from 1952 till 2022, was as outstanding, dramatic and eventful as was her funeral. It was a truly grand occasion, the likes of which, in terms of achievement, celebration, solemnity, historical relevance, international significance and good old fashioned splendour, may never happen again.

Even more remarkably is the fact that it was watched on live television by no less than 4 billion people which is just over 50% of the world's entire population and which represents a world record in terms of live television-viewing.

All this and providence, coupled with the finger of God, made it such that the individual that represented our great nation of 200 million people at such an august gathering and historic occasion was a diligent, scholarly and hard-working yet modest little man with a very humble background from a sleepy small town called Ikene near Ijebu-Ode in Ogun state, South Western Nigeria by the name of Yemi Osinbajo.



**Osinbajo**

This is a great testimony to the awesome power of the Living God. I am aware of the fact that the vice president is a committed Christian and a praying man and the Lord has clearly answered most, if not all, his prayers. For all he has achieved in his life, we give thanks to God and we give Him alone the glory.

Yet, having said that, we must never lose sight of the fact that God used just one person to make all this possible for Osinbajo who, before his political elevation, was nothing more than the Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice for Lagos state.

That person appointed him as that Commissioner in 1999 when he himself was elected Governor of Lagos State and he kept him there for 8 years.

In 2015, 8 years after he left the exalted office of Governor of Lagos State, that same person single-handedly nominated him to be the running mate to President Muhamnadu Buhari in the presidential election and his nomination was graciously accepted.

Consequently, Osinbajo was elected Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and has been there for the last seven years and will be there, God-willing, till May 29th 2023.

Today, seven years after he was elected vice president, the person that nominated and ensured that Osinbajo reached this exalted height is taking his own shot at the Presidency and is indeed the presidential candidate of the APC, the political party to which Osinbajo belongs.

It is incumbent upon the vice president and every other person that has benefitted in any way from that person's goodwill and favour to support him in this great endeavour. I have no doubt that the vice president will do this and has been doing so ever since the conclusion of the party's Convention but it is still worthy of mention as an example to others.

The person in question is Osinbajo's political godfather, benefactor and mentor and his name is none other than Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Asiwaju of Lagos and the Jagaban of Borgu. He deserves a hearty congratulations and thanks from all of us for what he has done in the life of his political son, Yemi Osinbajo and indeed in the lives and careers of so many of his other political sons and daughters.

Most political fathers and mentors do not delight in the rise of their protegees and often go out of their way to downgrade and suppress them or even destroy them after they leave power and office. The reason for this strange disposition and attitude is inexplicable and I have long pondered over it.

Yet this is not the case with Tinubu. He takes pleasure in his sons and daughters rising. He builds up his own, stands behind them and lifts them up despite the fact that he has suffered many betrayals from quite a number of them over the years that were evidently afflicted with what one can only describe as Absalomic tendencies.

For those that do not know who Absalom was and what he did to his father King David, I suggest you read the Holy Bible. Absalom wished death, destruction, shame and disgrace for his father, entered into open rebellion against him and attempted to steal his crown and take his throne.

He was seized and enveloped by an evil spirit which sought to take, by any means necessary, that which belonged to his father.

This is what Bola Tinubu has been subjected to on several occasions by some of those he has helped in the past. Yet, he keeps forgiving, keeps loving and keeps showing them kindness.

He keeps repaying evil with good not only to those who betrayed him but even to those that may have despised him and poured venom on him in the past for no just cause. This, in my view, is actually the secret to his success and the source of his power.

His forgiving nature pleases God and provides a strong defence for him.

Constantly doing good to others even though one may be repaid with evil and betrayal in return is a great and holy virtue. Few can display this rare trait and Bola Tinubu ranks amongst those few.

I close with a word to those that he has assisted politically and otherwise over the last 30 years: it is your turn to join hands together and lift him up by praying for him, standing by him, identifying with him and assisting and supporting him to achieve his dream of becoming the 7th democratically-elected chief executive and Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

May God make a way for him and may He crown the efforts and grant the prayers of those of us that have lined up behind him in this great and noble quest. May the light of God dispel every darkness, may the finger of God remove every obstacle, may the sword of the Lord cut short every naysayer, may the glory of God return to our nation and may Lagos, the center of excellence and a state that has done so much for our country and given so much to our people, produce its first President of Nigeria.

Finally, may all those in the political arena that I respectfully describe as Asiwaju's disciples, protegees and mentees who have not done so already join the rest of us by saying a big 'AMEN' to this prayer. God wills it.

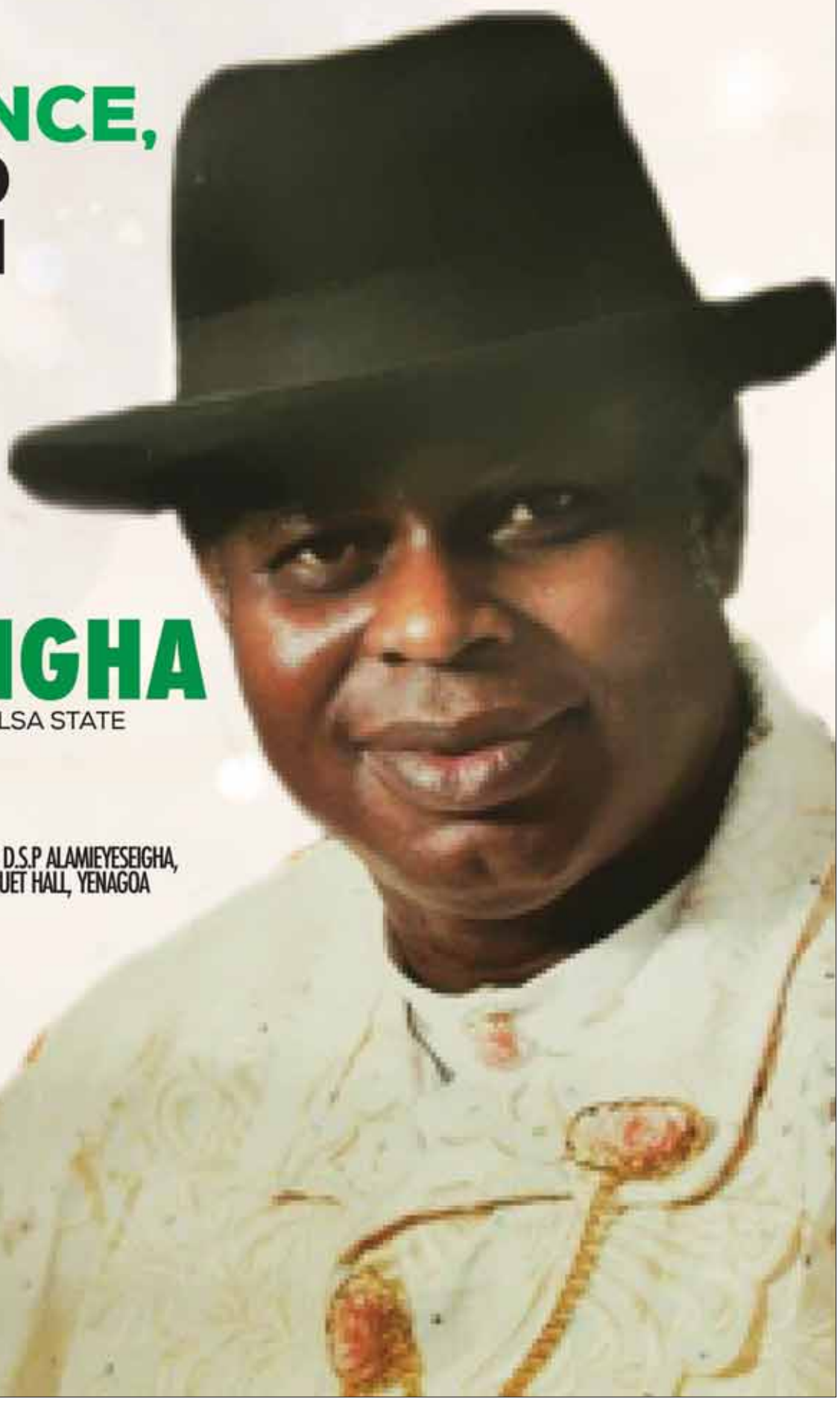
***Chief Femi Fani-Kayode is the former Minister of Aviation, the Sadaukin Shinkafi and the Director of New Media/ Special Media Projects of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council.***

GOVERNMENT OF BAYELSA STATE OF NIGERIA

# 7TH MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY LECTURE

## TITLED:

## OF GOVERNANCE, HEROISM AND NATIONALISM



HIS EXCELLENCY,

**CHIEF D.S.P**

# ALAMIEYESEIGHA

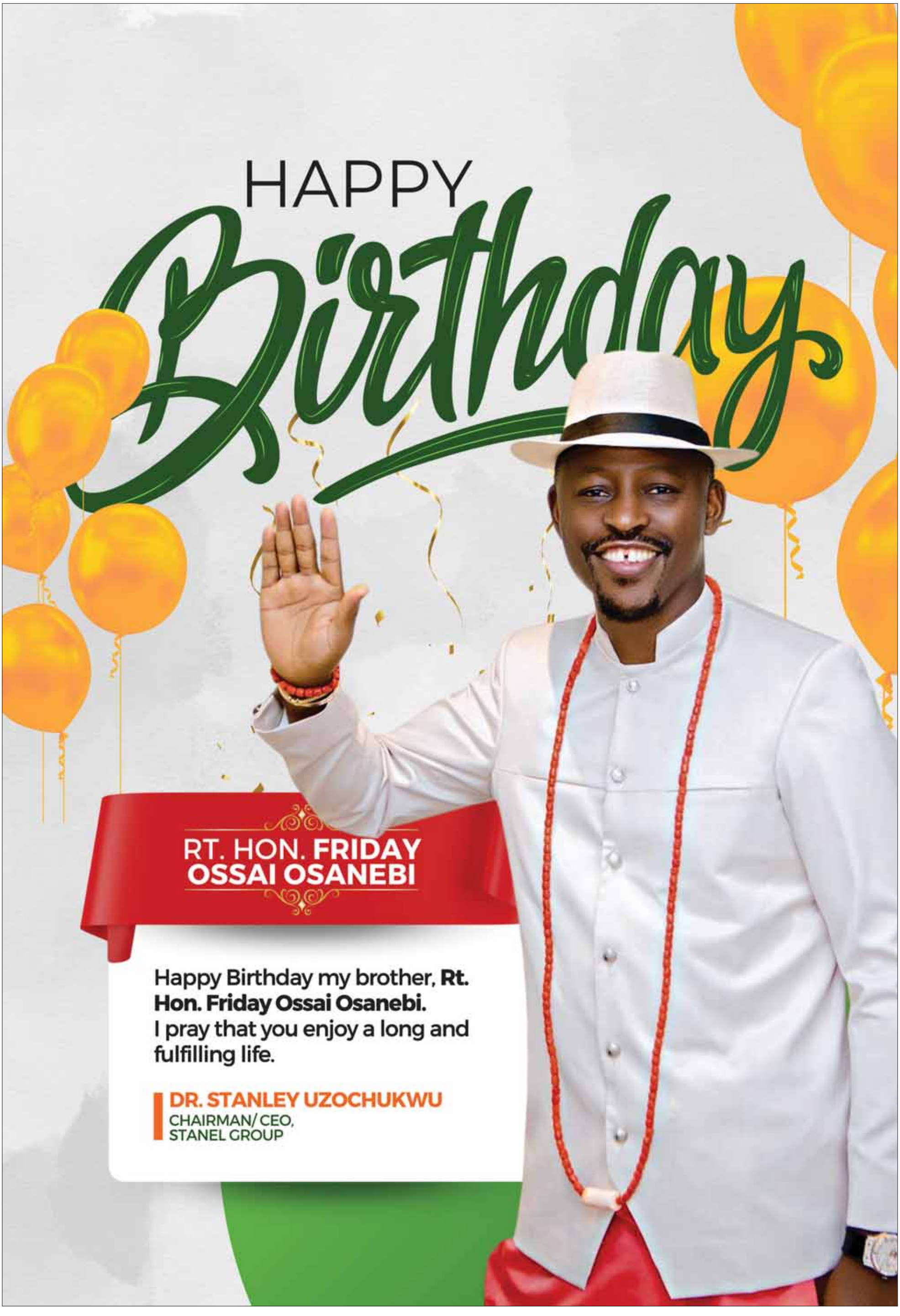
FIRST EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF BAYELSA STATE

MONDAY, 10TH OCT. 2022 | 9:00 AM PROMPT | CHIEF D.S.P ALAMIEYESEIGHA, BANQUET HALL, YENAGOA

SIGNED:

**ERASMUS U. PATRICK, JP**

Honourable Commissioner for Ijaw National Affairs & Chairman, organizing Committee


HAPPY
Birthday
RT. HON. FRIDAY
OSSAI OSANEBI
Happy Birthday my brother, Rt. Hon. Friday Ossai Osanebi.
I pray that you enjoy a long and fulfilling life.
DR. STANLEY UZOCHUKWU
CHAIRMAN/ CEO,
STANEL GROUP

POLITY

Odinaka Okechukwu

# Edeoga Won't Make a Good Gov in Enugu

In this interview with THISDAY, Comrade Odinaka Okechukwu, political activist dissects political events in Isi-Uzo LGA and Enugu State vis-à-vis the 2023 general election, saying his kinsman and the Labour Party governorship candidate, Hon. Chijioke Edeoga, wouldn't make a good governor

***Yourself and hundreds of others recently defected to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Eha-Amufu Ward 3. Many expected you to head to the Labour Party where your kinsman, Hon. Chijioke Edeoga, is the governorship candidate.***

Well, for almost all of us, it is home-coming, not defection. Virtually all of us were loyal and foundation members of the PDP in Isi-Uzo LGA, including Mgbuji or Eha-Amufu Ward 3, which is Chijioke Edeoga's Ward.

But we left PDP because of the highhandedness, lack of vision, and absence of progressive philosophies among some of those, including Edeoga, who held sway as political leaders of Eha-Amufu. They are so selfish and wicked to their own people. Imagine a situation where so-called leaders would tag their people kidnappers just because they are calling for the betterment of the lives of our poor villagers and because they refused to allow anybody to grab their lands.

Imagine where widows' farms are being burnt, where houses of our people of Mgbuji, Eha-Amufu are burnt. Imagine where other communities will be enjoying light, but the unpatriotic elements they foisted on our community will disconnect our light so they will pay less to the Enugu Electricity Development Company (EEDC) from the pool of funds contributed to power our community.

We complained, but nobody listened to us. To be fair to Sullivan Chime, he invited us to a meeting during his tenure, but not much changed. So, we started leaving in droves in protest and opposition to impunity. We gave PDP a good fight in Eha-Amufu and Isi-Uzo during the council election and made sure we won Eha-Amufu Ward 3, which is Edeoga's Ward to teach him some political lessons.

***So, what informed your return?***

We have seen the light after years of dark clouds. Remember, didn't have problem with the PDP per se, but with Edeoga and his cohorts. We swore never to return to PDP as long as he was there. We cannot condone politics of oppression and 'me, myself, and I'. For 25 years, he suppressed everybody and made sure nobody grew politically to challenge him in our community because he wants to permanently tag himself the leader of Mgbuji and Eha-Amufu. But now that he has left the PDP, and with the progressive leadership provided by the likes of the current Council Chairman, Barrister Obiora Obeagu and the State Chairman of the PDP, Chief Augustine Nnamani, we believe it is time to go back to PDP.

***Talking about destruction of farms and property, these are serious allegations.***

For your information, the affected villagers petitioned Ugwuanyi in December 2020 over misuse of political positions, intimidating others, coveting and expropriating their landed properties. It's nothing new. They now changed tactics and claimed that Enugu State Government had taken over the land in issue to establish "Omulor Housing Estate". But it was a hoax to expropriate the said land. So, our people filed a case at the Obollo Afor Division of the Enugu State High Court. It is marked OB/4/2021 and has Chief Shederack Edeoga, Hon. Chijioke Edeoga and five others as defendants.

Yet, during the pendency of the case, thugs suspected to be working for Edeoga and his cohorts chased away the land owners, and completely destroyed hectares of cassava farm belonging to these poor villagers, many of them widows. The protest by the villagers, elderly women inclusive, went viral on social media. So, Edeoga and his cohorts arrested a classroom teacher and Umu-Ugwu Nwebe Orube family leader, Mr. Silas Ofiagu, on false allegation of



Odinaka

threat to life. They used their influence in government to detain Ofiagu from 19th July to 2nd August 2021, without regard to the rule of law.

So, our people petitioned again to Ugwuanyi again on 25th July 2021. A petition was equally sent to the Commissioner of Police over the development and our people filed a lawsuit (E/797/2021) at the Enugu Judicial Division of the State High Court for the enforcement of Ofiagu's rights. Chijioke Edeoga, Deputy Superintendent of Police Suleiman Abubakar, and Inspector Michael Chinedu Akalele are the defendants.

So, when such a man tells you he wants to be governor, imagine what he could do with full executive powers.

***Are you saying that Eha-Amufu and Isi-Uzo would rather vote for another candidate than their brother?***

This is the emotion Edeoga is trying to whip-up and ride on. Unfortunately, it will not work because he doesn't have what it takes to be governor. He is lacking in capacity, empathy, competence, and dependability. He will be a monumental disaster.

Besides, for 25 years, he has served as the Council Chairman of Isi-Uzo, Member House of Representatives, Special Assistant to the President, Commissioner for Local Government in Ugwuanyi's first term and Commissioner for Environment in Ugwuanyi's second term. Let him come home and show his kinsmen what he has achieved for Mgbuji, Eha-Amufu, and Isi-Uzo. The only constituency project he attracted, as House of Representatives Member is located around Central School Eha-Ohuala in Eha-Amufu. It remains uncompleted and in total ruins over 20 years after.

How do you explain the fact that the major bridge leading to Mgbuji had since collapsed and that the only bridge leading to the community today is the one attracted by Senator Gil Nnaji.

***What do you make of the seeming opposition to Ugwuanyi and sympathy to Edeoga in Enugu North Senatorial Zone, incidentally the Governor's zone? What are PDP's chances?***

Forget the propaganda. The attacks you see are the handiworks of a few, who unjustly feel that Ugwuanyi should have worked for the old Nsukka zone to do another eight years after him. This is the interest Edeoga claims to represent even though he is now from Enugu East Zone where Isi-Uzo is currently located. But the rest are people ganged-up by those who desperately want to make their son-in-law, Edeoga, governor by wiping up old Nsukka zone sentiment.

But don't forget that Ugwuanyi was an indigene of Isi-Uzo LGA until Udenu was created out of Isi-Uzo in 1981. Isi-Uzo used to be in Nsukka Zone. Again, Edeoga is his close maternal relation. All these must have informed his decision not to look in Isi-Uzo's direction in search for a successor; so it doesn't appear like one LGA or family holding power for 16 straight years. That, to me, is statesmanship and sense of justice; and I'm sure most of our people understand that.

***Besides, Ugwuanyi has done well for Isi-Uzo and Eha-Amufu. For instance, before his administration, you needed two clothes when journeying out of Eha-Amufu – the one you would wear on a bike to Nkalagu Junction and the one you would wear before going to Enugu because of mud or dust, depending on the season. But Ugwuanyi came here during his campaign and promised us brotherly love. It is this same governor that did our road and also made Edeoga commissioner twice that Edeoga is ganging up with some Enugu North Zone elements to fight for their selfish interest simply because he didn't get PDP's governorship ticket. Is fair and honourable?***

Also, Edeoga signed an accord with about 18 other PDP governorship aspirants in Enugu East Senatorial District, where Isi-Uzo is located today, to support whomever Ugwuanyi endorsed as his preferred successor. He also personally signed a statement congratulating Dr. Mbah and calling on Enugu to support him, but only to make a U-turn to Labour Party.

***Have you seen the accord?***

Yes, of course. It was signed on 19th May 2022. The traditional rulers of Enugu East Zone signed as witnesses. Prof. Bart Nnaji also confirmed it recently. he said he was offered the Labour Party governorship ticket, but declined on account of the accord.

But Edeoga recently said he joined Labour Party over PDP's failure to cede the presidential ticket to the South East

***And you believed that? Would he have joined Labour Party if he had won the governorship primary? Are we fools?***

Just like he claimed that the primary election that produced Mbah was not free and fair. That too is absolute falsehood and an afterthought. Besides, the honourable thing for him to have done after Ugwuanyi endorsed Dr. Mbah was to step down for him like others in the spirit of the accord. But Edeoga contested and managed an infinitesimal 9 votes out of the 804 valid votes. Mbah's got 790 and it all happened in full glare of TV cameras.

Edeoga only changed his mind long after congratulating Mbah just because he feels he can benefit from the growing popularity of Peter Obi's presidential candidacy in the South East. Can't you see that he puts Obi's picture beside his on his billboards? Edeoga can't stand on his own, has never stood on his own. He owes whatever political offices he ever occupied to his in-laws, the Nwodo family and to Ugwuanyi.

So, Enugu people must be very careful in choosing their governor. Obi and Edeoga are different persons with different idiosyncrasies. Nobody should be deceived. Enugu people should ask to know what each governorship candidate has done outside serving in successive governments. They should ask to know what businesses they have successfully run, how many Nigerians and youths are employed by their respective businesses? We must weigh people on the strength of their individual character, competence, and manifesto.

My message and message of almost every Mgbuji and Eha-Amufu man and woman to Edeoga is that someone, who couldn't lead his community well can't possibly lead Enugu State. Charity begins at home. He should make peace with his people first. Period.

POLITY

# Abiodun: Breaking the Jinx of Infrastructure Neglect in Imeko/Afon

Stakeholders and members of the Celestial Church of Christ (CCC) city of Imeko, said recent inauguration of Oke-Ola road by Governor Dapo Abiodun has broken the jinx of neglect of the entire council area, signalling a dawn of a new era, writes **James Sowole**

The joy of the people of Imeko, the headquarters of Imeko/Afon Local Government of Ogun State, knew no bound when the Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun last September broke the jinx of infrastructural development in the entire council area, with the inauguration of the 2.4km Oke-Ola Road.

The significance of the project, which in terms of length, looks small, can be deduced from remarks of various stakeholders and personalities that graced the inauguration ceremony. They testified that this is the first time, that ashphalt will touch ground in the entire council area, in more than 15 years.

No wonder, residents of the of the agrarian community and those from the adjourning towns, led by their traditional rulers and prominent indigenes of the area including political leaders, rolled out drums and trooped out in their numbers, to welcome Abiodun, on whom they showered encomiums, for keeping his promise, which they described as a departure from the experiences of the past.

As usual and like Oliver Twist, the event, provided opportunities for various stakeholders that attended the occasion, to make further requests, on challenges confronting them in the area and their grievances after all, it is not every time that they see the governor.

Giving details of the road, the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Ade Akinsanya, said it is furnished with lane marking for the users' safety, while it also has culverts and drainages, where necessary for proper discharge of water to avert flooding, with access slabs at different areas for easy linkage to farms and settlements

"The road is also adorned with streetlights to provide illumination, thus making it safe for night traveling as passengers and travellers are generally protected from the unscrupulous activities of night marauders," he added.

He said with its completion, it would ease movement of farmers and their town produce into the Imeko township and make food more readily available for the people.

"With its completion, the road will more than before provide a safe and accessible link for movement of man, good and materials especially agricultural produce to major towns in the state, which will in turn boost trading activities and improve the living standard of the people" Akinsanya added.



**L-R: Ogun State Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Ade Akinsanya; the Onimeko of Imeko, Oba Benjamin Olanite; Governor Abiodun; Ogun State Deputy Governor, Noinmat Salako-Oyedele and Prince Gboyega Isiaka, at the inauguration of Oke-Ola road.**

The Onimeko of Imeko, Oba Benjamin Olanite, appreciated the state government, for coming to the aid of the town which has over the years been neglected by previous administrations.

He said the town, apart from being a spiritual town, has agricultural potentials and called on the state government to invest more on the infrastructural needs of the people, particularly renovation of the oldest school and the palace road in the town.

The monarch said the inauguration of the road was a great achievement for Abiodun's administration because the area had suffered neglect.

Going historical, the monarch said Imeko is one of the 11 headquarters in Western Province during colonial days, lamenting that it seems glory had departed after the colonial government left the area.

He said, "The road was opened up in 1952. It started from Ilaro and passed through many towns before it got to Imeko and leads to Oyo State. Looking at the neglect that we have suffered, it seems glory had departed this area after the exit of Colonial Administration. But with Dapo Abiodun, we have seen the signal that the glory is returning and this road project, is the beginning of more good things to come.

"Since the Late General Sanni Abacha repaired the road that leads to Imeko, this is the only governor that will construct any road in Imeko with this particular road.

"I am therefore assuring you that the people of Imeko are solidly behind you and we will support your second term fully because we know that we will benefit more developmental projects

Presenting other requests of the people, the Onimeko urged the state government to give attention to Iwoye-Jabata road, to help in the control of erosion problem in the area and to establish Ogun State College of Agriculture in the area.

Equally, the monarch, urged the government to give approval for the Imeko Comprehensive College, that was established by the community in 2013, due to shortage of secondary schools in the community.

The Chairman of the Imeko/Afon Local Government, Alhaji Yayah Fadipe, who could not hide his joy on the project, expressed delight that it came at the his own time and has shamed those who abused him, when he was campaigning for Abiodun in 2019.

Fadipe said, "Though, it is a 2.4km road, but it's significance cannot be over emphasised. It is a big project to me. Socio-economically, our people will benefit greatly.

"Politically, I am very happy. When I was campaigning for Abiodun during election, they called be bastard because an indigene of the town was contesting. A government that many of them supported spent eight years and nothing came out for us. No single project. Now, a governor I supported in just three and half years, has done this. I am happy that the bastard of that year has brought this for me. I will continue to be the bastard, to move this area forward. We know more good things will come."

In his remarks, Professor Emeritus of History who is also an indigene of the town, Anthony Asiwaju, lauded the governor for keeping to his electioneering promises, declaring that the governor has written his name gold with the road construction.

The professor said, "I am appreciating the governor for keeping his electioneering promises. When previous administration started Ilara Road, I was there with other prominent indigenes of the community. They only received us. It was a promise failed but today, Abiodun has fulfilled one of the promises he made to us. We are happy and we will support him. We are not saying that he should do all what we have requested immediately, but we are happy because we know that he will do more in his second term".

# 2023: PDP in Quandary as Gov. Abiodun Waxes Stronger

**Femi Ogbonnikan**

The crisis bedeviling the Ogun State chapter of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has assumed a befuddling dimension with the conspicuous absence of the governorship candidate of the party, Oladipupo Adebutu, and his running mate, Hon Abdulkabir Akinlade, from the full list of the candidates recently cleared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to contest the State Assembly and Governorship elections coming up next year.

With the intriguing legal tussle that is about unraveling in the state, chances are that the party might ultimately lose the opportunity to field a governorship candidate in the coming election. We could all recall the recent past experience of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Zamfara and Rivers states governorship contest in the run-up to the 2019 general elections. What originally began as a minor family dispute after the conduct of their respective state primaries eventually snowballed into a huge crisis that led to the exclusion of the party's candidates from participating in the election. Ogun State PDP is treading the same path of self-alienation.

While Governor Dapo Abiodun and his Deputy, Noimot Salako-Oyede, have been confirmed as the governorship candidate of the ruling APC, the candidate of the PDP and his running mate could not make the list because of the ongoing litigation battle between Adebutu and his rival contenders, Jimi Adebisi Lawal, on one hand and Segun Showunmi, on the other hand.

The electoral umpire cited 'court order' as the reason for omitting Adebutu/Akinlade's name from the final list of recognized candidates for the election. The decision followed Friday's ruling of the Court of Appeal in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, which set aside an earlier judgement of the Federal High Court delivered in favour of Adebutu.

Now, as supporters of the two contenders are still intensely in tango over the correct implication of the judgment, a new befuddling dimension has crept into the scenario. In this case, another governorship aspirant, Showunmi, is asking the Supreme Court to decide whether or not the judgment of the Federal High Court is of any effect on his case.

Showunmi had prior to the Ogun PDP primaries dragged the Sikirulahi Ogundele-led party executive to an Ogun State High Court sitting in Abeokuta, asking it to dissolve the party officials for alleged bias but the court said the matter was a party affair which it could not rule over.

Not satisfied with the ruling, he proceeded to the Appeal Court, where two of his three prayers were granted but the appellate court agreed with the lower court that the matter was a party affair.

With this latest development, history is about to repeat itself in Ogun PDP. One major problem with politicians is their lack of capacity to know their own lack of capacity to determine current events. As they say, the human experience is an elephant in the city of the blind. People can only react according to the part they feel.

The Yoruba have a say: "Whatever faces one person is turning its back on someone else. APC has learnt its lessons in a very hard way but the PDP is about to test the waters again. Whichever way it goes, Governor Abiodun is already in good stead to win the coming election having warmed his way into the hearts of the Ogun State people with his sterling performance in the areas of infrastructure, investment potentials, agro-allied industry, housing scheme, resuscitation of the hailing education sector, healthcare delivery, among others.

It is on the basis of this impressive performance in the last three and a half years of the administration that he (Abiodun) recently won Good Governance Award in London, promising to keep Ogun's doors open to genuine investors.

The governor picked up the laurel at the Nigerian 62nd Independence Anniversary and Global Award Gala, held in London, the United Kingdom, on Saturday. The event was presided over by the Nigerian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Amb. Sarafa Tunji Ishola and the President of National Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs) in ECOWAS, Segun Awolowo, among other dignitaries.

This is even as the Governor assured that his administration would continue to collaborate with individuals and corporate bodies with genuine investment interest to drive its development plans aimed at improving the standard of living and well-being of the people.

Represented by his Special Adviser (SA) on Basic Education, Mrs. Ronke Soyombo, Governor Abiodun stated that the commitment of his administration was to open up the state for genuine investors, leveraging on public-private partnership for the betterment of the people.

Today, due to the combined advantages of its proximity to the busiest air and seaports in the country, Ogun State



**Abiodun**

remains the best atmosphere for investment in the country. As in other climes, infrastructure development is one of the major attractions for Direct Foreign Investment (FDI). It is the primary reason for the aggressive network of roads which has remained a standing signature of the performance of this government. Besides road infrastructure dotting every nook and cranny of the state, the ongoing Agro Cargo Airport which is already nearing completion is also another catalyst for transforming the state into an industrial hub and investment destination of choice.

Though development is forever a work in progress, the administration has remained unwavering in its commitment to building more road infrastructure that links the industrial hubs, adjoining states, urban and rural areas of the state. By the same token, the construction of the Agro Cargo International Airport is part of the government's strategy for boosting agricultural, employment generation as well as Internally Generated Revenue in the state.

In the same way, the ease of doing business has in no small measure helped to promote the growth of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in the state.

**Read full article online - www.thisdaylive.com**

POLITY

# Winners Emerge in Fimogboye Islamic Quiz Competition

The second Fimogboye Islamic Quiz Competition was held in Abeokuta, Ogun State last Saturday with no fewer than 26 Madaaris (schools) participating.

According to the sponsor, Dr. Ahmed Apampa, the Fimogboye of Owu Muslim, this year's competition could not have come at a better time as Nigeria marks her independence.

Dr. Apampa prayed for peace in Nigeria and stressed that the knowledge of Islam, which the quiz hope to spread among Muslim youths, would translate to peaceful living and invariably peaceful coexistence in the nation.

In his own remark, the Chairman, Planning Committee of the competition, Dr. Kola Olonade, said: "this is the first in Ogun State and we hope and pray that it continues to get better and bigger each year.

"This year's edition is special as it coincides with the Nigeria's independence anniversary and so, all participants have gifts to take home."

The spiritual father of the day, Chief Imaam of Owu Central Mosque, Imaam Suleiman Kehinde while applauding the students on their excellent performance, encouraged them not to lose sight of the lessons learnt in the competition, as failure is only an opportunity to learn.

At the end of the competition, during which questions were drawn from Quran, Fiqh, Hadith and Seerah, Al Hudah School of Arabic and Qur'an Memorization, Oke Aregba represented by Shakirullah Zainab and Majoro Yunus came first while Madaaris Uthman bn Affan, Olomore and Markaz



Dr. Tayo Apampa (l) presenting prize to one of the winner.

# Saliu Mustapha Donates Houses to Widows of Late Ilorin Cleric

**Hammed Shittu** in Ilorin

The All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate in the 2023 Kwara Central Senatorial election, Mallam Saliu Mustapha, has given out a 3-bedroom twin semi-detached apartments to the wives of the late renowned Islamic cleric, Sheikh Abdulganiy Aboto Al-Adaby.

Sheikh Aboto and two of his aides died in the flooding that ravaged some parts of Kwara State last Friday. Their corpses were recovered by the state fire service from a river in Ilorin, on the second day of the incident.

The death of the cleric has thrown the Muslim community into mourning, with tributes pouring in from different parts of the country.

THISDAY checks revealed that the cleric died without a house, leaving the two wives and 17 children in a rented apartment. He was also reported to have left a paltry N15,000 in his bank accounts.

The State Governor, Alhaji AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq had on Thursday joined prominent citizens, scholars and sympathisers in Aboto-Alfa in Asa Local Government of the state for the Fidau prayer for the late Sheikh Abdulganiyu Aboto.

However, apparently in order to ameliorate the agony of the families, Mallam Mustapha, on Wednesday, announced a donation of brand new twin semi-detached 3-bedroom apartments to the two wives and the children left behind by the cleric.

Apart from this, the two widows are expected to be empowered with capital to enable them to begin businesses to support the families left behind by the late cleric.

Similarly, the families of the two aides that died in the ghastly accident with the popular cleric are also to be supported to ameliorate the agonies of losing their loved ones.

The gesture from Mallam Mustapha, it was learnt, was communicated to the Khaliful Adabiya, Sheik Mohammed Kamaldeen, who received the news with joy and prayed fervently for the Turaki of Ilorin, Mallam Mustapha for his unrelenting efforts in the Ilorin Emirate.

Kamaldeen also recalled that the Turaki of Ilorin had sometime last year privately donated a huge sum of money for the completion of the Sheikh Kamaldeen Islamic University on the request of the Board of Trustees of the University.

Meanwhile, residents of Aboto Alfa, in Asa Local Government Area of the state where the late cleric hailed from, have applauded the kind gesture by Mallam Mustapha.

A community leader, Alhaji Liadi Mogaji of Mogaji's compound, Aboto, said this was yet another thoughtful intervention from Mallam Mustapha, whom he described as a benevolent giver.



L-R: WAW Senior Brand Manager, Oluwaseun Ayeni; Chairman/MD, Expand Global Industries, Rajat Kapur; Winner, Big Brother Naija Season 7, Phyna Otabor and Head of Marketing, Kaveh Sani at the WAW party for Big Brother Naija Season 7 held in Lagos....recently

ABIODUN AJALA



L-R; Representative of the Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Olatokunbo Adesanya; Director Navy Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Raji Ogunsola; Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo; Chief of Policy and Plans Naval Headquarters, Rear Admiral Saidu Garba and the representative of the National President, Naval Officers' Wives Association (NOWA), Mrs. Victoria Ayafa, during the official commissioning of senior officers quarters in Abuja ... recently ....

ENOCK REUBEN



L-R: Wonderland Lagos 2022 Partner / CEO, Creative Economy Catalyst (CEC), Kaycee Kennedy; Co-founder Wonderland Lagos, Mr. Vincent Emokpaire; COO, Creative Economy Catalyst / Wonderland Lagos 2022 Partner, Chike Maduegbuna; and Co-founder Wonderland Lagos/ CEO, Balmoral Group, Ezekiel Adamu at the unveiling of Wonderland Lagos 2022 held in Eko Energy City, Lagos....recently



President Muhammadu Buhari (m) flanked by Secretary General of International Seabed Authority (ISA), Mr Michael Lodge, Nigerian Ambassador to Jamaica, Dr. Maureen Tamuno, DG Boundary Commission, Mr Amadu Adaji, Rear Admiral CE. Okafor, Director Ministry of Transportation, Chief of Staff Prof Ibrahim Gambari, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama and others during a courtesy visit at the State House, Abuja.

EXPRESSION

# PDP Crisis: Stand By, Not 'With'



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"NDDC post-graduate scholarship" Making a difference cerebrally: postgraduate (no hyphenation whether as a noun or an adjective).

"…who should become governor (the governor) of the pace setter (sic) state in 2023." Road to next year: pacesetting state

"…that some top listed (top-listed) companies in (on) the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) incurred…."

"Students can demand for their rights without necessarily abridging the rights of other citizens and foreigners living in the country." Get it right: yank away 'for' to foreclose language therapists' strike!

"For an import dependent (import-dependent) country like Nigeria…."

"PDP crisis: I stand with (by) Wike—Ortom"

THE NATION of September 27 offered its readers four schoolboy flaws: "Nigeria's nuclear energy drive: An historical milestone" This is old school! New order: a historical milestone.

"National Assembly passes confidence vote on (in) Gov. Uzodinma"

"NIJ Alumni holds (hold) national convention in Abeokuta"

"Mohammed commended over (on/upon) N3bn monthly IGR target"

DAILY INDEPENDENT of September 26 circulated many faults: "Excess crude suit: Again, FG opts for out of court settlement" Any medium that does not know the importance of hyphenation remains a professional toddler: out-of-court settlement

"The line up from Anambra North" As 2023 approaches: line-up

"A night of Caribean and Latino Groove dance at MTN PFWA Season 5" Spell-check: Caribbean

"Police contractors debt: Its dangers to Nigerian economy" Policing grammar: contractors' debt

"Banks get guidelines for agriculture lending, banking priciples (sic)" Banking—a euphemism for fraud in Nigeria: agricultural lending

Lastly from DAILY INDEPENDENT: "The DG of SEC…and his workers have, for the third time since his second coming (return) as the chief executive, gone for each others jugular." Get it right: each other's jugular. Beyond the faux pas pointed out, I am uncomfortable with the entire collocation!

The Guardian of September 25 blundered: "In contemporary history, acquisition of these rights bestows crude oil royalties into (on/upon) the public purse and fuels pre-bendal politics…." Furthermore, the context of 'bestow' here is suspect.

"The University of Ibadan, Ibadan, wishes you all many more years of greater accomplishments and service to humanity. May your stars never deem (sic!)." For the sake of students of this foremost citadel, replace 'deem' with 'dim'.

Yet another faulty congratulatory advert: "A well deserved (well-deserved) honour: This is a great testimony of (to) your great achievements…." (Copy by Lagos University Teaching Hospital)

And these extracts from Lead City University, Ibadan: "Knowledge for self reliance. Post UTME screening for…being an ICT driven institution…." Three things: self-reliance, post-UTME screening and ICT-driven institution. What is going on in our tertiary centres of learning?

From The PUNCH of October 2 comes the following solecism: "This also confirms your position as one of the most accomplished entrepreneur (sic) both locally and on the international scene." Consolidated award to a trailblazer: one of the most accomplished entrepreneurs. It's only deposits (and false lifestyles) bankers know!

Daily Trust of September 20 mixed grammar with politics: "CAN asks NJC to intervene on (in) poll petition"

"There are many areas on (in) which lawmaking may be employed as tool (a tool) for development."

"Besides, the level of neglect the region has suffered in the anal (sic) of Nigerian history is phenomenal." The quest for Igbo presidency: annals. I have been 'coerced' by Sunny Agbontaen into grudgingly accepting the co-occurrence of 'annals' and 'history' in the same lexical environment!

Lastly from Daily Trust: "…is one of the leading media planning and strategist in Nigeria." Brands and marketing: one of the leading media planners and strategists in Nigeria.

"Universities and polytechnics, which are still struggling to consolidate the programmes at (on) the main campus, have no business setting up study centres elsewhere."

"Are we not betraying Zik's message of being our brothers' keepers when we…." Our hero: brother's keeper (irrespective of plurality—because of its fixed/stock form).

"In spite of the COVID-19 disaster in (on) the continent…."

"As a young man in his 20s, the late Enahoro moved the historic motion demanding for Nigeria's independence in 1956." A consensus: delete 'for' in the interest of orderliness.

"…the physical, material and psychological damages have to be addressed." 'Damage' is uncountable except in legalese or reparative environments.

"If he had at that time kept mute and outrightly conceded victory…." This way: and conceded victory outright.

"In the final analysis, how far the products of refineries conform to stipulated standards with regards to quality will largely determine their marketability." No poverty of expression: with regard to or as regards….

"But I stuck to my gun…." Get it right: stick (stuck) to one's (my) guns.

"What jobs have we provided for those roaming about the streets….?" Remove 'about' in the interest of word economy.

"Provide burglary proof in your house and business premises." As Christmas draws near, a security hint: burglar (not burglary) proof.

"The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been in the news lately for two reasons, all of them uncomplimentary." 'Rite it right: two reasons, both (not all) of them uncomplimentary.

"Agencies, Media Independents poise for the future" Campaign: poised for the future.

"They wicked has done his worst" Wanted: a Failed English Panel that would function like the Justice Oputa Panel. Before then, the wicked (wicked persons) have done their worst.

"…both our future and that of our offsprings are in jeopardy." Lest we jeopardize the language: 'offspring' is uncountable.

"It is important for all the designated banks to understand from the onset that…." To foreclose CBN's autocracy: outset, not onset (going by the context of the extract).

"For one, it is usually a universally accepted truth that when certain events and incidences, which do concern us directly…." An incontrovertible fact: events and incidents.

# Media North vs South: Dele Alake Replies



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**As we were saying, last time…**

The following article is a follow-up to that of the last edition titled "North vs South: Has the Media War Ended?"… What we observed in that piece was a dialectal feast served by the publisher of the defunct Kaduna-based newspaper, Today, essentially eviscerating his southern counterparts for professional misconduct. Today, we present the conclusion, and fervent response of the chief guest at the 'feast', Dele Alake, former Lagos commissioner for information and strategy, and who is still in the media vanguard of current electioneering hustings. Here we go:

"Before Coomassie could receive an 'Amen' for his prayer, and even before the ovation that greeted the speech died down, a methodical and suave Dele Alake rose to correct the "irony of history". He launched, extempore, into his arsenal, matching barbs for barbs in defense of "a section of the press" and his much villified boss.

"I must emphasise that it has only been the radical progressive wing of the press that has got us this far, not the retrogressive conservative wing of the press. We have so many examples to drive home this point. Even without going far back in history, let us take the last five years or the last ten years of our history. The radical progressive wing of the press situated accidentally, this is an historical accident, in the Western part of the country which has a history of political liberalism, high percentage of literacy, political tolerance and all the ingredients for libertarian attitude or disposition. This radical progressive wing of the press naturally evolved when you have all these variables on the ground. And it has been this wing of the press that has been relentless in the pursuit of democratic ideals in our nation.

"Now, when I hear some of those who were hand in gloves with our erstwhile oppressors, the dictators in the society… Those who stopped at nothing to reduce the values of decency, the value of democracy, now coming to face us, to moralise, to pontificate and preach to us the values of democracy, I restrain myself from going bunkers. Because it is an irony of (fate). It is an irony of history that those we saw in the past, a couple of years ago, joining those who were hell bent on dismembering this country through oppressive policy, brigandage, sheer thuggery, sheer governance by intrigues and by double standard, coming to us to pontificate…

"One thing is sure; that the press, in this nascent democracy cannot effectively perform its assigned (role) without the suppon of all of us in this gathering. Without the support of the people out there, and I am not going to advocate for a blanket support for the press. I am going to advocate for a specific support for the press, and that wing of the press that has borne the brunt of our democratic struggle. That really bore the weight, that suffered untold hardship, harassment, intimidation, even assassination. I want us all to support this wing of the press, because there lies our salvation. And believe me sincerely, I am talking from experience and I was one of them. We went underground, practised underground. We were driven out of the country. Our media houses were shut down. And some of us were also somewhere else coordinating, assisting those of our political activists who were scattered in various detention centres all over the country, specifically at Alagbon there. And most importantly, even our executive governor of the state, Bola Tinubu.

"He was in the vanguard of democratic struggle. He paid dearly for it. His house was fire bombed several times. He was arrested and detained at Alagbon . I was one of those who smuggled information to him at Alagbon. And from inside Alagbon he was also coordinating activities of pro-democracy groups from outside.

"Now some people somewhere who were stoking the embers of disunity, of oppression, of intimidation, now would come to tell us that Bola Tinubu is unfit to rule. That he does not have certificates. Where were these moralists when Abacha trampled upon our rights? Where were these advocates and apostles of human rights and democracy? I remember vividly well when the June 12 election was annulled in 1993, somebody, a businessman, collected a huge sum of money, went to CNN and justified the annulment, rationalised the annulment. This same man came back with his loot and established a newspaper that you are patronising. And this same mercenary is still doing his own job, hand in gloves, with those who are hell bent on destabilising this nascent democracy…."

Much to the consternation of the capacity audience in the Greetings Hall of Yoruba Tennis Club, Alake went on for several minutes, lustily working himself up to differentiate between the 'crime' of Salisu Buhari and the 'mistake' of Bola Tinubu.

The forum's chairman, Alhaji Alade Odunewu, chairman of the Nigerian Press Council, retorted jocularly that since Alake had taken his "brief remark" to a full lecture, the club would in future invite him for the second part of his diatribe.

Other guests at the well-heeded event included Chief Folarin Coker, Dr. Bode Olajumoke, Dr. Yomi Finnih (chairman of Yoruba Tennis Club), Prof. B. O. Okuwobi, Mr. Jide Fashina-Thomas, Mr. Toye Akiode (ex-Editor of Vanguard), among others. Two other guest speakers, Mr. Nosa Igiebor and Femi Ojudu were absent."

**End of story. May the campaigns gather steam.**

**BY THE WAY…**

NEWS: PDP Crisis Deepens as Wike, Loyalists Pull Out of Atiku's Campaign - ThisDay

My POINT: Why are our people fond of hiding behind one finger? Is there a crisis of consensus in PDP?

Their APC colleagues would interject heartily: "Hehehehe…e full dia ground o".

PDP-ists would likely answer: "It's no big deal, we'll soon settle it. God go shame our enemy".

It's now the fourth month after the PDP presidential convention…and the campaign period is upon us - yet the man who claims the title of "Unifier of Nigeria" is dancing 'palongo' all over the place, unable to unify the southern section of his political party!

Hello, Bros Atiku, here's a piece of advice from Yoruba witticism, which you can apply muscle to, for your own benefit: "We sometimes call the mad man our brother, so we can find a way to pass…". Just 'hug' your internal opposition, and make some compromises… So you can put your irons in one anvil. This is getting too "enough-is-enough". We want a credible, serious-minded contest for the next presidency - no excuses and mudslinging.

By the way, wisdom is mightier than raw strength - na our people say so.

## Onome Ebi

# Still A Trojan at 39

# GLOBAL SOCCER




Onome Ebi tries to halt an opponent's move

## Onome Ebi

# Still A Trojan at 39

*With few games short of a century appearance for Nigeria and five World Cup appearances to her belt- the only African player to achieve the feat, Onome Ebi is still aiming higher as she was last week unveiled by the Spanish side, Levante Las Palnas after she agreed to a one-year deal with the club*

As part of her ambition to become the first African to play in six World Cups, which is slated for Australia and New Zealand, Super Falcons Captain, Onome Ebi, was last week unveiled by the Spanish side, Levante Las Palnas, after she agreed to a one-year deal with the newly promoted club.

The seven-time African Women's Cup of Nations participant will continue her industrious professional career journey, after putting pen to paper at the age of 39.

According to Savidnews.com, Ebi arrived at the Spanish Primera Iberdrola outfit, ending her long spell of club inactivity since she parted ways with Belarusian side Minsk in November 2020.

Announcing her signing, the Spanish club took to social media to inform fans about the acquisition of the veteran defender.

Expressing her delight, the five-time African record holder for most World Cup appearance revealed her excitement ahead of her new journey in Spain.

Before her second stint at Minsk, the veteran defender, who started her career in Nigeria with Omidiran Babes and Bayelsa Queens, won four domestic titles, having joined the former Belarusian champions from then Swedish Damallsvenskan Sunnana SK in 2013.

She also previously starred for Chinese side Henan, Ataehir Belediyespor and Düvenciler Lisesispor in Turkey as well as Swedish sides Djurgården and Pitea.

Following her arrival, she becomes the latest African on the club's book, joining Cameroon striking legend Herriette Akaba.

Despite missing out of international scene with Nigeria since July due to injury, she will be looking to earn her debut in Spanish football in coming days after full recovery.

The Super Falcons veteran defender was last year announced as one of Nigeria's 100 most inspiring women.

The 39-year-old defender is the only African player to have played at five World Cups and has spent 20 years in the Super Falcons.

She is few games short of a century appearances with the Falcons and has proven herself as one of the team's most dependable defenders for many years.

"I'm thrilled to be announced as one of the honorees on Leading Ladies Africa's #100 Most Inspiring Women in Nigeria List.

Happy international women's day, " she tweeted.

Ebi is part of the CAF Woman's Team of the Decade and has won four AWCON titles with Nigeria.

She was also a member of the 2008 Super Falcons Olympics team and has represented Nigeria's women's team in every competition.

The former Bayelsa Queens defender has played in Sweden, Turkey and Belarus in Europe. Before the Morocco 2022 Qualifiers against Cote d'Ivoire, Ebi had assured she and her teammates will avoid another loss to Cote d'Ivoire in the race for qualification for the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations billed for Morocco.

Nine-time African champions, Nigeria, were stopped from qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics Women's football event by the Ivorian Ladies and for Ebi, the Falcons will not allow a repeat as they eye a spot at Morocco 2022.

"I can tell you that we are still nursing the pain of missing out on the Tokyo Olympics as a result of the loss to Cote d'Ivoire in the qualifying series.

"This time, we will repay them in their coins. I want to play in the Africa Cup of Nations and the FIFA World Cup, and I know it is the same for my teammates." Ebi had declared

"I want to thank the NFF for this kind of camping which we have not had before now with the blend of foreign and home-based players. On behalf of everyone, we want to say that we enjoyed the camp.

"With this kind of camp, Cote d'Ivoire are going to hear from us as we are not leaving anything behind. We know what's at stake as we all want to play at the AWCON and World Cup," the veteran defender had warned.

The Super Falcons defeated the Ivorians in a home-and-away final elimination fixture for the 12th Women AFCON slated for Morocco.

Ebi comes from humble beginnings to represent Nigeria in five World Cups. But her difficult journey to the top has made her want to help other promising young female footballers make it to the top.

Like most African superstar athletes, she came from humble beginnings. She started life in a slum community in the Nigerian capital of Lagos but has gone on to beat the odds and enjoy a thriving career in Europe and China.

"I started playing football when I was in my mom's womb... I was so little when I started!" exclaims Ebi, who played the game just for fun as a child until her first coach discovered her talent and advised her to pursue a professional career.

Despite having a mentor by her side, Ebi found it hard to establish herself as a female footballer in a country where it isn't considered a traditional or legitimate career path and her coach had to convince her parents that they should allow her to play.

"Our parents don't want women to play," Ebi said. "Society as a whole doesn't want women to play. People think that football is for men and women are supposed to just get married and feed the children."

Perspectives are slowly changing but it's still rare to see older women playing football. Every morning when Ebi goes out to train, she's usually the only female among the men.

Not only does she have to work extra hard to gain recognition as a woman in a male-dominated sport, but she also has to defend her ability to still play at the age of 37.

But she remains very athletic and her experience and speed still outshines many of the younger players coming through.

Ebi hopes to make her sixth appearance at the next World Cup in 2023.

Meanwhile in Nigeria, she is always looking for new ways to give back through charity and community initiatives. Ebi has a foundation that is focused primarily on helping young girls who want to play football professionally and she is involved in supporting Nigeria's struggling female football league.

Beyond her personal foundation, Ebi also donates one per cent of her income to Common Goal, an initiative that supports high-impact NGOs that use football to drive progress towards the Global Goals.

Through Common Goal, Ebi discovered that YEDI (Youth Empowerment Development Initiative) was operating in Lagos on projects she seeks to support, including raising awareness among young people on health topics, like AIDS.

Ebi agreed to join YEDI on one of their rural outreaches and when she arrived at the location and met the girls, her heart melted.

Off the field, many people may not recognise Ebi. The girls had never heard about her before but they were happy to see her, and after the outreach session Ebi gave them a group hug. She also presented them with gifts and assured them that they can achieve whatever they want to, regardless of their background.

"Being here today really reminds me of my childhood," Ebi said as she smiled and watched the little children playing.

GLOBAL SOCCER

# Liverpool Try Arsenal for Size at the Emirate

*Not many would have expected that after eight matches Arsenal would be sitting top of the Premier League table, but against all odds, the Gunners have surprised every doubting Thomas. After deservedly getting the better of Tottenham Hotspur in the North London derby last weekend, Mikel Arteta's men would be facing another big test on Sunday as they come against a Liverpool side that is yet to find their right form this season but could not be written off on a big occasion like tomorrow's game at the Emirate*




Alexandal Arnord struggles for possession with Bukayo Saka

League leaders, Arsenal will be looking to make it eight wins from nine matches when they take on Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

The visitors, meanwhile, are aiming to return to winning ways having drawn their last two league matches.

While Arsenal's expectations undoubtedly raised after acquiring Gabriel Jesus and Oleksandr Zinchenko from champions, Manchester City in the summer transfer window, even the most ardent Gunners fan may not have predicted such a fast start to the campaign from their side.

Mikel Arteta's side preserved their status at the top of the Premier League by beating their fiercest rivals, Tottenham Hotspur 3-1 in the North London derby last weekend, with Jesus, Thomas Partey and Granit Xhaka each on the scoresheet.

Emerson Royal's straight red card for a cynical challenge on Gaabriel Martinelli moments after the hour mark undoubtedly helped Arsenal ease to their victory, but they were the better side throughout and on current form look set for their first title challenge in several seasons.

Liverpool, of course, are the only team who have managed to keep pace with Per Guadiola's Man City in recent times, making Sunday's clash an extremely exciting and potentially telling one in terms of anticipating how the rest of the season may unfold.

The Gunners extended their winning run in all competitions at home to eight matches by beating Bodo/Glimt 3-0 in the Europa League on Thursday evening. If they can make it nine in a row on Sunday and keep ahead of Man City at the top of the table in the process, then what previously seemed to be wild dreams may become perceived as more realistic ambitions.

Liverpool, on the other hand, are suffering their poorest start to a season in several years, with Jurgen Klopp's side heading into Sunday's meeting 11 points behind their forthcoming opponents (albeit with one game in hand).

After taking just two points from their opening three games, the Merseysiders looked to have turned a corner with successive home wins against Bournemouth and Newcastle United, but they have since been held by Everton and Brighton & Hove Albion.

The Reds showed great character to turn around a 2-0 deficit against the Seagulls at Anfield last weekend to lead 3-2 in the second half, with Roberto Firmino bagging a brace either side of half-time, but an inspired Leandro Trossard was not to be stopped on the day as the Belgian sealed his hat-trick - and snatched a point for his side - with only seven minutes of normal time remaining.

Klopp switched to a more attacking formation against Rangers in the Champions League on Tuesday, with four attackers starting in front of Thiago Alcantara and club captain Jordan Henderson as a midfield pairing. Trent Alexander-Arnold's free-kick and Mohamed Salah's penalty ultimately downed last season's Europa League runners-up in a comfortable 2-0 victory.

Whether the German feels his side are capable of visiting an in-form Arsenal side at the Emirates Stadium with such a bold system remains to be seen, especially as it is surely a must not lose game if they are to harbour any realistic hopes of winning the Premier League this season.

Meanwhile, Manchester City could momentarily climb to the top of the Premier League table when they welcome Southampton to the Etihad Stadium this afternoon.

The Citizens currently sit in second place and only one point behind leaders Arsenal, – who face Liverpool on Sunday, while the Saints are just one point above the relegation zone in 16th place.

Man City extended their winning streak in all competitions to five matches with a comfortable 5-0 victory at home against Copenhagen in the Champions League on Wednesday night.

## Premier League Table

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 8 | 12 | 21 |
| Man City | 8 | 20 | 20 |
| Tottenham | 8 | 9 | 17 |
| Brighton | 7 | 6 | 14 |
| Chelsea | 7 | 0 | 13 |
| Man Utd | 7 | -3 | 12 |
| Newcastle | 8 | 4 | 11 |
| Fulham | 8 | -2 | 11 |
| Liverpool | 7 | 9 | 10 |
| Brentford | 8 | 3 | 10 |
| Everton | 8 | 0 | 10 |
| Leeds | 7 | 0 | 9 |
| Bournemouth | 8 | -13 | 9 |
| Aston Villa | 8 | -4 | 8 |
| West Ham | 8 | -4 | 7 |
| Southampton | 8 | -5 | 7 |
| Crystal Palace | 7 | -3 | 6 |
| Wolves | 8 | -6 | 6 |
| Leicester | 8 | -8 | 4 |
| Nottm Forest | 8 | -15 | 4 |

## Premier League

**TODAY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bournemouth | v Leicester 15:00 |
| Chelsea | v Wolves 15:00 |
| Man City | v S'mpton 15:00 |
| Newcastle | v Brentford 15:00 |
| Brighton | v Tottenham 17:30 |

**SUNDAY**

| | |
|---|---|
| C. Palace | v Leeds Utd 14:00 |
| West Ham | v Fulham 14:00 |
| Arsenal | v Liverpool 16:30 |
| Everton | v Man Utd 19:00 |

**MONDAY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nott'm Forest | v Aston Villa 20:00 |

## LaLiga

**TODAY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Almería | v | Vallecano 13:00 |
| Atlético | v | Girona 15:15 |
| Sevilla | v | Bilbao 17:30 |
| Getafe | v | Madrid 20:00 |

**SUNDAY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Valladolid | v | Real Betis 13:00 |
| Cádiz | v | Espanyol 15:15 |
| Sociedad | v | Villarreal 17:30 |
| Barcelona | v | Celta Vigo 20:00 |

**MONDAY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Elche | v | Mallorca 20:00 |

## Hot Shot

| PLAYERS | CLUB | GOALS |
|---|---|---|
| Erling Haaland | Man City | 14 |
| Harry Kane | Tottenham | 7 |
| Aleks Mitrovic | Fulham | 6 |
| Roberto Firmino | Liverpool | 5 |
| Gabriel Jesus | Arsenal | 5 |
| Phil Foden | Man City | 5 |
| Ivan Toney | Brentford | 5 |
| James Maddison | Leicester | 5 |
| Leandro Trossard | Brighton | 5 |

# GLOBAL SOCCER



U23 Eagles in training

## Olympic Eagles to Camp in Ibadan for Africa U23 Cup of Nations Qualifier

The Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development has secured a camping base for the U23 men national team, otherwise known as Olympic Eagles, ahead of the team's Africa U23 Cup of Nations qualifying fixture against their Tanzanian counterparts this month.

Camping and prosecution of qualifying campaigns and tournaments of the U23 men and women teams for the Olympic Games and the African Games fall within the ambit of the Youth and Sports Development Ministry, but President of NFF, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on Friday commended the Ministry for securing the camp as it will aid the preparation of the Olympic Eagles for their qualifying campaign.

Tanzania will host the first leg of the fixture in the weekend of 21st – 23rd October, with the return leg due in Nigeria on Saturday, 29th October. The NFF has already scheduled the return leg for the Lekan Salami Stadium, Adamasingba, Ibadan.

Head Coach Salisu Yusuf has invited 32 players who will resume camping in the Oyo State capital this weekend.

Nigeria won the Africa U23 Cup of Nations in Senegal in 2015, and then went ahead to win the bronze medal at the Olympic Men's Football Tournament in Brazil the following year. However, the class of 2019 failed to reach the knockout rounds in Egypt and thus could not earn a slot at the Olympics in Tokyo last year.

Nigeria won gold at the Olympic Men's Football Tournament in Atlanta, USA in 1996 and followed up with silver in Beijing, China 12 years later.

## Nigeria, Kenya Qualify for Next Round of U19 Cricket World Cup Qualifiers

Host Nigeria and Kenya have booked their places in the next round of the U19 ICC World Cup qualifiers after both countries qualified for today's final of the Division 2 tournament taking place at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

Nigeria, playing Malawi on the pitch 2, beat the visitors by 225 runs with Izuchukwu Okeke scoring 84 runs to win the man of the match award. Nigeria's captain Ridwan Abdulkareem also took six wickets in the encounter.

Nigeria had won the toss and elected to bat setting a total of 258 on the board in 49 overs. Malawi could only squeeze in 33 runs in 12.5 overs that their wickets were run out.

Vice President of the Nigeria Cricket Federation, Wale Obalola said that Nigeria keeping her hundred per cent record in the Division 2 qualifiers is commendable and he is confident they will deliver against Kenya in today's final.

"We are glad our team (Nigeria) has made it to the final, and has booked a spot in the Division 1 qualifiers. I am very positive the boys will ride on the immense support they have from the ground to win the series here."

Kenya coming from one week break after Ghana and Mozambique pulled out of the tournament were held to 153 runs by Sierra Leone who had hoped to ride on their batting strength to oust the Kenyans in the second inning.

## Man City vs Southampton, Milan vs Juventus Live on DStv, GOtv

Defending champions, Manchester City will continue its title defence against Southampton at the Etihad Stadium, this weekend, for matchday 10 of the English Premier League 2022/23 season.

The game will be live on SuperSport Premier League (DStv channel 203) and GO Football (GOtv channel 31) at 3:00pm today.

Nigerian midfielder, Joe Aribo will be hoping to lead his Southampton teammates to a surprise victory against the defending champions at the Etihad and hopefully add to his goal tally for the season.

The La Liga promises to be exciting this weekend as the race for the top gets hotter. Defending champion, Real Madrid, will pay a visit to Getafe this weekend. They will be hoping to bounce back from last weekend's draw with Osasuna. The Saturday night game will be live on SuperSport La Liga (DStv channel 204 and GOtv channel 32) at 8:00pm

Barcelona overtook Real Madrid at the top of the table last week and they will have to overcome a tough test from Celta Vigo to retain their position on Sunday. The game will be live on SuperSport La Liga (DStv channel 204 and GOtv channel 32) at 8:00pm.

## MultiChoice Partners BetKing to Launch SuperPicks for New Football Season

Africa's leading entertainment company, MultiChoice, in collaboration with Nigeria's leading sports betting and digital entertainment company, BetKing has kicked off the SuperPicks for the 2022/23 football season.

Launched in 2021, SuperPicks is a revolutionary platform where fans can use their sports knowledge to compete in free-to-play games for bragging rights and life-changing cash prizes.

To deepen the viewer's sporting experience, this season comes with two exciting free-to-play games. They include the existing predictor game, which gives players the chance to win a weekly jackpot of N50,000,000 by correctly predicting the scores of six football fixtures. The newly launched Fantasy game gives users the chance to pick players and form a dream team for a specific match to win big.

Available to play for free at superpicks.com as well as the app which is currently available on Android, SuperPicks gives anyone above the age of 18 access to more games to play for free each week this season and the chance to win big for real.

The Managing Director for KingMakers (BetKing), Gossy Ukanwoke, stressed the importance of collaboration to deliver quality and entertaining content that provides value to customers.




Everton's Manager, Frank Lampard expressess his satisfaction with Alex Iwobi

## Lampard Says Iwobi is One of Premier League's Best Midfielders

Frank Lampard was on media duties on Friday afternoon to preview the Premier League fixture against Manchester United at Goodison Park and one of the questions he was asked was the form of Alex Iwobi.

The Nigeria international has notched three assists in his last four Premier League matches - as many as he managed in his previous 87 games in the top-flight for Everton.

He was recognized for his outstanding performance last month, making the shortlist for the Premier League Player of the Month, along with Marcus Rashford and four midfielders namely Philip Billing (Bournemouth), Kevin De Bruyne (Manchester City), Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg (Tottenham Hotspur) and Jacob Ramsey (Aston Villa).

A tactical change by Lampard has brought out the best in Iwobi, with the Chelsea legend deploying him in a central midfield role for almost all the matches this season.

Asked to share his thoughts on what led to Iwobi's good form, Lampard told reporters: "Since I've been here he hasn't changed. He has been a fantastic player for me in whatever position I played him in last season.

"In the summer gave pause for thought and how we construct the team as you move forward.

"I wanted to move Alex into a more central position regularly because I really felt it suited his attributes.

"I'm just delighted he's getting the recognition he deserves as one of the top midfield players in the Premier League at the moment. He's been fantastic for us."

Iwobi has been influential for the Toffees this season, notably providing the game-winning assists in their recent wins against West Ham United and Southampton.

Everything indicates that the Hale End Academy product will make his 12th career appearance against Manchester United on Sunday evening.

## Osimhen Returns to Napoli's Training Ahead of Lombardy Trip

Super Eagles striker, Victor Osimhen attended his club's training session, after he was granted a day off to sort out a family issue on Thursday, as Napoli players trained yesterday morning at the SSC Konami Training Center to stepped up their preparations for the Serie A clash with Cyriel Dessers' US Cremonese.

According to Napoli's official website, the attacker trained partially with the rest of his teammates and also carried out personalized training (as pictured).

The Blues have published a training photo showing their record acquisition sweating it out in the training session.

The Nigeria international has missed the last five games contested by Napoli in all competitions after sustaining a muscle injury during the first half of the Champions League meeting with Liverpool on September 7.

Although Osimhen is not match fit, having spent one month on the sidelines, his return to action is getting closer and there's a possibility that he could be named in the traveling squad to Lombardy.

During today's training session, the Napoli players carried out ball possession exercises, all-field tactical situations and, at the end of the session, an exercise on set pieces.

## Mbappe Beats Messi, Ronaldo to Forbes Rich List

Kylian Mbappe has topped the Forbes list for highest-earning footballers - the first time someone other than Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo has been number one for nine years.

Paris St-Germain forward Mbappe, 23, will earn $128m (£115.2m) this season.

Mbappe's PSG team-mate Messi is second on $120m (£108m) and Manchester United forward Ronaldo third on $100m (£90m).

Neymar and Mohamed Salah complete the top five.

PSG and Brazil striker Neymar will earn an estimated $87m (£78.4m) in 2022-23 and Liverpool forward Salah $53m (£47.7m).

The last player to top the list other than Ronaldo or Messi was former England captain David Beckham in 2013.

Mbappe signed a lucrative new three-year contract with PSG in May, which ended speculation about a summer move to Real Madrid.

The France World Cup winner has lifted 11 trophies at the club, including four Ligue 1 titles, since joining from Monaco initially on loan in 2017.

Erling Haaland, who has scored 19 goals in 12 games for Manchester City since his summer move from Borussia Dortmund, makes his debut in the top 10 at number six.

## German Clásico, Man City vs Southampton Live on StarTimes

This weekend promises to be hot for sports lovers on StarTimes because top fixtures across Europe will be aired live on StarTimes sports channels.

Starting with the English Premier League. Manchester City will face Southampton live on Sporty TV channel on StarTimes at 3 pm.

The reigning champions of England look to continue their dominant start to the season when they host Southampton at the Etihad Stadium today.

Sporty TV is available to all active StarTimes users as well as on the StarTimes-ON mobile app

Manchester City are coming off a stunning victory at last week's derby, where they dominated Manchester United 6-3. Meanwhile, Southampton's losing streak extended to three games after suffering a 2-1 loss to Everton last weekend.

The two teams sit on opposite sides of the table heading into today's game. City now sit just one point behind Arsenal for the top spot on the table, while Southampton are merely sitting above relegation by only two points.

Immediately after the EPL match comes the German Clásico between Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund.



# Folarin Balogun Finds Home in Reims?

Folarin Balogun

*Having not been able to break into Arsenal side, Folarin Balogun was loaned to French Ligue 1 side, Stade de Reims and since joining the Red and Whites, the English U21 striker of Nigerian descent has been scoring regularly with only Paris Saint Germain duo, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe scoring more than Balogun in the French top-flight so far this season. He is however loving life in France as he scored again last weekend in Reims'2-2 draw with Troyes in Ligue 1*

With the Gunners boasting a pair of superior striking options heading into the 2022/23 season, the decision was made to loan the promising Balogun out so he can earn regular minutes at a senior level.

The young striker rarely featured for Mikel Arteta despite starring in the youth ranks, but he did make his first Premier League start on opening night last season in the 2-0 defeat to Brentford.

Balogun ended 2021/22 in the second tier with Middlesbrough and he's now found his feet at Reims.

After overseeing the departure of Hugo Ekitike to Paris Saint-Germain, Reims opted to move for Arsenal's Balogun and the 21-year-old has enjoyed an excellent start to the season.

The striker has appeared in all nine of Reims' Ligue 1 games, starting seven, and is currently averaging a goal contribution every 74.875 minutes. After opening the scoring against Troyes on Sunday, Balogun has now scored six league goals and notched two assists.

Unfortunately, though, Balogun's goals have often come in vain with Reims currently languishing in 17th. They've won just once this season and have picked up seven points through nine games. Remarkably, Balogun's side have been reduced to 10 men in six of their outings which makes the striker's prolific start all the more impressive.

According to Opta Jean, Balogun has scored more goals than any other player born in the 21st century among Europe's top five leagues this season.

Meanwhile, Reims could be priced out of a move for the Arsenal striker according to reports.

It has been claimed that Reims want to turn Balogun's loan deal into a permanent one following his fine start to life in the Ligue 1.

The England U21 international of Nigerian descent arrived at Reims in August, with no option to buy and recall clause included in the deal taking him to the six-time French champions.

It has however been suggested that Balogun's hypothetical transfer to Reims is not going to materialize as they cannot afford him, considering that their record acquisitions Junya Ito and Jens Cajuste cost 10 million euros each.

If Balogun keep firing on all cylinders, he will put himself in a strong position to push for a first team role at Arsenal next season.

The Hale End Academy graduate has played 31 senior games combined for Arsenal and Middlesbrough FC, where he spent the second half of last season, scoring five goals.

Born in New York City, Balogun is also eligible to represent the United States apart from England and Nigeria.

"Balogun has unique qualities as a striker – his speed and the way he holds the ball. He's a real goal threat and he works tremendously hard," Arteta said recently.

"He's a very hungry boy. He wants to do everything and wants to practise more every single day. He will be pushing anybody in our first team to get his spot and that's exactly what we want.

"He's got the chance. Now it's time for him to prove himself."

Balogun started the first Premier League game for Arsenal last season against Brentford, which was the moment it seemed he had finally broken through into the Arsenal. However, he was unable to make another start and was eventually loaned out to Middlesborough.

The youngster gained valuable experience during his loan stint at Middlesborough.

Balogun played so well in the under-23 competitions that before the signing of his new Arsenal deal in the summer, there were a host of top clubs around Europe, including RB Leipzig, that signalled interest in securing his services, despite not making a first-team appearance.

Now with first-team football under his belt in the lower leagues, a spell in the Premier League where he plays regularly would certainly be great for his development.

The Gunners have been known for giving youth team products, such as Bukayo Saka, Reiss Nelson, Emile Smith Rowe and Joe Willock, a chance in the first team.

Now Balogun is emerging as talents among the next generation, and his manager believes they will get plenty of chances to show their quality.

Giving reasons why he promoted Folarin Balogun to the senior team last, said that he promoted Nigerian descent to his squad first-team because he had raised the level of the Gunners' academy.

Speaking to Arsenal's website, Arteta said: "It is great, it is just a small step being a part of pre-season matches, but now the bigger step is trying to become a regular in the first team. That is a small step compared to the next step they have to take.

"That is the first thing they have to realise, the hard work is not done yet. The hard work is going to start right now, and the expectations start right now and if he has this mentality he has the potential, we believe in him and he will have the opportunities."

He added: "He has raised the level of the academy to a point that it wasn't any more for him so we had to look to create the space around the first team for him to be able to develop in the way that we want them to."

Arteta believes Balogun is now mature to the point where he can't play in the academy, adding that he had to create space for them in Arsenal's first team.

The Spaniard added that the player has the hunger and he showed the desire to stay at Arsenal and fight to become one of the first-team regulars.

"I think he is the right age and he has space in the squad to do that and has the hunger and he showed the desire to stay at the football club and fight to become one of the first-team regulars."

GLOBAL SOCCER

ASSISTANT EDITOR
KUNLE ADEWALE

THISDAY ON SATURDAY
EDITOR
YEMI ADEBOWALE
DEPUTY EDITOR
AHAMIFULA OGBU

THISDAY NEWSPAPERS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/CHAIRMAN
NDUKA OBAIGBENA

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ENIOLA BELLO

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
ISRAEL IWEGBU



# Chummies®



Aunty Maero

## From the Editor

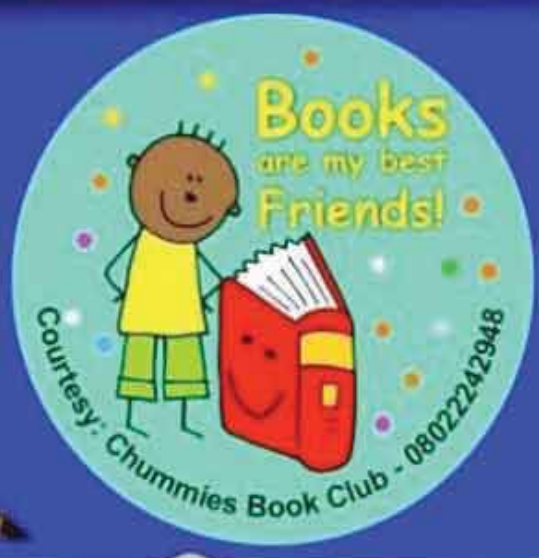
Hey Chums!

How is school? I hope that you have settled in. Most of all, I advise that you start to study hard now! Not tomorrow, not next week! I know that this may not be easy sometimes especially when we want to play and just have fun with our friends. This is good too but do not overdo this. We are at our Chummies Book Club meeting today having fun. I hope that we get to see you all sometime.

Remember that if you want to join the Chummies Book Club, mum or dad have to call in to receive your registration number. Do take good care of you!

Maero

08022242948

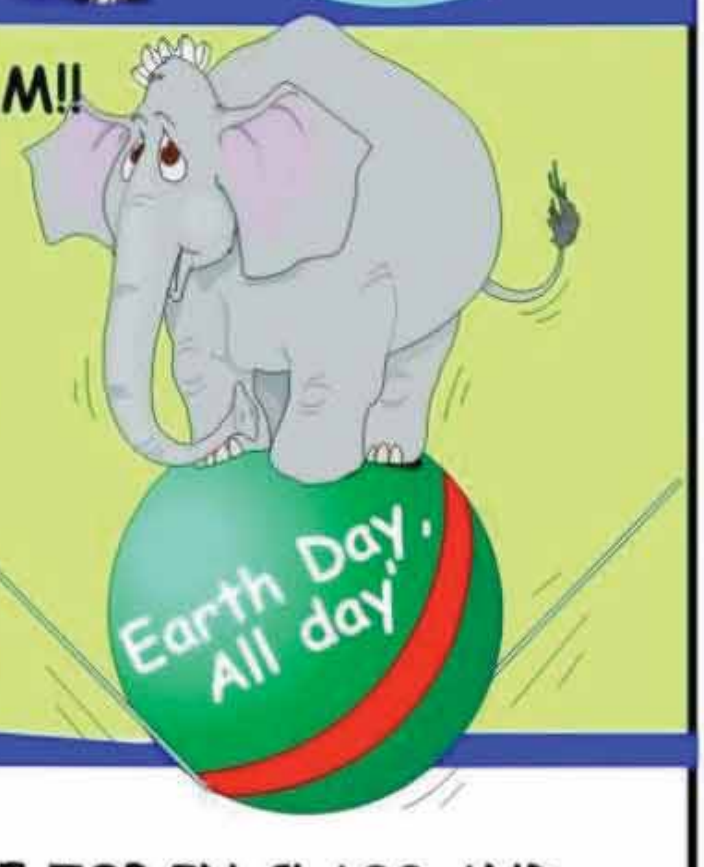



## JOIN THE CHUMMIES GREEN TEAM!!

Can you guess what the Chummies Green Team is all about? Close your eyes and try to guess before you read this.

The Chummies Green Team cares about the environment. We have to love the earth because this is where we live all our lives! We have to learn to take good care of it everyday and we can make a difference! If we do not take care of the earth, we will have disasters. You will learn how. We must preserve the resources of the earth, Do not waste water. Also do not litter the community. We shall have environmental tips here and you may suggest some. You may share all you learn with your class mates in school.

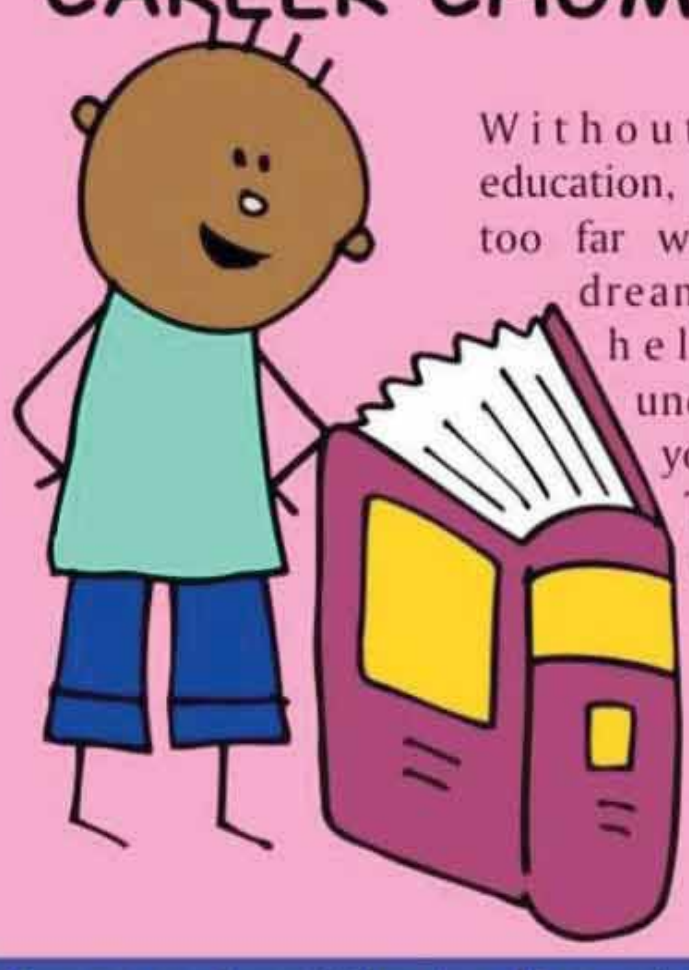
You will learn a lot here.




### Environmental Tip of the Month

**Save a tree.** Do not swing from the branches or cut off the leaves from a tree.

## CAREER CHUMMIES



Without a proper education, no one can go too far with his or her dreams. Education helps you to understand what you want to be. Take your books seriously and make sure that apart from your homework, you need to study.

## COME TOP IN CLASS AND WIN A DAY OUT WITH ME!!

Remember that you always win a gift if you are the 1st, 2nd or 3rd in class. This time in addition to the gift that you win, you get to hang out with me! I tell you, we will have fun! I can't wait to see those results. Best of luck in those tests!!

All you need to do is pass your examinations very well, and then when mum or dad gets your result they will need to do a photocopy and send this to me. The rest is fun!!!




You can send your letters to :- Maerozako@yahoo.com or thisdaychummies@yahoo.com or call 08022242948

# Nairawise Chummies

## Don't spend it all. Slot it in!

Dear Pals,
Do you know that you too can be an inventor? There is still a lot to invent. Like I wish that someone could invent a gadget that could sense mosquitoes as they come near and just slap them dead! Well, I guess that first of all we need to look at inventing some machine that could sweep dirty gutters without supervision! Seriously, you need to start taking things seriously and making a mark.
Do take care.
Aunty Maero
08053069365



## GEORGE CRUM WISE MAN

I love potato chips. Do you? I read about the man who created potato chips and it is a fascinating story. His name is George Crum he invented it in 1853.

In the summer of 1853, Native American George Crum was employed as a chef at an elegant resort in Saratoga Springs, New York. One dinner guest found Crum's French fries too thick for his liking and rejected the order.

Crum decided to annoy the guest by making the fries too thin and crisp to skewer with a fork. But, Yummy! The plan failed! The guest was so happy over the browned, paper-thin potatoes, and other diners began requesting Crum's potato chips. I can hear them thank George! I wonder if he was happy.

## Small Business idea!!

You may ask mum or dad nicely to buy you special ink from an art shop. The ink is ink that you may use on glass. Try painting messages on glass, mugs or plates. It won't come off and you could make some good bucks! Remember that you must as mum or dad before you do anything or sell anything. If they do not want you to start yet, you have to wait!

## THE 11 YEAR OLD INVENTOR -Frank Epperson!!

One day in 1905, Frank Epperson mixed some soda water powder and water and left the mixture on the back porch overnight with the stirring stick still in it. The temperature dropped to a record low that night and the next day Frank had a stick of frozen soda water to show his friends at school. Later he began a business producing Epsicles in seven fruit flavors. The name was later changed to the Popsicle.

Eighteen years later-in 1923- Frank Epperson remembered his frozen soda water mixture and began a business producing Epsicles in seven fruit flavors. The name was later changed to the Popsicle. Popsicle Industries say the general flavor favorite through the years has remained "taste-tingling orange".

# AUTO WORLD

Bennett Oghifo
07052343083 Email:bennett.oghifo@thisdaylive.com




The Kia K8

## Kia K8 Embodies High-tech, Modern, Innovative Sedan

The Kia K8 combines cutting-edge innovation and dynamic performance to establish new benchmarks for premium quality in the sedan segment.

Further demonstrating the recent rejuvenation of the brand, the K8 offers progressive and refined driving performance, a cutting-edge Advanced Driver Assistance System, and a contemporary and clean interior space that provides the driver and passengers with a first-class lounge experience.

The K8 will be available in Nigeria on request, and advance bookings are currently open both online and across Kia showrooms nationwide.

Engineering at the core

K8's sleek style is matched with refined powertrains and driving performance

The K8's four powertrains have all been developed to offer refined, smooth power delivery while improving fuel economy and reducing emissions (powertrain options may vary by country).

A state-of-the-art 3.5-liter Smartstream powertrain is offered in two power and fuel guises: a GDI (gasoline direct injection) derivative with 300 ps and 36.6 kgf.m (359 Nm) torque, and an LPI (liquid propane injection) stablemate with 240 ps with 32.0 kgf.m (314 Nm) torque.

A 2.5-liter GDI engine is also available, delivering 198 ps and 25.3 kgf.m (248 Nm) torque. Like the Smartstream powertrain, the 2.5 four-cylinder features GDI and MPI dual injection technology to realize optimized fuel injection across all operating conditions. A smooth 8-speed automatic transmission, designed and developed in-house, accompanies the 2.5 GDI engine and the 3.5 GDI and LPI Smartstream derivatives.

Adding to the sense of refinement, the K8 has been developed to offer minimal NVH (noise, vibration, and harshness), employing reinforced sound packaging materials including a triple sealing solution to the doors that dramatically reduces unwanted noises coming from the outside. Vibration levels are kept to a minimum thanks in part to a new vibration damper.

**Progressive and modern space**

An automotive lounge that fuses nature with technology and luxury with comfort

Every element of the K8 interior has been designed with high-end luxury in mind, serving to elevate the senses of the driver and passengers.

Named the Ergo Motion Seat, the leading-edge driver's seat has a 'comfort stretching' mode that individually controls the air pockets of the hip and backrest areas of the seat, creating the effect of stretching while sitting down.

## New Mercedes-Benz A-Class is for Everyday

With perfectly balanced overall proportions, a loving and high-quality attention to detail in its design, the latest generation of MBUX and a model range that is rigorously geared to customer wishes, the new Mercedes-Benz A-Class brings something special to the compact segment and offers customers class for every day.

The A-Class remains available both as a Hatchback and as a Saloon, the automaker said in a statement.

Sporty, muscular exterior: Even from the front, the new A-Class conveys power and dynamism. The front view is dominated by the forward-sloping bonnet with its two power bulges and steep 'shark nose', the redesigned radiator grille with star pattern and the flat headlamps, available as an option in an LED variant. The sporty character is underlined by externally flush wheels with four additional rim designs in sizes up to 19 inches, including optional high-gloss black painted light-alloy wheels in multi-spoke design and with a high-gloss rim flange for the AMG Line. The new rear diffuser and the standard LED rear lights ensure a fascinating and emotionally appealing appearance by both day and night. The high-class exterior is perfectly complemented by an attractive choice of exterior paintwork: A variety of non-metallic / metallic and MANUFAKTUR paint finishes are available.

Individual interior with high-tech: Exclusiveness is also reflected in the interior of the new




The new Mercedes-Benz A-Class

A-Class. The absolute highlight is the standard freestanding dual-screen display with a 7-inch and the larger 10.25-inch display taking centre stage. Optional are two 10.25-inch displays that seem to float with their wide-screen look. The internal architecture, which is unique in this class, gives rise to a very special lighting ambience that is perhaps reminiscent of the illumination of a futuristic building at night. The three round turbine-look air vents, so typical of Mercedes-Benz, are a homage to the world of aviation. The revised steering wheel of the current steering wheel generation, in nappa leather as standard, is compact and matches the high-tech character of the redesigned centre console.

Inside, too, the model range covers all individualisation wishes: even in the base variant of the new A-Class, Mercedes-Benz offers a high-quality comfort seat whose new, three-dimensionally embossed ARTICO upholstery further emphasises the sportiness of the vehicle.

## TIPS OF THE WEEK

### How to Change a Car Fuse in 8 Easy Steps

**Whether it's the rattling that comes and goes with the moon phases, a timing belt that obeys only changes in barometric pressure, or the sudden flickering of that dreaded check engine light, certain car problems require the professional experience and honest technical knowledge only a mechanic can bring. This doesn't mean you should be afraid to approach your car with a tool though. There are certain car fixes that every man should be capable of doing himself. Your mechanic might not thank you for learning them, but your wallet surely will.**

**How to Change a Fuse**

**If you've never blown a fuse at home congratulations, you're an anomaly. Fuses are designed to break as they prevent the overloading of the whole system—think of them as the noble sacrifices of the electrical world. Changing a fuse in your car is similar to changing one at home.**

**1. Locate your car's fuse panel. You might need to check the owner's manual, but they can usually be found under the steering wheel.**

**2. Take off the fuse panel's cover. Inside you'll see a range of colors and numbers that denote different amperages while a diagram (usually on the reverse of the cover) will show what each fuse powers in your car.**

**3. Locate the blown fuse. The inside will usually be black or the metal filament might be broken. If it's dark, you might want a flashlight to make this a quicker job.**

**4. Remove the broken fuse. You can use a variety of tools (or skip the tools and use your hands) to extract the blown fuse, the important point is to use care. Fuses can break easily and a broken fuse is a lot harder to get out than a fully intact one.**

**5. Insert a replacement fuse of the correct amperage—make note of the fuse panel and your owner's manual on this one. Using a fuse of the incorrect amperage can cause serious electrical problems.**

**6. Keep a few extra fuses of various amperages in your glove box. In a jam, you can always take a fuse away from a lesser used function of the same amperage and use it for something more pressing, but this is just a temporary fix. For example, if the fuse for your power windows is blown and there's no rain in the forecast pull the working fuse that's allocated for your rear windshield wiper and use it for power windows. Just double check that the amperages for each are the same.**

**7. Start the ignition to check if your handiwork has paid off.**

**8. If the same fuse blows soon after you replaced it or doesn't work at all, it might be time for a trip to the mechanic.**

AUTO WORLD

# New Toyota Highlander Engine Offers More Torque, Fewer Emissions

For the 2023 model year, Toyota is giving buyers even more reasons to choose the Highlander for their next vehicle, starting with an all-new engine for the gas models that offers impressive performance in a compact package.

According to the automaker, 2023 Highlander gas models are now equipped with a new, higher-torque, high-efficiency turbocharged engine. The 265-horsepower, 2.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder, which uses balance shafts for super-smooth performance, delivers 310 lb-ft of torque – this results in a significant 17% increase over the previous 3.5-liter V6 engine's 263 lb-ft. Even better, the driver will feel this gain in everyday driving situations, especially when taking advantage of the Highlander's 7- or 8-person seating and generous cargo capacity. Just as important, fuel efficiency is also improved for this higher-torque engine with an EPA-estimate of up to 25 MPG combined. The new engine, standard across all gas grades, is also more environmentally conscious, with more than a 50% reduction in NOx and NMOG compared to the outgoing V6 engine.

The new Highlander turbo models are equipped to tow up to 5,000-pounds and include Trailer Sway Control (TSC), which uses the Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) to help control unwanted trailer movement. To help reduce fuel consumption and emissions, the standard Stop and Start Engine System allows the engine to shut off when the vehicle comes to a complete stop and instantly restarts when the driver's foot lifts from the brake pedal.

Arriving at dealerships nationwide this month, the 2023 Highlander with the new turbo engine will have a starting MSRP of $36,420 and the 2023 Highlander Hybrid will have a starting MSRP of $40,220.

**Available All-Wheel Drive**

The 2023 Highlander turbo models get a grip on just about any road with a choice of FWD or two different available AWD systems. For the Highlander Gas L, LE and XLE models, the optional AWD system can send up to 50% of available torque to the rear wheels to help counter wheel slip when necessary.



New Toyota Highlander Turbocharged Engine Offers More Torque and Fewer Emissions

# Next Generation BMW Voice Assistant to Use Amazon Alexa Technology




R-L: General Manager, Marketing & Corporate Communications, Coscharis Group, Mr. Abiona Babarinde; Head, Customer Care, Coscharis Motors Plc, Mrs. Precious Israel; BMW customer, Mr. Alonge Adekola; Range Rover customer, Mrs. Babalola Fajiobi; Range Rover customer, Mr. Gregory Akhibi; GM, Aftersales, Coscharis Motors Plc, Mr. Cyril Cruz; and GM, Sales, Jaguar LandRover, Coscharis Motors Plc, Mr. Ufuoma Umukoro, at an event to end the Customer Service Week celebration at the Coscharis Group head office, yesterday

The next-generation BMW voice assistant will be built on Alexa technology.

This was announced recently by Stephan Durach, Senior Vice-President Connected Company and Development Technical Operations BMW Group, and Dave Limp, Senior Vice President of Devices and Services, Amazon, at Amazon's annual Devices and Services launch event.

"The Alexa technology will enable an even more natural dialogue between driver and vehicle, so drivers can stay focused on the road. This will bring the digital experience to an entirely new level," said Stephan Durach.

Dave Limp, Amazon, added: "This cooperation with BMW is a great example of what Alexa Custom Assistant was designed for — to make it faster and easier for companies to develop custom intelligent assistants for virtually any device, without the cost and complexity of building from the ground up."

Since the introduction of the first BMW voice assistant (BMW Intelligent Personal Assistant) in 2018, voice interaction has become an increasingly important part of BMW iDrive. The new BMW voice assistant will work in cooperation with Alexa, providing customers the benefits of an intelligent assistant that is the vehicle and services expert, while Alexa provides the familiar experience many customers are already using today—such as the ability to control music, remotely manage their smart home, add items to a shopping list, or check the weather for the day. Customers can still choose to use either the BMW voice assistant and Alexa individually, or have both assistants work alongside each other.

The first vehicles with the new generation of BMW's voice assistant will launch within the next two years.

**Data protection is a top priority for the BMW Group.**

The BMW Group ensures that customer data is protected and processed in accordance with data privacy requirements by means of established processes – across all the markets in which the company operates. The BMW Group and Amazon share the strong commitment to maintaining customers' trust and protecting their privacy, including giving them control over their data.

# Effect of Mobile Phone Usage



SAFE DRIVING

with

Jonas Agwu

amnipr,mcipr,mprsa,arpa
Assistant Corps Marshal
Zonal Commanding Officer
Federal Road Safety Corps.

In about 64 days, we will bid farewell to 2022. Before we do, I need you to know that from January to August,2022, we recorded about 8916 road traffic crashes with about 4,325 lives lost while about 25848 degrees of injuries were sustained within the period. I do not have the details for the month of September but I do not expect it to be different from the other EMBER months.

The EMBER MONTHS I once told you are noted for increased motorisation, increased irresponsible driving behaviour and attendant road crashes. Therefore if the report from January to September is taken as a pointer to what may happen between October and December, then we must take necessary precautions especially with regards to how responsible we are on the wheels. to redress this trend.

While we ponder on these necessary precautions ,I need to fulfill my promise to continue my focus on mobile phone infractions by piloting you through similar research findings in Spain. The focus hopes to underscore the fact that mobile phone infractions is an issue in both developing and developed climes.

When I first wrote on the subject, I cited developments in the United Kingdom. However,I was hoping to draw the curtains until I stumbled on the research work on the "Effects of Mobile Phone Use on Driving Performance: An Experimental Study of Workload and Traffic Violations,} by Carlos .Catalina Ortega and others .Although the focus is on the young who rank among the top risk takers,I am excited by the work.

What you will read this week are not my thoughts but theirs.I have therefore chosen to share their thoughts with you which are not new.Before I do,please there were vital reminders from them too.The first is on the current status of road crashes which globally claims 1.35 million deaths annually.The second is that 80–90percent of road crashes are caused by drivers' mistakes, errors and misbehaviours, inattention, fatigue, and distraction which I cited earlier. They range from speed violation,distracted driving which has been my focus for two weeks, among others.

The study equally observed that there are numerous potential in-vehicle sources of distraction.It singled out the use of phones as one of the major causes of road traffic crashes. Specifically, they noted the growing global phone usage which as at 2015, stood at 4.7 billion. The number as at August 2022, was six billion and is projected to hit 18.22 billion by 2025. The implication is that the increased number of subscribers would make the use of mobile phones among drivers very common.

The study stated that a total of 410,974 traffic accidents occurred between 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 in Spain. The crashes involved 666,504 drivers.Out of these, 8.33 per cent were involved in serious accidents while 12.82 per cent of these were young drivers who were under 25 years. The study found that 4,048 of the distracted drivers were using their mobile phones.

Similarly, a week-long surveillance campaign carried out in Spain by the Spanish General Traffic Department found that 2,873 drivers were using their mobile phones while driving .A further breakdown revealed that out of 10 young people, eight admitted to having distracted driving while 67 per cent admitted that they checked their mobile phones frequently while driving.

Another study by Linea Directa Foundation in collaboration with the Institute of Traffic and Road Safety (Intras) in 2019, estimated an average mobile phone usage to be 6hours and 48 minutes, particularly at traffic lights, traffic jams, and when they think "the road is safe". As regards the use of mobile phones in Spain, it was reported that WhatsApp and Instagram just like in Nigeria were among the top three applications downloaded with active subscribers.

Meanwhile, experts as well as the researches note that distracted driving takes drivers' eyes off the road, switches their consciousness from driving to other tasks, and results in false perceptions. It is said that road traffic crashes occur when the drivers' performance on the wheels is below the required levels for the traffic

So what were their findings? First,the findings they noted, aligns with previous research that reported unsafe driving behaviours of young drivers who constitute a high-risk group for traffic accidents. They include unsafe driving behaviours of unlicensed young drivers risk perception and driving behaviours of young drivers , as well as the use of mobile phones and infotainment technologies by young drivers behind the wheels . Like other findings, they also maintain that by using their mobile phones, the drivers were more likely to engage in risky driving behaviours, and were less effective in controlling their lane position, managing their brake reaction time, speed, and headway deviation.

They opine that safe driving requires monitoring of the road and quick and adequate responses to unexpected changes in the driving environment which depend mainly on the drivers' manual, visual, and cognitive abilities. However, the use of mobile phones for texting, surfing the web, responding to a call, and checking notifications from social media apps distracts the drivers, reduces their attentions, and increases the risk of a crash.

The results they obtained confirmed that multitasking such as interacting with the mobile phone while driving increases the driver's overall workload. Another study conducted to estimate the impact of distractor tasks on the driving performance and driver's control over the vehicle and workload ,had far reaching results. The first is that the performance of a secondary distractor task increases the workload which influences the variability in steering wheel movements and lane-keeping.

Mobile phone-related distractions are a potential risk to traffic safety and a growing problem that has the biggest impact on driving performance. Even though the use of mobile phones without a hands-free device is already illegal in many countries, including Spain, eliminating their use seems to be difficult and legislation alone is ineffective in addressing distracted driving.

This is because catching offenders is not an easy mission, as with speed. Moreover, the decrease in the use of mobile phones after law enactment does not last long and their use increases immediately following the first decrease.Therefore, raising public awareness through adoption of behavioral strategies and instruction of positive road safety culture seems to be a promising solution.

They equally posited that just as it is in the case of seatbelt use and drink-driving, creation of social norms will contribute to changing minds, modifying attitude and behaviors, increasing risk perception, and correcting acceptable risk definition. Since studies reveal that that young drivers fail to understand the effects of mobile phone use while driving and underestimate the associated risks,they made certain submissions.First, there is the need to increase the number of campaigns targeting young drivers through targeted advertising using appropriate communication means and social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

Secondly, they recalled a recent cross-sectional study conducted in Spain which pointed out that older drivers affect their children's driving attitudes and behaviours. Therefore, they recommended that to improve traffic safety education,there is the need to enhance parents' road behaviours to influence positively the way children or young drivers perceive traffic safety especially behind the wheels.

They equally recommended the use of video game simulation methods which has the potential as a practical and cost effective programme of reducing mobile phone use among young drivers.

NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY
NIWA

# 3 YEARS of EXCELLENCE



Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu
MD/CEO NIWA

**Excellence**
ex·cel·lence | \ ˈek-s(ə-)lən(t)s \

Excellence. A word usually associated with outstanding and noteworthy situations or outcomes. In this particular case, Performance. Excellent Performance. And Delivery.
In the last three years, Excellence has been our guiding principle. Whether in conceiving and implementing impactful projects on the nation's waterways. Or developing a safe, secure and environmentally sustainable National Transportation Policy.









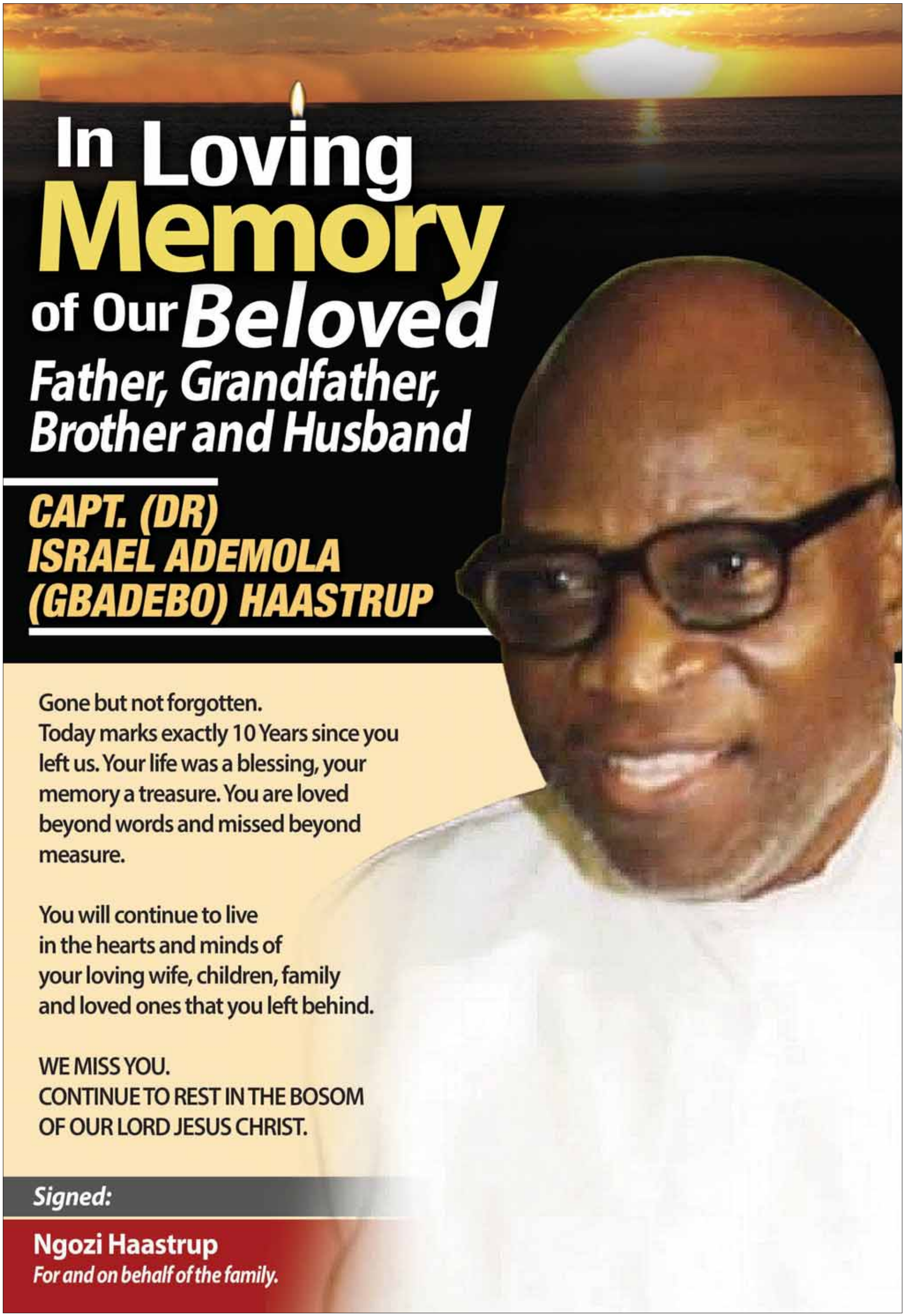
"Without a shadow of doubt I think you have made the greatest impact of all the Managing Directors that have served the Authority."
**-- Engr. Mu'azu Jaji Sambo**
*Hon. Minister of Transportation*

**Chief (Dr.) George Moghalu's** pursuit of Excellence and his array of achievements have also been recognised by numerous leading stakeholders, the media and professional observers. Top accolades have come from leading Maritime publications and Business Day, which recently honoured (Chief) Dr. George Moghalu with Excellence in Public Service Award. In 2022, the Association of Business Persons and Entrepreneurs of Nigeria recognised him as "Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Year 2021-2022 for Outstanding Leadership and Deft Management".
*For us at NIWA, it's been an excellent ride.*

***Signed:* FRIENDS OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR**

WaterwaysNG
WaterwaysNG
waterwaysng

National Inland Waterways Authority
Adankolo Layout Lokoja, Kogi State PMB 1004, Lokoja, Kogi State
E-mail: info@niwa.gov.ng | www.niwa.gov.ng


In Loving
Memory
of Our Beloved
Father, Grandfather,
Brother and Husband
CAPT. (DR)
ISRAEL ADEMOLA
(GBADEBO) HAASTRUP
Gone but not forgotten.
Today marks exactly 10 Years since you left us. Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.
You will continue to live
in the hearts and minds of
your loving wife, children, family
and loved ones that you left behind.
WE MISS YOU.
CONTINUE TO REST IN THE BOSOM
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
Signed:
Ngozi Haastrup
For and on behalf of the family.

IMAGES

The Federal School of Arts & Science Old Students Association 1978/80 Set, recently held their 42nd Anniversary Reunion at the Metropolitan Club, Victoria Island, Lagos. Here are some members of the Class who graced the occasion. PHOTOS: **MUBO PETERS**



L -R Otunba David Idiabana, Mr. Emmanuel Arah, Mr. Adebayo Olowo-Ake, Mr Akinyemi Famakin, Mr Gbayode Somuyiwa, Mrs Mary Agbabiaka and Mr. Bisi Bajela



L-R: Mrs Mary Agbabiaka, Mr babatola Akanni, Dr. Ayo Olowoporoku, Mrs Adebunmi Adekanye, SDP Lagos, Gubernatorial candidate, Chief Kunle Uthman and Mr. Solomon Atagana



L-R: President of the FSAS Old Students Association 1980 Class, Mr. Gbayode Somuyiwa and his wife Mrs. Yemisi Somuyiwa



R-L: Vice President, FSAS Old Students Association 1980 Class, Mrs Mary Agbabiaka and her husband Mr.Bolaji Agbabiaka



L - R: Retired Lagos State Permanent Secretary, Mrs Adebunmi Adekanye, Mrs. Ekanem Iteogu, Mrs Latifah Adetola Sadoh, Mrs Aderinsola Atanda and Mrs Mary Agbabiaka



R-L: A member of the class Mrs Patience Idirigbe JP and her husband, Mr Isaac Idirigbe



L-R Mr. Banji Adekanye, Lagos Liaison Officer, The Presidency, Mr. Akinyemi Famakin, his wife, Mrs Morenike Famakin and Mrs. Adebunmi Adekanye.




Treasurer of the association, Mrs Mary Agbu



DIG Adeleye Oyebade and his wife Adebimpe Oyebade



L-R: Former DG Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi, Dr. (Mrs) Yemisi Asagbra and her husband Mr. Austin Asagbra at the occasion.




Police Service Commissioner, Chief Oyemuche Nnamani




R-L: Executive Director, African Resource Development Centre, Mr. Adebayo Olowo-Ake and his wife Oluwatoyin

# MARKET PLACE

with Omolabake Fasogbon... 08155131874



L-R: Founder, The Anchor, Dele Balogun; CEO, Avante Consulting Solutions, Patrick Marinho; CEO, Compass Global, Tokunbo Chiedu; Group Head Customer Experience, Sterling Ban , Ojiugo Emeruem; Alliances and Channels Leader-Customer Intelligence, EMEA and AP, Luiz Felippe Leita ; Chief Data Officer, First Bank of Nigeria, Steve Asemota and Regional Sales Manager, SAS , Babalola Oladokun, during SAS Global Leaders in Analytics Summit at Four Point by Sheraton Hotels, Lagos...recently



Immediate Past President of Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), Lagos Chapter and Chairman of Board of Director, Prof. Godwin Oyedokun, President of ACFE, Lagos Chapter, Donatus Ogbonnaya; Board Member, and Professor of Accounting and Taxation, University of Benin, Prof. Ofiafoh Eiya; Vice President, ACFE, Lagos Chapter, Dr. Titilayo Fowokan and Assistant General Secretary, ACFE, Lagos Chapter, Dr. Bolariwa Adeoti when ACFE executives paid a courtesy visit on Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II in Edo State... recently

## Lush Hair Unveils Longest Ponnytail Braid

Indigenous hair attachment brand, Lush Hair has unveiled a new105 ft., 2inches long braid into the market.

The new product which is acclaimed to be the longest braid in history was launched recently at Ikeja City Mall, with the collective efforts of fans.

A record of 36ft long braid was earlier set in the Big Brother house during Lush Hair task. In doing this, housemates were divided into three groups to compete against each other in four stages of engagement activities.

Activities in each stage included Step with Lush game; Find your piece Puzzle; Ring Toss and Longest Braid Challenge and Presentation.

For the longest braid presentation, the teams were challenged to design outfit from the scratch and weave out the longest ponytail braid on their representative, then present the rationale to the rest.

After an intense 90 minutes of competition amongst the three teams, team Kinky Royale came top with the highest points of 36ft to win N2 million, followed by team Wow Braids- 34ft, 9inches while team Rehinah Twist produced 12ft, 3inches. `

Earlier before the task, the hashtag #FlauntYourLush trended actively on twitter, while on the street of Lagos, giant looking mannequins were seen stationed at different high traffic locations around Lagos to create awareness towards the Lush Hair /BBN task scheduled to hold later in the evening.

The following day, same channel was equally explored to urge fans to join the brand at Ikeja City Mall to collectively surpass the effort of the winner of the longest braid challenge in the BBN house.

At the experiential event on Saturday, a beautiful dark-skinned model was positioned at the center of the stall, where fans walked in, in numbers, taking turns to participate in the longest braid activity which eventually stopped at 100ft/ 2 inches.

Lush hair was able to create a fun atmosphere and unforgettable experience for both the participants and audience. Those who participated in the challenge as well as winners of the games were not only awarded with goody bags, they had an opportunity to have their names registered on the Lush Hair Hall of fame as a symbol of honor participating in the longest braids challenge.

## Businesses Urged to Harness Analytics to Boost Customers' Experience

Players in the financial and telecoms sectors have been charged on proper deployment of technological tools, like Analytics, to improve customers service and intelligence.

Experts who gathered at the recent SAS Global Leaders in Analytics Summit stressed that analytics had become indispensable for business survival.

The summit put together by Avante Consulting Solutions in partnership with SAS, had pundits from key economy sectors who joined in the panel session to explore and analyse the theme of the summit, "Role Analytics Play in Decision-ing for Better Customers' Experience."

Chief Executive Officer, Avante Consulting Services, Mr. Patrick Bunmi Marinho argued that Nigerians and indeed businesses are coming to have more understanding on the importance of data in boosting revenue and serving customers better.

This also include how analytics and Omni-channel deployment can help organisations communicate effectively with different grade of customers and increase customers engagement.

He stated that the challenge however is with the deployment and implementation of available and new tech solutions.

He said, "There is a gap in deployment which required skilled and committed handler. Our organisation is here to fill this gap. It is possible that one buys or has all the best technology but poor implementation makes it as useless as not having any. We are here to bridge the local expertise, which is why we are SAS customers intelligence specialisation partner. We will continue to grow our expertise here in Nigeria because we believe Nigerians are smart enough to deliver, however, they need to be supported".

## Crown Flour Mill Equips Women with Baking Skills

In an effort to boost economic dependency of women, Crown Flour Mill (CFM) Limited, the flour milling subsidiary of Olam Agri has empowered indigent women in the country with baking skills.

The training programme, accompanied with certification will offer participants an opportunity to take up employment in the hospitality sector or set up their own baking outfits.

The beneficiaries of the empowerment initiative tagged, 'Crown Flour Angels' (CFA) were presented with the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) examination certificate at an event organised by the flour milling business, recently.

Speaking on the gesture, Country Head for Olam Agri Nigeria, Ashish Pande congratulated the women, while urging them to make the best use of the acquired skills.

He said: "We are committed to enriching the lives of the people across our operating market by providing nutritious, safe and affordable food for the population as well as enabling the actualization of the fine aspirations of the individuals within the population by supporting the economic development agenda of the government.

"The CFA initiative is one of the valuable levers we are pulling continuously to deliver on the Seeds for the Future programme, our signature value chain development initiative that focuses on supporting farming communities, enabling wider education and skill development for young people, empowering indigent women and promoting health and nutrition across the country."

Also present at the event, Lagos State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs Cecilia Bolaji presented certificates to the participants and also commended the sponsor for supporting women.

She said, "The Lagos State Government is aware of the prevailing economic situation and has been initiating valuable schemes that focus on empowering the active segment to boost their productivity and incomes levels. The CFM Crown Flour Angels initiative would add to the various poverty alleviation and empowerment efforts embarked on by the administration."

## SWAIAP Approves New Board, Stresses internal Audit for Organisations

The Society for West African Internal Audit Practitioners (SWAIAP) has emphasized the importance of internal audit to West Africa economies, just as it announced new board members to lead the society for another three years.

SWAIAP is a professional body that organises and brings together internal auditors and related assurance, providing professionals across West African countries.

The announcement of the new board members was made recently at the society's quarterly meeting, where Mr. Obinna Okafor emerged the new chairman and Prof. Godwin Oyedokun, the Vice-Chairman.

Okafor emerged the Chairman following a simple majority vote while Oyedokun was declared the Vice-Chairman after co-contestants stepped down the for him at the virtual meeting.

Okafor boasts 20 years' experience in the financial services industry, including compliance, audit, accounting and risk management to the executive management level. He belongs to many professional bodies which include Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment; Institute of Chartered Accountant; Compliance Institute, Nigeria and Nigerian National Advisory Council of the Institute, UK, amongst others.

He is presently the Managing Consultant/ Chief Executive Officer of Vicosbin Consult.

Oyedokun is a public affairs analyst, and a consummate human capital development sought-after intellectual who is a Professor of Management and Accounting at Lead City University Ibadan.

With over 22 years' experience, he is currently a Governing Council member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), Business Recovery and Insolvency Practitioners of Nigeria (BRIPAN), and the Chairman, Ilupeju/Gbagada & District Society of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

## London Business School, Entrepreneurship Village Partner on Capacity Building

London Academy Business School (LABS) has collaborated with other business schools in Africa and around the world on programmes to boost capacity of business leaders.

The partnership also extended to the Entrepreneurship Village, which resulted in the setting up of a campus in entrepreneurship village to allow both virtual and on-campus learning

According to LABS in a statement, the partnership will go a long way in creating more job opportunities, promote entrepreneurship learning and create an enabling environment for knowledge transfer and business growth in Africa.

It added that this further explained why the entrepreneurship village was sited in the hub of Ondo state.

Speaking, Executive Director of Africa's Young Entrepreneurs Organisation, Mrs. Joy S. Francis stated that the entrepreneurship village boasts numerous opportunities.

The entrepreneurship village is a hub setup to house different academic institutions like the Africa Business College, School of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, Research Cube and many others to come in the entrepreneurship village.

"Our partnership with LABS lies upon the foundation that the village was founded to create an ecosystem where entrepreneurs, creatives and business institution can be housed in one place. We believe that learning is a social experience and we aim to create a space where businesses and student entrepreneurs can grow together as we inspire them to be successful.

"The partnership is based on mutual trust and commonly shared values between the two institutions".




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**MISSILE**

**Ngige to ASUU**

***"The union is dishonest and misleading its members and the general public"*** *–The Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, condemning the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) for disobeying court order on its eight-month strike.*




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# Ortom's Hometown, PDP and 2023

Two issues are of major concern to us here today. The first is the continuous displacement of middle Belt Communities by marauders, who are wiping them out and occupying their lands; and Governor Samuel Ortom's refusal to keep quiet and watch the progressive annihilation of his people. The second issue is the shameless public self-diminution of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), months after its controversial presidential primaries. There may seem to be no direct connection between the two issues, but there is.

The argument about the return of cattle routes in a developed Nigeria, which President Buhari reportedly told Ortom is the only solution to the farmer - herder conflict, can be likened to the insistence, by Atiku and his supporters, that the only solution to the PDP's lingering crisis lies in the provisions of the party's constitution. The party's stupidity in not building broad-based consensus for electoral victory is so self-evident, that its fate in the coming elections is more or less sealed.



Ortom

## The Ortom Dilemma

Governor Ortom recently flagged off his state's vigilante response to the menace of herders and bandits. On that occasion he said that he had no choice but to take such measures as would, in his judgment and the collective judgment of his people, guarantee them greater security than the Federal Government was offering at the moment. He pushed his narratives with simple, commonsense logic; often accompanying everything with rhetorical questions about the survival of disparate groups within a culturally heterogenous society. He is a man pained by problems he believes can be solved easily, but which are allowed to fester for no good reasons.

Even among those who have sometimes disagreed with Ortom on specific issues, none has ever said that he did not understand what the man was saying at any point in time. It is because he has been saying a lot since he became governor that we should all now, independently, examine some of the "claims" he has been making about happenings in his state and among his people before and since he became governor.

I speak of claims here not because he is not telling the truth, but because it is best that some of the specific things he has been saying should be reviewed afresh, and then subjected to further objective evaluation by anyone who cares to do so. It is in this way that many more Nigerians will understand the seriousness of what he has been saying for a long time now and amplify his points.

We should ask, for instance, whether it is true that several communities have been wiped out in his state and that their lands have been taken over by invaders who are living there to this day. We should ask whether the communities in question have names, with details of the number of people killed and farmlands taken over. We should also ask if it is true that the governor's own hometown, and his personal residence there, went up in smoke and that he really cannot "go home" now and spend a night there if he wished to.

Is it true that it is only about five local governments in the state that are not occupied by invading Fulanis? If the answers to the above questions boil down to "Yes, it is true", then we have a real problem. Acknowledgement of that real problem should lead us to the next question, namely: "What is the governor doing about all of this, and what has he been doing all the while?

Well, the man has been doing a lot; apparently to no avail. Ortom has spoken publicly about how he took these issues up "personally and one-on-one" with President Muhammadu Buhari. On the unbelievable decimation of his people and despoliation of their lands, Ortom says Mr. President advised them to learn to live peacefully with their neighbours. Their neighbours? Surely, a community that has been living in a place for over a hundred years should be in a better position than anyone else to say "This is my neighbour, this is an invader and not a neighbour". But no! Not from what Ortom told Nigerians that he heard from Aso Rock.

On the matter of the menace of herders, Ortom once reported to Nigerians that the president's direct response to him was that the only solution was to restore the ancient cattle routes. Cattle routes? Through whose village, farmland or university that have arisen in the ensuing decades all over the country? Mr. President was said to have even told Ortom that itinerant cattle and the nomadic life are some of the strongest defining elements of the culture and tradition of the Fulani, which must not be denied them today. Thus, that they won't be a menace to anyone, once the old cattle routes were restored.

## Really? In today's world?

When the governor reportedly reminded the president that new towns, federal and state highways, and even government institutions, had taken up what used to be empty spaces decades ago, because of modernization and development, he was told that the disturbing obstructions should not have been put there in the first place! Sound logic, right? Yes, if we are taking mkpuru nmiri.

Concerning guns and the question of herdsmen wielding AK47 freely and everywhere, President Buhari's reported response to Ortom was that the herders needed the military assault rifles to protect themselves from cattle rustlers, kidnappers and bandits. So, what happens to law-abiding citizens, farmers and villagers, who are not only under threat from cattle rustlers, kidnappers and bandits, but are under even greater threat from the herdsmen themselves? It would seem that the solution here is "Let them be overrun by the marauding herders".

What is going on in Ortom's state, and in several other states, cannot be right. Nigerians should pay greater attention to everything Ortom has been saying about an incipient displacement and colonization of indigenous communities for some years now. This matter is serious!

Rather than act like his Katsina State counterpart, who unilaterally ordered the severely besieged citizens to arm themselves, Ortom has formally written President Muhammadu Buhari to allow his people to bear arms. The prediction, and suspicion, of many observers was that the president would turn down the request. His announcement, a few days ago, that states must not arm their people with AK47 put paid to the matter. Yet, Governor Ortom and his people need urgent and desperate help. Let the National security Council and the National Council of State look into the matter of the displacement of indigenous peoples and the liberalization of gun licenses, please.

## As the PDP Blunders Along

The Presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) is adamant on retaining the current party Chairman. The Chairman, himself, is adamant on not giving up his position. The supporters of the Rivers State governor, a defeated candidate in the party's controversial presidential primaries, are adamant on not supporting their party's presidential candidate unless Ayu is removed as party Chairman. Well, when adamant meets adamant, an adamantine situation arises.

Ayu's adamantine posture is reinforced by Atiku's blasé attitude to genuine problem solving as a leader. Now that various stakeholders within the party are maintaining whatever, sometimes fluctuating, positions they have maintained since the party primaries, the stage is set for an impressive conflagration and implosion. It is as if the party received, and is diligently executing, a custom-made template for self-destruction.

Look at the recent, and ongoing, revelations of Wike. Look at the monies being returned by members of the Party's National Working Committee. All because of the recalcitrance of Atiku and Ayu, the first major celebrants of Atiku's victory. Ayu capped his partisanship with a "State visit" to Tambuwal, to thank him for stepping down for Atiku and "Saving the day".

Today, Ayu's co-conspirator, Aminu Tambuwal, is the Chairman of the Presidential Campaign Organization (PCO) set up by Atiku. Atiku has also repeated the blunder of 2019, when he made Lamido, Ekweremadu, Makarfi and co, Technical Advisers to the campaign. What are Saraki and others today? What value will they bring, or are they bringing, to the table?

Yes, certain provisions of the PDP constitution cannot be ignored. But the party Chairman, the aspirant and the person who stepped down and ceded his votes to the current presidential candidate should be sensitive to the underlying political sensibilities. The party is scandalized, in disarray and in great disrepute today, because none of the people on Atiku's side seem wise, or statesmanlike, enough to apply strategic thinking and situational dialectics.

You can solve a problem without damaging, or undermining, the rules. The concept of "natural justice, equity and good conscience" is sometimes invoked in order to get out of a potentially awkward situation. What did Obasanjo do about the party's provisions when he found out that there was no major position going to the South East?

It is becoming increasingly obvious that Alhaji Atiku Abubakar cannot hold himself, his party and his people together. The wisdom of his insistence on a constitutional provision that a stakeholder resolution can put in abeyance for a limited time is open to question. His clear inability to engineer any form of consensus, or prevail on Ayu to conduct himself with greater dignity and grace, calls out his presumed experience and ability to lead.

The PDP must ask itself why Nigerians should trust it, or trust its candidate and its chairman if it cannot resolve the glaring crises before it at the moment. The ongoing dance of shame in the village square suggests that the party is affiliated to Bedlam. It is putting too much energy into everything that will help it to lose the coming elections. Let someone tell the PDP that stupidity is not a virtue; that bungling is not a type of competence and that blindness is not a type of vision. Just look at them, ***biko nu. Ejikwa m ogu o!***

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