Naira Redesign: CBN Didn't Consult Finance Ministry, Says Minister

●Warns new notes will have dire consequences on Naira's value ●CBN: We followed due process and the law

Sunday Aborisade, James Emejo, Nume Ekeghe and **Oluchi Chibuzor**

The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed yesterday declared that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) did not carry her Ministry along in its plan to redesign and roll out new N200, N500 and N1000 notes effective December 15, announced last Wednesday.

In a swift reaction last night, the CBN said it was surprised by the ministers outburst and that due process was followed in arriving at the Naira redesign project, including obtaining the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari.

On the same day, officials of the CBN doused concerns about the cost of printing the new notes, saying they will come at no outrageous cost, printed in the country and within the budget of the apex bank.

The Minster, who was responding to posers raised by Senator Opeyemi Bamidele (APC Ekiti Central) during the 2023 budget defence session at the Senate Committee on Finance, warned that the new notes could have dire consequences on the value of the Naira.

Bamidele had told the Finance

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A'Court Stops Execution of Judgement Freeing Nnamdi Kanu... Page 8

THISDAY

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Fitch: A Tinubu Presidency will Increase Social Instability in Nigeria

●Predicts victory for him, doubts his ability to end fuel subsidy regime

Ahamefula Ogbu

A Fitch Solutions Country Risk and Industry Research report released on Thursday has predicted victory for the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Tinubu, in the 2023 presidential election.

However, the report on the Nigerian presidential election, done by a subsidiary of international credit rating firm, Fitch Ratings', projected that the victory will lead to protests and social instability in the country because of the Muslim-Muslim ticket and the expectations of the followers of Labour Party's candidate, Peter Obi, that will be dashed.

It stated that notwithstanding

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Abuja Terror Alert: Don't Panic, President Tells Nigerians

●Security agencies in joint manhunt for ISWAP members in Abuja

●Hundreds flee as terrorists pound Zuru and Fakai LGs in Kebbi State

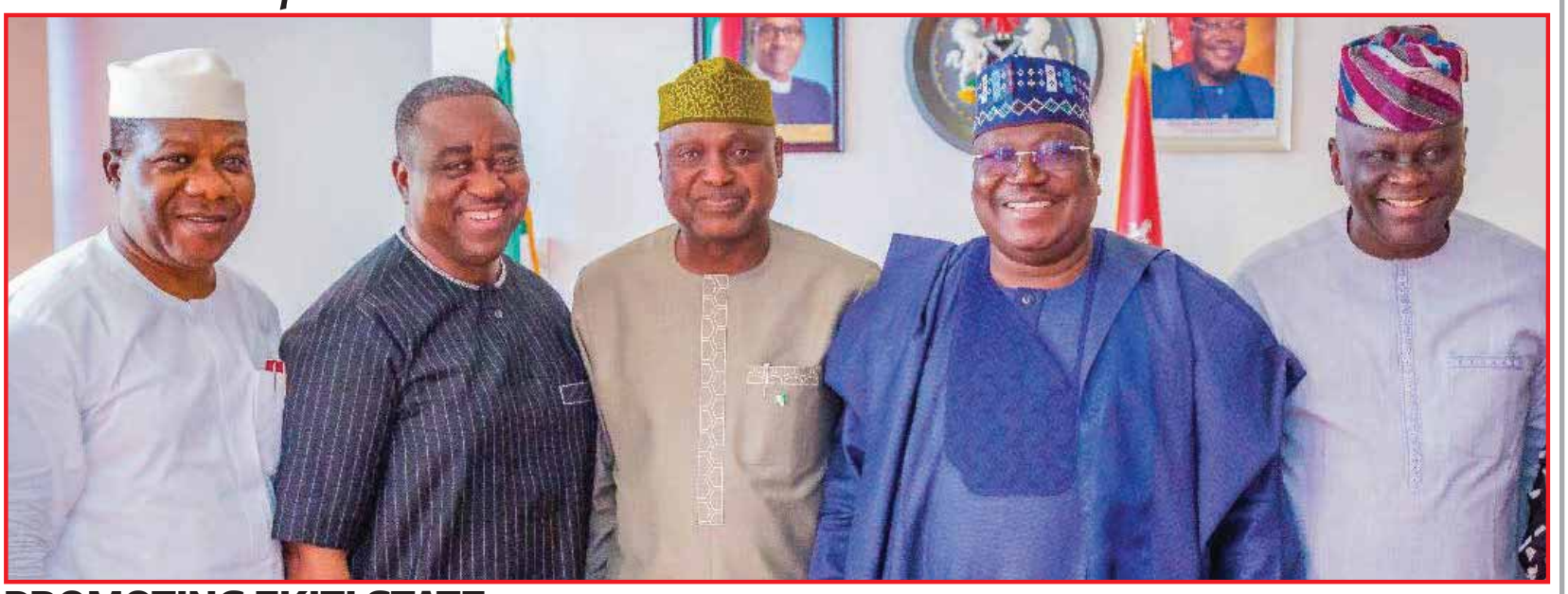
Deji Elumoye and **Kingsley Nwezeh** in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday urged Nigerians not to panic over the recent travel advisory issued by the United States and United Kingdom governments, warning their citizens to steer clear of Abuja because of the risk of terrorist attack.

This is coming on the heels of confirmation by security agencies that they had been raiding hideouts of terror suspects in Abuja and satellite towns in the last few days, but denied involvement of United States soldiers. However, residents of Fakai and Zuru local government areas of Kebbi State are being forced to flee their settlements following sustained attacks by terrorists.

The US Embassy in Abuja had issued an alert for "an elevated risk of terror attacks" in the city, saying that possible targets include government buildings, places of

Continued on page 5

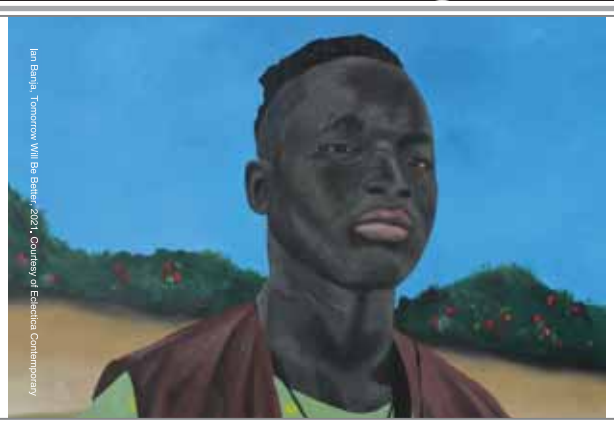


PROMOTING EKITI STATE…

L-R: Senator Opeyemi Bamidele (Ekiti Central); Senator Gabriel Suswan; Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji; Senate President, Ahmad Lawan and Senator Olubunmi Adetunbi (Ekiti North); during the Governor's meeting with the Senate President at the National Assembly… Thursday

EFCC: Jonathan's N4.6bn Campaign Funds Still Under Investigation... Page 8

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If there's one person you should be listening to about natural hair, it's Felicia Leatherwood.

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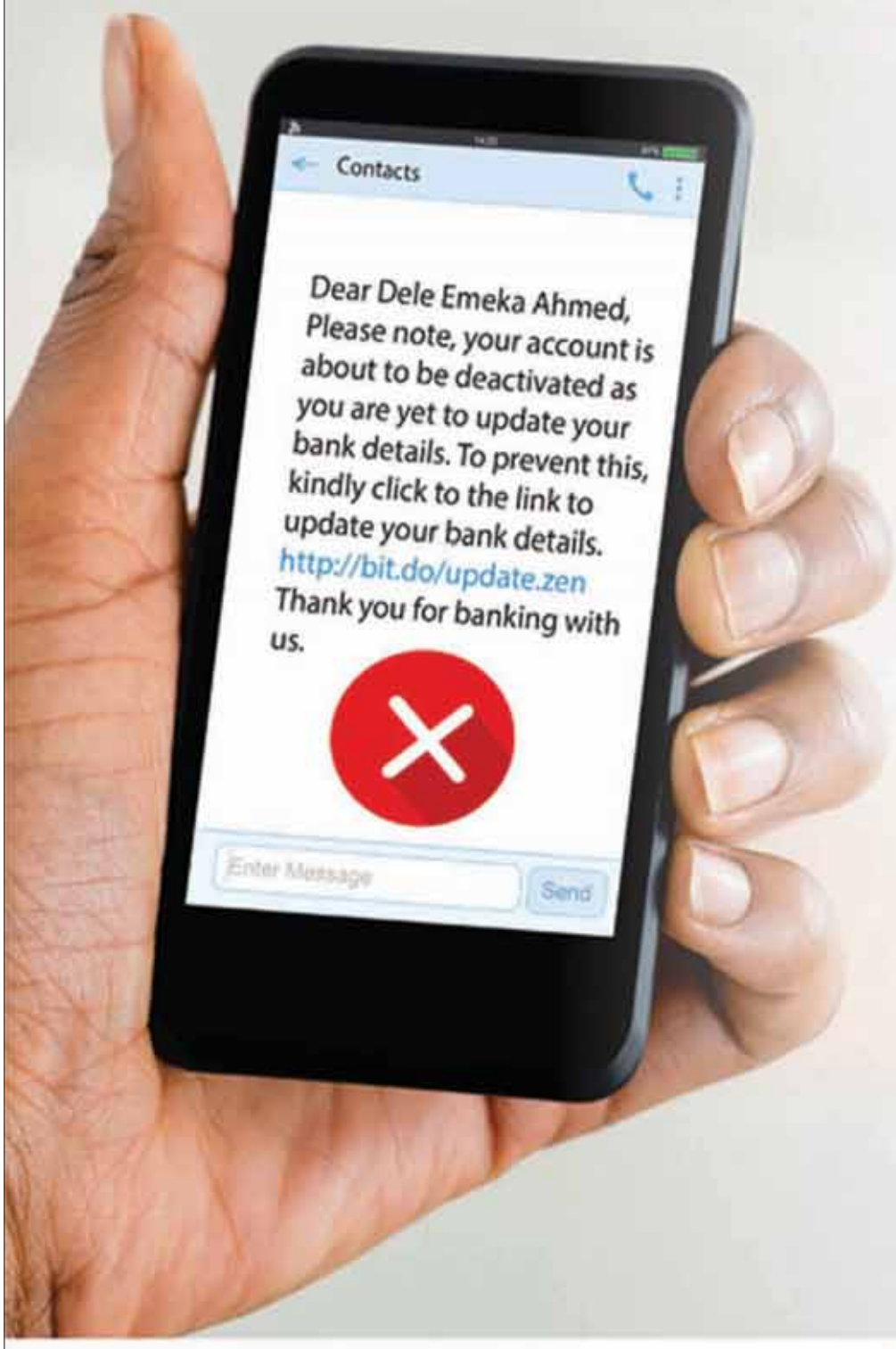
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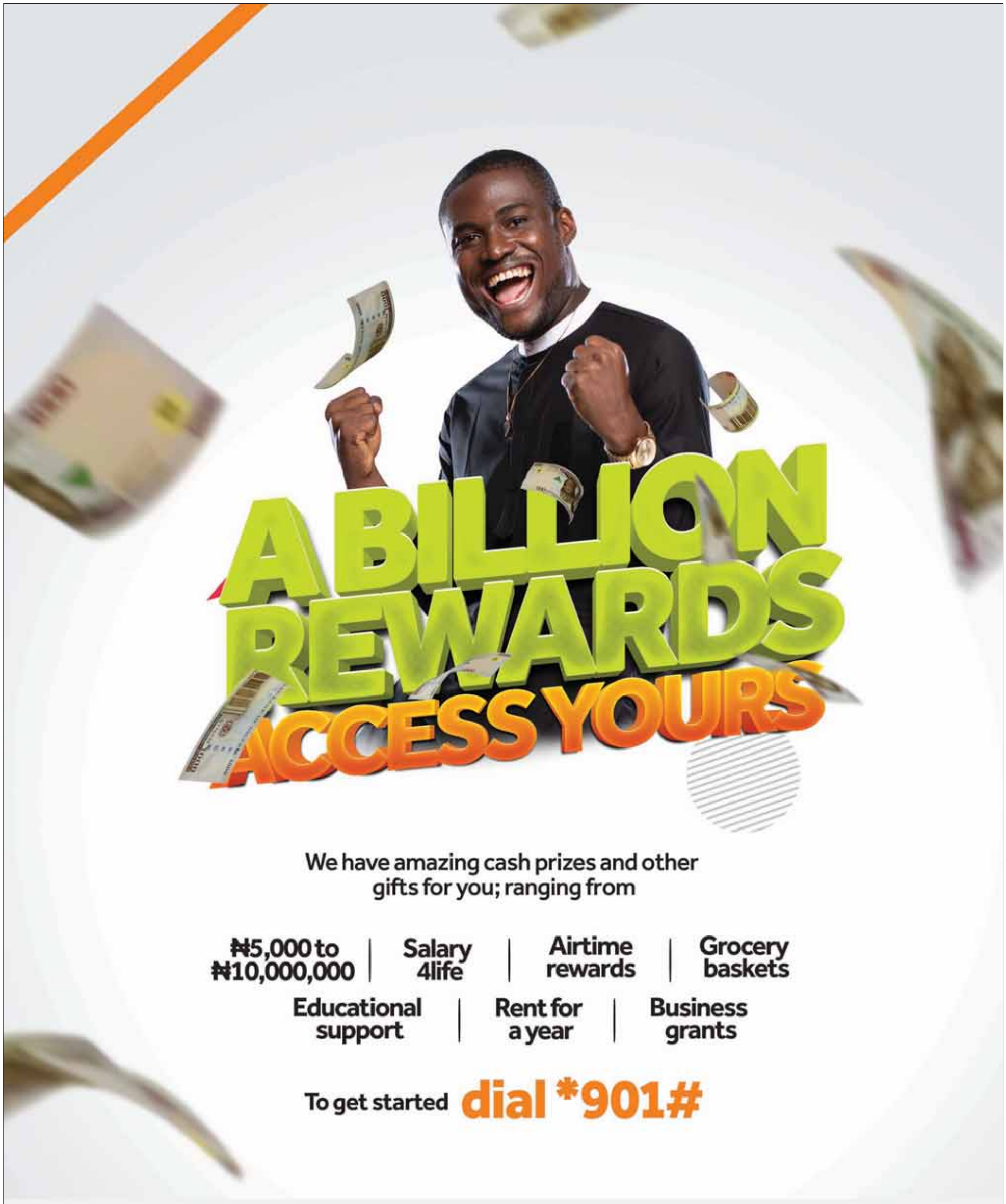
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ABUJA TERROR ALERT: DON'T PANIC, PRESIDENT TELLS NIGERIANS

worship and other public places, while the UK High Commission extended its terror alert to include Abuja and 14 Nigerian states.

In addition, the two countries suspended consular services in Abuja, while the US government authorised the departure of its non-essential employees and their families from Abuja.

But the President, who returned to Abuja after a six-day official visit to South Korea, where he participated in the maiden World Bio Summit 2022, said travel advice from the US and UK governments should not be a cause for panic.

The President, in a release by his spokesman, Mallam Garba Shehu, urged citizens and security establishment to remain vigilant.

He said: "Nigeria is no exception in having terror threats listed in foreign government's travel advice to their citizens. UK and US travel advisories also state there is a high likelihood of terror attacks in many Western European nations. Indeed, the UK and US advice to their respective citizens for travel to one another's countries contain the same warning. Unfortunately, terror is a reality the world over.

"However, it does not mean an attack in Abuja is imminent. Since the July prison raid, security measures have been reinforced in and around the FCT. Heightened monitoring and interception of terrorist communications ensure potential threats are caught further upstream.

"Attacks are being foiled. Security agents are proactively rooting out threats to keep citizens safe. Much of their work unseen and necessarily confidential. Nigerians' safety remains the highest priority of government. Security services are working around the clock to keep harm at bay."

The President assured Nigerians that his government is on top of the security situation in country.

While noting, in addition that security threats are real and have been around for a long while, he said the nation's military, the police and other security agencies had shown a capability to deal with it, "as is evident from the fact that a majority of our partners, including the United Nations agencies in our midst have not seen the threat as being sufficient to warrant any form of panic or order citizens' evacuations."

The President stressed that while being security conscious, being alert and careful is crucial, it is also important that responsible members of the society do not create situations leading to unnecessary panic.

President Buhari commended the military and other security agencies for the recent turn around in the nation's security, and directs that additional precautionary measures be put in place and that these must not slacken now, and during the upcoming festive period.

Buhari expressed optimism that given the on-going efforts on the part of the military and other security and intelligence agencies with the active support of the civilian population, the nation would emerge victorious against the current challenges facing it.

There has been heightened tension in the nation's capital in the last few days following the terror alerts by the US and the UK governments.

The popular Jabi Lake Mall shut its doors to shoppers and visitors on Thursday, citing the security alert.

Security Agencies in Joint Manhunt for ISWAP Members

Nigerian security forces confirmed yesterday that they have been carrying out raids on the hideouts of terrorists in Abuja and satellite towns, and had arrested some suspects.

THISDAY gathered that the suspects were arrested in Lugbe, Piwoyi, Piakasa and Galadimawa all under the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

In another development, the Department of State Services (DSS) yesterday denied conducting any joint security operation with US security operatives at the Trademoore Estate, Abuja.

The agency, however, admitted conducting one in the estate with the Nigerian Army, where some arrests were made.

In a chat with THISDAY, the Spokesman of DSS, Peter Afunanya, reassured Nigerians of their safety and urged them to reports suspicious movements to the security agencies.

Afunanya admitted that a joint operation occurred with the Nigerian Army at Trademore Estate with a suspect arrested.

He further assured Nigerians and FCT residents of their safety while urging citizens to remain alert and report suspicious activities to security agencies.

He said there was nothing unusual about the security advisories issued by the US Embassy and other embassies of western nations.

He said DSS had previously issued similar advisory recently where it urged Nigerians to remain alert due to the antics of terrorist cells in Abuja and that several arrests were made of some suspects linked to Boko Haram.

Afunanya affirmed that the suspects were being prosecuted in various courts.

Hundreds Flee as Terrorists Pound 2 LGs in Kebbi State

Hundreds of traumatised residents in no fewer than 40 communities in Fakai and Zuru local government areas of Kebbi State are fleeing their settlements following sustained attacks by terrorists, which commenced last week.

Many have also been killed while numerous others fled to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Government Day Secondary School, Mahuta and Model Primary School, Isgogo, in Zuru Emirate.

Governor Atiku Bagudu was at the IDP camps last Thursday to sympathise with the victims.

The Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Abubakar Mu'azu Dakingari, said in a statement yesterday: "Governor Bagudu visited the IDP camps to sympathize and condole with the families of persons killed by bandits who attacked more than forty towns and villages along the border of Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara states.

"The Governor, in company with General Muhammadu Magoro and Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah, expressed deep sympathy and concern on the tragedy, advising families of the victims to rekindle their faith in Allah as the custodian of mercy and recourse.

"He pledged that his administration would reach out to the affected persons appropriately, especially to resettle them in their various towns and villages soonest.

"Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu directed the relevant authorities to provide food items, drugs and other essential items to the IDPs."

Dakingari said that the Governor had ordered the immediate abolishment of school fees and PTA levies in order to give room for children of IDPs to attend schools.

The CPS said the affected villages and towns include Ba'are, Iri, Barbaro, Mai Kende, Tungar Gambo, Usheri, Garin Hausawa, Ahuri, Doro, Babban Rafi, Jonga, Hulu, Sago, Adaga and Agwala.

The rest, according to him, are Masama, Gulori, Arewa, Gurguza, Sabla, Mai Danga, Ucheri, Sangi, Tungar Dutse, Maidaji, Maidaji Gari, Chasgu, Golo Ingarde, Lonka, Ambu, Adaka, Saminaka and Sabon Birni all located in Fakai and Zuru local government areas.

Other displaced villages in Zuru are Badi, Kwalo, Rafin Gora I, Muhaye, Isgen, Ganuwa, Rafin Gora II, Ulasa, Dago, Bachuchu, Rafin Gora III, Uli Zamfara.

Buhari Back in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari returned to Abuja yesterday after a six-day official visit to South Korea, where he participated in the maiden World Bio Summit 2022.

The President, who arrived at the Presidential Wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, in Nigeria Air Force (NAF) 1 presidential jet, was received by two governors, senior government officials and security chiefs.

Among those at the airport to receive the President were the governors of Katsina and Niger States; Hon. Aminu Bello Masari and Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello; Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mohammed Musa Bello, and the Chief of Staff to the President, Professor Ibrahim Gambari.

Others included the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba; the Director-General of the Department of State Service (DSS), Yusuf Magaji Bichi and some other senior military and other security officials.

While in Seoul, President Buhari delivered a speech at the Summit, held a number of high-powered consultations and bilateral/diplomatic meetings, including with the South Korean President, Yoon Suk-yeol, and the Speaker of the country's National Assembly, Mr. Kim Jin-Pyo, in a separate meeting.

He used the opportunity to call for an expansion of the Nigeria/South Korea trade relations, during his meeting with Suk-yeol, met with some South Korean investors, witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the rehabilitation of the Kaduna Refinery between the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and the Daewoo Group.

The President also met with representatives of the Nigerian community in the country, charging them to be good ambassadors of Nigeria in the land of their sojourn.

Nigeria was invited to the Summit based on her selection with five other African countries by WHO and the European Union (EU) during the last EU-African Summit in Brussels, Belgium in February this year for mRNA technology transfer and Global Training Hub for Bio-manufacturing of vaccines on the African continent.

FITCH: A TINUBU PRESIDENCY WILL INCREASE SOCIAL INSTABILITY IN NIGERIA

some polls putting Obi ahead of other contestants, Tinubu will still emerge winner in the February contest.

The report said, "Indeed, we maintain our view that the ruling party's Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the candidate most likely to win the presidential election as a split opposition vote will favour the APC.

The report predicted further that "Protests and social discontent are likely to ramp up in the aftermath of a Tinubu win since this would end the recent trend of the presidency alternating between Muslims and Christians."

The Fitch Solutions Country Risk report stated additionally that Tinubu's victory would usher in social unrest based on several factors like religion, owing to the Muslim-Muslim ticket under which Tinubu would emerge and the reaction of Obi's supporters who are mainly youths.

The report states: "Since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, there has been an informal agreement that resulted in the presidency alternating between Northern and Southern states, as well as between Christians and Muslims. A win for Tinubu would break with this unwritten tradition and likely fuel sentiment of perceived marginalisation among Christians.

"In addition, Obi's supporters - mostly young, urban voters - are likely to question the fairness of the electoral process, especially after recent polls have predicted a win for Obi. These dynamics are likely to engender political unrest following the February vote. "As a result, we have revised down the Social Stability component of our proprietary Short-Term Political Risk Index (STPRI) from 30.0 to 25.0 previously (scores out of 100; lower score implies higher risk). This brings Nigeria's overall STPRI score from 46.3 to 45.0. Social Stability Remains."

The research stated that though previous polls had put Obi ahead of other rivals, the fact that it was conducted online and going by World Bank records, only 36 per cent of Nigerians use the online space and access which limits its spread among those to decide the winner of the election, the surveys were therefore not widespread and therefore unreliable.

"Surveys showing that Obi is ahead of his opponents, Bola Tinubu (APC) and Atiku Abubakar (PDP), were mostly based on responses gathered online. Since only 36.0% of Nigerians use the Internet (World Bank, 2020), we believe that these results are skewed towards urban, affluent voters who are most likely to support Obi. We also highlight that these polls suggest that a large share of voters remain undecided," the research said.

Explaining the reason behind their conclusion that Tinubu would triumph over other candidates, Fitch said Obi lacked support in the Muslim North where it claimed majority of the voters are located and where also turn out on elections were higher than other part of the country.

It opined that since the 1999 Constitution provides for a candidate scoring highest number of votes, as well as securing 25 per cent of votes in at least 24 states of the federation, and "it would be herculean for the Labour Party which lacks structure and not having candidates for most of the positions for state Assemblies, House of Representatives, Senate and governorship, to deliver above those that have stakes for such positions."

Fitch continued on Obi and the LP: "Furthermore, the northern electorate historically tends to vote for presidential candidates from their region. With Obi being a Christian from the South (Anambra State), increasing his voter share in the North will prove challenging.

"While we believe Obi is unlikely to win the election, he will probably do well for a third-party candidate. Indeed, a third-party candidate has never reached more than 7.5% of votes in Nigeria. However, due to his frugal reputation and large social media following, we expect Obi to get a higher share of the vote than previous third-party candidates.

"As such, we believe that Obi's popularity will most likely split the opposition vote, at the expense of the PDP. The PDP's candidate (Atiku Abubakar) is a Northerner and we believe that the party's only route to victory is expanding its vote in the South-west and North-central states, while retaining large majorities in the South-south and South-east.

"However, given Obi's popularity in the south – especially the South-south and South-east – we believe it is unlikely the main opposition party will be able to gain more votes in these parts of the country. Indeed, we maintain our view that the APC's Tinubu is best placed to win the presidential election. We expect that the party, which has nominated a Muslim-Muslim ticket, will repeat its strong performance in the North. Given that Tinubu is a former governor of Lagos, the party is also likely to improve on its performance in the South-west. Furthermore, we expect Tinubu to benefit from incumbency advantages, with the APC having been in power since 2015," it projected.

The report said that though Tinubu promised to end the petrol subsidy regime sapping the economy, it doubted he could implement it due to what it called the appetite of the ruling APC for the free money that accrues from the subsidy.

Fitch reports: "We do not expect significant policy changes under a Tinubu presidency. While Tinubu has stated that he would phase out Nigeria's costly fuel subsidy, we are skeptical this will happen in the short term. There appears to be limited appetite within the APC to remove the subsidy, and with inflation remaining elevated in 2023 – due to high food prices – the cancellation of the subsidy would negatively affect the new president's popularity.

"Indeed, the PDP tried to remove the subsidy in 2012, but had to back down after large-scale protests. In addition, we believe that Tinubu's aim to raise oil production is unfeasible in the short term. Crude production has declined significantly to 1.1mn barrels per day in September – a multi-decade low – due to rising oil theft and previous underinvestment. Given the country's weak fiscal position, we believe that there will be limited room for more security and social spending to combat oil theft and attract more investment."

The research, however, noted that factors that could militate against the emergence of Tinubu as President would be if the concerns on his health become more pronounced in the run up to the election proper in which case it might dampen his chances but concluded, "There remains a possibility that a three-way race results in no candidate passing the electoral threshold. This would prompt a second round for the first time in Nigerian history, likely heightening political instability."

NAIRA REDESIGN: CBN DIDN'T CONSULT FINANCE MINISTRY, SAYS MINISTER

Minister that barely two days after the announcement of the policy by the CBN, it had started having repercussions on the value of the Naira when compared to the US Dollar.

He said, "Just two days after the announcement of the policy, the value of the Naira to a US Dollar had risen from N740 to N788 to a US dollar due to massive rush to exchange Naira for Dollars.

" To me, the policy may be a well -conceived one, but the timing going by realities on ground, is very wrong as the Naira may fall to as low as N1,000 to a US Dollar before January 31, 2023 fixed for full implementation of the policy."

In her response, the Minister, who clarified that her position was personal opinion, said she and her Ministry were not aware of the policy but only heard of it from the media.

She said, "Distinguished Senators, we were not consulted at the Ministry of Finance by CBN on the planned Naira redesigning and cannot comment on it as regards merits or otherwise.

"However, a Nigerian privileged to be at the top of Nigeria's fiscal management, the policy as rolled out at this time, portends serious consequences for the value of Naira to other foreign currencies.

"I will however appeal to this committee to invite the CBN governor for required explanations as regards merits of the planned policy and rightness or otherwise of its implementation now."

However, a source told THISDAY last night that it was decided by the Presidency and the CBN to keep the Naira redesign away from ministers, until it comes into effect, so as not to defeat the purpose.

"The President is in support of how Emefiele is going about the Naira redesign. He is aware of the CBN governor not telling the ministers," said the source.

The CBN Governor, Dr. Godwin Emefiele had on Wednesday said that the apex bank would redesign the country's currency from N200 denomination to N1,000 notes

He said that the action was taken in order to take control of the currency in circulation just as he posited that the bulk of the nation's currency notes were outside bank vaults and that the CBN would not allow the situation to continue.

The planned policy, he added, was in line with Sections 19, Subsections a and b of the CBN Act 2007, upon which the Management of the CBN sought and obtained the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari to redesign, produce, and circulate new series of banknotes at N200, N500, and N1,000 levels.

CBN Insists it Followed Due Process

In response to claims by the Minister of Finance that her ministry was not carried along by the CBN in the Naira redesigning, the bank last night insisted that it followed the law and due process to carry out the exercise, "which is 12 years due."

In a statement, spokesman of the CBN, Osita Nwanisobi, expressed surprise at the minister's claim, stressing that the CBN remains a very thorough institution that follows due process in its policy actions.

According to Nwanisobi, the management of the CBN had duly sought and obtained the approval of President Buhari in writing to redesign, produce, release and circulate new series of bank notes.

However, urging Nigerians to support the currency redesign project, he said it was in the overall interest of Nigerians, reiterating that some persons were hoarding significant sums of banknotes outside the vaults of commercial banks.

Furthermore, he noted that currency management in the country had faced several escalating challenges "which threatened the integrity of the currency, the CBN, and the country" adding that every top-rate Central Bank was committed to safeguarding the integrity of the local legal tender, the efficiency of its supply, as well as its efficacy in the conduct of monetary policy.

On the timing of the redesign project, Nwanisobi explained that the CBN had even tarried for too long considering that it had to wait 20 years to carry out a redesign, whereas the standard practice globally was for central banks to redesign, produce and circulate new local legal tender every five to eight years.

Assuring Nigerians that the currency redesign exercise was purely a central banking exercise and not targeted at any group, the CBN spokesman expressed optimism that the effort will, among other goals, deepen Nigeria's push to entrench a cashless economy in the face of increased minting of the eNaira.

NEWS

News Editor **Charles Ajunwa**
09157401421 (sms only) Email charles.ajunwa@thisdaylive.com

A' Court Upturns Judgement Sacking Gov Umahi, Deputy over Defection

Alex Enumah in Abuja

The Court of Appeal, Abuja yesterday overturned the judgement of a Federal High Court Abuja that ordered the removal of Mr. David Umahi and Dr. Eric Igwe, as Governor and Deputy Governor of Ebonyi State.

Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court Abuja had in a judgment delivered in March this year sacked Umahi and his deputy over their defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in 2021.

Justice Ekwo after ordering the sack of Umahi and his deputy subsequently ordered the PDP to submit names of their replacement to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

However, the appellate court in a unanimous decision held that there is no constitutional provision for the removal of a serving governor or deputy governor, who decamped from the political party that sponsored them to power.

Delivering judgment in the appeal by Umahi and his deputy, a three-man panel led by Justice Haruna Tsanami, noted that the only option available to a political party aggrieved by the defection of a governor or deputy it sponsored to power, was for such party to explore the option of impeachment as provided in the Constitution.

Having so held, Justice Tsanami accordingly went ahead to set aside the judgment of the trial court.

Justice Ekwo had on March 8, held that the total number of 393, 343 votes that brought governor Umahi and his deputy into the March 9, 2019 governorship election in Ebonyi State, belonged to the PDP, which sponsored their election.

According to Ekwo, votes are cast for political parties during elections and such votes cannot be transferred from one political party to another, adding that Umahi and his deputy cannot take the votes of the PDP to the APC when they decamped to the APC.

The trial court had held that "votes won or scored by a political party at an election are retained by the political party irrespective of the death or exit of the candidate it sponsored for the election, from the political party."

He further held that candidate of a political party that won the majority votes at an election is not entitled to retain or continue to lay claims to the votes won by the political party after moving to another political party, rather, the candidate is bound to inherit, utilise or appropriate the votes won by the new political party he has adopted.

Aside from directing the PDP to submit to the INEC, the name of its candidates to replace the 3rd and 4th Defendants, the court, issued an order of perpetual injunction, restraining governor Umahi and his deputy from putting themselves out or parading themselves as Governor and Deputy Governor respectively of Ebonyi State.

Justice Ekwo similarly issued an order of perpetual injunction restraining APC from parading itself as the political party whose members occupy the offices of Governor and Deputy Governor respectively of Ebonyi State.

However, dissatisfied with the judgement, both Umahi and his deputy took the matter to the appellate court where they won.

The appellants had argued that the trial court, in ordering them to vacate their offices based on the suit marked FHC/ABJ/CS/920/2021, which was brought against them by the PDP, attempted to overrule a subsisting decision of the Supreme Court in AG Federation v. Atiku Abubakar & 3 ORS (2007) LCN/3799 (SC).

Violent Campaigns: Let's Tackle the Smoke Before it Becomes Fire, Says INEC

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said that the attacks amongst political parties at campaigns and denial of access to public facilities for electioneering activities are prelude to violence on election day and beyond.

The INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood who raised the concern, also called on security agencies and other stakeholders to "tackle the smoke before it snowballs into a major inferno'.

Yakubu disclosed this yesterday at the third quarterly meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) in Abuja.

He said beyond vote buying, there must also be decisive action against negative mobilisation, incitement and violence during the campaigns.

"It is exactly a month since the commencement of campaign by political parties on 28th September 2022, yet the incidents of physical attacks on supporters and destruction of campaign materials across the country is worrisome.

"At our consultative meeting two days ago, leaders of political parties in Nigeria also complained about the denial of access to public facilities and exorbitant charges in some states for the use of such facilities for the dissemination of their campaign materials, messages and rallies.

"These attacks and denials are a violation of the Electoral Act 2022 and ominous signs of what will follow as the campaigns enter critical stages. They may also be a prelude to violence on Election Day and beyond. We should tackle the smoke before it snowballs into a major inferno," Yakubu said.

The INEC chairman said the effective enforcement of the electoral law was the best way to deal with the menace and called for collaborative effort to ensure the arrest and prosecution of violators of the provisions, especially Sections 92 -93 of the Electoral Act 2022.

He said as the 2023 general election approaches, the commission will continue to appraise the security situation in the country and its possible impact on the conduct of elections.

Yakubu disclosed that INEC is currently working to harmonise its Election Risk Management (ERM) and Election Violence Mitigation and Advocacy Tool (EVMAT) for a more effective risk assessment and mitigation measures ahead of the general election.

He further said that the commission will continue to share information with the security agencies and most importantly, work together to ensure that elections hold peacefully nationwide as scheduled.

He noted that there were important lessons from the Ekiti and Osun governorship elections that will help INEC's planning for the 2023 general election.



TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY…

L-R: Managing Director, Nigerian Commodities Exchange, Elenwor Ihua; Group Head, Agric Finance and Solid Materials, Sterling Bank Plc, Olushola Obikanye; Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Sterling Bank Plc, Abubakar Suleiman; Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Aprotraders, Plantation Industries, Taiwo Ayoade; Group Head, Agric and Solid Mineral Finance, Sterling Alternative Finance, Sterling Bank Plc, Gbenga Awe; Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Lagos Commodities Futures and Exchange, Akeredolu Ale, at the Sterling Bank's Agricultural Summit Africa in Lagos ... Thursday.

$1.2bn Zungeru Hydro Electric Power Plant to Be Inaugurated 2023, Says Minister

Laleye Dipo in Minna

The new Zungeru Hydro Electric Power Project being constructed in Niger State by the federal government at $1.2 billion is to be ready for inauguration by the first quarter of 2023.

The Minister of Power, Mr. Abubakar Aliyu, said on completion of the project, it will generate 700 megawatts of electricity.

Mr. Aliyu, who inspected the extent of work done so far on the project on Thursday, according to a statement made available to newsmen in Minna by the office of the Secretary to the State Government, said three of the turbines have been installed.

According to the statement each of the three turbines already installed can generate 175 mega watts of electricity.

The minister was said to have expressed satisfaction with the level of commitment exhibited by the contractors, maintaining that the completion of the Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Project would add 700 Megawatts of electricity to the national grid.

Aliyu was also quoted as saying that the Zungeru Power Project is part of federal government's strategies to reposition power generation in phases in the country.

The statement said the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Ahmed Ibrahim Matane who accompanied the minister to Zungeru for the inspection, said the state government has demonstrated "a high level of commitment to the implementation of the project because apart from electricity generation it has abundant agricultural potential for the host communities to harness."

The Project Manager, Mr. Abiy Getahun, said challenges of COVID-19 and insecurity hindered the smooth running and early completion of the project.

The minister also inspected the Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant Switchyard at Gusase, a distance of about 30 kilometres from the plant

The Zungeru Dam is the first dam in the country constructed using the Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) innovative dam design technology with the main benefit being a reduction in the overall construction period and embankment footprint when compared to a typical gravity dam.

UNESCO Trains Students on Promotion of African Culture

James Sowole in Abeokuta

The United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) yesterday engaged students in Ogun State on the need to promote different cultural expressions in Africa using digital technology.

To this end, the organisation, through its Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU), engaged secondary school students in Abeokuta on how to safeguard and promote the African cultural heritage through art and technology.

The training is the fourth in the series of training to be organised by the institute.

The fourth series of the training, which is the last for the Year 2022, was held at Mcjob Grammar School, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Speaking at the event, in Abeokuta, the Director of the Institute, Prof. Peter Okebukola, said that the project was designed to educate and enlighten Nigerians, especially the young ones on the importance of using indigenous arts and culture to change the narratives the non-Africans have about the African continent and its cultural heritage.

Okebukola, who is former Executive Secretary of the National University Commission (NUC), said the training was meant to expose participants to the use of technology to protect and promote the African cultural heritage in this digital age.

He said the Institute, which is situated at the premises of the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOPL), Abeokuta, was established by UNESCO to further foster the capacities and knowledge of people through activities that promote cultural expressions through digital technology.

This, according Okebukola was in line with the goals of the UNESCO 2005 Convention which is to promote the diversity of different cultures and preserve the African cultural heritage amongst other objectives.

HYPPADEC to Train 60,000 Skilled, Unskilled Youths in Kwara

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

The management of the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC) has concluded arrangement to train and empower a total of 60, 000 skilled and unskilled youths in Kwara State within the next five years.

Also, the commission is to provide 250 housing units to those displaced by flood from riverine communities.

The consultant to HYPPADEC, Mr. Sam Juwl, disclosed this in Ilorin while presenting the HYPPADEC's Medium Term Strategic Plan (HMTSP) 2022-2027 at the stakeholders' forum of those covered by the activities of the agency in the state.

Apart from the training of 60 skilled and unskilled youths, Juwl said non-graduates would be trained in vocations such as tailoring, paintings amongst others while graduates will be trained in advanced skills including Information, Computer and Technology (ICT), installation of circuit camera television (CCTV) device, solar panels installations amongst others.

HYPPADEC 's Managing Director, Alhaji Abubakar Yelwa, announced that the commission has gotten approval of its Governing Board to provide 250 houses to people displaced by flood from the riverine communities .

He however decried lack of compliance by generating companies in all the six HYPPADEC states in the payment of their dues to the commission.

"If not for the grace and support of the governors of the six HYPPADEC states, HYPADEC offices would have closed by now because what is due to HYPADEC from generating companies had never been paid to HYPPADEC to date.

"In fact , some of them are even arguing and trying to see that there is no justification in paying what is due to be paid to support these communities.

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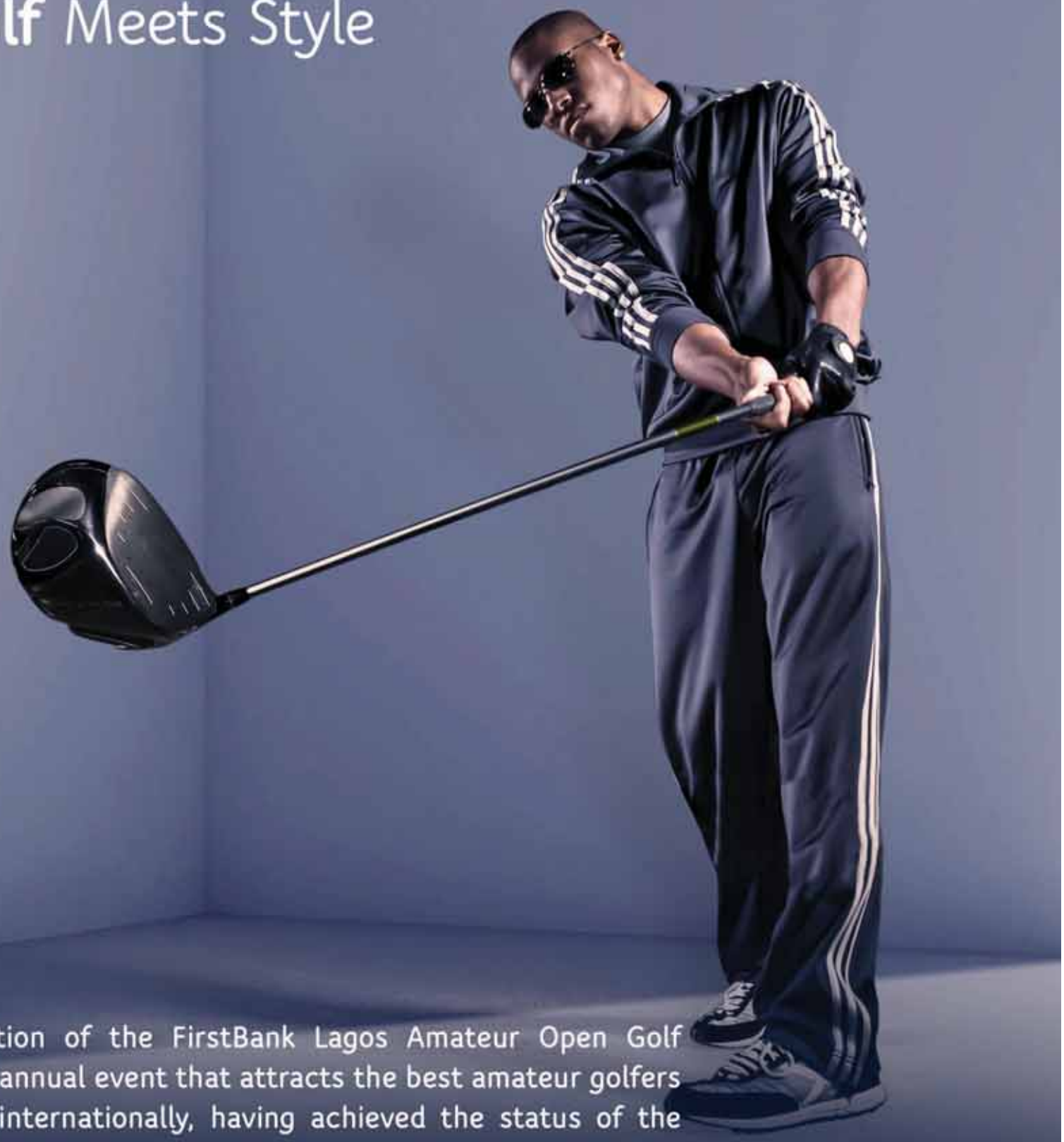
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NEWS

A'Court Stops Execution of Judgement Freeing Kanu

Alex Enumah in Abuja

The Court of Appeal Abuja yesterday granted the federal government's application for stay of judgement discharging leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, of terrorism charge.

A three-man panel of the appellate court agreed to stay the execution of its own judgement in deference of the appeal at the Supreme Court.

The appellate court had on October 13 discharged Kanu from the alleged terrorism charge preferred against him by the federal government over the manner Kanu was brought back into the country to continue his alleged terrorism trial.

The appellate court in the lead judgement delivered by Justice Adedotun Adefope-Okojie had held that the trial court lacked jurisdiction to try Kanu because his extraordinary rendition violated international convention and protocols.

Dissatisfied, the federal government having filed a notice of appeal against the judgement of the Court of Appeal at the apex court on Monday asked the court to stay the execution of the judgment discharging Kanu from the charge pending the hearing and determination of the appeal at the apex court.

Federal government's lawyer, Mr. David Kaswe hinged the request on the security situation in the country and especially in the South-east, adding that Kanu is a flight risk who had once jumped bail and freeing before the appeal at the apex court could jeopardise the case.

Responding, Kanu's lawyer, Chief Mike Ozekhome, SAN, faulted the request for stay, arguing that contrary to the submission of the government's lawyer, there would be anarchy and chaos in the South-east if the order for the release of Kanu was not obeyed.

Why observing that the proposal of the application is to get the court overrule itself, he informed the court that the applicant had boasted that it will not carry out the judgement of the court.

While further faulting the grounds upon which the application was brought, the learned silk maintained that it is forbidden to stay execution of judgment in a criminal matter.

He added that there is no valid appeal in the first place as the said notice of appeal at the apex court was not certified.

In urging the court to dismiss the application, Ozekhome pointed out that the applicant is already in contempt of the court's order and granting his request would imply that the court is validating its action.

After listening to the arguments for and against the motion, Justice Haruna Tsamani announced that judgment had been reserved to a date that would be communicated to parties in the suit.

Jonathan's N4.6bn Campaign Funds Still Under Investigation, Says EFCC Investigator

Wale Igbintade

An investigating officer with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr. Shehu Shuaibu, yesterday told a federal High Court in Lagos that the sum of N4.6 billion allegedly used to finance the presidential campaign of former President Goodluck Jonathan was still under investigation.

Shuaibu disclosed this during the trial of former Minister of Finance, Senator Nenadi Usman, former Aviation Minister Femi Fani-Kayode, and two others over alleged money laundering and other fraud related offences.

The investigating officer in continuation of his testimony before Justice Daniel Osiagor, said the Permanent Secretary, State House, Engineer Nebolisa Emodi and one Engineer Dandisu Abubakar conspired together and fraudulently transferred funds belonging to the federal government for the use of presidential campaign of former President Jonathan.

"The issue of fraudulent transactions of N4.6 billion is still under investigation. I am not a lawyer but, an investigator," he stated

Asked if the result of his investigation formed part of what was submitted to the legal department of the EFCC, the witness stated that he was not the head of the investigation team, hence would not know what was submitted to the Legal Department of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Survey Law: Court Dismisses Lagos State's Application to Stay Judgement

Wale Igbintade

Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court in Lagos yesterday dismissed an application filed by Lagos State seeking to stay judgement of the court which nullified Section 5 of the Survey Law of Lagos State.

The controversial section requires surveyors to obtain written consent of the Surveyor General of Lagos State before carrying out survey on any state land or land acquired by the Lagos State Government.

In the application filed by the Surveyor General of Lagos State and 10 others, they are seeking an order of injunction pending appeal, restraining the Respondents from enforcing, implementing or taking any further step or giving any effect to the judgment of the court delivered on August 2, 2022, pending the determination of the appeal now filed against the judgment.

Sahara Group, UNILAG Collaborate on Sustainability, Global Competitiveness

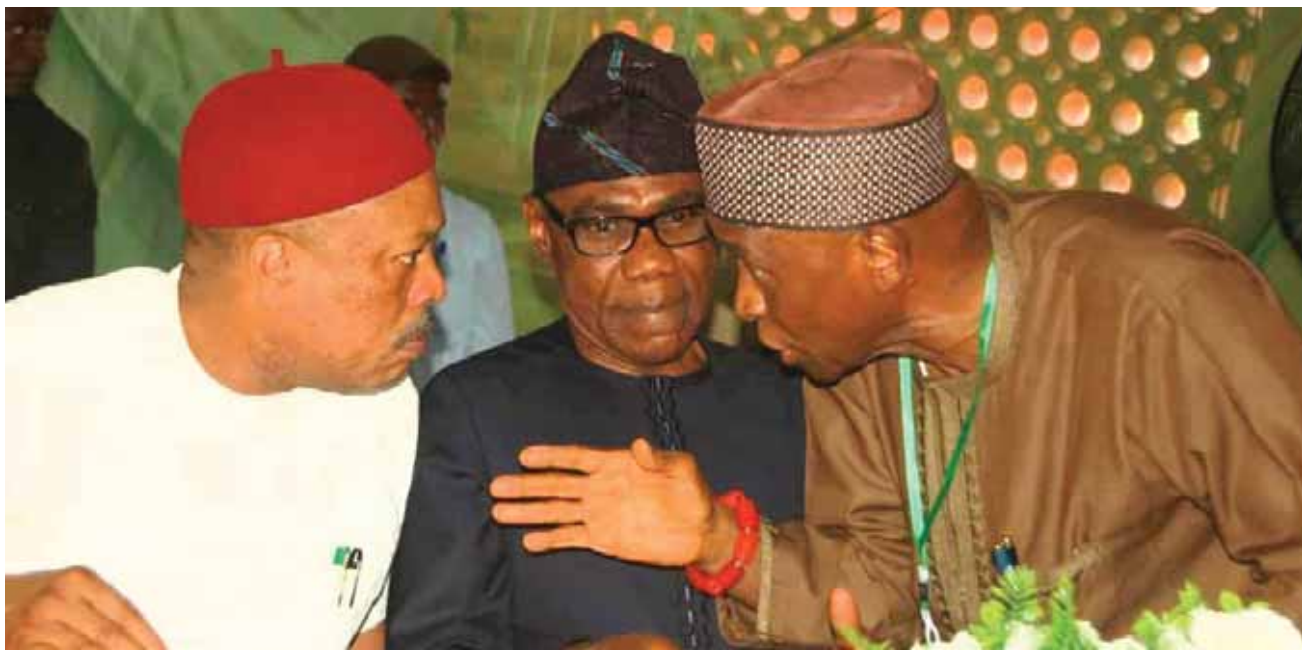
Peter Uzoho and **Oluchi Chibizor**

Sahara Group has announced the establishment of the Sahara School of Innovation and Extrapreneurship at the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Akoka, to serve as a platform for promoting inventions and solutions that will facilitate sustainable development and global competitiveness in Africa.

The Director, Governance and Sustainability at Sahara Group, Ejiro Gray, said at the groundbreaking ceremony yesterday, that Sahara would collaborate with UNILAG to make the school a world class facility that will proffer solutions to future challenges, with emphasis on areas like the future of energy, entrepreneurship, data science, digital arts and culture, artificial intelligence and robotics, and fintech, among others.

"This project reinforces our commitment to giving back always and serves as one of Sahara Group's contributions towards building a formidable legacy for sustainable development.

"For over 26 years, innovation and extraprenuership have driven Sahara's growth across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. We are confident that working with the University of Lagos, a foremost institution of global repute, the school would deliver sustainable value for the benefit of Africa and the world at large," Gray whose directorate would drive the project, stated.



PLOTTING FOR POWER…

L-R: National Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Anyanwu; the Kogi State Chairman of the party, Mr. Sam Ohutu; and the National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba during the workshop for PDP candidates in Abuja...yesterday.

Masari Approves N1.082bn for Payment of 2022 WAEC, NECO, Other Examination Fees

Francis Sardauna in Katsina

The Katsina State Governor, Aminu Bello Masari, has approved N1,082,146,300 for the payment of 2022 Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) fees for 59,280 candidates in the state.The money is to be paid to the West African Examination Council (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO), National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) and National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS).

The state Commissioner for Education, Prof. Badamasi Lawal Charanchi, disclosed this yesterday while reacting to a statement issued by the state chapter of the National Rescue Movement (NRM) party.

NRM, in a recent statement by its Secretary, Hon. Abubakar Aminu Birchi, gave the state government a two-week ultimatum to pay the examination fees of the students or face mass protest by its members, civil society organisations and concerned students in the state.

But Charanchi, during the media chat, said "Sincerely speaking, we have gotten approval and release from His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari for the payment of this year's (2022) senior school certificate examination fees of 59,280 students who sat for the examinations.

"And the government will very soon pay these examination fees for not only WAEC but for NECO, NBAIS and NABTEB to the tune of N1,082,146,300 to enable the examination bodies to release results of 59,280 students that sat for the SSCE examinations."

He, however, said the state government has spent the sum of N4,234,185,251 on the payment of senior school certificate examination fees for 399,550 sponsored candidates between 2015 and 2021 across the state.

Charanchi reiterated that the state government under the leadership of Governor Masari had sponsored 136,014 students for WAEC, 247,085 for NECO, 4,550 for NABTEB and 11,903 students for NBAIS examinations within the period under review.

He, therefore, described the statement by the NRM as the misrepresentation of Governor Masari's giant strides in the education sector and the exceeding performance of students in the senior school certificate examinations.

Stop Mass Exodus of Pharmacists Now, PSN Tasks FGP

Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) has tasked the federal government to stem the tide of mass exodus of pharmacists for greener pastures overseas.

President of PSN, Prof. Cyril Odianose Usifoh, lamented the rate of migration of Nigerian pharmacists to other countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Canada and Saudi Arabia.

He disclosed that over 5,208 pharmacists left the country in the last five years.

According to him, like their counterparts in other health fields, the development impacts negatively on healthcare delivery in the country. Describing the statistics as worrisome, Prof. Usifoh, said with a ratio of one pharmacist to 14,000 Nigerians, the brain drain would "worsens our health system's fragility and jeopardises the ability of the national and sub-national entities to meet the health needs of the population."

He said, "There is an unprecedented movement of pharmacists away from Nigeria. At the last count, about 5,208 pharmacists have left the country in the last five years in search of the proverbial green pastures especially in Canada, UK and the United States, just like their counterparts in other health fields and indeed many young Nigerians."

Usifoh confirmed that at the last count, over 803 pharmacists collected letters of good standing from the Council in 2021.

"The WHO recommended ratio of healthcare workers to the population is 23 to 1000 while in Nigeria; it is an abysmal 1.95 to 1000.

Buhari to Declare Open 6th Edition of Nigeria Mining Week Tuesday

Kasim Sumaina in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari will next Tuesday declare open the 6th edition of the Nigeria Mining Week which assembles investors, academia and mining industry professionals across the entire mineral sector value chain at the International Conference Centre, Abuja.

The Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Olamilenka Adegbite, made the disclosure on Thursday during the second press briefing of the forthcoming event.

Adegbite while delivering his speech noted that the theme of this year's event is titled 'Success and Achievements In The Nigerian Mining Sector' will highlight the giant strides of this administration through the mineral sector as one of the cardinal drivers of the diversification agenda.

According to him, "As earlier mentioned, one of the key issues to be discussed would include the vital mineral resources of the future which are the building blocks for many technologies providing us with green renewable energy, while allowing us to keep in line with the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) global standards.

"We shall also deliberate on the acquisition of bankable geoscientific data, the efficient and transparent mineral title administration processes, as well as downstream opportunities in the Mining Sector and the Nigerian Mineral value-chain Regulations, 2021."

Speaking further, the minister said that the future minerals are globally recognised as vital for the economic well-being of the world's major and emerging economies, as they are essential for producing new energies and technologies.

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COMMENTARY

Dauda: How To Be A Police Officer!

Abiodun Komolafe pays tribute to Ismail Dauda, an officer and a gentleman

The value a society places on the philosophy of service to the nation no doubt influences an individual's decision to work for his or her fatherland. The first prime instinct of man and necessity for human survival is that man works to earn a living and be able to feed himself and his family. The type of job, prestige and benefits attached to it are of secondary consideration. But, when it extends to the consciousness of the fact that one is serving one's country, service then becomes a thing of noble and national pride. Of course, the first set of people imbued with this consciousness are members of the Armed Forces, and others in that category.

Understandably, the Armed Forces depict the defence and security of the nation. To them - and, rightly so - since their service to their country is to defend its existence and survival, they quickly align their philosophy or thinking with preserving its integrity and unity. That being an infectious thing really, how one now serves conscientiously matters. In other words, how to serve worthily as an enforcer of the law is never to lose sight of the central ingredients of the State, because, again, the existence of the State is to ensure that lives and property of its citizens are protected. To do this, any threats or inhibitions within and outside the country must be exterminated. Men and women who carry this burden of ensuring the security and safety of the country deserve to be celebrated; and sincere gratitude shown to them on account of their choice.

A time like this reminds one of Ismail Dauda, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSO) and, currently, the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to Governor Adegboyega Oyetola of Osun State. From discreet investigations, CSP Dauda will be retiring from active service on November 1, 2022, after 35 years of meritorious service.

As it is with other professions, there are ups and downs, occupational hazards and tempting options in the Force. For our man, despite the level of corruption and social misgivings in the country, his career accomplishments have again shown that uprightness and dedication to service still pay.

CSP Dauda was born on born on March 3, 1968 in Sokoto, to the family of Dauda and Aishat Alabi of 'Ile Gbangudu', in Ogbomoso, Oyo State. His father was a police officer while his mother was a trader. Raised in Kaduna, Kaduna State, the young Ismail attended Army Children School, Dalet Barracks, Kaduna, from 1976 to 1981. Between 1981 and 1983, he attended Government Secondary School, Kurmin Mashi, NDA, Kaduna, before proceeding to Community High School, Akata, Ogbomoso.

He joined the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in 1987 and was trained at the prestigious Police College, Kaduna. His first duty post was in Mubi LGA in the present-day Adamawa State. He attended courses, both at home and abroad. Among them were: Detective Course at Detectives College, Enugu (1990); Promotion Course at Police College, Ikeja (1991); United Nations Peace Keeping Training Course, Zagreb, Croatia (1996); United Nations Human Rights Course, Bosnia Herzegovina (1997); and Combat Operations Course at Police Mobile Force Training School, Gwoza, Borno State (2001). He attained the rank of Inspector of Police in 1998; Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in 2005; Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in 2012; Superintendent of Police (SP) in 2016; and Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) in 2021.

During his 35-year-long service in the Force, Ismail Dauda, aka 'Oscar' held several Administrative and Command positions, notably: Member of the 21 Squadron Robot Rescue Squad (2000); Personal Assistant to Commissioner of Police, Federal Operations (2000); Inspector-in-Charge of Security at the Israeli Embassy in Nigeria (2001-2005); and Administrative Officer, Diplomatic Protection Unit, 44 PMF (2005-2007). Others include: ADC to the Speaker, House of Representatives (2008-2011); Administrative Officer, Presidential Escort, 24 PMF, State House Villa, Abuja (2012-2015); Unit Commander, 24 PMF Annex, Dodan Barracks (2015-2016); and OC Patrol and Guard Officer, Kano State Command (2016–2018), before his present appointment, in 2018. During the UN Mission in Croatia, he served as its Chief Investigation Officer in the Baranja Eastern Slavonia Sector.



The senior cop has many awards to his credit: 'United Nations Medal for Peace Keeping in Croatia' (1997); 'Embassy of Israel Commendation Letter for Good and Effective Management of the Embassy's Security' (2005); and 'Chevron Commendation for the Provision of Effective Security at EGTL, Escravous, Delta State' (2006). On December 22, 2021, he got the 'Commissioner of Police Commendation and Award for Outstanding Performance as CSO to the Governor of Osun State'.

A sports and culture enthusiast, CSP Dauda is a member of the Nigeria Football Coaches Association, Osun State Branch; International Institute of Professional Security (IIPS); and Nigeria Army Resource Centre. He is also the founder of Area 3 All Stars Football Club, Abuja. He holds the title of 'Ararinse Adini' of Almojidu Salam Mosque, Irabiji in Osun State.

The retiring officer has a BSc in Criminology and Security Studies and an MSc in Peace and Conflict Resolution from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). He is happily married to Bilkisu, also a police officer. Their union is blessed with six children.

From the courses he attended and the postings where he served, that CSP Dauda was a thoroughbred officer was never in doubt. So, one can only hope that government would, with unreserved praise, find means of putting to effective use the wealth of experience and expertise of retired officers who, actually, are not tired. With the security challenges currently devastating the country, the service of seasoned officers like the Ismail Daudas of the NPF should not be lost to mere protocol of retirement!

Well, while one is not in doubt that the Police Force will accord CSP Dauda the extant retirement package painlessly, having also served in the State House should attract something. It therefore behoves the government to reward him handsomely for being dedicated to duty, and for his unselfish deeds. This will serve as an encouragement to others who will still serve in that position. It's also one sure way to prevent desperation. Let's be realistic, the security demands of the State House are enormous, the least of them being members of the opposition political parties, restive civil service personnel and the 'we-no-go-gree' gangs.

According to Robert Byrne, "the purpose of life is a life of purpose." Yes, 'Oscar' is certainly not a rich man, but he remains a man of integrity. He stands out as a chivalrous and truthful officer who got to this stage purely on merit and professional competence. Evidently, this good man will be bequeathing an unblemished professional career to those who are coming behind. One can only wish him the best!

Komolafe writes from Ijebu-Jesa, Osun State

'OSCAR' IS CERTAINLY NOT A RICH MAN, BUT HE REMAINS A MAN OF INTEGRITY. HE STANDS OUT AS A CHIVALROUS AND TRUTHFUL OFFICER WHO GOT TO THIS STAGE PURELY ON MERIT AND PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE

Challenges Of Occupational Safety In Traffic Management

LASTMA personnel are duty-bound to carry out their duties in spite of the attendant risks, writes **Taofiq Adebayo**

There is no job without its inherent risks and potential hazard. However, those hazards and degrees of risk exposures vary as the job specifications require. Safety in each occupation may then become challenging when dealing directly and physically with the public whose temperaments are different. The challenge may even become worse given the fact that ensuring compliance with traffic laws sometimes comes with enforcement.

If everyone, on grounds of fear of attacks, avoids picking up jobs that would involve direct involvement with irate motorists due to enforcement of traffic laws, then no one would be available to maintain law and order in the state. As required by law, traffic managers are usually greeted with resistance by lawbreakers when they carry out their statutory duties on the road. These law breakers, in an attempt to escape the punishment stipulated by law for their traffic offences, resort to physical assault on the traffic managers. These traffic law enforcers and traffic controllers become more vulnerable to attack because they do not bear arms to protect themselves. Everyone must understand that traffic managers are positioned on the road to act as check and balance to road users.

It is therefore important that, in the overall interest of everyone, all road users must ensure the safety of traffic managers and controllers by adhering to laid down rules and regulations while using the road. If any motorist is aggrieved or feels dissatisfied by the action of a traffic official, he or she is expected to seek redress by making a formal report, not via attack on the officer. Civility, not violence would peacefully resolve issues.

The safety of traffic controllers and managers lies strongly in the hands of all road users. This safety can be achieved only by the traffic personnel and road users in general. No matter how security-conscious the traffic official is, he remains unsafe at his point of duty if all road users choose to disobey traffic laws and with an intention of attacking traffic law enforcers who call them to order.

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) personnel, whose primary responsibility is to control and manage traffic on Lagos roads, are duty-bound to carry out their duties in spite of the attendant risks and hazards which may range from injuries to even death. LASTMA officials, without bearing arms, still have to directly relate with irate and violent traffic offenders sometimes.

The major occupational safety challenge encountered by LASTMA officials is incessant attacks by recalcitrant traffic law violators whose only way of expressing their dissatisfaction or displeasure after being booked and issued court referral ticket for an infraction is via an assault on the traffic managers. Some LASTMA personnel, while on their lawful duties, have been maimed, paralyzed or rendered half-bodied. Others never survived to tell their stories as they were killed in their lines of duty as some violent motorists use dangerous weapons on them or knocked them down. It's unfortunate that these traffic controllers and managers positioned on Lagos roads by the state government to ease journeys of all road users have become elements and targets of attacks by these same people (law breakers).

Records and cases of violent attacks on LASTMA officials abound as the Agency has lost many of its men to this rising ugly trend. All hands must be on deck to curb the menace in order to ensure safety of traffic personnel.

The state government isn't folding its hands at this ugly trend as security is being beefed up around LASTMA officials across the state with the deployment of police officers attached to them for seamless operation. There is also an insurance package for any LASTMA personnel who dies while on duty call as a result of accident or attacks.

Traffic Management and Transportation which comes first on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's six-point developmental agenda, code-named T.H.E.M.E.S, is an indication that traffic management and control is given utmost attention. In 2019, as a boost to the morale of LASTMA personnel, the Governor announced an increment in their salaries with an inclusion of hazard allowance. The upward review of their take-home was born out the fact that Governor Sanwo-Olu paid attention to the welfare and safety of these traffic managers.

LASTMA officials have also been charged by the welfare unit of the Agency to regularly go for check-ups to ensure attention is paid to their health. While serving the public, they are to imbibe the culture of paying attention to their health which would help identify any illness quickly through early diagnosis for proper treatment or management.

Traffic snarls and build-ups still being experienced in some parts of Lagos are a reflection of the attendant outcome of non-compliance with traffic laws. So, it is important that every law-abiding resident of Lagos State complies with traffic laws and regulations of the State.

Adebayo, the Assistant Director of Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of LASTMA, writes via baba70b70@gmail.com

INSIGHT



Who will soothe their pains?

TO OUR READERS

Letters in response to specific publications in THISDAY should be brief (150-200 words) and straight to the point. Interested readers may send such letters along with their contact details to **saturdayeditor@thisdaylive.com**. We also welcome comments and opinions on topical local, national and international issues provided they are well-written and should also not be longer than (950-1000 words). They should be sent to **saturdayeditor@thisdaylive.com** along with the email address and phone numbers of the writer.

Telecom Tariff Increase Reversal: Matters Arising

The Nigerian telecommunications sector has remained, perhaps, the most dynamic section of the economy for over two decades. It is a major newsmaker. One day it is news for new milestones, new technologies and new vistas and the next day regulatory restrictions, multiple taxations by the government and its agents or else disruption of service by the same. It is a real roller-coaster ride.

Yet, the sector has proven resilient. To get to where it is today, the players have invested heavily, struggled with and overcame myriads of obstacles and continue to stretch to do new and exciting things. It strives to keep abreast of the latest development across the globe.

It is clear that the telecommunication revolution championed widespread access to broadband internet services and the attendant benefits, enabled the growth of e-commerce and precipitated the emergence of the digital economy. This is, in addition, to direct contributions to the economy through taxes paid, job creation and sustenance of many MSMEs.

While some experts point to government policies and fair regulatory practices as the biggest enabler of growth in the sector over the years, some argue that the government and its agents are also the greatest obstacles to the sector achieving its full potential.

One simply needs to look back to the recent SIM/ NIN policy and attempt to evaluate the cost: millions of lines were lost, businesses closed, people lost jobs and the economy constricted.

Last week, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the regulator of the telecommunications industry, ordered operators, MTN and Airtel, to immediately reverse the hike in their data tariff plan which they implemented on their respective networks the previous week.

News reports indicated that MTN and Airtel subscribers suddenly realised that the operators had commenced a new data tariff plan which was an upward review of the cost of their voice and data plan, without prior notice.

The NCC immediately stepped in. It ordered the mobile network operators to reverse the hike in response to the complaints by the telecom subscribers. In a statement signed by the Director, Public Affairs at NCC, Mr. Reuben Muoka, the commission stated, "The attention of the NCC has been drawn to media reports of unilateral implementation of the recently approved 10 per cent upward tariff adjustments for some voice and data services by the service providers, on their networks.

"The consideration for 10 per cent approval for tariff adjustments for different voice and data packages was in line with the mandates of the Commission as provided by the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003, and other extant Regulations and Guidelines, as this was within the provisions of the existing price floor and price cap as determined for the industry.

Elvis Eromosele, Lagos

What is the Value of Life in Nigeria?

What is the value of a life in Nigeria? How much is every life worth in Nigeria? Apart from just how starkly low life expectancy indicts conditions of life in the country, is human life really invaluable in Nigeria or is there a ceiling for the value placed on human life?

Are the conditions conducive to people living full, quality lives or do the conditions contribute to cruelling cutting short the lives of so many before they reach their prime?

How much has Nigeria been losing as a result of the many avoidable deaths that continue to rock the country yearly? On Friday, September 7, 2022, two boat mishaps in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State occurred, plunging over 80 people to their deaths. President Muhammadu Buhari has since offered his heartfelt condolences to the devastated families, the community and the entire state.

Those who would cite their religious inclinations to say that the tragedy just had to happen when it did or to say that it was the time for the victims to die may want to answer the question whether there were enough safety measures in place on the boat that ferried tens of people to their deaths.

While they may argue that it was not the first time such people were travelling by boat, and that it was only the first time such a tragedy was befalling such a large number of people, one would not be far away in concluding that given the location of the tragedy, the commuters simply piled themselves into a boat and left themselves to fate and faith even if they were critically unsure of the safety of the boat or the suitability of the weather conditions.

This tragedy brings a painful reminder of the other entirely avoidable tragedies that have shaken Nigeria this year. It was only a few months ago that fire broke out at an illegal oil refinery in Abaezi, Imo State and roasted more than a hundred people beyond recognition. In the months that have followed, while more mind-boggling revelations have emerged about the scale of theft of Nigeria`s oil, it is doubtful that enough has been done in this time to combat the menace of oil theft in Nigeria.

This year, Nigeria has also been confronted by the spectre of collapsed buildings. From Lagos to Abuja to Kano and to practically every major city in the country, a building or two has come down, burying helpless and hapless Nigerians beneath its crumbled ruins. Each time a building has come down, lives as well as economic opportunities have been lost.

Kene Obiezu, *@kenobiezu*

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TO SEND EMAIL: first name.surname@thisdaylive.com

NEWS



SENATE BOUND…

Enugu State Governor and candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for Enugu North Senatorial District, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (right) acknowledging cheers from members of "Enugu North Youths Movement for Gburugburu and Peter Mbah" when they visited the governor at the Government House, Enugu, yesterday, to declare their support for his senatorial bid and that of other PDP candidates in the state

Despite UK Security Alert on Abuja, BA Still Operates to Capital City

Chinedu Eze

Despite security alert about possible terror attack in the Federal Capital Territory issued by the US and UK embassies, British Airways still operates its London-Abuja flight.

Although the UK mega carrier's flight was delayed yesterday, October 28, 2022, the flight later operated to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

British Airways Regional Commercial Manager, West Africa, Mrs. Adetutu Otuyalo confirmed that the airline, which has operated to Nigeria for 85 years, has no inclination to suspend flight service; unless it receives signals to do so from the government.

"We are not cancelling flights. We are working closely with government authorities following the Foreign Commonwealth Office advice against all but essential travel to Abuja. Safety is at the heart of everything we do and we will continue to monitor the situation closely," she said.

There have been reports that one of the world's oldest airlines cancelled flights to the nation's capital due to the security fears raised a few days ago in Abuja, but British Airways has had a long relationship with Nigeria and would not cancel flights without a concrete report of security threat.

Besides, THISDAY learnt that Nigeria remains one of the most lucrative routes operated by the airline, with both its Lagos and Abuja flights which record the highest load factor in its First class and Business class cabins.

A top official at the Abuja airport also explained to THISDAY that British Airways Abuja bound flight took off on Thursday from London but diverted to Lagos to pick some of its crew and arrived by 10a.m. on Friday in Abuja, which is some hours later than its known arrival time, usually very early in the morning.

Mixed Reactions from OPS Trail CBN's Proposal to Redesign, Reprint Naira

Dike Onwuamaeze

Mixed reactions from the members of the organised private sector have trailed the announced decision of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to redesign, produce and circulate new local legal tender that would affect the current N200, N500 and N1,000 currency notes.

The CBN had said on Wednesday that the new currency would begin to circulate on December 15, 2022, while the old and new notes circulate together until January 31, 2023, when the old notes would cease to be legal tender in Nigeria.

Separate press statements that were issued yesterday had the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) hailing the CBN's announcement as commendable and timely while the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has described the move to redesign and reprint the above currency notes as an exercise that would inflict huge cost to the economy without any benefit to the economy.

The National President of NACCIMA, Mr. John Chinyelu Udeagbala, in a press statement that was titled 'Statement of NACCIMA to the CBN Announcement of Redesigning and Reprinting of Naira Notes', said "We commend the CBN for this development aimed at controlling the quantum (sic) of Naira in circulation. There is no doubt this development will significantly help to mop up money outside the banking system and money returned them to the financial system, improve electoral transparency, reduce corruption arising from possible vote trading and enhance a growing adoption of cashless means of money transfers."

He added that "this will certainly take some money to implement. But, we believe the necessary resources have been expended on good cause."

He also harped on the need for Nigerians to start to de-emphasise elections generally.

According to him, "this culture of finishing an election and for everyone to start preparing for the next one in four years' time rather than focusing on governance for development should be discouraged.

FG Hails Military for UNESCO Global Confab Success

Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

The federal government has attributed the successful hosting of the UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2022 in Abuja to the great efforts of the nation's security forces in keeping residents of the capital city and the country safe.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, echoed this yesterday at the closing session of the UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2022 and the adoption of the Abuja Declaration on Global Financing for Media and Information Literacy.

He said the huge success of the confab, coupled with the first hand experience of the guests from all over the world was a clear testimony to the organisational ability and warmth of Nigerians.

"The successful hosting of an international event, in a week marked by petrifying terror alerts, is also a testament to the great efforts of our security forces in keeping residents of our capital city, and indeed our country, safe, despite the antics of terrorists who are continually plotting to distabilise our nation's peace and security.

"Thanks to the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, our country will be progressively safe and secure, for citizens and non-citizens alike," Mohammed said.

CCPT Decries 38% Reduction in Budgetary Allocation

Juliet Akoje in Abuja

The Competition and Consumer Protection Tribunal (CCPT) yesterday decried the decrease in its annual budgetary allocation.

The Chairman of the tribunal, Hajia Saratu Shafii, raised this concern when she appeared before the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce to defend the 2023 budget in Abuja.

Shafii while giving details of the account of the 2022 performance noted that in spite of the financial challenges, the tribunal's budget was reduced by 38 per cent from what it was in 2022.

She said that in 2022 the budget was N1.19 billion, regretting it has been reduced to N900.72 million in the 2023 budget.

Shaii however urged the committee to look into the budget and use its power of allocation to improve the lot of the tribunal for better service delivery.

The Chairman of the committee, Hon. Femi Fakeye, applauded the tribunal for a job well done in the year under review.

Fakeye tasked the tribunal to ensure pay-as-you-go is implemented by Multichoice Nigeria Ltd and other cable networks in the country.

Appeal Court Affirms Tribunal Judgement Sacking Agah

Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

The Court of Appeal sitting in Jos, Plateau State yesterday affirmed the judgement of Election Petition Tribunal that sacked the lawmaker representing the Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Musa Agah of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to return Muhammad Alkali of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) as the validly elected candidate in the February 26, 2022 bye-election.

The tribunal had in September, 2022 held that the PDP candidate was not validly nominated by his party, having a subsisting judgment of a High Court that the PDP had no valid structure in Plateau State to nominate a candidate.

The tribunal also ruled that there was over-voting in the results declared by INEC that announced Agah as the winner of the bye-election.

But the PDP candidate and his party approached the appellate court and urged it to dismiss the judgment of the tribunal.

Ruling on the case yesterday, the Court of Appeal upheld the judgement of the tribunal and insisted that the nomination of the PDP candidate was an error as the state chapter of the party lacked the structure to produce a candidate for the election.

According to the Appeal Court, the PDP took very important things for granted when it failed to comply with an earlier judgement which directed the party to go back and do the right thing by constituting legally acceptable EXCO of the party.

NEDC Donates Food, Non-food Items to Gombe Flood Victims

Segun Awofadeji in Gombe

As part of efforts to cushion the devastating effects of flood disaster on victims in Bauchi State, the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) has donated assorted food and non-food items to the state government.

The food and non-food items donated to the state government by the commission include 10,000 25kg bags of rice, 5,000 blankets, 5,000 mats, 3,000 gallons of vegetable oil, 5,000 pieces of wrappers, 3,000 pieces of Shada and 3,000 children's clothes.

The NEDC Managing Director, AlhajiMohammed Goni Alkali who presented the items on behalf of the commission to Governor Bala Mohammed at the Government House in Bauchi yesterday, sympathised with the people of the state over the devastating effects of the flood in some parts of the state.

NEDC boss, who lauded the state governor over the state government efforts to contain the effects of flood in the state, said that the commission wrote a letter to the state government in order to synergise by providing preventive measures to address issues of flood disaster in the future.

"One of the reason we are here is that on the 18th of August in Maiduguri, the World Humanitarian Day was celebrated under the leadership of Mr. President and in that occasion, we as a commission promised that we are going to show our humanitarian face to the people of the North-eastern states and we promised to providing food and non-food items.

"The President received our pronouncement and handed over to the Vice-Chairman of a committee he set up to settle and rehabilitate IDPs in the North-east. The committee is currently dissolved, but we were directed to go and give the items we promised to each state.

"The third reason why we are here, Your Excellency, as you know, we have many projects going on in the state, we have the road projects from Kirfi to Gombe Abba. We have the housing project going on, we have in each of the tertiary institutions in education and health, either federal or state, projects going on. We want to discuss, articulate and come back here in no distance future to do the ground-breaking ceremonies as well as the foundation laying ceremonies for these projects," he said.

Responding, the Governor Mohammed commended the humanitarian commission for its laudable programmes, projects and initiatives that have positively impacted the North-east region that has been ravaged by activities of insurgency.

NNPCL, Akwa Ibom, Firm Seal Agreement for Integrated Logistics Hub

Peter Uzoho

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) has signed a Shareholder Agreement with the government of Akwa Ibom State and Solutions Hub Limited to develop an integrated logistics hub that can service the Nigerian upstream oil and gas industry and the entire Gulf of Guinea.

The partnership which was sealed yesterday in Akwa Ibom State, is in line with strategies being taken by the NNPCL management to reposition the national oil company to operate commercially and deliver greater value for Nigerians.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman, Board of Directors of NNPCL, Senator Margery Okadigbo, said that as a national oil company transiting to a full-scale energy company, the NNPCL's commitment to the Ibom Solution Hub signalled to potential investors and business partners that the company meant business.

Ring True

08054699539 yemi.adebowale@thisdaylive.com

Yemi Adebowale



Squandering Nigeria's Dwindling Forex

Officials of the International Air Transportation Association (IATA) were again at the National Assembly last Monday to make a case for the release of foreign airlines' "trapped" $700 million, at a forum organised by the Speaker, House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila. The governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele and Aviation Minister, Hadi Sirika were also at the event.

When these airlines say they have $700 million "trapped" in Nigeria, one would think that they are being prevented from taking out $700 million they made from ticket sales. This is far from it. What they are asking for is for the proceeds of their ticket sales in Naira to be remitted to their countries at the official (concessionary) USD rate, which is now N441.67/$1. The market rate is currently N765/$1. The backlog these airlines have is what they valued at $700 million.

At the stakeholders' forum in Abuja, Emefiele was happy to announce that the aggrieved international airlines in the country would get $120 million at the end of this month to offset part of their funds trapped in the country: "The trapped funds will be disbursed in bits. They'll get $120 million on October 31. Everyone is calling on CBN to release blocked funds, and I am doing everything I can to provide Dollars for you to repatriate your money. We used our discretion to allocate $265 million to the foreign airlines, broken down into spot and forward. We did $110 million on the spot and the rest in 60 days forward.

"On that day, we allocated to IATA $32 million through UBA. Qatar Airways, $22.8 million through Standard Chartered; Emirates, $19.6 million through Access Bank; British Airway, $5.5 million through GTB; Virgin Atlantic, $4.8 million through Zenith and others. This is something I have told you (foreign airlines) that we will continue to do so that you will not blackmail the country. $120 million will be due on the 31 of October."

That's Nigeria's CBN governor apportioning scarce USD to the foreign airlines. This is happening in a country where manufacturers are struggling and hardly get 20 per cent of their forex requests from the CBN. Just a few days back, the Paint Manufacturers Association of Nigeria decried the scarcity of foreign exchange for manufacturers, adding that some producers are closing factories.

Of course, for years, the Nigerian government has been giving foreign airlines access to official forex to remit ticket sales. It is one of the ways this government and previous ones have been squandering Nigeria's inadequate forex. By giving foreign airlines forex at concessionary rate, it means the Nigerian government has been subsidising foreign air travels. This is preposterous. A serious government won't be subsidising foreign air travels.

Another annoying thing about forex allocated to foreign airlines at concessionary rate is that it hardly reflects in calculating fares for Nigerians. The exploitation of Nigerians by these foreign airlines has been on for too long. The truth is that Nigerians pay more than Westerners (even more than some African countries) for flights of similar distance. For instance, it is cheaper to travel from New York to London, a distance of over eight hours, than from Lagos to London, a distance of about six hours. Those flying from South Africa to London (nine hours) are paying less than Nigerians flying six hours to London. Their concealed excuse for charging Nigerians more is that it takes a long time to repatriate ticket sales revenues from Nigeria.



Sirika

Foreign airlines charge Nigerians using rates close to that of the parallel market and thereafter, get forex at the official rate from the CBN while repatriating revenue from the ticket sales. Is this not theft? It is depressing that the Nigerian government is encouraging this. I clearly remember that at the first stakeholder forum in Abuja on October 17, the Chairman of a Nigerian airline demanded for the exchange rate used by foreign airlines in calculating fares for Nigerians. They could not provide an answer.

The way forward is simple. Foreign airlines should be allowed to sell tickets in USD. It will be a win-win for everybody. Competition along this line will push down fares. Travellers will get a good deal. The pressure on the CBN to provide forex at official rate to cover ticket sales of these airlines will also end. It does not make sense for the Nigerian government to be subsidising overseas travels amid dwindling forex earnings and more pressing needs.

Another manner through which the federal government has been squandering Nigeria's forex is the allocation at concessionary rate for payment of overseas tuition fees. The government has simply been subsidising tuition fees for Nigerians studying abroad. It has been on for so long. Some Nigerians even send their children to European and North American countries for primary and secondary education and get official forex for tuition from the CBN. Back then, you would search hard before finding parents who send children abroad for primary and secondary education. Nowadays, a sizeable amount of the foreign exchange requests Nigerian banks receive for school fees are for primary and secondary school education.

Well, I'm not against people sending their children to foreign schools. But a good government must not be seen subsidising foreign education. It must not be seen subsidising the rich to send their children abroad for education. By doing so, it means this country does not have a good government. Those who want education abroad must not put pressure on the official forex. They should source their forex from the parallel market. Unfortunately, most of those running governments at all levels are involved in "education abroad" for their children. So, they are very happy subsidising it and putting pressure on Nigeria's forex.

I have also been worried about the Personal Travel Allowance (PTA) and the Business Travel Allowance (BTA) doled out to Nigerians at official rate. The maximum amount for PTA and BTA is at present $4,000 per quarter. This also amounts to subsidising all manner of foreign trips. Somebody is going on holiday and getting forex at official rate! What is the business of the government with this?

There is also the issue of round-tripping because of the huge gap between the parallel market rate and the official rate.

Some people simply collect PTA and BTA to resell and make profit. At a point, the CBN instructed banks to publish the names and Bank Verification Numbers (BVN) of customers who abuse its forex policy. The apex bank lamented that it had received, and noted with concern, reports of sharp practices "by some unscrupulous customers," circumventing the new CBN policy on the sale of forex for overseas personal and business travels". The bank said some of the unwholesome practices included the use of fake visas and cancellation of air tickets after the purchase of PTA/BTA.

Travellers must return unused PTA/BTA within two weeks as stipulated in the customer declaration form signed by them, so says the CBN. If not utilised for the intended purpose, or if for any reason, the scheduled trip is cancelled, the PTA/BTA must be returned. So, Emefiele and his men expect Nigerians to return unutilised PTA/BTA? Also, in this regard, banks are expected to have financial crime units and operate like EFCC and the Police. The CBN is being unrealistic. PTA and BTA at official rates must end for Nigeria to progress.

The era of multiple forex exchange rates must likewise end in Nigeria for this country to optimally utilise its forex. The IMF and the World Bank have persistently told the Nigerian government this. Government forex must be sold at market rates. This will naturally eliminate sharp practices in the purchase of official forex, the PTA/BTA inclusive. A country struggling with forex can't be selling the limited amount it has at dubious rates. But this is happening in our country with declining external reserves which stood at a disturbing $37.52 billion as of 25th October 2022.

Plight of Ekiti State Pensioners



Oyebanji

The new Governor of Ekiti State, Biodun Oyebanji, has promised to correct the ills and bad governance by past administrations in the state, while at the same time talking about continuity. Continuity of garbage? Oyebanji is obviously a confused person. The Ekiti State Chairman of Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Joel Akinola, rightly noted that the governor must be selective in his much-emphasised continuity, saying, "You can only continue with what is good; don't continue with bad governance."

I doubt if Oyebanji will be different from previous hopeless governments in Ekiti State. I see him as "same of the same." I'm hoping he will prove me wrong. Oyebanji should start by first addressing the plight of the state's pensioners. The Fayose and Fayemi governments really messed up these seniors. They pummeled them with so much venom for daring to serve the state.

Akiola, leader of the pensioners puts it precisely: "We have arrears of unpaid gratuities, about N40 billion that past governments have refused to attend to. Local government pensioners were last paid gratuities in 2012, some of which are still outstanding, while state pensioners were last paid gratuities in 2013. The government is owing local government pensioners seven months' pension arrears while state pensioners are owed three months' pension arrears. This is beside the non-adjustment of our pensions.

"We have pensioners still receiving N4,000 monthly. At the close of the Fayemi administration, we had lost over 300 pensioners to death for his refusal to pay our gratuities and pensions. We have more than 400 bedridden because they cannot access medical facilities and, as well, lack money to properly take care of themselves. Fayemi began non-payment of gratuities to pensioners during his first tenure. His successor, Fayose built on what he met on the ground, and Fayemi returned to consolidate it."

My dear Oyebanji, posterity will not forgive you if you fail to swiftly address the plight of Ekiti pensioners. The blood of those that died waiting for pension and gratuity are on the heads of your predecessors. I hope you don't want this to happen to you?

Frightening Figures of Killings

The Council on Foreign Relations of the United States of America, an independent and nonpartisan think tank, has a project called Nigerian Security Tracker that keeps a tab on killings by terrorists in Nigeria based on media reports. It has been doing this for years. This week, it released a report on killings covering the ongoing President Buhari years - May 29, 2015 and October 15, 2022. The figures are gory. No fewer than 53,418 Nigerians lost their lives to non-state actors during this period under review. These are the reported cases. The figures are clearly much higher than this. But let's restrict ourselves to this for now.

The North-east and North-west recorded the highest killings in this period under review, obviously because of the large number of terror groups in these places. North-east recorded 23,106 killings, with Borno State alone recording 18,213 deaths. No fewer than 13,590 persons were killed in the North-west, with Zamfara State leading with 6164 killings.

Nigeria has been experiencing unprecedented insecurity under the Buhari government. That's what these figures reemphasised. If the Buhari government is indeed people-oriented, I expect that by now, it would be proactively-responding to these gory figures. So far, nothing has happened. I doubt if anything positive will happen with Buhari as the captain of the Nigerian ship. He lacks the capacity to tame insecurity in Nigeria. It was for this reason that some frustrated federal lawmakers recently threatened to impeach the President.

So sad that terrorists are roaming freely in beloved Nigeria. Last Saturday, they entered Mamman Suka in Gwadabawa Local Government of Sokoto State and operated for hours unhindered. They killed two persons and abducted 13 others. According to the LG Chairman, Aminu Aya, the terrorists operated freely for hours without resistance. That has always been the pattern across Nigeria. Nigeria is indeed in a big mess.

NEWS

Allen Onyema's Indictment: US Govt Admits No Loss Suffered by Any Bank, Says Law Firm

Chinedu Eze

Following the conclusion of the indictment filed against Ebony Mayfield, an American and a former staff of Springfield Aviation Company, who was accused to have played a key role in an alleged bank fraud case against Allen Onyema, Air Peace founder, findings show that the United States government admitted there was no loss suffered by any bank.

Mayfield was also not given any prison sentence, confinement or home detention by the court.

The indictment was filed against Mayfield by the United States Attorney for Northern District of Georgia at the District Court in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday, October 28, 2022.

In a statement issued by A.O. Alegeh & Co Legal Practitioners & Notaries Public, a law firm and Counsel to Allen Onyema, Ejiro Eghagha and Air Peace Limited stated that this confirmed the position of its clients that there was no fraudulent intent in all the Letters of Credit, there was no victim in any way, manner or form and all the funds involved were legitimate funds belonging to its clients.

According to the law firm, "Mayfield, a former staff of Springfield Aviation Company Inc. was today (Friday) given Probation and a $4000 fine in respect of the Criminal Indictment filed against her by the United States Attorney for Northern District of Georgia after an investigation spanning over three years and involving about five agencies of the US Government.

"Ebony was an administrative staff with limited knowledge in Letter of Credit Transactions and pleaded guilty to one count in the indictment, presumably as she realised the futility of attempting to explain several Letters of Credit utilised for purchase of Aircraft for Air Peace Limited in a Jury trial. Probation is the lowest possible sentence available under US Federal Law.



SUPA KOMANDO ENUGU LAUNCH…

L-R: Segun Ogunleye, GM(Marketing) Seven Up Bottling Company (SBC); Akhilayel Malgwi, GM (Sales), SBC; Samuel Onu, Marketing Manager, Enugu Region, SBC, at the Launch of Supa Komando energy drink from the stable of Seven Up Bottling Company in Enugu, recently

Osun Begins Disbursement of N20m Widows Monthly Social Support

The Osun State Government has launched a N20million monthly social support scheme to tackle social vices, poverty and protect vulnerable citizens of the State.

The initiative which targets 4,000 beneficiaries is another demonstration of the commitment of the Governor Adegboyega Oyetola-led administration to widen its social inclusion net, empower the less privileged and raise their standard of living.

Beneficiaries of the scheme are widows and elderly people who have been carefully selected from the State Operation Coordinating Unit (SOCU) document that was sponsored by the World Bank on poor and vulnerable households.

This is even as some of the beneficiaries who could not hide their joy, having received the credit alerts while the programme was still ongoing, lauded the state government on the initiative and described it as unprecedented.

Recall that the State under the leadership of Governor Oyetola had engaged in several collaborative efforts with the Federal Government to cater for the needs of the poor including disbursement of cash grant to poor and vulnerable households.

It would also be recalled that recently, the State Government distributed N20, 000 cash per head to over 5,000 beneficiaries across the 30 Local Government Areas, including Ife-East Area Office, Modakeke.

Flagging off the scheme at the Staff Development Centre, Abere, Osogbo, on Friday, Governor Oyetola said his administration had injected huge capital inflow into various social protection initiatives while also collaborating with the Federal Government and the private sector to enhance the welfare and wellbeing of people of the State.

He said: "As part of our objective to give better life to the poor and the indigent, we have given social protection a pride of place, with over 14 social investment programmes targeted at elderly people, the youth, the poor, and school children.

"These expansive programmes and the attendant impact we have recorded have earned us awards from the eras of MDGs to that of SDGs and even prompted the Federal Government to send a delegation to understudy our State.

"All these initiatives are intended to bring all the strata of the society into the welfare net, banish hunger, terminate mystery, spread prosperity and stabilize the economy of the State.

"We shall continue to help marginalised groups such as women, people living with disabilities and the aged to develop income-generation activities to make them contribute to the economic potential of the State.

LP Chairman, Abure, Appeals for Continued Support, Inaugurates PCC

Emameh Gabriel in Abuja

The National Chairman of the Labour Party (LP), Barr. Julius Abure, yesterday, appealed to party faithful and well- meaning Nigerians to continue with their organic support for the party as it kicks off its presidential election campaigns.

Abure also said that the Labour Party lacks funds to compete against the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), accusing the two parties of amassing stolen monies for years.

The party which is set to kickoff its presidential campaign today in Lafia, Nasarawa State, inaugurated its Presidential Campaign Council in Abuja yesterday, as it called on members of the PCC to do all that was needed to be done to lead the party to victory in 2023.

"The party is competing against parties that have stolen our resources and common patrimony and ready to deploy it in the election.

"Nigerians have realised they need to take back the country. The massive support and followership enjoyed in recent times shows the people are ready and determined to take back their country.

"We need a lot of funding to drive the process, as the presidential candidate cannot do it alone," Abure appealed.

Group Asks Ortom to Stop Causing Distraction in PDP

A group known as Middlebelt Renaissance Movement (MRM) has warned the Governor of Benue State, Samuel Ortom, to stop distracting the supporters of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state and the Middle Belt zone over 2023 general elections, saying that the former Vice President Atiku Abubakar remains the constitutionally recognised candidate of the party in next year's presidential election.

The group in a statement signed by its Chairman Board of Trustees, Mr. Philip Terver, in Makurdi, urged the governor to retrace his steps and come back to the fold in the interest of his state and the Middle Belt zone.

The group noted that it's high time, Ortom jettison his personal and selfish ambition for the sake of the people in the state, who are earnestly waiting for PDP to rescue the state and country from the maladministration of the All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government in the country.

AIG Muri: Delay in Serving Justice to Criminals Reason for Rise in Crime

David-Chyddy Eleke in Awka

The Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 13 Ukpo, AIG Umar Muri, has said that crime festers because of inability to serve justice to criminals.

The AIG stated this in a reception organised for him by the zone, led by the Anambra State Commissioner of Police, CP Echeng Echeng, to mark his retirement from the force.

Muri, who was described by many subordinates at the event as a forthright police officer retired after putting in 32 years in the force.

Speaking during the occasion, Muri said his major reason for joining the force was to ensure justice for Nigerians, but regretted that even though justice delivery begins with the police, the slow nature of trials by the judiciary sector has made it impossible to serve justice to many criminals.

ACTN Brainstorms on Solutions for Currency Volatility, Inflation

Dike Onwuamaeze

The Association of Corporate Treasurers of Nigeria (ACTN) has announced that its 2022 Treasury360 conference and exhibition would focus on generating solutions that would enable businesses to navigate the current supply chain challenges, inflation and currency volatility that had been besetting the world economy.

This was declared on Thursday by the President and Chairman in Council of ACTN, Mrs. Victory Olumuyiwa, who described the conference and exhibition as "a platform inspired by the corporate treasury practitioners' commitment to make positive and impactful contributions to the global relevance of our Nigerian business economies (sic) while strengthening our growing nation, Nigeria."

Olumuyiwa also announced that this year's conference and exhibition would hold on Thursday, November 17, with the theme: 'Getting through the Uncertainties of Supply Chain Disruption, Currency Volatility and Inflation'.

2023: Al-Makura, Fashola, Ogbeh Head Directorates in Tinubu/Shettima ICC

Adedayo Akinwale in Abuja

Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola, former governor of Nasarawa State, Senator Tanko Al-Makura, former Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbeh and Alhaji Kashim Iman are among those heading Directorates in the Tinubu/Shettima Independent Campaign Council (ICC).

The ICC was established to complement the Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), which would focus mainly on grassroots mobilisation.

Also heading a Directorate is the former Acting National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hilliard Eta, while the former deputy governor of Nasarawa State, Mr. Silas Agara, is the National Coordinator of the Council.

SANDECO Group Partners Lagos Govt

The Lagos State Government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Panel on Relations, and SANDECO Group, officially convened a one-day symposium on Emergency Systems and the Economy on the 25th of October 2022, at the Marriott Hotel, Ikeja Lagos.

The Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations was created to effectively develop appropriate synergies between the MDAs and stakeholders to facilitate a safer and disaster-free environment. These outcomes have been achieved through strategic thinking, innovation and research and development.

TLIG Africa Secures New Partnership for Expansion

The Land Is Green Africa (TLIG) Global media, an online platform that specialises in the creation of content that promotes the African creative sector, entrepreneurship and lots more recently announced a new partnership, expansion of its shows, a birth of a 24 hours television services and other services.

Kehinde Olagbenjo, the Team lead of TLIG Africa shared that, "There is a need to rewrite the African story and to change the perception for good.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as **AYILARA OMOWUNMI BOLUWATIFE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MISS AYILARA OMOWUNMI SILIFAT.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **PAUL BEAUTY NNEOMA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **ONUOHA BEAUTY NNEOMA.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

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

CORRECTION OF NAME

This is to inform the general public that my correct name is **WILLINGSON OPAKIRITE FREDHORSEFALL** and not **WILLINGSON OPAKIRITE HORAEFALL** as was wrongly written in my account. All

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

Guchi Pairs Yemi Alade in New Song

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

Don't get deceived by her petite. For what she lacks in height, her voice covers. If you had followed her or seen her perform, then you would understand that this songstress Ugochi Onuoha whose stage name is Guchi, has got her time coming. The PG Records Entertainment artiste has lived up to expectation since her emergence on the music scene in 2019 with the love song 'No be Jazz'.

Guchi has released a good number of sizzling songs. Some of which one can't help but enjoy include Benezma, Jennifer, Joro, Addicted, American Love, Scatter My Head featuring Zlatan among other mind-blowing bops. After stealing fans' love with this discography of smashing songs, mostly love themes, Guchi is out with another brand new distinctive love song.

This time, the talented music diva collaborates with Yemi Alade to unravel this mind-blowing piece, 'I Swear'. Released October 21, 2022, this Afrobeats song, having Alade, one of the top-notch female Nigerian musicians is one which Guchi's esteemed fanbase will be pleased to hear. On this iconic Gen Z and Millennial partnership, both female stars wow and shower encomium on their significant others.

Long before the music materialized, listeners continued to liken the style of both singers. Timely, 'I Swear' satisfies the demand for their collaboration. 'I Swear' accommodates groove and reflection. The beat maker, ChechDaProducer's composition subtly lures you to the dance floor but the lyrics could evoke an entirely different response.

In one verse, Guchi admits to being hopelessly in love and in the other, Alade begs for the longevity of her lover's commitment. 'I Swear' is a euphony you will cherish so much in 2 minutes 18 seconds. Guchi and the Nigerian chanteuse, Alade created a vigorous sound in this latest entry,



Guchi and Yemi Alade

allowing each other to shine individually without anyone, overpowering the other.

The song is so beautiful and soothing to the heart. Nevertheless, this is Guchi's second instalment for the year 2022, following, "Speedometer", which is still buzzing around. Guchi is currently one of the Fast-rising female artists in Nigeria to reckon with. She is a singer and songwriter gifted with a very unique voice and talent. She sounds very impressive and promising, and with her offerings so far, very prepared for music.

Her early life was pretty much inspiring following how she remained focused and strived for her musical aspiration and career. She was born in Kaduna State but grew up in Abuja where she attained her primary and secondary school educational qualification. She further acquired her higher educational qualification at the University of Lagos.

Eclectic in the genre of music she plays, her foray into music was inspired by her passion for music. "I have always had passion for music. Right from growing up I started from the choir in church. And so from the very beginning I have always had passion, the love for music," she told this reporter among others some three years ago during her unveiling.

New Crime Thriller, 'Woke' Mirrors Dark Alleys



A scene from "Woke"

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

2022 has been a rollercoaster of thrillers as Nollywood producers keep Nigerians on their feet with suspense-filled crime and psychology movies. And as the year rolls to an end, a new crime thriller titled 'Woke' featuring Nollywood stars from two generations adds to the list of thrillers expected at the cinemas. The movie, shot in Lagos and Abuja, is about "Greg", a former secret service agent, persuaded by his wife to take a job brought to him by his former colleague, Chuks, a police inspector, which he accepted.

Directed by Ambibola Olagunju and produced by Gertrude Preye Augustine Seibi, "Woke" parades a blend of Nigerian stars young and old like Kunle Remi, Zack Orji, Tina Mba, Adedimeji Lateef, Linda Osifo, Lanre Adediwura, Ohakwe Chinedu Luis, shade Emmanuel, Iyke Adiele, Ivy Agbo, Bright Wonder Obasi, Emmanuel Igwe, Uloko Energy, George Nanakwesi Chux and other talented acts.

According to the filmmakers, 'Woke' sheds a bright light on the current situation in Nigeria, showing how many things have gone bad due to poor character judgements and pointless sentiments. The movie shows a possibility of a better Nigeria, the kind we dream about and pray for, if only its citizens decide to look up and stay woke by taking the necessary actions best for the country, disregarding all sentiments that would, over time, lead to regrets.

The inspiration, according to the producer, was drawn from the situation of things in Nigeria. "This is a crime thriller, and drew inspiration from the current situations of the country, people overlooking countless wrongs based on sentiments and nepotism. This movie is meant to paint a mental picture of how great things can get if we raise our heads and stay woke".

"Woke" is set to premiere to a select audience on 30th October at Blue Pictures Cinema, Lagos, before showing in cinemas across Nigeria from the 4th of November, 2022.

"The major goal of this movie is to change the current bias narratives we have adopted for years so that the country can achieve the desired change," Gertrude Preye Augustine Seibi said while speaking on the hopeful impact of the movie.

Izu Ojukwu's Period Drama to Premiere on Prime Video

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

The official trailer for '4.4.44', a feature length film set to premiere on Prime Video was released a couple of days back to the delight of movie buffs and fans of the movie director, Izu Ojukwu. Ojukwu's return to the screens is exciting news especially as the filmmaker is regarded as one of Nollywood's most prolific filmmaker and is bringing another historic movie.

Ojukwu directed historical films 'Amina', and '76' which premiered to critical acclaim and awards in 2016. The '4.4.44' psychological drama, set in the early 1940s, chronicles the true stories of two perfect individuals who will have their world rattled after a harrowing event on their wedding night. The period title was short last year.

It features a star-studded cast including Richard Mofe Damijo and Nse Ikpe-Etim in the lead roles. Other stars include Chiwetelu Agu, Seun Akindele, Blessing Onwukwe, Efe Irele, Alibaba, Teni Apata, Broda Shaggi, amongst others. Unveiling the trailer, Ojukwu revealed that the film's plot is based on a true-life story about love, sacrifice. The trailer also hints on a spirited story about love and mental health struggles.

Some dates change everything. 4th of April, 1944 was one of those days. "The day true love is put to test. The day two perfect individuals with perfect love and perfect lives will have their world rattled and all they hold dear will never remain the same again. Based on a true story," the film director wrote on Instagram teasing the film's plot.

Filming for '4.4.44' kicked off last April in Cross River state. The production was inspired by a true family life story narrated by Winifred Mena-Ajakpovi. The period drama was shot by Peter Kreil with arts direction by Pat Nebo. Mena-Ajakpovi during principle photography hinted that the film is family themed and celebrates strong women. "And so after 17 months of planning, our cameras finally rolled today.

"A very emotional moment for me for so many reasons including that this is a true family story," Winifred wrote on Instagram. I celebrate all strong women like Theresa in this story. I acknowledge all families dealing with any issues around mental health. The world will hear of you and your journey and celebrate you. '4:4:44' reaching a global audience through the streaming platform will be dream come through for her. My team and I poured our heart and soul into the making of this film, to honour a story so dear to me and live up to the responsibility the project itself placed on us," she enthused.

4:4:44 will be available to Prime Video subscribers globally, from November 2022.

HQ MarketPlacee Supports Budding Talents

As part of its corporate social responsibility, Hq MarketPlacee, an online marketing platform recently sponsored a music show to promote young talents and to address the problem of unemployment. The show titled, "Azamen Night" held at Satellite Town, Lagos attracted over 1,500 guests.

It featured performances by artistes like Sky B ('My Bebe, I'm calling'); Zino, with the Hit track 'Ishanu', Jeezy Benz, Damsel, HRH, John Oko (Mc Olorioko), Lambo Zaza, Mr. Lamgbash, Love connect, among others. Hqmarketplacee.com is an open Business -To-Consumer (B2C) platform enabling businesses to reach Africa's vast and growing consumer market.

The company has established itself as the destination for quality branded products, catering to an increasingly sophisticated African consumer(s).

The Country Representative West Africa and IT Administrator, Mr. Ikechukwu Bright Diamond, said the event was organised to encourage young talents in the music and entertainment industry to enable youths understand the concept of using their skills to make a living legitimately so as to curb public nuisance and crime in the country.

He announced that the event will be replicated in various locations in Lagos and beyond.

The star performing artiste, 'SkyB, thanked the management of the company and the organisers of the show, Don O Entertainment for a job well done. He described Hq MarketPlacee as an upcoming and well organised brand which he has started patronising.

Sharing his experience in the music industry and his debut, he said: "I remember my first album with the hit tracks 'Im calling and Pray for me'. I performed these songs in 1997 my dad's burial which went viral in the airwaves, but I had to let it go in 2005 when it was launched.

"These tracks gave me so much love and fame from my fans especially the track 'pray for me' in which I mentioned my first love Ali, a Kalabari name which means mother who I miss so much when she passed on."

He said his future plan is to venture into the movie industry since he had worked with the Directors Guild of Nigeria (DGN) before his fame in the music industry.

On his part the CEO of Don O Entertainment, Mr. Oliver Onomanide (Don Oliver), said: "I thank the management of Hq MarketPlacee for giving me the opportunity to organise this show and the love for reaching out to the youths and supporting the entertainment industry. Entertainment is all about making oneself happy. We thank you for making us happy."

SHOWBIZFLAIR

BBO2 Draws Attention with *'Eyes Dey Red'*

Duro Ikhazuagbe

United States of America-based Nigerian-American musician, songwriter and record label executive, Jesse Adesotu Woghiren-Obamedo, known professionally as THE BBO2, is excited by the progress made so far by the latest single he dropped in August that has garnered well over one million streams.

"Eyes Dey Red" released under his Bigmanity Records label is an Afro-fusion genre, addressing the many troubled political trend around the country and the world as a whole.

BBO2 insists he may be in the Diaspora, he is not oblivious of the mounting political and economic problems in Nigeria and "Eyes Dey Red" is his way of drawing attention to the many challenges pervading the length and breadth of Nigeria.

Laced in rich vocals, reminiscent of legendary Fela Anikulapo's Afrobeat style but different with rap infusions, "Eyes Dey Red" makes great use of drums, trumpets and saxophones to give that Afro-fusion vibe that is gripping the world at the moment.

Speaking from his base in US during the week, BBO2 stressed "we cannot pretend that all is well with us as a nation right now. Our leaders need to address those things making "Eyes Dey Red".

BBO2 believes Nigeria's strength lies in her population and diversity of culture. "We must do all possible to tap our diversity and population to become economic and political force globally. We have what it takes as a nation to give our people better lives," observed the artiste, who also has a clothing line called LOTRAFX.

With previous tracks like TNKOTB, Winter Vibes, Oyoyo, Feeling What I Feel and Zinga Zinga Ling released on his Bigmanity label, BBO2, who has degrees in Music & Business Management / Intellectual Properties Laws from the Northeastern University in Boston, USA, is currently executing viable plans to kickstart a major carnival of songs, dance and drumming.

"I want to continue the legacy of my grandfather. I am currently working on plans for a festival of songs, dance and drumming this time around on a global scale. That is one legacy of my grandparents and family I want to continue," BBO2 hinted with pride.

He recalls how in the traditional Bini setting, farmers' harvest time used to be celebrated with music and dance. "We as Africans should not run away from our heritage. We used to celebrate harvest time with dance and music. It was our ways of thanking God for annual robust harvest of agricultural produce and crops. I want to continue this tradition through this music festival."

As an entrepreneur with tentacles spread beyond USA and Nigeria, BBO2 insisted he just didn't come into music but have it in his genes. Born into the royal family of Chief Egbe (Omedo) Woghiren of King Obanosa lineage in Benin City, BBO2's influence must have come from his parents. His mother used to perform at family events in the US while his grandfather, the First Obamedo, a descendant of King Obanosa was a renowned musician in his time.



BBO2

Etinosa's Psychological Thriller, 'Dear Sister' is Ready

Dear Sister, an engrossing movie produced by ace actor Etinosa Idemudia will hit cinemas on October 28.

Sequel to this, the psychological thriller was screened by the press, cast and crew, as well as members of the Third Church in Lekki on Sunday.

Highly captivating and tear-jerking Nollywood flick, Dear Sister tells the story of two sisters, Isoken and Ifueko. Isoken's marriage goes through a tough test as the past comes calling when she invites her sister Ifueko to live with her and her loving husband, James, who was once Ifueko's suitor.

The movie stars Etinosa Idemudia, Angela Eguavoen, Daniel K Daniel, Ese Idia, Jennifer Osawe, Joshua Nnedu.

After several failed attempts to rekindle James' feelings for her, a desperate Ifueko unleashed her malevolent intentions, dishing out high-octane suspense to viewers. The beauty of the movie lies in its well-told emotional twists that ultimately climaxed into doom, with subtle comic relief infused in the movie.

After the screening, the writer and producer of Dear Sister movie, Etinosa, said, "Dear Sister is a replica of real-life family issues put into play. Many women are going through unprintable issues in their homes occasioned by their own families and some by their husband's family members. So, Dear Sister is a re-creation of a true African story. And as seen in one of the movie's central themes, love will always prevail."

Naija Star Search: Eviction Fear Evokes New Afrobeats Sounds

The Naija Star Search talent hunt show reached an unprecedented height when the fear of eviction drew the best of new Afrobeats sounds from contestants.

Episode eight of the weekly televised show evoked brilliance and raw talent from Kachi, Sparrowh, Tomz, Skimzo, MB Dre, Melo, Greysky and Eniola, who battled hard to evade eviction.

With a massive sum of N10m in cash prizes, a recording contract, and an opportunity to reach for the skies, the four contestants channeled all their arsenals toward evading eviction.

Tomz was smoking with lyrics as she expressed hope and future possibilities of where her career is going despite hurdles in the carefully composed song entitled 'I Still Dey Ok.' Her performance aroused all the judges, who couldn't help but nod in acceptance of her delivery.

Next was Skimzo, who left the judges and studio audience singing along to his catchy hook on the song, 'Money.' Though Skimzo's performance started low, he ended it with everyone in the studio singing along. Even VJ Adams, the show host, couldn't help singing along to the catchy hook as he wrapped up Skimzo's performance.

MB Dre, who performed the song, 'Ama Ri Rawa,' clearly informed the audience and judges of his penchant for love theme. He sang joyously to arouse affection from judges and the studio audience, who listened and watched his performance with rapt attention.

Esther Whyte Set to Open Night Club

Tosin Clegg

The Queen of Nightlife, Esther Whyte has ventured into nightclub business with her new spot, 606 Lounge and Club set for opening November 5, 2022 in Lagos.

The multiple award-winning actress, OAP, radio DJ, film producer and an all-round entrepreneur has relentlessly spent months putting the place together and getting it ready to provide a night life experience like no other.

Expressing why she ventured into the business, Whyte said, "Everyone close to me knows I'm a nightlife Queen, even those who watch me from afar because every weekend I'm in a club popping bottle. I love good music, I love drinking and most importantly, I love dancing. It would have been so unfair to me not to own a club. I love to see people dancing happily in the club and I'm mostly happy when I'm partying, that's why I decided to open a club in Lagos because they're a lot of people like me in Lagos and I just wanted to create a safe haven for them."

Invitations have been sent out to guests for the grand opening of the club situated in a high brow area of Lekki, Lagos and the night would feature musical performance by Buju. The club has been tastefully built, constructed to suit a proper atmosphere of good music, delicious vibes, engaging lightings, a safe haven and many more for its guests.



Esther Whyte

Whyte adds: "606 is of the assurance that guest should expect premium entertainment and a new nightlife experience that they have never seen before and her owner wants to show them why they call her, the Queen of Nightlife. A lot of celebrities will be coming for the opening night and we will be having different performances from different top artistes and Deejays through-out the opening month and afterwards."

Kingsview TV to Premiere 'Finding Dorothy'

Tosin Clegg

In keeping with its mandate of telling compelling stories, streaming platform, Kingsview TV will on October 28, 2022, start streaming its latest production, 'Finding Dorothy'.

It is a story of uncommon friendship and sacrifice, the film stars some of the acclaimed actors in Nigeria including the likes of Bolaji Ogunmola, Scarlet Gomez, Preacher Bassey, Inem King and Maggie Osuome.

In 'Finding Dorothy', Ife, a media consultant, returns home from work to find that her help, Dorothy has gone missing. Nudged by the need to find answers, Ife puts her job and personal relationships on the line as she goes in search of Dorothy determined to find her, no matter the price.

Producer of the flick, Blossom Chukwujekwu says that the film speaks to the multi-layered challenges Nigerians face today. In his words, a movie that both entertains and challenges the imagination of its viewers.

"The world is in a seaming crisis today and the best way to navigate the everyday challenges we face is by reminding ourselves not to lose our humanity. The movie is a reminder that we are more united than we know, or are made to believe. That is why Ife is willing to lay aside the class difference between them to go in search of her beloved help.

The film also explores other sub-themes like insecurity and the need for a just society," Chukwujekwu said.

He further revealed that the film would be screening exclusively on the Kingsview streaming platform; www.kingsview.tv as well as on its mobile app which can be accessed via the IOS and Google play store.



A scene from "Finding Dorothy"

SHOWBIZFLAIR

Mavin All-Star Album Loading

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

One of Nigeria's frontline music labels, Mavin Records will mark 10-years soon. And in celebration of the anniversary, the Record label is planning a Mavin all-star single in November, to be followed by an album and a concert this December. Don Jazzy made the announcement on Instagram, alongside a photo of the Mavin stars - Crayon, Rema, Ayra Starr, Ladipoe, DJ Big N, Bayanni, Boy Spyce, Magixx, and Johnny Drille.

The Mavin all-star album will be released on December 2, while the Mavin all-star concert is scheduled for December 16. The album will feature, Rema, Ayra Starr, Crayon, Johnny Drille, Ladipoe and the newbies- Magixx, Bayanni and Boyspyce.

Mavin's new single will be a follow up to the label's mega hit track titled, "Overdose".

Don Jazzy wrote: "It's more fun when it's with family. Excited to announce the Mavin at 10 special, curated specially for our fans. New Single- 2nd November, Mavin all-star Album- 2nd December Mavin all-star concert w/ @livespotx – 16th December."

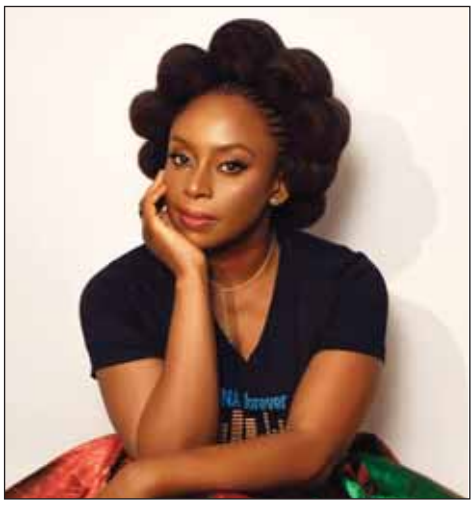
For months, Don Jazzy and his superstars have been teasing fans about the release of a star album after 10 years. His team had released an all-star album in 2012, titled 'Looku Looku'. Tiwa Savage, Dr Sid, Korede Bello, D'Prince, Dija and Reekado Banks were all the artistes featured on the album. Some of which have moved on after they left the label.

Don Jazzy has nurtured great talents from start to stardom. Known for its tradition of making hit songs, after a long spell in 2019, released a single 'All is in Order' and its video, showcasing the new generation of Mavin artistes signed to rejig the label then.



Mavin All Stars

Chimamanda Adichie in Conversation at CANEX WKND 2022



Chimamanda

The CANEX WKND 2022, a 3-day gathering of creatives from across Africa and the Diaspora, holding in Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire, November 25 to 27, will play host to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie where she is expected to share her experiences as a creative writer.

The globally- acclaimed author, who was recently decorated with Harvard University's iconic W.E.B. Du Bois Medal will take part in a fireside chat called When Giants Speak.

She will be interviewed by the publisher of the Nigeria editions of her books, Dr. Eghosa Imasuen, on 26th November 2022, in "a conversation that will focus on her journey within the Creative Writing space, what it took to get to where she is and what more she looks forward to.".

Dr. Imasuen adds, "My session with Ms Adichie will provide writers, editors and all those seeking careers in the creative writing space with insight into her personal journey and how any of them can contribute to changing African narratives."

Chimamanda Publishers, Narrative Landscape Press, in collaboration with the Society of Book and Magazine Editors, and the Jalada Africa Collective will be facilitating a creative writing masterclass at the Creative Africa Nexus Weekend (CANEX WKND) 2022 billed for Abidjan, Cote d' Ivoire from 25 to 27 November 2022.

The masterclass sessions, which will be conducted by seasoned facilitators such as Ms Anwuli Ojogwu, Ms Edwige Dro and Ms Wanjeru Gakuru in the creative writing industry, will cover a wide range of topics.

As contained in the schedule for the masterclass session, participants will get to learn about the elements of creative writing, the best support systems for writers to avoid burnout as well as how writers can edit their works. The intricacies of legal agreements and contract laws as well as rates for freelance work; reading a royalty report and other accounting issues will all be taught during the masterclass session.

Other interesting topics at the CANEX 2022 Creative Writing Masterclass include how to deal with agents, scouts and publishers. Issues around branding and selling oneself and seeking management and representation are some of the other areas that would be dealt with in the masterclass session.

CANEX WKND 2022 will be a 3-day gathering of creatives from across Africa and the diaspora, leading up to the next Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) Summit at IATF2023.

Lagos Readies for NAFEST 2022, Says Festival Will Be Memorable

Justina Uzo

No doubt, there is high expectation from people across the country as this year's National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) berths in Lagos State, a state with the appellation, "Centre of Excellence."

The number of participating states, it was gathered, keeps on increasing by the day.

Several Lagos State authorities, from security, transportation, accommodation and logistics, are on the driver's seat to ensure the state hosts a memorable festival that will be difficult to surpass.

The event's venue, National Institute for Sports, National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos has been given a face-lift, thanks to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's intervention.

There was a media facility tour of the rehabilitated parts of the sporting facilities, recently, to see the level of Lagos State Government's preparedness for the festival.

The accommodation and other amenities for the 35th edition of NAFEST slated to hold between November 7 and 13 are ready.

Lagos State Government officials said Sanwo-Olu directed that nothing should be left to chance in the hosting of Eko NAFEST at the soccer arena.

The state's Commissioner of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Uzmat Akinbile-Yusuf assured that preparations for the cultural fiesta, dubbed Eko NAFEST has reached 99 per cent.

Akinbile-Yusuf while appreciating Lagos State Governor for the moral and financial support towards a successful hosting said: "We are excited and can't wait to welcome Nigerians from all walks of life to our city of aquatic splendour and excellence. We shall bring glamour to this iconic festival with a special outing of Eyo masquerade. And believe me, the opening ceremony slated for Onikan Stadium will unveil the full entrainment entrapment ever seen anywhere."



L-R: Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Uzamat Akinbile-Yussuf; DG, NCAC, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs. Oyinade Nathan-Marsh, during a recent facility tour by Runsewe

She said Lagos would make a significant difference to NAFEST, which Lagos last hosted in 1988.

Indeed, the once defaced sports arena is wearing a new look. The facilities have not had it so good. Not a few said the governor is committed to culture with what's on ground.

There's a noticeable improvement in the rest rooms, lighting and cleaning of concrete seats that service two-mini sports venues at NIS complex.

On accommodation, Lagos State Government promised that participating states would be given decent housings.

The commissioner hinted that apart from the lodging at Bariga Area of the metropolis, there are other facilities earmarked by the state for the participants.

The Lagos State NAFEST team is waiting for the participants from the 36 states to register.

According to her, "Lagos State is 100.1 per cent ready as the host state for the 35 edition of NAFEST. Governor Sanwo-Olu has promised the nation that he is going to keep this year's edition of NAFEST as a story that will be very difficult in Nigeria to beat in the next 10 years.

"With what you saw today, it is clear that Lagos State is not just saying it by words of mouth, but it has put it into action. Like the first place we visited, Lagos State has been able to rebrand our iconic National Stadium and today it has become a new edifice that all of us as Nigerians can be proud of.

"He actually asked all agencies of government that will participate in NAFEST to roll up their sleeves. We are all here not only the Ministry of Tourism that is the hosting ministry, the LASTMA, Neighbourhood, security agencies and everybody we are all ready to host the nation."

Also speaking during the facility tour, the Director General, the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) Otunba Segun Runsewe, said with the quality of amenities he saw, the state was fully ready to host the 35th edition in a special way.

He added that Nigerians should be ready for a surprise package: "Basically, when I was asked to come and visit some of the facilities in Lagos State, I thought it was a joke. I came first with the Permanent Secretary and then later Commissioner of Tourism and her team, and I could not believe there is this kind of facility in Lagos State. Firstly, there is an upgrade to the standard of receiving delegates. You can see some of the rooms are air- conditioned, for example.

"For me Lagos State is ready to spring a surprise and Governor Sanwo-Olu as a governor who matches his words with action and is fully ready to receive the country. Lagos State is fully ready to host NAFEST. The commissioner just told me that there will be an entertainment city, medical centres among others. I am still waiting till next week to see these things come to reality but as of today Lagos State is ready."

Wishing our darling beautiful friend and sister,

Mrs. Titilola Joyce Adenuga, TJA

A HAPPY 60TH Birthday AND BEYOND.



Mrs Titilola Joyce Adenuga
Tiglo, TI

Tiglo, may our good Lord continue to bless and be with you always in Jesus Name.

LLNP.....

Enjoy your day.

TI@60!







Courtesy:

Mrs Bolatito Adeosun-Garuba

Amb. Toyin Ogunbambi

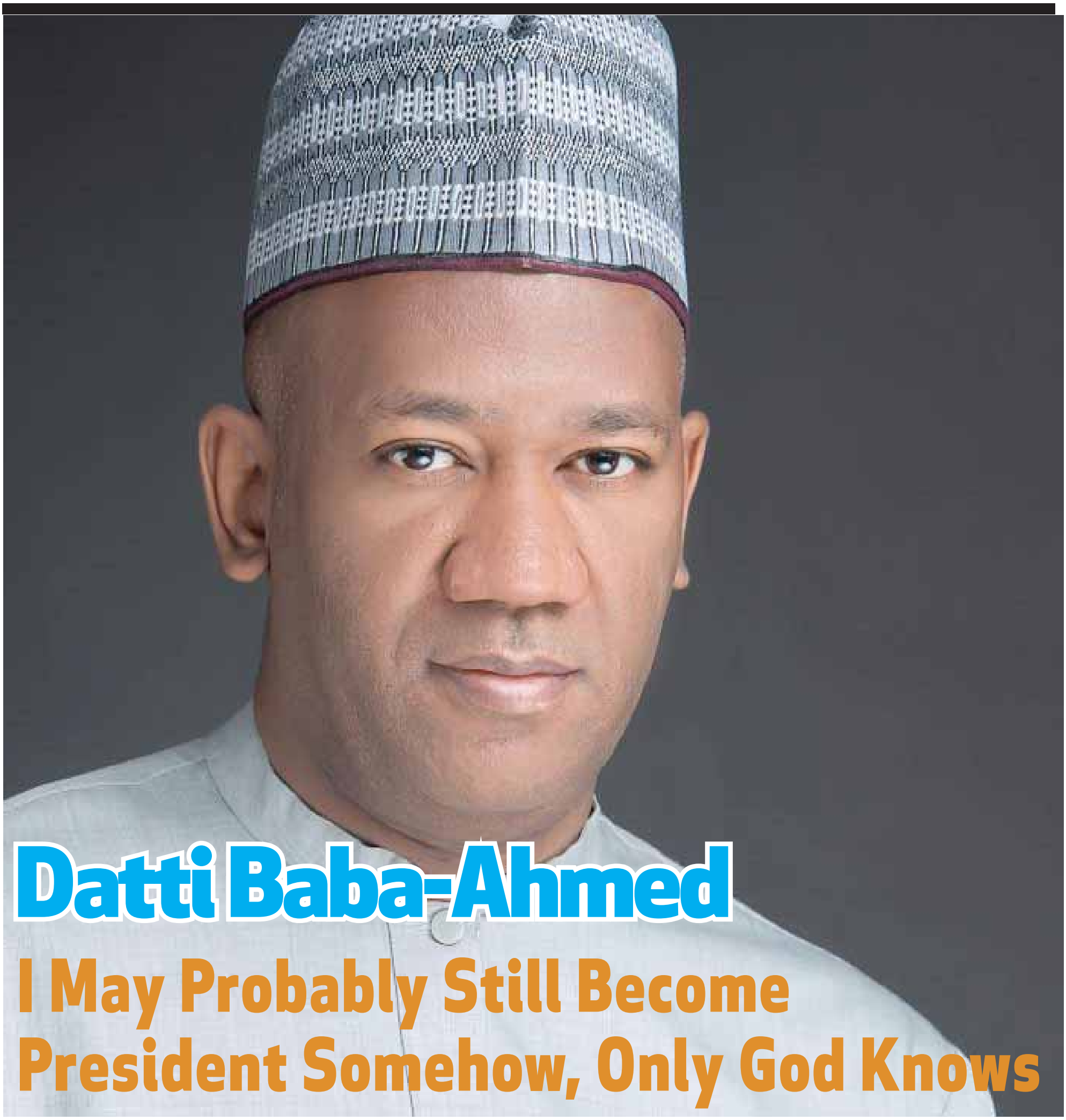
Mrs Yetunde Talabi
(Yetty Yetty oooooh)

Ms Ajibike Babatunde *(DHL)*

Barr. Segun Babatunde

And Families...

THISDAY Plus



Datti Baba-Ahmed

I May Probably Still Become President Somehow, Only God Knows

PLUS

Datti Baba-Ahmed

I May Probably Still Become President Somehow, Only God Knows

The suave, enigmatic, fearless and blunt Datti Baba-Ahmed is the Vice-Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 election. In this encounter with ***Adedayo Adejobi,*** *he talks about on how his party will quickly address rising cost of living, unemployment and insecurity if it wins the presidential election. Baba-Ahmed is upbeat about how an LP government will revive education, tackle injustice and income inequality in Nigeria*

You wanted to be President four years ago. Now, it's Vice President. What has changed?

Nothing has changed. I simply continue to believe that almighty Allah gives power to whom He wills, when He wills, and how He wills. Nothing has changed in that regard, but 2019 was for northern Muslim as far as the rotational context and the co-existence of multitude of ethnic and religious mix in Nigeria are concerned. I was highly honoured by the fact that most of the Southern Christian aspirants curtailed and controlled their burning ambitions in 2019. So, it was the time for the north and for the Muslims. You know the likes of all the front runners; Wike, Tinubu and Amaechi stayed back. Even though Obi knew he is capable, he respected the fact that it was not their turn.

Now, this is 2023 Presidential election. His Excellency Peter Obi was in search of a running mate. He did his due diligence and they came up with me, and I had no reason in this world not to accept. I may probably still be on the way to Presidency somehow, only God knows. But one thing I am sure is that a human cannot ask God for something and then tell God how and when to do it. That's not our own. It's for him to decide. So, nothing has changed.

In my interaction with you in 2015, you said the only office that's with the power and authority for the work you want to do for Nigeria is the office of the President. Nothing less than the power of that office would allow you to do those grand designs you have for Nigeria. If elected VP, would you be constrained?

I remember the answer to that question. Well, put it this way, I am on the way to that office. Don't forget I am simply human and I don't make things happen. I happen along with things as they happen. I can only aspire. I can only try. If it doesn't happen, then who am I? It is that simple. How many people can at one point in time make themselves Presidents in the whole generation. It's just a handful. And if you check, so many examples of them who never even thought that they would become President. President Jonathan, from Local Government Chairman to Deputy governor. He became Governor, Vice President and later President. Some of these things are above human comprehension.

How did you become the preferred choice for Peter Obi?

At a time, I was due for Kaduna primaries, I was out of the country when I started getting calls. I always answer calls, even though I don't know the number. One thing led to another and they mentioned it to me. So, I said, can I just understand why me, and they said why not you? They then gave me reasons and facts I know very well. But the undeniable thing is that I really, really want to fix Nigeria, and that is why I contested Presidency in 2019 and Governorship in 2022. I really want to fix Nigeria. There is nothing legal and legitimate that I will not do for the sake of my dear Nigeria.

Do you really think Nigeria can be fixed by your party?

Yes. Absolutely, and very quickly! We need to stop the killings, stop the stealing, the fall of the Naira and then begin to focus on instilling higher morality, stronger discipline and stronger character.

How does your team plan to turn Nigeria's economic doldrums to a rejuvenated one?

To turn Nigeria's economic doldrums to a rejuvenated one, we will trap all our revenue very well. Our revenue will be used for security, education and health care, for Nigeria's maximum value at minimum cost. We will remove any personal interest from government business. By doing that, you are already achieving five times more with the same amount of money. Just imagine five times more! More money to cater to security, because we will equip the security services five times more and train them more with the same amount. We will have longer roads, more well-equipped schools and hospitals. Just imagine basic amenities in multiples of five with the same amount of money by simply removing personal, group and political interests from those things.



Baba-Ahmed

Peter Obi and I have the political will because we are not in search of any worldly gain from this government. We are not coming into this government to look for money. We are looking to run a Nigerian government that is in money. Then, we would trap all our revenue, deploy more technology to create more revenue and businesses. Farmers will go back to their farmlands all over the north and introduce more products and more produce. Old industries will thrive whilst new industries will spring up. We will promote linkages, enhance export, rejuvenate the financial system, collect consumption tax and reform imports system such that within 24 to 48 hours, importers can clear their goods.

In fixing our economy, we will unleash the power of the Nigerian youths who are currently trapped. We will educate them with skills quickly, to be employers of themselves and others so as not to go into government employment.

Nigerians would be dealing with a banker as President who knows how to put money in people's hands, and a Vice President who knows how to engage in the area of professional education. In essence, Nigerians have got an excellent combination it has never had before.

Nigeria is a very complex country. What do you think you and Obi have that Atiku/Okowa and Tinubu/Shettima don't possess?

What Peter Obi and I have and other don't possess is that we tend to do what we say, and we say what we know we would do. Besides, our histories are different. Peter Obi became Governor in Anambra State and he achieved so much. Eight years later, he is a happy citizen aspiring to Presidency with no controversies and no allegations of fraud or corruption. All the attempts that were made failed.

From the little businesses I do, to my community service, my service to the state, my life is one humble history.

Contesting in Port-Harcourt in 2019, and proudly, yet honourably, scoring the lowest number of votes without bribing anyone, was probably my happiest run. At least, I satisfied my conscience.

The Obedients's are changing the rules of the game. Does the 2023 process offer any hope?

The happiness that I see in some of the northern states I visited last one week is a true attestation to the fact that Obedients's are changing the rules of the game. This question is timely. I was telling them that the happiness I see in them, is not because they are satisfied with the conditions they are living. They are only banking on hope. They all said yes, that it's true. The hope is what is giving people smiles on their faces, giving them the kind of energy they thought they didn't have. Yes, the obedient generation will make the difference in Nigeria's political history. They will, by remaining steadfast, strong, focused and resisting the cause for religion and ethnicity; whilst promoting understanding between faiths and ethnicity. The Obidient generation will do well resisting temptations of money from the super-rich politicians who have pillaged our national wealth and are ready to spend it in becoming Nigeria's next President.

What sort of qualities do we need to see in the next President of Nigeria- whoever takes office in 2023?

The capacity to remove personal interest from government affairs: by extension, interest of groups and other political interests. Whoever takes over office must have at heart the supremacy of national interest in all his undertakings, and I am able to see that in Peter Obi, that is why I am supporting him.

He has also shown deep knowledge of governance and a deeper knowledge of Nigeria itself. The President who will tell you the size, context, turnover of corporate constitutions and blue-chip companies with relevant data to back up his claims. It is amazing for him to know all those kinds of things. Well, as a Banker and Banking Executive, one deeply knowledgeable and experienced in governance, the way he led Anambra State to a great deal of victory and also improved its revenue, infrastructure, and education, bringing them from the 24th position to number one in education, speaks volume.

A good attribute of Peter Obi is his energy and capacity to make people reason with him. As a leader, he carries the people along. He doesn't detach himself from the citizens. I see all these and more in Peter Obi.

What do you have to say about injustice in Nigeria today?

Injustice is more or less becoming the norm. Economically speaking, people are deprived of the dividends of democracy. Take a clear case of foreign exchange. With the complexity of exchange rates, the most productive ones buy it at the most exorbitant rates, and the fat cats in the corridors of power and influence the money launderers are those who do nothing except suck the blood of the nation. They add no value to the economic system of Nigeria, yet take the money. When they take the money, they don't help the economy at all. They either hide it or they keep it away.

The absence of good governance is another situation in Nigeria that has left people to defend themselves by themselves. You, the press, you know it has been reported that some states have already called on their people to go and train themselves to the extent that a governor is even calling for arms to be licensed. I am surprised that the governor is still in office. It's not just one state. Inequality is the highest form of injustice that can happen to the Nigerian people.

Without calling test cases, the aggravated corruption in one government office, in excess of a N110 by an alleged official in EFCC custody, is a case in point. There are many more we do not get to hear about. There is injustice in everything. People are killed daily and nothing happens. The killers still roam the street waiting for the next person to kill, yet nothing happens. Our children

We Need to Stop the Killings, Stop the Stealing, Stop the Fall of the Naira



L-R: Baba-Ahmed, Ibrahim Babangida and Peter Obi

were out of school for almost eight months. This is the highest level of moral injustice. There is no doubt injustice is everywhere.

What will Labour party do to address injustice?

We will get our children back to the universities immediately. We will make sure they stay for their four-year course. And earlier answers I have given will address some of these challenges. There would be justice across the Nigerian Armed Forces and Nigeria's judicial system, especially in criminal cases. The multiplicity of the exchange rates will be abolished. Only the productive sectors will legitimately obtain Forex. All those fat cats, money launderers will be done away with; because we don't have them around us. If we don't have them around us now, we would not have them around us later.

How would a Labour Party government at the centre quickly address rising costs of goods and services and insecurity?

We would really like to know exactly what happened and those behind banditry. We won't fall into any matter we do not understand. We are beginning to understand it now, but we would fully understand if and when we get there. We would also look at recruitment in the expansion of the security forces, particularly the police. The Police would be equipped like never before - all the way from the major to the medium to the minor soft equipment.

From systems level, we would train Nigerian security forces in the context of addressing banditry in the forest, whilst modifying operations of the Nigerian Armed Forces. We would spend money to obtain maximum value at minimal cost. That way, we would have much more money. Employment and appointments would be on merit. Never again would any position in government be bought. The laws will be applied without fear or favour across board, away from its usual indiscriminate application.

As a Founder of a successful private university in the nation's capital, if you become Vice President, how would you address The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) aged-strike, revamp the Federal universities and the nation's education system?

We will immediately get The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government together. I would like to think that His Excellency, Peter Obi, would preside in that meeting. If he wishes in his wisdom, he could leave either the minister but I would like someone higher than the minister to handle and see it through and I would be very very glad to handle that. It's a meeting that will continue nearly on a daily basis in the first two or three weeks. They will resume immediately. We will adjust and modify their demands in the reality of the present economy of Nigeria. Once we agree on it, we will set up an implementation team and they go back to the universities. ASUU's requests are legitimate. The universities are in need of serious investment and that's exactly what we would do.

There are indications that a considerably high proportion of Nigeria's youth and old are angling to vote in February's election. ANAP Foundation has predicted victory for Peter Obi whilst the UK-based Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), an arm of The Economist of London, predicted victory for Tinubu. Even though the pre-election polls may not be accepted by all, no matter how scientific it may seem, who do you see the Presidency going, to come 2023?

I see the 2023 Presidency going to Peter obi, of course. This is the first time I am hearing of any magazine predicting an APC candidate for victory. It is hardly possible for APC to ever win the 2023 elections. This is a gentleman who is responsible for bringing in this administration that has brought Nigeria to this deplorable state. Nigerians can never trust this person again. He added his three million votes to Buhari's existing 12 million votes to bring him to power, simply because after eight years, he wants to come and rule. You cannot play God with Nigerian politics. No way, I don't see how Nigerians suffering to access dollar at N730 as opposed to its former N197 and the escalating prices of food stuff, will make that mistake.

According to security statistics, before 2015, the average Nigerian was at least 20 kilometres away from an illegal firearm, but now the average Nigerian is less than two kilometres from fire arm. The presence of Peter Obi and the Labour party is giving hope. Besides, Nigerians have never been so disunited like we are today. You will see Nigerians coming together to say we know this is wrong. I can never imagine an APC victory in Nigeria ever again. If it happens, it will remain a mystery. It's only by mystery that APC will ever win, and it is anything but democracy. Democracy doesn't only have arms, democracy has legs. The second leg of democracy is that the will of the people must be consistent with the creation and removal of leadership.

Now, Nigerians aspire to live in peace and prosperity, so any government that has done the opposite is not consistent with democracy. For that party to present itself and win election, it is anything but democracy. This is knowledge in the making. I am not claiming to have it, but we can't sit down forever to say that we are living by the three arms of democracy. There is something beyond that.

So, you are confident, the presidency is coming to Labour Party next year?

By the grace of God. Let everybody open their eyes, hearts and minds. To see and think it has been narrowed now to three individuals. Peter Obi at 61, no controversy, no draw backs, full of experience, full of energy and an unblemished character. You can see the proven commitment, and the other two whose names I don't have to call, especially the controversies surrounding them. You know their drawbacks and limitations. Nigeria needs a super President that can work

Well, put it this way, I am on the way to that office. Don't forget I am simply human and I don't make things happen. I happen along with things as they happen. I can only aspire. I can only try. If it doesn't happen, then who am I? It is that simple. How many people can at one point in time make themselves Presidents in the whole generation. It's just a handful

a minimum of 14 hours a day, who Nigerians want to see, has to be able to eat, sleep, work from whatever situation you are working for the country. You sleep Nigeria, you wake up Nigeria.

For a party that has not been at the fore, much so one said not to have political structure, considering the short time available to campaign, how does your party intend to cover the local government areas across 36 states of the country?

We already have covered in terms of winning figures. Labour Party has always been present in every state. Obedient movement is a Tsunami. There was a Tsunami before in the north but it was small Buhari Tsunami before Tinubu added his own to make the difference. The Obi Tsunami is nearly across Nigeria. There has been a bit of Tsunami in the five different northern states, and the last round of turns I have been making has made me realise that the northerners and Muslims are up to the task. I think my people have been underestimated. The level of awareness of the Labour Party in the North is shocking. There's reasonable awareness among the people. It can be low, but it's not as bad as we thought.

Politicians are fond of denying campaign promises. The 2023 Presidential election is significant on many fronts, and so it is important you are held to account, especially on the premise that you're promising freshness. When will Nigerians get to see your manifesto?

It is about being rolled out, and you know it has to come from the party. I cannot speak for the party. Rest assured that anything to do with the standard responsibility of leaders, we would never deny it. We are ready to accept responsibility. We will never blame anybody for things going wrong.

Should Peter Obi win the elections come 2023, how will your administration serve successfully without having Labour Party members in the National Assembly, governors and local governments?

Some will convert and we are likely to get some more people into the Labour Party fold. His Excellency Peter Obi has shown while he was Governor that he's a good man, one-man army who has made history in politics. He became governor when all the state assembly members were PDP members. They impeached him and he came back. By the time he came back, the times had changed, but the man hasn't. The man has improved, and that is why I am there to help him.

By the grace of God almighty, if we are able to win the elections, security will improve in such a way that the killings will stop and Nigerians can move around freely breathing that air of liberty without fear that someone would come at you at night. The Naira that you earn next week is not going to be less in value, and you can invest it. There will be no one stealing your national wealth, stealing the crude oil, no one in offices inflating contracts. Wait until you see those things happen.

What is your final word to Nigerians?

Avoid religion and ethnicity in Nigeria when it's time for elections. Let us unite, open our hearts, our minds, remove religion and ethnicity, vote credibility, vote capacity and proven character.

POLITY

Gov Abiodun and Governance Unusual

Femi Ogbonnikan

As an annual ritual, Ogun State Government on October 17, 2022, kicked off the innovative idea of seeking the inputs of the stakeholders into the budget preparation as a way of ensuring fiscal discipline, public confidence and accountability.

Here are the reasons for the novel idea of inclusive governance brought on board by Governor Dapo Abiodin when he assumed the mantle of leadership in May 2019.

One, openness and citizen's engagement encourages effective participation in governance. Secondly, people's involvement in decision- making process promotes trust and confidence between the government and the governed. More importantly, bringing governance closer to the grassroots enhances good governance and effective service delivery to the citizens. It also provides opportunity for a feedback on the performance of the government through direct engagement with the people, bearing in mind the fact that people are the means and end to development.

All of these are encapsulated in the vision of the governor to provide focused and qualitative governance through collective efforts of all the stakeholders geared towards sustainable economic development and prosperity for the people of the state. Looking back into the immediate past era of impunity and executive arrogance, the initiative is novel and refreshing. It is governance unusual because this is the first attempt by any administration in the state would engage the people directly in decision-making process on issues that affect their lives. So, for all intent and purposes, the idea is a practical demonstration of the bottom-top approach to governance which is rightly summed up into "Building Our Future Together" mantra of the present administration.

When Governor Abiodun made the declaration of his intention to champion a paradigm shift in governance in his inaugural address in May 2019, some cynics didn't give him the benefit of the doubt. They simply dismissed it as a mere slogan, saying it would fizzle out with time. But they got it wrong. In practical reality, it is a pledge that resonates among the critical stakeholders cutting across all sectors of the state's economy. And it will continue to be so in as much as the effort to sustain the trust and confidence between the government and the people can be sustained.

At an election session like this, the usual practice is for the state governors to chronicle their achievements as a basis for support for re-election. But Governor Abiodun, in his belief in public engagement and reciprocal trust, places high premium on feedback as a guide for future action plan. Basically, this strategic trust is based on the five developmental pillars embedded in ISEYA which translates literally into infrastructural development, Social Wellbeing, Education, Youth empowerment and job creation as well as Agriculture and food security.

Therefore, it was in furtherance of the administration's effort to consolidate on the gains of its inclusive governance that the stakeholders once again conversed on Ijebu-Ode in Ogun East Senatorial District for the Town-Hall meeting on Monday, October 17, 2022, to seek people's inputs into the



Abiodun

2023 budget and MidTerm and Expenditure Framework (MTEF). It was the first in the series to be held this year across the three senatorial districts as an interactive forum as well as a consultative and dialogue process with the citizens to obtain feedback on their desires, needs and requirements and contributions towards the preparation of the State's annual budget.

Like the previous one, the meeting brought together political appointees, elected representatives, top public and civil servants, students unions, artisans, market women and men, transport workers unions, labour unions, and traditional rulers for cross fertilization of ideas on how to enrich the 2023 budget document to achieve a better performance in the next fiscal year.

And as the governor rightly pointed out during the interactive forum, the 2023 budget is as important, if not more important than the other years since the inception of his administration, because it is a transition budget. "This budget will take us from the current phase into another phase of our "Building Our Future Together" Developmental Agenda in Ogun State," he told the gathering.

While setting agenda for the meeting, the governor further summed up the essence of the interactive forum, saying:

"We intend to consolidate on the global best-practice Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms that we started in 2019. Our fiscal policy thrust is based on providing an enabling business environment for private sector investments and partnerships through improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our key processes, including but not limited to land acquisition, business registration, construction permits, land titling, dispute resolution as well as provision of key infrastructure as well as incentives to attract investors into the State." This is clearly a total departure from the past, and it is already running deep into the system of the present administration. In order to widen the scope of the coverage of the public engagement, the Governor approved the extension of the yearly Town Hall meetings to Remo Division to harness their inputs for the 2023-2025 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and 2023 Budget. It was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

The State Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Mr. Olaolu Olabimtan, reviewing the inputs made by the people of the zone into the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and 2022 budget, said 85 percent of requests was included in the 2022 budget, while 65 projects were executed in each of the sections of the state.

Apart from consensus building process and the resultant feedback, one other major significance of this style of leadership is that it allows the people to choose the projects that are considered to be of priority importance to their wellbeing. And by so doing, it engenders the ownership of the process option, which is now the in thing around the world.

To that extent, it has significantly helped the government in policy conception, implementation and as a guide for even distribution of projects across the three Senatorial Districts and the local government areas of the state.

Governor Abiodun himself said this much in his address to the audience when he described his inclusive governance initiative as a government of the people, by the people and for the people. His words: "This process engenders a bottom-up approach, which provides a unique opportunity for our people to make meaningful contributions and provide inputs in their developmental needs and requirements, a further demonstration that this administration is truly a "government of the people, by the people and for the people".

To whom much is given, they say, much is expected. Thus, in a quick run-down of his achievements, the Governor gave a long list of infrastructural projects that had been completed and evenly distributed across the three senatorial districts and local government areas of the state.

"In the three senatorial districts, there are even, just and equitable distribution of resources. From the records, we have an average of 65 projects in each of the 20 LGAs all across the state," he added. According to him, the commitment of the administration towards infrastructural development has resulted in the building of over 80 major roads and 120 others, totaling 400 kilometers of roads either constructed, reconstructed or rehabilitated.

This is apart from the ongoing construction of the International Agro-allied Cargo Airport (Ogun State Agro-CargoAirport) which is a major step towards the transformation of the state to an industrial hub and investment destination of choice. The airport, the governor enthused, would not only create jobs for the people of the state, but also help the state increase its position on the Ease-of-Doing-Business Index.

Ogbonnikan wrote from Abeokuta, Ogun State

Read full article online - www.thisdaylive.com

Audit Reporting Mission from Lagos to Awka

Uzor Maxim Uzoatu

There was an invasion of Awka, the capital of Anambra State, by a troika of Nigeria's savviest journalists, and another guru served as a supporting voice from the United States of America. The invading journalists happened to be all my friends and former colleagues and bosses.

Sully Abu, former Editor-in-Chief/MD of African Guardian magazine and publisher at New Age newspapers; Eluem Emeka Izeze, former MD/CEO and Editor of The Guardian; Chido Nwakanma, ex-this of The Guardian, ex-that of ThisWeek Magazine, former Editor of Business Magazine etc came to Awka with the supporting voice of the legendary columnist Sonala Olumhense from America.

The lionized journalists were in Awka on behalf of FrontFoot Media Initiative to conduct an Audit Report Training which entailed X-raying State Government Audit Reports at Hilton Leisure Resort & Hotel, Awka on October 19 and 20. The training programme was organised under the auspices of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) and the sponsorship of the MacArthur Foundation.

FrontFoot Media Initiative chairman Sully Abu set the stage by stressing that the 42 participating journalists in the training will be empowered to learn how and where to locate the relevant audit reports, "interpret the material, and write engaging news stories and features that will enlighten, stimulate, and empower the electorate, and discourage impunity." Making a case for the significance of the media reporting on state audits, Abu stresses: "State houses of assembly meant to use auditor-general reports as vital tools to hold the executive to account sometimes find themselves neutered." For him, "The media is vital in spotlighting how budgets are made and public monies are spent… and the position of auditor-general is one of the most important offices of state." As the holders of the office have failed to influence governance and ensure accountability, Abu declares: "Our duty as journalists is to shed light on it and hold our leaders accountable and thus be part of the rebuilding process of our nation."

Speaking from the US on "Audit Reporting Imperative for Nigerian Journalists", Syndicated Sonala Olumhense charges the journalists to see themselves as the representatives of the people by exposing the underbelly of fraudulence in state auditing. He cited relevant sections of the Constitution to buttress his thesis. He believes strongly that the country can be changed through journalism. He avers that "the audit reports of every state are important towards fully reporting the country", insisting that journalists need to search for and publicise the reports by using Google in the search for Federal Government audits at https://oaugf.ng/ and also the audits of state governments through their websites at https://www.directory.org.ng/.

In his facilitation of "Principles & Purposes of (Public Interest) Journalism", Chido Nwakanma highlights the new breakthroughs of journalism as the necessary service to public good.

Prof Paschal Okolie, Special Adviser to the Governor of Enugu State on Financial Matters and former Accountant-General of Enugu State who spoke on "Principles and Applications of Auditing & Public Sector Finance" laments that while Nigeria has many laws to support the auditing of finances, there were many limitations hampering the proper implementation. He highlights the limitations such as ineffective compliance by many of the states of the federation with national and international standards and of course moral failure. Prof Okolie cites the instance of the Great Wall of China which was meant to protect China only to be sabotaged from inside by quislings. He stresses that all that is needed is the institution of character and integrity.

Emenike E.E. Ezinando, PhD, fca, Permanent Secretary, Anambra State Ministry of Finance and former Director, Office of the State Auditor-General, put forward on the front burner the loaded question: "Is it possible for an Auditor-General to function expectedly without basic independence, requisite autonomy, and above all, the backing of a committed and independent Legislature?" He answers his own question thusly: "Perhaps, this explains the emerging trend of some of our Auditors-General turning significant pages of their Annual Reports into inaugural addresses."

Prof E.I. Okoye, Director of the Unizik Business School, who treated the subject of "Principles of Government Budgets" reiterates the truism that "the primary motive of government budgeting is to secure the welfare of the people." According to the well-spoken professor of accounting, "A good government budgeting practice cannot thrive in a system that is void of respect for the rule of law, transparency, accountability and good governance." He cites the favourable situation of increasing citizen awareness and concern about the financial condition of the states and the Federal Government arising from the State Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) programmes, stressing: "In May 2016, National Economic Council (NEC) endorsed implementing the 22-point fiscal reform action plans by the Federal Government and the sub-nationals. The 22-point reform action plans include early and transparent publication and dissemination of budget and account information, biometric capture of workers to reduce incidences of ghost workers, and proper debt management, among others."

He brought needed attention to bear on the fact that the World Bank arranged with the Federal Government to support states in implementing the 22-point Fiscal Sustainability Plan and Open Government Partnership Agenda to strengthen fiscal transparency, accountability, and sustainability in the states.

Emeka Izeze renders telling testaments on crafting good stories on audit reports through solutions journalism that must be original, factual, trustworthy, and transparent.

It was indeed a highly rewarding two-day programme of collaborative media engagement armed with the charge: to improve financial management, State Governments must empower their Auditors-General.

POLITY

Peter Obi's Soothing Balm to Nigeria's Flood Victims

Emeka Alex Duru

It takes firsthand experience of the plight of Nigeria's flood victims to appreciate their piteous condition. Putting up in a make-shift environment or internally displaced persons' camp, is not a pleasant experience. It is a life of uncertainty, despondency and of acute emotional imbalance. Every day in such situation, regurgitates the wound of hopelessness and a sense of abandonment by the society.

52 years after the 1967-1970 Civil War, I still recall the night we were evacuated from our home, when it was obvious that that the rampaging federal forces had closed into my Orlu home town. Though as a kid then, that ugly experience jolts each time my mind flashes to those days. Dislocation is not what one would wish even his enemy. It can be shattering.

At that moment any hand of fellowship to the displaced, matters. Such gesture gives the people a ray of hope and sense of belonging. It lifts their spirit and makes them feel valued. Any person that does so, is hardly forgotten. He is seen as a man of the people, in fact, a hero.

That was what played out on Thursday, October 20, when the Labour Party's presidential candidate, Peter Obi, visited the flood victims' camp in Benue state. Recall that Obi had suspended his campaign to enable him visit and sympathize with Nigerians going through intense pains as a result of the natural mishap. In Anambra, Bayelsa, Taraba and other states he had visited, Obi boosted the morale of the distressed, and assured them that all was not lost. His visits to the camps served as soothing balm to the distressed inmates. The victims in turn, appreciated his show of concern.

But the Benue episode was quite spectacular and spoke loudly. As he arrived in a canoe paddled by the jubilant youths to identify and sympathize with them, Obi clearly brightened up the mood of the victims. When they sighted him in the canoe the people momentarily forgot their pains and shouted 'Obikererenke', Obi's popular campaign song, declaring him there and then; 'President of the People'. For effect, they kept thundering, "Our President is here. You are our President". That may mean much, in the long run. In Latin, it is said; 'vox populi, vox Dei (The voice of the people is the voice of God).

The LP candidate has bright chances in the 2023 election. He has the capacity, the character and the carriage – three essential requirements for leadership. He also has an antecedent built on trust and judicious management of human and material resources. Elsewhere, those rare qualities are enough to guarantee him the office. But you cannot take things for granted in a skewed system as ours. Many factors come to play in elections here.

Nevertheless, Obi has made his marks on the people. He has etched his name in their minds. He has shown empathy to them when they needed it. That falls into the definition of leadership, by late African statesman and former South African President, Nelson Mandela, in his great work, "Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela".



Obi

For Mandela, "A leader. . .is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the nimblest go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership."

In suspending his campaign, visiting the flood victims, feeling their pains and offering them hope, Obi has taken the front line. And the people have responded in the affirmative.

Few Nigerians like the late Gani Fawehinmi, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, had created such impacts and had received similar acclaims from the people. For his doggedness in defending the rights of the ordinary Nigerians against the arbitrariness of the government, Fawehinmi was named the Senior Advocate of the Masses (SAM), even before the legal authorities conferred him with the professional rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

In appreciation of his dedicated leadership to his Yoruba kinsmen especially in areas of education and good governance, Awolowo remains a sage to his admirers.

For the Igbo and other Nigerians with sense of justice, Ojukwu (Ikemba Nnewi), remains an icon, even at death. When duty called, he stood at the front, bared his chest and absorbed the bullets in defence of his people against the injustice of the Nigerian system. Such men are not easily forgotten by the people.

Obi is following their example in his pan-Nigeria project. He offers himself as the metaphorical scape goat, upon whose head are symbolically placed the sins and transgressions of an entire community, bearing the burden of atonement for sins it did not commit. He has repeatedly stressed that he is not desperate to be president but desperate to see Nigeria change for the better - from consumption to production. That is the message.

The system, he admits, is broken but can be fixed. He does not shy away from stating the facts as they are. "Today, Nigeria tops the list of fragile, failing states and ranks third on the list of most terrorised countries in the world. We have, since 2019, become the world poverty capital.

"We now have an army of 50 million out-of-school children, out of which about 60% of them have not been to school at all. Nigeria is now the most stressful country to live in, according to the stress level index", he said in one of his outings, stressing that unless critical decisions and actions are taken by Nigerians, the country is headed for deeper crisis.

But it is not all about lamentations. Obi also has programmes and agenda at reversing the trend. The other day at Harvard University, he gave a vivid picture of what his government would do in all critical areas, including his top three priorities, if elected to office. He listed his priorities as; Production-centered growth for food security and export; Securing and Uniting Nigeria; and Leapfrogging Nigeria from oil to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR); Effective legal and institutional reforms (rule of law, corruption and government effectiveness); Expanding physical infrastructure through market-driven reforms (unleashing growth-enabling entrepreneurship and market-creating innovations); Human capital development that empowers competitiveness; and Robust foreign policy that restores Nigeria's strategic relevance.

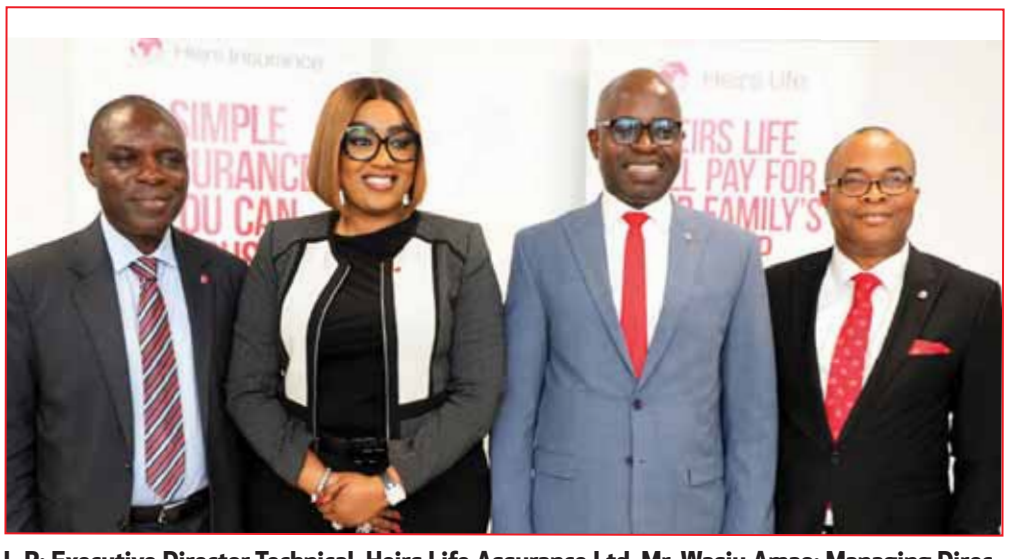
Achieving these would require addressing the menace of corruption, seen as a major obstacle to Nigeria's development. Obi has an answer; "We will have zero tolerance for corruption; block leakages and cut the cost of governance. Our total commitment to transparency and accountability in government business is the only credible way to achieve limited to zero corruption. The policies required to fight corruption already exist; it is the political will to implement them that has been lacking."

He has also pledged to revitalize the economy, address youth unemployment, tackle insecurity and deal with the contentious subsidy issue in the petroleum sector, by addressing the two elements involved - the corruption component and the real subsidy component. That is what leadership entails. It is a job to be done, not a prize to be won.

Duru is the Editor of TheNiche Newspapers, Lagos



L-R: Campaign Ambassadors, Eniola Adeoluwa and Teni Apata; European Union (EU) Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Samuela Isopi; EU beneficiaries, Federick Dike, and Ogola Lois Kange, during a press conference by EU to launch the Africa-EU Campaign, an initiative to promote the EU-Nigeria partnership, held at Eko Hotel in Lagos….. yesterday SUNDAY ADIGUN



L-R: Executive Director Technical, Heirs Life Assurance Ltd. Mr. Wasiu Amao; Managing Director/CEO, Heirs Insurance Ltd. Dr. Adaobi Nwakuche; Managing Director/CEO, Heirs Life Assurance Ltd. Mr. Niyi Onifade; and Executive Director, Technical, Heirs Life Assurance Ltd, Dr. Japhet Duru at a press held by the company in Lagos… yesterday SUNDAY ADIGUN



L-R: Country Manager, Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF), Dr. Ndudi Bowei; Founder, Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF), Apostle Folorunso Alakija; Singer/Songwriter, Lady Onyeka Onwenu; and NGO Coordinator, RoSF, Mrs. Oloruntosin Taiwo during the press conference to announce the official release of 'Rise Up,' a new song written and produced by Onyeka Onwenu in partnership with Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF) in Lagos…. yesterday SUNDAY ADIGUN



L-R: Group CEO, Fenchurch Group, Mr. Olufemi Bakare; COO, Freedom Park and Doyen, International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Nigeria Chapter, Ms. Iyabo Aboaba; President, International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Nigeria Chapter, Mr. Segun Adebayo; Director, Federal Public Asset Maintenance, Federal, Ministry of Works and Housing, Mrs. Tina Onokwai; Group Managing Director; Alpha Mead Group, Mr. Femi Akintunde; and Principal Partner, Jagun Associates and 1st IFMA Fellow in Africa,Mr. Stephen Jagun, at the 2022 Advocacy Day organised by IFMA Nigeria Chapter in Lagos recently ETOP UKUTT

EXPRESSION

Make-believe, Not 'Make-belief'



MEDIAGAFFES

EBERE WABARA
ewabara@yahoo.com, 08055001948

ONCE more, note that the word preceding any parenthesis in this column is wrong while the correct form is bracketed - except otherwise expressly stated or in reference to 'sic' or other regular attributions (sources).

DAILY INDEPENDENT of October 24 welcomes us this week with a tripod of jaundiced editorial and advertorial entries: "2022: Gang up against APC 'll fail—Kalu" Politics: Gang-up

"The Manna Prayer Mountain Ministry will hold it's (its) November Anointing Service…." (Full-page advertisement)

THE GUARDIAN of October 23 equally nurtured four terrible editorial and advertorial improprieties: "Yobe imposes curfew in (on/upon) Potiskum"

"He also said that (the word preceding this bracket is simply otiose - it is mere padding) the National Assembly is (was) to review the roles assigned to…." With a few (informed) discretional exceptions, the rules of reported speech are fixed and standardized.

"Celebrate the fastest growing (fastest-growing) network in 9ja" (Full-page advert by Etisalat)

"ICJ ruling on Bakassi: How Nigeria botched a last minute (last-minute) opportunity" (AIT News Scroll, October 18 Morning Belt) A station of this status should not advertise adjectival bliss! It questions public recognition.

"My senior (elder) brother, Femi…" (Guinness Nigeria PLC serial advertisement on DStv) 'Senior' is exclusive to workplace/office/official environments—its usage here embarrassingly contradicts the family context of the advertisement in question).

Overheard: "I want to barb my hair…" Get it right: I want to have a hair-cut—except if the person meant that he was going to put barbs/thorns on his hair, which is most unlikely!

"Police launches public information/complaint boxes" Police: always plural, never singular, verb.

"He said the completion rate of primary education is (was) 64 per cent…"

"FG orders new electricity firms to take-off soonest" Phrasal verbs do not admit hyphenation.

"Police boss assures on security" Who did he assure? There are transitive and intransitive verbs.

"Let me start by congratulating the readers of this column for (on/upon) their tenacity."

"The police seems (seem) not to be in a hurry to tell the public what caused the University of Port Harcourt barbarism."

"…friends and relations while the grassroot (grassroots) degenerate."

"These people have been declared persona non grata several times, arrested and done bodily harm." This way: personae non grata (plural). Singular: persona non grata.

"HIV/AIDS: Family Health International Rounds Up Alive 2022" Living Healthy: it is sickening that a reporter and his sub-editor colleague cannot differentiate between 'round off' and 'round up'! It is unfortunate that this particular blunder keeps recurring.

"We forget that the way we handle such matters speaks volume (volumes) of the kind of people we…"

"National integration based on coerciveness resulting to (in)…"

"This is not to say that ethnic chauvinism or hatred are non-existence (is non-existent) in Yugoslav politics…"

"Africa is steeped in fetish wickedness, ancestral generational curses, jealous friends, aunts, and unhappy mother-in-laws et cetera." It could be you: mothers-in-law.

"Buhari-bashing has suddenly become a national past-time." In defence of PMB as he begins to round off an uneventful tenure: pastime.

"Doctors strike: A post mortem" This way: Doctors' strike: A post-mortem.

"…government should be able to rely on foreign medical expatriates in building a strong healthcare delivery system." 'Foreign expatriates'? This is lexical paralysis!

"…the kind of danger African soldiering has continued to pose to political development and stability in (on) the continent."

My mix-up (penultimate Saturday): "… are their (there) cannibals that are not blood thirsty?" Apologies and thanks to the eagle-eyed reader who excitedly caught me in my own game! Such eye-popping and good-intentioned reactions are welcome.

Another reader also sought to know if media houses still had proofreaders. I believe there are still last gatekeepers in newspaper establishments. Most of the errors in publications today border on ignorance and laziness to read—not carelessness. If you are not optimally exposed to standard books and other printed materials and scholarly circumstances/environments, including new media technologies, you cannot be proficient in the use of the English language. It is not a mechanistic stuff; it requires voracious reading, always. So, the issue goes beyond having proofreaders or not. Just by the way, I started my classical journalism career as a proofreader in the Daily Times of yore—long, long before the viral interjection of the Anosikes!

Finally, another reader said he read elsewhere that 'gossiper' was also right for 'gossip'. For me, it depends on its contemporaneousness. In the currency of my time, I insist on 'gossip' being my preferred (British) entry. 'Gossiper' sounds vernacularly archaic and is unknown to my dictionaries/reference materials—particularly grammarly.com! Are there other views on this controversy?

I profusely thank Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi, who needs no introduction on account of his robust antecedents and current assignation, for those appreciative words via SMS a fortnight ago. Columnists cherish such humble interventions, especially when they come from members of the literati and fellow journalistic Field Marshals. A similar boost also came from another colleague in the pen fraternity and one of the pillars of the Public Relations Consultants' Association of Nigeria, Mr. Muyiwa Akintunde (ex-DTN man), an integrated marketing communications engineer reputed for strategic perception management. More reactions—critical, observatory, contributory or laudatory—are welcome.

"The feeling is that many don't want to be seen to take a position which would be interpreted as confrontational and as such they have resulted (resorted) to lobbying prominent figures outside government to…."

"These 17 luxury cars and SUVs of the late Alhaji Abubakar Audu which will make any Arabian Sheik grin (green or green with envy) are parked in Audu's GRA Jos adopted home.

"The actual name of the person expected to chairman (chair/preside over) this occasion is…."

Wrong: atimes; right: at times (two words)

"Those who have the power to release the suspect but are passing the bulk (buck) to the courts should be informed that it is against the national interest to refuse to release…."

"The former Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, explained that it was not the first time that banks would be liquidated and that the history of bank failure in the country dated (dates) back to 1958 or 1959." Note: dates back to or dates back from is a stock expression.

"In reaction to the leaflets being circulated, the Kano State Commissioner of Police…made a radio and television broadcast telling the people to ignore the leaflets which he described as the handiwork of mischieve (mischief) makers." Special note: make-believe (not make-belief).

2023 Interrogatories: How to Secure Nigeria



COUNTERPOINT

FEMI AKINTUNDE-JOHNSON
fajalive1@gmail.com
08033622806- (SMS Only)

As expected, the worrying issue of insecurity in Nigeria sits at the top of the pack with all the major contestants for the privilege of grabbing the keys to the Aso Villa on 29 May, 2022 (or is it 12 June?). The presidential candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, Bola Ahmed Tinubu is next in our game. His public pronouncements on the matter are fairly extensive, and do provide enough window room to peep at his probable conduct and commitment in ensuring the safety and well-being of Nigerians - instead of plodding through the saccharined documents polished and sieved clean by sundry apparatchiks of diverse partisan interests.

A report by online newspaper, TheCable on 23 May, 2022 quoted Tinubu thus: "I view the issue of insecurity with utmost seriousness and will give it the highest priority in my administration. Our military, police force and security agencies are committed and capable. They have sacrificed much and lost many colleagues in the noble and necessary battle to protect this nation from threats.

"We must help their brave efforts by further equipping them with high-grade, advanced military (and) law enforcement assets and by fashioning strategies appropriate for the challenges we face."

His submission at the interface session with the Arewa Joint Committee in Kaduna mid this month, was less opaque and pandering, thus more nuanced. PremiumTimes of 18 October, 2022 reported: "First, I acknowledge the primacy of security as the number one function of government. If you give me the mandate, my administration will give it all the necessary attention and consolidate the recent investments in our security agencies and successes being recorded in this regard.

"As you are aware, security is a function of resources. I am committed to mobilizing all assets within our national power to secure Nigeria. We did this in Lagos through many initiatives, especially the Security Trust Fund, through which we addressed many needs of our security forces which helped to sanitise Lagos State.

"As you may recall, when I assumed office as governor in 1999, the situation I met was a case of banditry where urban gangs ruled the streets. I returned law and order, tamed what could have been a huge ethnic war and made Lagos one of the safest states in Nigeria. I will replicate that across the country."

Perhaps, egged by the adoring cheer of his environment, Tinubu stretched the tip of his walking stick to tap on delicate areas, stopping short of clear timelines. Still at the same event: "We will deal decisively with all elements threatening our peace, security and unity. I guarantee you we will end kidnapping and banditry not only through increasing our policing capacity but also through another soft approach that would promote inclusion and boost the economy of our local communities."

However, a few days later, and within his own "backyard" - well, one could point to the second anniversary of the chaotic end to the pivotal EndSARS protests as the energizing spirit behind Tinubu's more poignant support of what he danced around in Kaduna. Vanguard of 26 October reported: "The time has come to take the necessary legal actions to allow for the creation of state police and the recruitment and training of many more police officers."

"Such state-created forces should be based on the modern tenets of community policing and optimal relations and cooperation with local communities.

"Measures such as these are needed to cure present gaps in how military and law enforcement treat the general public. These proposals are important and they do not hamstring proper law enforcement and security operations."

As far as the presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi was concerned, you could not dissociate insecurity and criminality from abject poverty and indolent leadership. Characteristically, one who comes with a macroeconomic mindset and an advocate of a hands-on small but responsive government, Obi's take on the security palaver is complemented by a desire for a holistic multidimensional offensive. TheCable of 12 October has this on him from his BBC interview: "You can't talk about being a country unless you are secure, unless your citizens are secure. So, it's an issue that must be dealt with decisively."

"It's also something that if you deal with today, you can deal with inflation, because the worst part of inflation we are dealing with is food inflation. So, if you secure the country, your farmers will go back, they will produce more and the food inflation will come down…

"We have to immediately review and restructure the entire security architecture, make it responsive and responsible. Responsive is that they will deal with issues as quickly as possible. Responsible is that somebody is in charge and if he's not doing it, don't wait, the person will go."

Earlier, he had deposed to a bold plan that would inevitably upend the contraption we called the Nigerian security suprastructure of today. Hear him as reported by Vanguard of 20 September, 2022: "As a President elected by all Nigerians, the buck will stop at my desk, I will be fully responsible for governance and national security decisions and actions."

"Total reform of the entire security architecture that will include three-level policing - Federal, State and Community, properly armed, equipped and technologically driven security system."

His thoughts and drive pertaining to the delicate matter of state policing were captured in a TheCable report of 6 October, 2022 during his consultation visit to Nigerians and others at the Harvard University, USA. His quote: "The relevant security institutions and agencies exist. The supporting national security enabling documents and strategies also exist."

"We will tweak the security architecture, which will entail reform of the security sector and governance. We will Restructure, Reequip and Reorient the Nigerian Police: This will include three-level policing - federal, state and community…

"We will build a compact, robust and ready mobile police force with rapid response deployment capabilities; and legislate the establishment of state police based on community policing. We will raise the population of police officers ratio to a higher level.

"We will have properly manned, equipped and technologically driven security system with particular emphasis on re-focusing the military on external threats and border protection and police on internal security threats and law enforcement; swift prosecution of criminals, bandits and terrorists; enhanced coordination among security agencies; and upholding the rule of law."

Now, we have heard and read them - at different fora - recorded and imprinted in perpetuity…these are proposals that the three gentlemen would be rated, weighed and challenged in the event of becoming the beneficiary of our electoral handshake. While the three candidates have fairly similar propositions on battling our hydra-headed security challenges, the obvious "super glue" that would bind these ideas and grandiloquence, and bring real succour to embattled Nigerians is the political will, diplomatic wisdom, exemplary leadership and untarnished selfless determination to get the job done well, and on time.

GLOBAL SOCCER



TEST OF MIGHT

A THISDAY WEEKLY PULL-OUT 29.10.2022

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Emmanuel Dennis

Still Struggling at the Tricky Trees



GLOBAL SOCCER



Dennis after scoring his only goal so far against Aston Villa

Emmanuel Dennis

Still Struggling at the Tricky Trees

When Watford was relegated last season to the Sky Bet Championship, Super Eagles forward, Emmanuel Dennis was bent on retaining his Premier League status and therefore refused to sink with the Vicarage Road side. He eventually joined newly promoted Nottingham Forest for a record £20m move. So far, the Nigerian has only managed a goal and with Forest 19th on the log, a Championship campaign for Dennis next season looms

After links to Leeds United and West Ham failed to materialise, silver lining came for Emmanuel Dennis from Nottingham Forest as the Tricky Trees splashed a record £20 million for the signature of the Nigeria international. However, the Super Eagles forward is yet to justify the huge money splashed on him having just managed a goal in six games so far in the Premier League.

Nottingham Forest were given a cold entrance in their first game after they returned to the Premier League in more than a decade with a 2-0 defeat from Newcastle. They are struggling in the Premier League and might be walking their way back to the Championship at the end of the season.

Forest head coach, Steve Cooper has shown how much distrust he has in Dennis. He has handed the Nigerian international only two starts in the Premier League this season in the Week 9 encounter against Aston Villa in which Dennis opened his goals account for Nottingham Forest, making it his third goal in as many matches against Villa after he scored home and away against the same team for Watford last season.

Everton star Andros Townsend has however hailed Cooper for handing Dennis his first Premier League start at the club against Aston Villa at the City Ground. The Nigerian international repaid his manager's faith in him by scoring his side's only goal of the encounter as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Steven Gerrard's men.

While speaking on Cooper's starting XI selection for the match, Townsend noted that the English manager made the right call by handing Dennis a starting berth. He pointed out that the former Watford forward has the quality to start and lead the line in the Premier League after his exploits with the Hornets last season.

"He's Premier League quality. He's proven and can score goals," Townsend said on the live broadcast from the Premier League Production studios.

The Super Eagles forward bagged an assist in his first appearance for Nottingham Forest, a 3-0 victory over Grimsby Town in the Carabao Cup. Since then, Dennis has made only substitute appearances for Nottingham Forest with other players preferred to lead the line.

With his first goal on his first start, Dennis would hope to retain his place in the starting XI of Nottingham Forest. The former Cologne star took the Premier League by storm last season, scoring 10 goals and registering six assists, directly involved in almost half of Watford's goals last term.

With six assists last season, his 16 goal contributions were one of the highest in the league and by far, Watford's best. Indeed, his performance caught the eye of a number of big clubs, including Spanish LaLiga side, Villarreal, according to a report on Daily Mail.

Dennis emerged as one of the bargain signings of last season's summer transfer window, with Watford paying four million euros to Club Brugge to sign the striker.

Meanwhile, Everton are celebrating their decision not to sign Dennis. After only survivng a drop into the Championship last season, it was essential that the recruitment was spot-on over the summer.

Everton signed nine new players and the improvements in the team in their first nine league games have been discernible, now unbeaten in their last seven games.

Indeed, there was a huge desire at the club to add another striker over the summer following Richarlison's exit and Dominic Calvert-Lewin's ongoing injury problems, but may have dodged another transfer disaster at Everton on one particular target.

Dennis was consistently linked with a move to the blue half of Merseyside this summer but was eventually snapped up by Nottingham Forest instead in a deal worth £20 million. However, the centre-forward hasn't had the best start to life at the City Ground.

The Nigerian talent, who was dubbed "selfish" by Belgian pundit Mo Messoudi.

Granted, Dennis has only averaged 20 minutes per match, with his longest being on the field for 71 minutes against Aston Villa, a clear indicator of Cooper's lack of trust and belief in the striker's ability to put Forest in a better position with his performances, something which could've been a nightmare for Frank Lampard had the 24-year-old been snapped up by the Toffees.

Everton have been plagued with forward players who lack contribution and the ferocity needed to win matches, with Salomon Rondon and Cenk Tosun just two players who failed to offer anything much during the club's most vulnerable times last season, scoring a mere three goals between them.

With that in mind, the decision not to splash £20 million on Dennis was the right call. Even in a Forest team desperate for goals, the striker is clearly not showing signs that he can make a difference in the forward line to improve their bleak situation at the City Ground.

Former Nigeria international Ifeanyi Udeze has questioned the duo of Taiwo Awoniyi and Emmanuel Dennis' decision to join struggling Nottingham Forest in the summer.

Awoniyi, Dennis and their Forest teammates have endured a poor start to life back in the Premier League since their promotion last season.

While Awoniyi has scored three goals in nine Premier League appearances, Dennis scored one after six outings.

And reacting to the latest setback for Forest Udeze, speaking on Brila FM said: "Taiwo Awoniyi and Emmanuel Dennis should be thinking about their move to Nottingham Forest. Dennis most especially would be thinking about the move after joining from relegated Watford. He would feel wouldn't it be better to stay back in the Championship than get relegated again."

With goals not easy to come by for Nottingham Forrest and a leaking defence, a return to the status-quo looms for the Tricky Trees and indeed Dennis.

GLOBAL SOCCER



Manchester City Kevin de Bruyne was on rampage against Leicester last season

Leicester Test New-found Form against Man City

A true test of Leicester City's purple patch awaits them at the King Power Stadium in today's lunchtime as Premier League champions, Manchester City pay a visit to the Foxes

Brendan Rodgers's side convincingly beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-0 last weekend, while City were held to a goalless draw in the Champions League by Borussia Dortmund.

Whatever Leicester have been feeding their stars since the start of October has gone down a treat, as the Foxes are finally rediscovering their best form to enter today's game having recorded back-to-back wins over Leeds United and Wolves.

The profligacy of the latter has been evident all season long, but there was no such lack of ruthlessness from Leicester when they visited Molineux last weekend, as Youri Tielemans, Harvey Barnes, James Maddison and Jamie Vardy came up with the goods in a 4-0 romping.

Having taken 10 points from a possible 15 during a period of marked improvement, Leicester have both eased the pressure on themselves and their manager to climb out of the relegation zone into 17th place - two points clear of all three sides below the dotted line.

Keeping three successive clean sheets is also what the doctor ordered for Leicester before the visit of the champions, and Rodgers's side have only shipped two goals in total this month, but not since January 2021 have the Foxes won three in a row in the Premier League.

Furthermore, Rodgers's side are unbeaten at home this month - taking seven points from a possible nine against Leeds, Nottingham Forest and Crystal Palace without conceding a goal - and Man City have recent experience when it comes to being nullified away from home.

Another day, another missed penalty for Riyad Mahrez, who returns to his old club this week still reliving his 12-yard nightmares from the Westfalenstadion as Man City settled for a point away to a determined Borussia Dortmund side.

Mahrez stepped up for his 32nd career penalty in Germany after going down under a challenge from Emre Can, but he recorded his 10th miss from the spot as Gregor Kobel guessed correctly, although that point was all that was required to confirm a first-placed finish in Group G.

Speaking of first place, Man City could rise above leaders Arsenal to the top of the rankings with victory at the King Power Stadium, with the Gunners' lead cut to two points last weekend, and Mikel Arteta's side will not have the chance to respond until they tackle Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

A record of just one win from their last four games is not the Man City that we have grown accustomed to seeing in recent years, and Pep Guardiola's side have also gone without a single victory or a single goal in their last three away from home, with doubts over Erling Braut Haaland's fitness doing them no favours in their bid to end that barren streak.

A Boxing Day classic last year saw Man City run out 6-3 winners over Leicester after prevailing 1-0 at the King Power, and the Foxes' most recent win on home soil over Man City coincidentally also came on that festive date back in 2018.

Rodgers has received a major fitness boost with the return of Wilfred Ndidi to training this week, and Jonny Evans is also scheduled to be back with the group while Ryan Bertrand and Ricardo Pereira remain out for the long-term, though.

Meanwhile, Newcastle United host Aston Villa in the Premier League with momentum building at St. James' Park that the Magpies can break into the top four for the first time in 20 years.

Villa caretaker manager, Aaron Danks will take charge for the last time here before new manager Unai Emery takes the reins next week.

Not since the days of Demba Ba and Papiss Cisse's lethal link-up back in 2011-12 have Newcastle made such a good start to the season.

Their fifth-place finish that season would be a remarkable achievement should they be able to replicate it, but the Toon Army have their eyes set on Champions League qualification after proving they can mix it with the best.

Collecting four points from trips to Old Trafford and the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium shows they are well in the mix for the top four, especially considering their win last weekend against Spurs saw them leapfrog Chelsea in fourth.

Still being unbeaten at St. James' Park after six matches is a big factor in their strong start too, as Liverpool remain the only side who have won here in the league this calendar year, winning 10 from 15 home games.

They have not spent mega money yet on the level of a club like Manchester City, but Eddie Howe has efficiently sorted out the basics like improving at the back.

So much so that they currently have the strongest defensive record in the division, being the only club to have a record of under one goal conceded per game.

Despite being winless on the road in their six away games this season and scoring just three times, there is a lot of excitement again at Aston Villa now after a whirlwind week.

After Steven Gerrard was sacked following a dreadful display at Fulham, Danks came in as caretaker and led Villa to a brilliant 4-0 win over Brentford last Sunday.

Emery's appointment topped off a fine week for the claret and blue side of Birmingham, but the Spaniard will not be on the touchline here due to work permit delays.

He may well be an ideal appointment, because despite his perceived shortcomings at Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain, he worked wonders at Valencia, Sevilla and Villarreal.

Valencia were Champions League regulars under his stewardship, Sevilla won an unprecedented three consecutive Europa League crowns, and he reached the Champions League semi-finals with Villarreal just last season after clinching the Europa League title a year earlier.

The Villa faithful will be more than happy if Emery can lead them away from trouble to a comfortable mid-table finish this season though, and with the World Cup break

Premier League Table

Arsenal	11	14	28
Man City	11	25	26
Tottenham	12	9	23
Newcastle	12	10	21
Chelsea	11	5	21
Man Utd	11	0	20
Fulham	12	0	18
Liverpool	11	9	16
Brighton	11	1	15
West Ham	12	-1	14
Brentford	12	-3	14
Everton	12	-1	13
Crystal Palace	11	-4	13
Bournemouth	12	-15	13
Aston Villa	12	-5	12
Southampton	12	-8	12
Leicester	12	-3	11
Leeds	11	-5	9
Wolves	12	-13	9
Nottm Forest	12	-15	9

Premier League

TODAY

Leicester	v Man City	12:30
Bournemouth	v Tottenham	15:00
Brentford	v Wolves	15:00
Brighton	v Chelsea	15:00
Crystal Palace	v Southampton	15:00
Newcastle	v Aston Villa	15:00
Fulham	v Everton	17:30
Liverpool	v Leeds	19:45

SUNDAY

Arsenal	v	Nottm Forest 14:00
Man Utd	v	West Ham 16:15

GLOBAL SOCCER



Joe Aribo of Nigeria during a 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifier match

World Cup Miss, My Lowest Football Moment, Says Aribo

With less than three weeks to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar without Nigeria, who failed to qualify for the first winter Mundial after losing to West African rivals Ghana on the away goal rule, Super Eagles midfielder, Joe Aribo is still regretting missing the tournament.

Aribo, who started both games in the playoff against the Black Stars, has admitted that missing out on the World Cup is one of the lowlights of his career.

"I'll say probably one of my lowest moments in football, not just because we are not going to the World Cup but in the manner it happened, against Ghana, of course the rivalry, so there's just a lot to take in."

By signing a four-year deal with Southampton, Aribo walked away from potentially the chance to play in the UEFA Champions League for Glasgow Rangers.

The Nigeria international enjoyed memorable nights in Europe with The Light Blues in 2021-2022 and the highlight of his performance was opening the scoring in the Europa League showpiece against Eintracht Frankfurt, a game Rangers went on to lose on penalties.

Since landing at the Southampton in the summer, Aribo has been used in a variety of positions for the Saints including attacking midfielder, left midfielder, center forward, right midfielder and right winger.

The 26-year-old was asked if his versatility is a benefit to his game or he would prefer to nail down a place that would help his consistency.

Aribo told Southampton's official website : "I think it's a blessing and a curse personally. Like you said I can play in so many different roles so I can help the team but it's like I'm not really mastering one position, but I think for me it's good I can help the team in so many different ways."

Aribo has been involved in all the matches played by Southampton in the Premier League this term, scoring two goals in 12 appearances.



Wilfred Ndidi may be available against ManchesterCity today

Rodgers Set to Unleash Ndidi on Man City Today

Leicester City coach Brendan Rodgers has confirmed that Super Eagles midfield enforcer, Wilfred Ndidi has returned to training after being out of action for three weeks and could be available for their game against Manchester City today.

Ndidi had been out of action for the past three weeks because of a niggling hamstring injury he suffered in the Foxes' 4-0 win against Nottingham Forest on October 3. The injury ruled out the 25-year-old midfielder from Leicester City's last four Premier League games.

However, in what is good news, Leicester City boss Rodgers has announced that the former Genk man would be back soon.

"Ndidi has been back training with the squad, his availability is important, so thankfully he is available," Rodgers said as per Football Daily.

Ndidi's presence could be a huge confidence booster for Leicester City ahead of the tough clash against in-form Manchester City.

The Foxes look like they have found their feet after a very poor start to the season. And they would look to get one over the English champions when they visit the King Power.

The 25-year-old Nigeria international picked up a hamstring injury during the September international break while representing the Super Eagles in a friendly against Algeria.

He was released from camp and returned to Leicester and was handed a start by Rodgers against Nottingham Forest. However, during the fixture, Ndidi aggravated his hamstring and was thus ruled out for an unspecified period.

The injury kept him out of four straight league matches - the 2-1 defeat against Bournemouth, 0-0 draw against Crystal Palace, 2-0 victory against Leeds United and the 4-0 thumping of Wolverhampton Wanderers in their last assignment.

In total, he has managed eight league appearances this season while in the last campaign, he managed 19 top-flight matches.

Akanbi Apologises to Casemiro for Reckless Elbow

Manchester United are guaranteed a top two finish in Group E of the UEFA Europa League after a 3-0 rout of Moldovan giants FC Sheriff Tiraspol at Old Trafford on Thursday night.

Diogo Dalot broke the deadlock late in the first half before goals from Marcus Rashford and Cristiano Ronaldo secured a comfortable win for Erik ten Hag's side.

FC Sheriff literally drew the first blood as Manchester United midfielder Caseiro was left with blood pouring out of his mouth after a reckless elbow from Nigerian striker Rasheed Akanbi.

Around the midway point of the first half, the Brazil international required treatment after the challenge from Akanbi and managed to soldier on until the 62nd minute when he made way for Scott McTominay.

Akanbi was lucky to escape a red card after the horror challenge as he was only shown yellow by Greek referee Anastasios Sidiropoulos.

The Sheriff number 61 met with Casemiro shortly after the game to apologise for the reckless elbow.

Writing on his Instagram stories, Akanbi said, "Sorry", accompanied by a photo of himself and the Manchester United midfielder.

Akanbi has started every single game played by Sheriff in the Europa League this season and will be hoping to score his first goal in the competition against Omonia Nicosia next week.

Oyewusi Nominated for Europa Conference League Player of the Week

Nigerian striker Mathias Oyewusi has been recognised for his outstanding display during FK Zalgiris Vilnius' 2-2 draw with Swiss powerhouse FC Basel on matchday five of the UEFA Europa Conference League on Thursday.

The 23-year-old was nominated for the Europa Conference League Player of the Week after his pair of goals helped FK Zalgiris Vilnius come back from two goals down to draw 2-2 away at Basel., keeping their dreams of advancing in the competition alive.

Oyewusi capitalised on a goalkeeping blunder to reduce the deficit three minutes before halftime and in the 62nd minute he was celebrating his second goal after placing the ball into the bottom corner following a lovely pass from Francis Kyeremeh.

He has directly participated in four goals (2 goals, 2 assists) in his last two matches in the Europa Conference League.

Oyewusi is up against Luka Jovi (Fiorentina), Mustapha Yatabaré (Sivasspor) and Yari Verschaeren (Anderlecht) for the UEFA Europa Conference League Player of the Week.

Should he win the Player of the Week for matchday five, he will be following in the footsteps of Italy international of Nigerian descent Stefano Okaka who was named Player of the Week for matchday four.

Fan Detained in Iran while Hiking to World Cup

On October 1, Spanish trekker and football fanatic, Santiago Sánchez posted a series of photos to Instagram.

"Last village in northern Iraq, a mountain separates me from reaching Iran, the next country before reaching Qatar," he wrote, alongside photos of his trip through Iraq. Mr Sánchez was nearing the final leg of his mammoth trek from Madrid to Doha for the Fifa 2022 World Cup. He has not posted since.

All contact was lost on 2 October. After weeks of concern among friends and family over his whereabouts, it emerged that the 41-year-old was in custody in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

"He has been arrested and he is now in a Tehran prison," one of his friends, Francho Salamanca, told BBC News.

Spain's foreign ministry told the BBC that its embassy in Tehran was in contact with Iranian authorities, but would not comment further.

Iran's foreign ministry did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

What happened to Mr Sánchez upon entering Iran is not fully clear.

The Hengaw Organisation for Human Rights, based across the border in Iraqi Kurdistan, cited anonymous sources as saying he had been "kidnapped by Iranian security forces" after visiting the grave of Mahsa Amini, who died in custody after being arrested for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly".

Protests have swept across Iran since Ms Amini, 22, died on 16 September.

Norway-based Iran Human Rights says at least 234 protesters, including 29 children, have been killed by security forces in crackdowns so far. Iran's leaders have portrayed the unrest as "riots" fomented by foreigners.

On October 2, Mr Salamanca spoke to Mr Sánchez on the phone. He had planned to join him on his trip through Iran, but was calling to say he had to pull out.

"It's only by chance that we were speaking, because I was going to be on the last stage of his journey through Iran and for work reasons, I couldn't do the last stage and I remained in Spain," he told the BBC.

Mr Salamanca said his friend had been upbeat about the prospect of travelling through Iran, a country he visited in 2019 during a similar trip to Saudi Arabia.

"The people in Iran treated him very well, they're great and they helped him a lot," said Mr Salamanca.

Mr Sánchez, a former paratrooper and passionate Real Madrid fan, was planning to go to Tehran, where a television station wanted to interview him. He was then going to head to Bandar Abbas, a port in southern Iran, where he would travel by boat to Qatar.

He told his friends and family that he would have little internet in Iran, so initially they had not been too worried when he was not contacting them.

But concern grew after he failed to contact his parents for 10 days, and they reported him missing on 17 October.

"We are deeply worried, we can't stop crying, my husband and I," his mother, Celia Cogedor, told the Associated Press news agency earlier this week.

When family and friends were told by the Spanish government that Mr Sánchez was in jail, no official reason was given for his detention.

Lagos Agog for Dolphin Swimming League Season Four

The season four of the of the Dolphin Swimming League kicks off today at the Grange School in Ikeja, Lagos today with some of Nigeria's finest swimmers expected to grace the tourney.

Among the swimmers are those that have represented Nigeria at the global tournaments and they are expected to feature for their various schools at the one-day tournament.

Greensprings School, Grange School, Lagos Preparatory and Secondary School, Children International School, Riverbank School, St. Saviour's School, and Meadow Hall are among the schools that will compete for laurels and points at the tournament to be handled by technical officials from the Lagos State Swimming Association.

Already, the officials from Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) and the Nigeria School Sport Federation (NSSF) are expected to grace the event which was created by Dynaspro Promotions Limited in conjunction with Advanta Interactive Limited.

The tournament enjoyed the endorsement of the Nigeria Swimming Federation, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), and Lagos State Swimming Association with the aim of growing swimming in Nigeria from the grassroots to the international stage.

The stage is set for the tournament which has continued to churn out stars for the country as medals, awards and points will be at stake.

According to the coordinator of the tournament, Oluseyi Oyebode, the championships continued to grow annually as more schools would join up in week two of season four.



L-R: Executive Director, Greenwich Merchant Bank, Benson Ogundeji; Managing Director, Greenwich Merchant Bank; Bayo Rotimi; and Chairman, Greenwich Group, Kayode Falowo at the recently concluded Nigerian-British Golf Tournament sponsored by Greenwich Merchant Bank.

BOOK REVIEW

Nigerian Universities: Echoes from the Underground

Title: Nigerian Universities: Echoes from the Underground
Author: Eddie Mbadiwe
Reviewer: Dr. Paul Dike

This book is undoubtedly one of the most significant publications on academic and social life ever written about Nigeria's Ivory Towers. It focuses on administrative, academic, security and cultural challenges from the arrival on 18 January, 1948 of the first students of the University College Ibadan to the present day; how Nigeria's higher institutions, particularly the universities developed in their formative years from their sublimity to the days of apparent decline.

It is a story of transmogrifications from the noblest conceptions of the Ivory Tower to the succeeding periods in which ideals waxed and waned. The gains and reverses in the organic functioning of our universities have naturally fostered a sense of urgency for inquiry with a view to achieving the best ideals of the ivory tower as an indispensable element of our country's development.

The author Eddie Mbadiwe, a gentleman of impeccable character, an adept reader and writer, an alumnus of the famed University of Ibadan and the University of East Anglia in the UK, wrote from a practical and indepth experience of the Nigerian University system As a student, he served as an official of the then National Union of Nigerian Students and taught biochemistry at the University of Nigeria. In all this, both academic excellence and character easily found common ground.

Though trained mostly in the sciences, the author demonstrates literary proclivities. His vast documentation of events is aptly validated by a keen sense of observation backed by a consuming narrative and analytical simplicity.

Although the author did not divide his works into parts, I assume the liberty to do so, dividing these works into two parts namely part 1 in 9 chapters, highlighting the nagging problems of Nigerian Universities and the urgent need for remedy while the second part constitutes of what the author has appropriately titled "the underground" with its echoes made up of bile, bitterness, frustration, exclusion, neglect and alienation.

These first 9 chapters treated in this essay as part 1, is a comprehensive account of the various dimensions of student and lecturer activities, relationships and issues of communal living, such as politics and identity, romance and dalliance, harassment and exploitation. Those 9 chapters also examine inter racial marriages and liaisons, student clubs and clubbing, union politics and life after hours. Others include what the author calls male fishing in female hostels and vice versa, teachers of great impact where he pays tribute to academics like Dr. Agu Ogan, Prof. Olumbe Bassir among many others including even those in the social sciences and literary arts such as the late Prof. Ikenna Nzimiro and Prof. MJC Echeruo.

In chapter 7 he talks about spillovers, carryovers and sorting, an allusion to students' dalliance with lecturers. And in chapter 8, the author raises the vexed issue of serial sexual harassment that plagues our universities and other higher institutions today, for which some lecturers have lost their jobs. Then the twin evil of plagiarism. To solve this problem, the author proffers that some promotions such as senior lecturer to professor must involve outside assessors. He also recommends and rightly so that articles and publications assessed for promotions must be subjected to peer review.

Our attention is drawn in Chapter 9 to the ideals and requirements for the growth of a 21st century university. Apart from Government support, he draws attention to the need for the helping hands of the private sector as well as alumni associations, endowment foundations and other related interests. The author questions what appears to be the apparent insularity of our Universities, an issue of great concern namely; in the failure of universities to open up their faculties to international competition and scholarship; universities by their name being world communities of scholars for the purpose of teaching, researching, and benefiting from the varied experiences and Ideological orientations of its academic staff under conditions of unfettered academic freedom.

Government on its parts must encourage this process through substantial improvements in the salaries and allowances of University teachers, improvements in teaching facilities, in their accommodation and in promoting the favorable public perception of their jobs.

In part 2, we come to grips with the main issues from which the book derives its title – "Nigerian Universities: Echoes from the Underground" discussed in two chapters of 10 and 11. Students of the underground who are mainly off-campus are presented in this book as the incandescent hoi-polloi exposed to utter neglect and therefore capable of creating problems and taking their revenge on the university. It is a copious narrative about those recurring problems of Nigerian Universities – poor funding, poor facilities, corruption and favoritism such as in the allocation of residential accommodation etc.

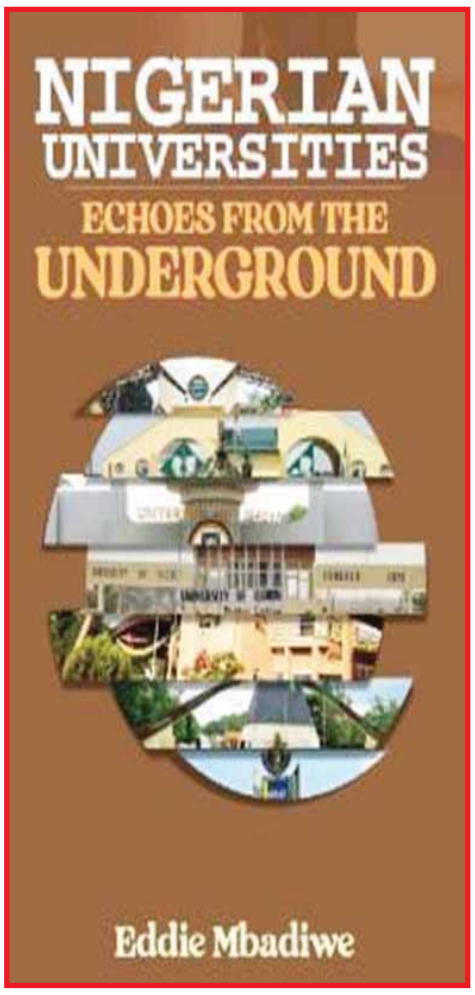
For example, according to the author, "the explosion in student numbers has made it impossible for any Nigerian University to accommodate this surge in official University student quarters." Students now have to rent private accommodation at exploitative rates, accommodation without tables and chairs and no reading lamps. Accommodations without tap water, poor toilet facilities and so on. It is also bereft of environmental sanity, the serenity for academic work and suffused by suffocating counter cultures of some neighbourhoods. Sometimes the students are exposed to danger and have to contribute money for their own security. This is complicated by the fact that the universities have no supervisory role over the hostels and the sense of alienation is beyond imagination. This is how cultism is bred. This is how and where antagonisms against the University managements foster.

This work therefore is largely about this situation appropriately called "underground" defined as "that large mass of students living outside the campus hostels, sometimes in squalid conditions and utter neglect and abandonment" He calls them children "outside the bed chambers " whose feelings, informal structures, subterfuges can only be ignored at great cost to the universities. The author states that the "underground is the hotbed of student activism" and a lot of the problems threatening security and other disruptive actions are hatched in that environment.

For a Vice Chancellor therefore to maintain peace on campus he must infiltrate and tap into the resources of this environment of the underground. The author has brilliantly documented and analyzed the problems of the Ivory Tower in both the historical and contemporary perspectives. The book is therefore a must read for all those who seek an understanding of the interplay of positive and negative forces that characterize that segment of our national life. It is a book for Pro-Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, Administrators, Educational Psychologists and all those who seek an environment of peace and development, devoid of the culture of denials that has dented the successes of our national institutions. It is a work that should be of interest, not only to those that hold certain pristine orthodoxies about our universities but also to those who question those orthodoxies and who draw attention to both the glory and gory of Nigeria's Ivory Towers.

At this point, please join me to celebrate the profound thoughts of this scholar, this scientist once in parliament, a former student leader, humanist politician, a former Rotary President and Catholic Knight of St. Columba. Let us also pay tribute to the enormous contributions of Eddie's family to the educational advancement of Igboland in particular and Nigeria in general. It was his uncle the late Green Mbadiwe who provided the funds with which those titled "the argonauts" that included the late Nnodu Okongwu, the late Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe, late Mazi Mbonu Ojike, Nwankwo Chukwuemeka and late Dr. Nwafor Orizu were sent to America in the forties in pursuit of the proverbial golden fleece, and came back to play a significant part in Nigeria's educational and political evolution. This work we launch today is in furtherance of a fine family tradition of service to education in Igboland and our motherland.

I commend it to you.



Please join me to celebrate the profound thoughts of this scholar, this scientist once in parliament, a former student leader, humanist politician, a former Rotary President and Catholic Knight of St. Columba. Let us also pay tribute to the enormous contributions of Eddie's family to the educational advancement of Igboland in particular and Nigeria in general

PDP Candidates Advised on Path to Electoral Victory

The candidates of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 General Elections have been advised on ways and means the party could woo the electorate to vote in the party in the General Elections next year.

Addressing the opening session of a 2-day Workshop for the party's candidates in the elections in Abuja yesterday, the National Chairman of the party Senator Dr. Iyochia Ayu stated that the workshop was organised to interact and discuss modalities for the party to win the election and also develop ideas to move the party forward.

He stated that PDP, in its eight years in power, from 1999 to 2007, introduced various agencies of government which improved the lives and security of Nigerians as well as ensuring transparency and accountability in government.

Some of these agencies, he stated include the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC), Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), etc.

He stated that all indices of national growth and development including cost of food items, currency exchange rate and security situation which were well managed under the PDP Administration had plummeted under the APC Administration in the seven and half years so far it had managed the country's affairs and assured that their a victory for the PDP in 2023 will certainly turn things around again in Nigeria.

The National Chairman, who was represented by the National Secretary of the party, Samuel Anyanwu, during his interaction with the candidate also stated that the Party, being outside Government since 2007 had felt the pulse and sufferings of Nigerians and was now placed in a better position to address the needs of the Nigerian people more effectively and efficiently if it wins the general elections in 2023.

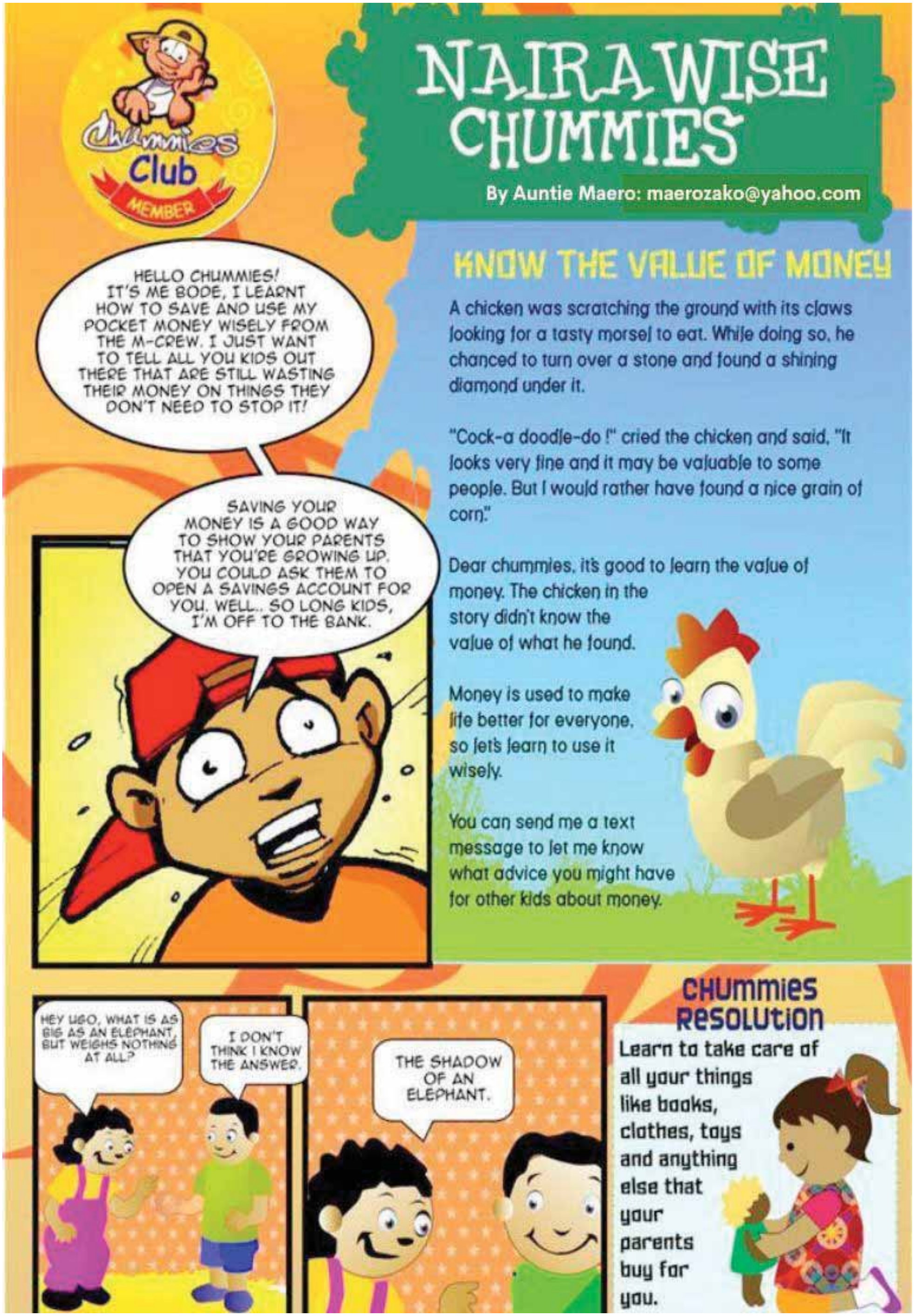
Anyanwu appreciated them for coming out from their various states to attend the workshop and commended the organizers for putting together a successful event.

He urged them use the various development landmarks under the PDP administration to campaign in their various constituencies and ensure victory for the party in the elections.

The Workshop, which had as its theme "Leadership dynamics for winning elections in Nigeria" was also addressed by the former Vice Chancellor of University of Abuja, by Prof. Nuhu Yakubu.

NAIRAWISE CHUMMIES

By Auntie Maero: maerozako@yahoo.com



KNOW THE VALUE OF MONEY

A chicken was scratching the ground with its claws looking for a tasty morsel to eat. While doing so, he chanced to turn over a stone and found a shining diamond under it.

"Cock-a doodle-do !" cried the chicken and said, "It looks very fine and it may be valuable to some people. But I would rather have found a nice grain of corn."

Dear chummies, it's good to learn the value of money. The chicken in the story didn't know the value of what he found.

Money is used to make life better for everyone, so let's learn to use it wisely.

You can send me a text message to let me know what advice you might have for other kids about money.

CHUMMIES RESOLUTION

Learn to take care of all your things like books, clothes, toys and anything else that your parents buy for you.

PERSPECTIVE

Resuscitating Fire Service, Rescue Operation in Lagos

The Lagos State Government recently commissioned its resuscitated Fire Service and Rescue Operation headquarters in Alausa, Ikeja. F&M ACME, a real estate and construction company, handled the reconstruction. The firm also provided state-of-art equipment for the headquarters, under the supervision of the Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency (LASIAMA). This is a pointer to the state government's commitment to safety of its citizens and property. **Funke Olaode** reports

For five decades, the Lagos State Fire Service and Rescue Operation founded on 31st August 1972 has been providing succour to Lagos residents. The infrastructure, which first operated under an expatriate Chief Officer, Sir Allan Flemming alongside three-man crew members was under the mandate to protect lives and property within the Lagos Metropolis. And over the past 50 years, the sprawling building located in Alausa, Ikeja is noted for its efficiency and vibrancy in the discharge of its responsibilities.

It was with pump and page entry when on October 26, 2022, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu led his cabinet members and dignitaries to the commissioning of the newly resuscitated building. Among the dignitaries present were the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; Director, Lagos State Fire Service; Mrs. Margaret Adeseye; Project Contractor/Group CEO F&M ACME, Femi Olukotun; First Female Chief of Prince George County Fire fighters, Maryland USA, Tiffany Green and Commissioner of Physical Planning and Urban Development; Tayo Bamigbose.

Renowned for its standard and ethical practice, the project executor, F&M ACME Limited, a subsidiary of Brook Heritage Holdings Limited, is one of the fastest growing indigenous construction and real estate firm in Nigeria. The recent arrangement between the state and the construction giant to reconstruct the building with the state-of-arts equipment, under the supervision of the Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency (LASIAMA) is a pointer to the state government's commitment to the safety of its citizenry.

There has been massive but haphazardly coordinated expansion in economic activities across the country, the development has made fire incidents a major source of danger to public safety and property.

Recurring fire incidents at petrol loading bays, tank farms, pipelines and other similar sources are good examples of such dangers. Again, most of the poorly developed market clusters across the country annually go up in flames; while fire at multi-storey buildings, petro-chemical industries and crash sites always constitute embarrassments to outdated fire equipment.

At the commissioning ceremony, Sanwo-Olu expressed his delight at the excellence of execution of the project. He said, "I was personally impressed yesterday when I saw the pictures of the completion. I want to thank our contractor, Femi Olukotun for this great edifice.

"We have four new Fire Stations that were commissioned today. And this is the headquarters. This shows the level of our preparedness to combat emergency and fire disaster; to save lives and properties of Lagosians. For the first time in the history of this state, we will see some new sophisticated equipment to be handed over for use by Lagos State. We want to compete with global citizens in the world. It is indeed what we meant by wanting to be a 21st century state. And am happy we are responding to and fulfilling what a mega city should look like."

Olukotun said: "As a contractor, we are very proud to be part of this laudable achievement of Governor Sanwo-Olu, especially in relation to various fire stations that were upgraded, newly built and in particular the headquarters which was reconstructed by our company. It is quite a very encouraging opportunity for us and we have decided to take up this job very diligently and constructed a well befitting fire service headquarters for Lagos State."

On the state-of-art facilities added to the building, Olutokun said "It was formerly a 20 rooms building but we have been able to reconstruct and ensure that is now enlarged and can accommodate over 60 offices including, the gym, the sick bay, the officers mess, two different section of conference rooms, executive conference room and general conference room. Other amenities include the communications room, standard slide for emergency response, etc.



R-L: Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, Director, Lagos State Fire Service; Mrs. Margaret Adeseye; Project Contractor/Group CEO F&M ACME, Femi Olukotun; Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; First Female Chief of Prince George County Fire fighters, Maryland USA,, Tiffany Green and Commissioner of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Tayo Bamigbose during the inauguration

"The building was constructed with the best of sophisticated equipment and materials. The aesthetics is what will deliberately worked on, to ensure that we deliver a project that we can be proud of and indeed we are very proud of this project and with the new redesigning and reconstruction you see that the headquarter is now a complete emergency route in which all visitors will now have a different entry and exist route which does not interfere with emergency responder that are on standby."

"We are proud once again to be part of this laudable project; we are also very humbled by series of goodwill messages that we have received in respect of this project and we want to assure the general public that we as a construction firm will continue to do our best to ensure that we give out quality services at every opportunity that we have to serve."

The Director of Fire Service, Lagos State, Mrs. Margaret Adeseye commended the governor for his vision of providing a world class fire services for the state. "We have been upgraded," elated Adeseye exclaimed. "Here, we have 20 offices before, but now, I can boldly tell you we have 60 offices in Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service headquarters. With this development, we will be more proactive in terms of response time. Aside that, we can see the morale of the staff, they are all happy, seeing what the Governor put in place for the fire service to make sure our job is easier. It will make us to work even more than we have been working. It will encourage us to do more. To whom more is given more is expected."

Giving kudos to his team for delivering a first class project, the Head of Engineering and Technical at F&M ACME who was in charge of the construction, Engineer Taiwo Otenaike praised the "commitment of all" in bringing the ideas into reality.

Showcasing his company beyond construction and real estate, Olukotun said other subsidiaries of the company had been creating opportunities and transforming lives. For instance, Agriant Limited, an integrated farm, agro-allied and food processing company with head office in Lagos, is one of the Nigeria's leading foods and agro-allied companies. It has deep interest in aquaculture with over 150,000 natural pond capacities, which is presently at 70 per cent occupancy (Catfish & Tilapia), Oil Palm, Maize and Pineapple Plantations as well as Animal husbandry.

Continuing, he disclosed that Agriant is a subsidiary of Brook Heritage Holdings, a proprietary company, coordinating business interests in Finance, Energy, Real Estate and Agriculture with a strong determination to succeed in all facets of its business endeavours.

"Our objective is to give agriculture a new meaning by developing each node of the agricultural value chain in the agronomy ecosystem we choose to play, through the use of modern technology from the point of rearing and cultivation to processing and distribution of finished goods for consumption."

Olukotun said, "local livestock production increases the availability of animal source foods as a source of proteins and micronutrients, necessary for a healthy population. Livestock provide a pathway to women empowerment and gender equality, which are important factors for economic development.

"Sustainable, productive fisheries and aquaculture improve food and nutrition security, increase income and improve livelihoods, promote economic growth and protect our environment and natural resources and that's what stands us out in Agriant.

"I am happy that we are contributing our quota in our various farms located at Lagos, Ogun and Oyo States. Our dried catfish and fish filets are certified by NAFDAC. We also export our products to Europe."

Kogi Varsity Law Graduate Wins 'Legal Scholar' Competition

Faith Omoni, a Law graduate of Kogi State University, Anyigba, has become the winner of the maiden edition of Trusted Advisors Age of the Legal Scholar Competition. She was declared winner at the grand finale of the competition in Lagos recently.

Senior Associate, The Trust Advisor, Mrs. Olawunmi Ojo, welcomed the guests and the finalists into the grand finale: "We at the Trusted Advisors are very proud of all those who have participated in this profound process. The Trusted Advisors, being a fast-growing full serviced law firm, one of our core objectives is ensuring the proper grooming of law students and young lawyers to enable them excel in the legal field.

"As such, our investment in the youth now means that we can boast of a very driven and proactive legal practice that we now have. This is also evident in the quality and breed of lawyers that our firm is proud to have. We have organised this competition in fulfillment of that objective."

She added that the top three winners of the competition would get N800,000, N600,000 and N400,000 respectively worth of scholarship to the Nigerian Law School, covering their tuition fees, monthly stipends and books for a duration of one year.

They are also entitled to one year access to law pavilion primsol standard subscription for one year, internship and mentoring opportunities at the Trusted Advisors.

On how the organisers arrived at the six finalists, she said: "We received multiple registrations - over 200 - and they all participated in an online quiz. This was used to screen to 50 participants. The essay entries were used in further screening the participants to the final 20. The final 20 participated in a virtual debate competition centered on data privacy. They were all given different topics to debate and were further screened to the final 6."



L-R Taye Awofiranye, Managing Partner, The Trusted Advisors; Oladunmi Bashir; Lucky Nengite, guests at the occasion; Miss Faith Omole (winner); Adeniran Adewole and Dr. Francis Oni, partner, The Trusted Advisors, at the Age of the Legal Scholar Competition Grand finale hosted by The Trusted Advisors in Lagos

In her remarks as the winner of the competition, Omoni commended the organisers of the competition for the laudable initiative.

"I say a big thank you to the Trusted Advisors, this is another way to encourage law profession in Nigeria, the prizes will go a long way in my law career," she said.

At the grand finale, Eneh Chinaza Godwin, a Law graduate of Ebonyi State University became the first runner up while Chisom Ogbunando Winifred, a Law graduate of University of Nigeria, Nsukka, became second runner up.

AUTO WORLD

Bennett Oghifo
07052343083 Email:bennett.oghifo@thisdaylive.com



Few organised parking spaces in Lagos

LASPA Plans Full Implementation of Parking Policy in 2023

The General Manager, Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA) Mrs Adebisi Adelabu, has said that it would commence full implementation of its policies in the second quarter of 2023 to improve the parking culture.

Adelabu, made the disclosure in a briefing as she reeled out the mandate, functions and strategies of the Authority in Lagos on Thursday.

She said that the Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu had signed upon to create a well designed and coordinated parking management system for the Lagos of our dream.

She said that LASPA was to assist Lagos residents to be mindful of parking their vehicles appropriately as this would impact positively on the environment and Lagos roads.

"The Lagos State Parking Authority is an Agency of Government created by law, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, with the core mandate to regulate and manage all forms of Parking, register existing private, public parks and holistically tackle the menace of parking.

"There was need for our establishment to regulate parking because we have Vehicle Inspection Authority (VIS), the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) but parking is essential to tackle traffic congestion.

"If one really wants to address traffic challenges, we need to start from the parking problem and that is why LASPA was established.

"We are working with the Local Government to achieve their mandate in terms of parking ,"Adelabu said

She said that the agency was not a revenue generating agency adding that people had been paying for parking since time in memorial in Lagos while nobody knows who they paid to, as it is the norm in Lagos for anyone to collect money.

The LASPA boss said the Government believed it was important to put a fate to unauthorised collection of parking fees adding there was need to change the habit of parking cars around in Lagos.

She said that LASG was working towards decongesting gridlock on Lagos road by investing on multimodal transportation saying that LASPA was created to assist Lagos residents to consider factors attached to parking cars.

Adelabu said LASPA was established in 2021 and had been taking time to sensitise Lagos residents with various means of communications till the second quarter of 2023 before they began operations.

She said that their would be punity for any offenders when they commence operations, the Lagos State Government would be creating employment directly with the operation and involvement of concessioners.

Mercedes-AMG Presents Exclusive F1 Edition for E PERFORMANCE Saloon, Estate

The new Mercedes-AMG C 63 S E PERFORMANCE is a real gamechanger in the 55-year history of AMG.

According to the automaker, "With know-how from Formula 1™, it brings state-of-the-art technologies from motorsport to the road. The innovative hybrid concept with an electric motor and AMG high-performance battery on the rear axle combines a superior system output of 500 kW (680 hp) with impressive driving dynamics and high efficiency. This makes the Mercedes-AMG C 63 S E PERFORMANCE the perfect ambassador for the Future of Driving Performance. With the exclusive exterior and interior features of the special "F1 Edition" model, Mercedes-AMG is now making the electrified future even more visible."

The "F1 Edition" is available for the Saloon and Estate for one year from the start of sales. The exclusive MANUFAKTUR alpine grey uni paint finish is a striking distinguishing feature. It is combined with foiling on the vehicle flanks consisting of the AMG logo and colour gradient from grey to black. Red trim lines on the sides and front and rear aprons add further colour accents. The 20-inch AMG forged wheels in a 5-twin-spoke design are painted matt black. The red rim flanges provide an attractive contrast and thus follow the colour scheme of the wheels of the Official FIA F1 Medical Car™ from Mercedes-AMG.

The AMG Aerodynamics Package, developed in the wind tunnel, improves handling characteristics at high speeds and enhances the dynamic visual impression. The aerodynamic elements include the larger front splitter, the spoiler lip on the boot lid (Saloon only), the redesigned trim on the side members and the additional diffuser board.



The new Mercedes-AMG C 63 S E PERFORMANCE interior

The AMG Night Package I and the AMG Night Package II also enhance the motorsport appearance of the "F1 Edition". The front splitter, the trim elements in the front wings, the outside mirror housings, the beltline trim strip and the window surrounds are all finished in high-gloss black. In addition, the radiator grille louvres, the trim strip in the rear apron, the twin tailpipe trims of the AMG exhaust system and the model badge on the boot lid are all finished in black chrome. The AMG fuel filler cap in silver chrome with "AMG" lettering also emphasises the special status of the edition.

The interior is characterised by the contrast of black and red. The AMG Performance seats are particularly refined with upholstery in Exclusive black nappa leather with red decorative topstitching and embossed AMG emblems in the front head restraints. They follow the sporty look just like the seat belts in red and the exclusive AMG carbon trim elements with red thread. The AMG Performance steering wheel in nappa leather / DINAMICA microfibre with red decorative topstitching and the AMG door sill trims with red illuminated "AMG" lettering are a perfect match. The finishing touches are the exclusive Edition badge in the interior and specific AMG floor mats with red decorative topstitching and F1 logo.

TIPS OF THE WEEK

Are Dual Exhausts Just for Looks?

What goes in must go out. This means that your engine, which is like a huge vacuum pump, sucks in air and fuel. An engine like the one in your car has four stroke: Intake, compression, combustion and exhaust. Once the air and fuel are pulled into the engine (intake), the piston comes up to compress the mixture to make it more volatile (compression). The spark plug fires and causes an explosion in the cylinder (combustion). However, not all of the fuel and air is used. This leftover mixture must make its way out of the engine to make room for a new wave to start. This is the exhaust stroke – the leftover gas and air are forced out of the cylinder through the exhaust valves, into the exhaust manifold and out through the exhaust system.

Single and Dual Exhausts

Your vehicle may have a single or dual exhaust system. In a single exhaust system, your vehicle has one or two exhaust manifold depending on the size of the engine. If you have a four-cylinder, your vehicle will have one exhaust manifold. If you have a V-6 or larger engine, your vehicle will have two exhaust manifolds – one for each head or "bank." A vehicle with two manifolds and two exhaust tips may still have a single exhaust. After the manifold, the pipes lead to the catalytic converter and muffler. If your vehicle has a single exhaust, the pipe coming out of each manifold is jointed in a Y before the catalytic converter and muffler. A single exhaust has one of each while a dual exhaust has two of each. A dual exhaust may also have an H pipe before the converters to help control back pressure and increase horsepower. This is a crossover between the two exhaust pipes, and it forms an H with the exhaust pipes.

Dual Exhaust vs Single Exhaust Systems

The main reason for having a dual exhaust system is to get the leftover air out of the cylinders faster so that the next exchange can start quicker. Since the speed at which the exhaust is forced out of the engine is limited by the size of the camshaft and the timing, you want to get more "used" air – exhaust – out at one time. The more you get out, the more the engine can suck in; thus, you have more horsepower. However, if you have a non-turbocharged four-cylinder, adding a dual exhaust is not going to make a big difference. In this case, it would just be for looks. If you have a turbocharged four cylinder, dual exhaust will make a significant difference because of the amount of air and fuel forced into the engine by the turbo. If you have a V-6 or larger, you will also notice a significant increase in horsepower.

What Does Dual Exhaust Do?

If each bank has its own exhaust system, there is more space for more exhaust to exit the engine. For example, if your vehicle has eight cylinders and a single exhaust, all the used air is trying to get out one pipe, one catalytic converter and one muffler. This can cause back pressure – like a bottleneck traffic jam – thus robbing your vehicle of horsepower. Adding a second exhaust system so that each head and exhaust manifold has its own system allows double the exhaust to be forced out of the engine, thus increasing horsepower. Dual exhaust also decreases some of the back pressure that is common with single exhaust systems. Another back pressure builder is the stock exhaust manifolds. Because of the way they are designed, they tend to increase back pressure. When you convert to dual exhaust, be sure to replace the manifolds with headers. Don't go with a cheap set, either. Choose headers that are stainless steel to reduce rust. Also, if possible, choose headers that are made so the pipe lengths are as close to the same length as possible. This further reduces back pressure and increases horsepower.

It's Not Just For Looks

If you have dual exhaust tips to a single exhaust, your vehicle will look great, but it's not doing anything to increase power. Dual exhaust will give you a significant power increase because of the engine's ability to breathe better. Thus, if you are trying to increase horsepower, dual exhaust may be worth the cost.

(Source: Meineke)

AUTO WORLD

Kia Launches Global Brand Campaign for FIFA World Cup 2022

Kia has kicked off its global brand campaign for the FIFA World Cup 2022™ by launching several marketing activities associated with the tournament which runs from November 20th to December 18th.

A statement issued by the automaker said "In alignment with Kia's key brand message for this year's World Cup, 'Inspiration. It's in all of us,' Kia will feature a range of initiatives showcasing the brand's dedication to the sport and its contribution to uniting people from all over the world in their belief that their team has a chance of reaching the very top.

Every four years, humanity learns that football is not just a sport, it's a movement. Every shot, every tackle, and every second gives people the belief that they are all capable of great things. To that end, Kia will unveil a campaign hero film featuring the daily lives of people who are inspired by the moment of the World Cup on TV and social medial channels including YouTube and Instagram.

Plus, the brand will begin a social media campaign, #KiaInspireTogether, encouraging football fans to create their own UGC (User Generated Content) showing their passion for their teams. The best UGCs will be used as highlight videos by Kia, and the videos will eventually be showcased through electronic boards at the stadiums. Rafael Nadal, Kia's Global Brand Ambassador, along with other influencers will also upload videos cheering for their national teams to encourage more fans to take part in this campaign.

Kia's OMBC (Official Match Ball Carrier) campaign will highlight the dreams and inspirations of 64 children from about 20 different nations globally, for the once-in-a-lifetime experience of carrying the official match ball to the pitch alongside the players and match officials.

In addition, Kia will document the children taking one step closer to realizing their dreams through the OMBC experience and promote their stories through social media. In doing so, the brand will aim not only to enhance the experience of children participating as OMBCs but also to demonstrate how every single move can become a significant leap toward achieving any life goal.

Toyota Tundra Reaches New Heights with TRD 3-inch Lift Kit

The all-new Toyota Tundra is raising the bar once more with a newly available 3.0-inch lift kit developed by Toyota Racing Development (TRD) that makes the already capable full-size pickup bigger and bolder. This new lift kit is available nationwide as a dealer-installed option, and it's the only Toyota-approved lift kit designed to work with the Toyota Safety Sense (TSS) system.

"There are many compromises with aftermarket lift kits, some of which can impact the function of vehicle features or safety systems," Mikhal el Arculli, TRD principal engineer says. "We have designed this kit to work seamlessly with the Tundra's standard features, retain all Toyota Safety Sense (TSS) functionality, maintain similar stock driving dynamics by creating a kit with a high center of gravity and provide a look and feel customers want with a lift."

Bilstein monotube shocks and TRD red coil springs are tuned by TRD, much like the tried-and-true dealer-installed lift kit available on the Tacoma mid-size pickup that debuted last year. The shocks feature digressive pistons to provide low-speed body control as well as exceptional high-speed stability. Forged upper control arms from Detroit-based Roush Performance are equipped up front. These stronger UCAs complement the additional suspension travel given with the lifted suspension.

The Virtue Called Patience



SAFE DRIVING

with

Jonas Agwu

amnipr, mcipr, mprsa, arpa
Assistant Corps Marshal
Zonal Commanding Officer
Federal Road Safety Corps.

I was a year older on October 1, 2022. On that date, I did my usual. First, I took time to thank God for His mercies. I also appropriated all the prayers made on that same date over my beloved country Nigeria .That date enabled me to reflect on life, family and my career. I also reflected on my fears, strengths and potentials, especially with respect to all my years in the Federal Road Safety Corps where I have spent the better part of my life striving to add some value. My mind equally reflected on global happenings, the ongoing electioneering and the development in the United Kingdom.

October 1,also offered me the opportunity to reflect on driving in Nigeria after 34 years since the Corps was established;on our potentials and feat as well as our failures in moulding the driving habits among the general populace . I also reflected on some of my colleagues in uniform who till date assume that they are above the law despite the numbers who have lost their lives in avoidable road traffic crashes. I reflected on the ones who daily assault and bruise our operatives for daring to demand that they drive above board by respecting the rules guiding responsible behaviour.

While reflecting on our driving culture, I tried to contrast our driving with what obtains in the United Kingdom.I remembered that despite being a christain Nation, we are more religious than they are in the UK,yet their driving is built around one of the most treasured virtue in driving while the reverse is the case among us. What really amazes me about the United Kingdom is the level of patience of the average driver as well as the shared behavioural tendencies which is rare in our clime. For the records ,I need to remind you that unlike our clime with wide roads, their roads are not that wide. Equally interesting are some of their roundabouts which could be missed by a first time visitor unlike ours where the simple rule of giving way to the driver on the left is never adhered to unless there is a ftaffic officer to guide us. .Despite these, it amazes me how patiently drivers in the United Kingdom without the presence of road safety marshals, traffic wardens or physically challenged people turned traffic wardens,display a responsible sense of driving and sharing the road with others while rarely honking their horns. The reverse is the case here where almost every driver competes on the best in honking.

My reflections brought to my memory, a piece I once did to capture the crazy driving habit of the average driver .I am tempted to capture snippets of that piece to drive home my concern especially as we gradually draw the curtains on the month of October preparatory to entering the eleventh month of the year and then the final month of December when irresponsible driving is heightened all in the name of the air of celebrations.

If you read my piece a fortnight ago on tailgating ,you will recall my counsel on the need to be patient as I reminded you that tailgaters are not patient drivers. This is why my focus today is on the virtue called patience which is a rare commodity among motorists. Patience is a virtue while impatience on the road is a reckless habit. An impatient driver you must know is as dangerous as a distracted one. Impatience can and leads to the following bad driving behaviour; speeding, tailgating, illegal lane changes as well as road rage which are all possible causes of road traffic crashes . How can impatient driving affect you?

United Nations Nations Unies

Global Procurement Support Section (GPSS)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This notice is placed by GPSS. The accuracy, reliability and completeness of the contents of furnished information is the responsibility of Global Procurement Support Section (GPSS). You are therefore requested to direct all queries regarding this EOI to Global Procurement Support Section (GPSS) using the fax number or e-mail address provided below.

Title of the EOI:
Rental of Office Space for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission" UNOWAS/CNMC" in Abuja, Nigeria

Date of this EOI: 17 October 2022 **Closing Date for Receipt of EOI:** 3 November 2022

EOI Number: EOIGPSS20372

Beneficiary Country/Territory: Nigeria

Commodity/Service category: Facility Management

Address EOI response by fax or e-mail to the Attention of: Chief, Global Procurement Support Section

Fax Number: N/A

E-mail Address: dos-pd-gpss@un.org; diattae@un.org

UNSPSC Code: 80131500, 80131503

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

The United Nations Global Procurement Support Section (GPSS) is looking for rental of office space for United Nations Office for West africa and the Sahel and Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission "UNOWAS/CNMC" in Nigeria and hereby seeks Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputable land lords, real estate companies and/or Property owners for the rental of Office Premises in Abuja.

1. The specifications of Office Space are as follows:

2. The proposed premises shall be subject to applicable technical assessments including security, CITS, engineering / structural and subject to approval including United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). In the event that that the premises do not meet UN Standards, the UN shall be allowed to make modifications as deemed necessary. The proposed premises shall be for the exclusive use of UNOWAS Liaison Cell and CNMC Observers' Office in Abuja.

3. Lease duration is expected to be six (6) years, an initial period of three (3) years, and at the UN's sole discretion, the lease may be extended for one (1) additional period of two (2) years and one additional period of one (1) i.e (3+2+1) under the same terms and conditions. UN 's standard payment term is payment within thirty (30) calender days after the end of the calendar month to which the rent payment pertains. This is negotiable but cannot exceed one (1) year up front payment (subject to UN' s appoval).

4. Please note that this request for EOI is not an invitation to submit bids and submission of an EOI would not automatically warrant receipt of the solicitation documents. GPSS reserves the right to reject EOIs received after the deadline indicated below.

5. The expressions of interest may be submitted by email to dos-pd-gpss@un.org, clearly marked in the subject of the email "EOI - Rental of Office Space for the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel in Abuja,Nigeria to be received not later than 3rd November 2022, 17:00 hours (Uganda Time). Please endeavor to submit your EOI electronically. No hand / courier delivery allowed.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS / INFORMATION (IF ANY)

Selected building/ office premises must be located exclusively in the areas cleared by UNDSS office in Abuja as listed below:
- Asokoro
- Central Business District
- Garki
- Jabi/LifeCamp
- Mabushi
- Maitama
- Utako
- Wuse General Area
- Katampe
- Guzape

1. The total floor area required for office facilities shall not be less than 150 m2 to accommodate the following:
- 2 individual Rooms – at least 24 m2 – with interior toilet
- 4 other individual rooms – at least 24 m2
- 1 Conference Room – at least for 20 persons
- 1 Kitchen and dining Room – at least 24 m2
- 1 toilet/washroom interior
- 1 Visitor toilet room
- The property should not have any legal and/or ownership issues
- The property should not be surrounded by tall trees, objectionable to communication waves, for proper functioning of antennas
- The property should be in a condition ready for occupancy

2. The compound shall have well-marked and secured parking space for at least 5 vehicles.

3. The main building and other facilities shall be enclosed in a well secured masonry/concrete perimeter

4. Utilities, Equipment and other furnishings –
4.1. Electrical Power Supply – mandatory
4.2. Water Supply – mandatory
4.3. Heating and Cooling – option
4.4. Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire alarms – option
4.5. Generator set – option
4.6. The property should have municipal sewer line connection
4.7. Security enhancement requirements - option

5. Potential bidders interested in providing premises are invited to submit expression of interest with information of the Property Owner and or a legally authorized representative of the property owner containing details of their e-mail and Telephone numbers; details of the property and its location; confirmation of proposed property's compliance to the above listed features and when the property would be available for lease.

UN would prefer to engage directly with the Landlords with valid onwership of the premises. In this regard, the UN will not be responsible to pay any Agent acting on behalf of the landlords.

NOTE

Information on tendering for the UN Procurement System is **available free of charge** at the following address: https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice

Only the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM) has been authorised to collect a nominal fee from vendors that wish to receive automatically Procurement Notices or Requests for Expression Of Interest. Vendors interested in this Tender Alert Service are invited to subscribe on http://www.ungm.org

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should submit the Vendor Response Form of this EOI electronically (through the link available on the next page) before the closing date set forth above.

VENDOR RESPONSE

NOTICE

- Companies can only participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat after completing their registration (free of charge) at the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org).
- As you express interest in the planned solicitation by submitting this response form, please verify that your company is registered under its **full legal** name on the United Nations Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) and that your application has been submitted to the **UN Secretariat**.
- While companies can participate in solicitations after completion of registration at Basic Level, we strongly recommend all companies to register at least at **Level 1** under the United Nations Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitations.

PLEASE NOTE: ***You should express your interest to this EOI electronically at:***
https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/node/add/interest-expressed?EOI=EOIGPSS20372
In case you have difficulties submitting your interest electronically, please contact dos-pd-gpss@un.org; diattae@un.org directly for instructions.

EOI INSTRUCTIONS

1) Registering as a Vendor with the United Nations

Vendors interested in fulfilling the requirement described above must be registered at the UN Global Marketplace (www.ungm.org) with the UN Secretariat in order to be eligible to participate in any solicitation. Information on the registration process can be found at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors.

Prerequisites for Eligibility
In order to be eligible for UN registration, you must declare that:

A. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not listed in, or associated with a company or individual listed in:
I. the Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists (https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/sanctions/un-sc-consolidated-list), or
II. the IIC Oil for Food List website or, if listed on either, this has been disclosed to the United Nations Procurement Division in writing.

B. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary or affiliate companies) is not currently removed or suspended by the United Nations or any other UN organisation (including the World Bank);

C. Your company (as well as any parent, subsidiary of affiliate companies) is not under formal investigation, nor have been sanctioned within the preceding three (3) years, by any national authority of a United Nations Member State for engaging or having engaged in proscribed practices, including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice;

D. Your company has not declared bankruptcy, are not involved in bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, and there is no judgment or pending legal action against your company that could impair your company's operations in the foreseeable future;

E. Your company does not employ, or anticipate employing, any person(s) who is, or has been a UN staff member within the last year, if said UN staff member has or had prior professional dealings with the Vendor in his/her capacity as UN staff member within the last three years of service with the UN (in accordance with UN post-emplcyment restrictions published in ST/SGB/2006/15).

F. Your company undertakes not to engage in proscribed practices (including but not limited to: corruption, fraud, coercion, collusion, obstruction, or any other unethical practice), with the UN or any other party, and to conduct business in a manner that averts any financial, operational, reputational or other undue risk to the UN.

For Registered Vendors: Vendors already registered at the UN Global Marketplace with the UN Secretariat must ensure that the information and documentation (e.g. financial statements, address, contact name, etc.) provided in connection with their registration are up to date in UNGM. Please verify and ensure that your company is registered under its full legal name.

For Vendors Interested in Registration: Vendors not yet registered should apply for registration on the United Nations Global Marketplace (http://www.ungm.org); information on the registration process can be found at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/vendors. Vendors must complete the registration process prior to the closing date of the REOI. Vendors who have not completed the UNGM registration process with the UN Secretariat before the closing date of the REOI are not considered eligible to participate in solicitations of the UN Secretariat. We strongly recommend all companies to register at least at Level 1 under the UN Secretariat prior to participating in any solicitaticns.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Any false, incomplete or defective vendor registration may result in the rejection of the application or cancellation of an already existing registration.

2) EOI Process

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should forward their expression of interest (EOI) to Global Procurement Support Section (GPSS) (GPSS) by the closing date set forth in this EOI. *Due to the high volume of communications GPSS is not in a position to issue confirmation of receipt of EOIs.*

Please note that no further details of the planned solicitation can be made available to the vendors prior to issuance of the solicitation documents.
This EOI is issued subject to the conditions contained in the EOI introductory page available at https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/eoi.

Department of Operational Support | Office of Supply Chain Management



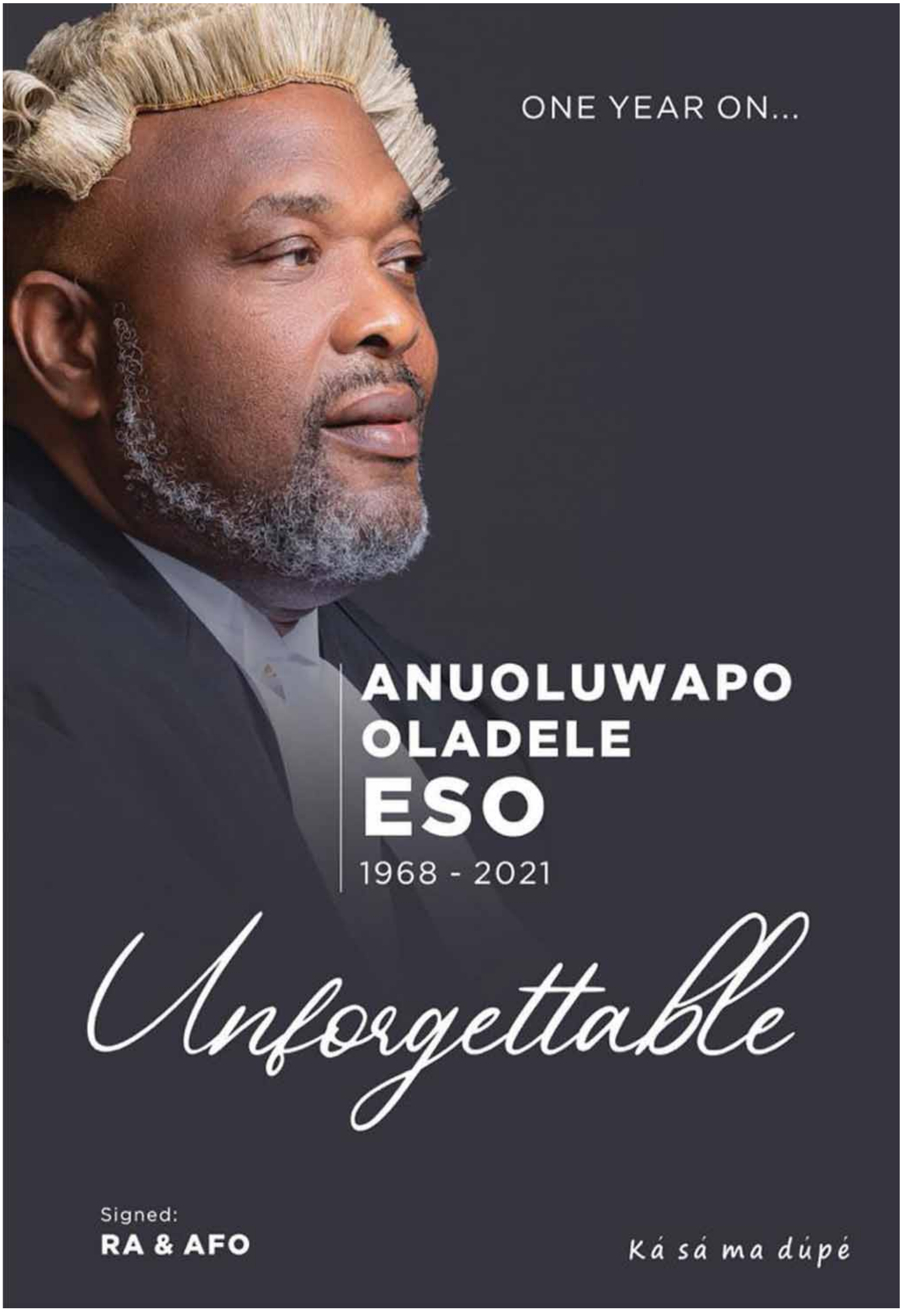
You're in the arms of the angels

Anuoluwapo Oladele Eso (1968 -2021)

We find comfort knowing that you are in the midst of angels watching over us. It feels like just yesterday we were all here making memories as a family, laughing & living through life together. Though you are not here with us physically, your love and teachings will forever be in our hearts.

We miss you and love you.
Keep resting

Fondly remembered by **Titi, Tofarati** and **Tofunwa**


ONE YEAR ON...
ANUOLUWAPO
OLADELE
ESO
1968 - 2021
Unforgettable
Signed:
RA & AFO
Ká sá ma dúpé

PEOPLE

Sam Harvard

I Had Unexplainable Interest in Business at Childhood

His knack for business and desire for the good life spurred him right from a humble beginning, coupled with his affinity for abundance at a young age. Although he was born without a silver spoon, Sam Harvard bears an inspiring story that has seen him defy the odds to become one of the world's foremost business growth strategists. With over two decades in business, he has deployed his expertise in different fields, helping businesses scale massively and creating platforms for entrepreneurial development ideas. The tech-savvy Sam Harvard, in this interview with **Ferdinand Ekechukwu** and **Oluchi Chibuzor**, shares the secrets of his success, his inspiring background and insight from his base in Dubai

You are the founder of LAP, a digital skill university and the fastest growing affiliate network from Africa. Can you explain more on this?

We are rebranding the name from LAP to Zibarr. With Zibarr, we are creating an affiliate network. We want to give voices to small businesses that have great products but did not have the marketing capability or budget to reach the type of client that is ideal for their business, product or service. So, if we get young people and train them on teaching skills that can market or promote products that other people have, we believe we can bring a lot of traffic to every business. Every business can have the same fighting chance to be able to reach the number of people who are in need of their products. So, I can create a product right here and I have a lot of people in India buying and that is even happening. We are creating an army of people who could promote different products all over the world using all the tools that are available on the internet in the digital space. So that that small businesses can have the right type of traction that they need and be able to grow massively. That is what that is about. And of course, we have a University where we are teaching 10 unique digital skills which are also monetizable in four different ways. What we do is to teach you 10 skills and also teach you four ways you can easily monetize those skills which gives you 40 unique streams of income.

What is your background like?

I had a similar background with quite a lot of people. It was a humble beginning and I was born to retired parents in the military at a time when pension was a difficult thing in Nigeria. I particularly had poor parents. But I always had an affinity for abundance. I always wanted the best of whatever was available. We were considered the poorest among the poor in my neighborhood. I was born in a poor neighborhood but even those who are particularly poor still see us as poor people. But somehow, through my special brilliance, because I was just very brilliant in school, other parents took interest in me and I had access into their houses to watch movies and I could operate electronics.

I just picked up so many gifts. Without necessarily being taught, I was just good at quite a lot in things. One thing that really was very, very unique about my background or childhood was the fact that I had this unexplainable interest in business. I could remember as young as between 6 and 9 years old, I already knew how to transact. I had already known how to do things and collect money for it. I had a little farm where I was planting maize and I will sell my maize. I believe those women were just trying to encourage a young boy. They will buy those maize and give me money. And I understood what money was even as young at that age.

I had a humble beginning but I had a taste for the good life, I had the desire for the good life and I was always finding myself in the right place at the right time interacting with people that had better backgrounds than me. I was always loved by people who are parents and who had money, material things and all of these things kept shaping my mind telling me that though my parents might be poor, there's something about me that is beyond what life has offered me. I could make something out of what life has offered me and was able to grow it into the empire that we have today



Harvard

I had a humble beginning but I had a taste for the good life, I had the desire for the good life and I was always finding myself in the right place at the right time interacting with people that had better backgrounds than me. I was always loved by people who are parents and who had money, material things and all of these things kept shaping my mind telling me that though my parents might be poor, there's something about me that is beyond what life has offered me

You seem to be a man of different colours in business. You currently own software companies like Afrofunnels, Learnoflix.com and zibarr.com. Can you share the secret?

Most times when they ask people to share the secret of business success or secret of wealth if they have a lot of money and influence, all of them always have these answers. 'It is God, it is hard work. It is diligence'. So, I'm also going to start by saying the same thing. It is God, it is hard work, it is consistency and diligence. Having said that, let me go to what I think could be the secrets for these things. The first thing is mindset. The way I think is different from the way many people think and I'll give you a good example: When somebody buys a car and celebrates it, it is great. And a lot of people start to think that this person is ahead of us, this person has gotten the car and their life is good. When I see these things, I don't think about it this way. What I think about is what it takes and how it feels to be the owner of a car company. Let's say I got a Benz. What does it feel like to be the owner or the CEO of Mercedes-Benz? That is how I think as a little boy. I always had that ownership mentality, I don't want to offer it, I don't want to buy it. I want to own it. What can I do to also own it? Always approaching ideas, and innovation through ownership. What that does is to open your mind to opportunities around you. It opens your creativity and your ability to innovate. Because as an owner, you'll look at something that is working and you see how it could be better. And see how you could put resources together and see how you could make it work. That's the first thing I believe is the secret of me being privileged to lead a couple of organisations. Another thing is I had the courage to start even when things are not perfect.

Looking back as a youth what would you have done separately considering the experiences you have gathered so far in life?

In the area of business and money, it's been a great, great experience for me so far and one of the major things that I would have done differently if I'm given the opportunity to probably be 20 years old again or be 15 years old again is to invest more in personal development and when I mean personal development, it means to invest more in my ability to make more money and I that I am doing it now but I wish I started earlier. I wish I had not tried to do investments, multiplied money, you know just try to get rich and all that I would embrace failure as part of the process and that would not hold me back from investing. Learning from people who have the type of life and successes that I desire. Paying them to teach me the behind-the-scenes, paying them to show me the processes that created their results. I'm almost 40, I can't fail that much. I even now I'm still willing to fail at a lot of things because failure is the best teacher of success, it's the next door neighbour, the last bus stop to success because at the back of that failure, is that pure sure sustainable and proven success pathway.

Can you explain how your foray into entrepreneurship has helped shape your views on youth unemployment?

Interestingly, I don't believe in the word unemployment. I think it's an overused word and it is sort of over flooded. And it should receive a lot less attention. I think the right thing should be employability. People have always said there are no jobs but I do not believe in that. They are just so we just don't have enough people to create them. We also do not have enough qualified people to get those jobs. There is a four-word question that every young person must ask themselves. If you're unemployed today, one of the main questions you must always ask yourself is what can you do? Your answer to this question and your ability to answer the question is what will determine if you're going to remain unemployed or they will beg you to work for them. Right now, I have a lot of organisations who are looking for my skills asking me to work for them in one capacity or the other. What we can do to solve the unemployment problem is to develop people's ability to answer that question "what can you do?" The more they can answer that question the less unemployment we are going to have. Because everybody becomes productive; everybody learns one skill or the other that they can market or export and build the productivity of the country they live in.

As a renowned strategist and with your mission to create five million jobs in the country in the next five years, how possible is this claim?

The good news is that this is very possible, way more than possible. But of course, it's all about strategy. We can't create five million jobs by following the same strategy that other people will follow on what the government will follow. We have to bring in a different touch to the things we are trying to do. First of all, let me quickly state clearly that the types of jobs we are creating are sustainable jobs and the jobs that brings out innovation and creativity in people, not necessarily any form of menial job that is just giving them a little stipend. We're talking about real jobs. For context, we are looking at a minimum earning of N200, 000 in today's economy for a minimum earner out of these five million people. Now talking about how possible this is, we are not going to create the jobs directly. What we want to do, which is our mission, is to create job creators who will in turn create more jobs. So what we going to be doing in the next five years is to reach out to a minimum of one million people who are going to become successful entrepreneurs by learning ten unique highly proven skills that they can build businesses with and eventually be able to hire people who would create real values and earn good money. So we are creating the jobs indirectly not directly.

Read full Interview online - www.thisdaylive.com

MARKET PLACE

with Omolabake Fasogbon... 08155131874



L-R: Executive Director, Pistis Foundation, Mr. Leonard Thomas; Mother of the Overall Pistis Foundation Scholar winner, Mrs. Regina Ibibio; overall Pistis Foundation Scholar winner, Timothy Okpachi, and Founder, Pistis Foundation, Pastor Godman Akinlabi at the Foundation's scholarship awards held in Lagos...recently



Head Marketing and Communications, Stanbic IBTC, Bridget Oyefeso-Odusami; (left), and Country General Manager, Pladis Global, Hakan Misri, presenting the Most Outstanding Marketing Professional Insurance award to Chief Customer and Marketing Officer, AXA Mansard Insurance Plc, Jumoke Odunlami at WIMCA 2022 in Lagos....recently

Hypo Rewards NYSC Volunteers in Toilet Rescue Initiative

Indigenous manufacturer of bleach products, Hypo has rewarded National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, members driving its 'Toilet Rescue Volunteer' Program.

Launched in September, the community development service aims to involve the youths in realising United Nations' Hygiene goal and ending practice of open defecation in Nigeria.

The 11 rewarded volunteers got their project nominated and commissioned for recognition by the Hypo brand.

They were hosted to a grand reception and presented N100, 000 cash prize each in addition to employment interview offer.

Also present at the event, Executive Chairman of the Organised Private Sector in Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Dr Nicholas Igwe, on behalf of his organisation promised to support the volunteers with additional N50, 000.

The initiative has so far saw 68 toilet units rescued and commissioned by the brand in partnership with NYSC, Lagos Chapter, through the service of the volunteers.

At the programme too, the NYSC members were afforded the privilege to meet with the Group Chief Executive Officer of Tolaram Group, Mr. Deepak Singhal, who commended them for their commitment to the community service that aimed towards a greater Nigeria.

Speaking at the event, Brand Manager of Hypo Bleach, Mr. Akinseloyin Akintayo said, "These young people are dynamic, and they have demonstrated how deeply they care about giving back to the community where they are serving and beyond the cash rewards, they will be taken through an interview session after which the lucky ones will get a full-time employment with the organisation".

Also, at the programme, Senior Director, Community Development Service, NYSC Lagos State, Mrs. Victoria Akowonlehin commended Hypo for staying true and committed to the cause.

She added that initiative had yielded positive and life improving results.

The highlight of the project was a multimedia presentation of the dilapidated state of a few of the commissioned facilities, showing their before and after refurbishment state.

Commenting, one of the volunteers, Ms. Vivian Asiegbunem Said, "We have touched children, through me, Hypo and NYSC which was my motive and as a graduate of environmental biology, I am glad to have learnt and achieved a lot unimaginable through this project, and now I picture this as the starting point for my contribution to the society/ humanity".

SON to Begin Standardisation Of MSME Brands

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria, SON has said that plans are ongoing by the organisation to standardise products and brands manufactured by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Director-General of SON, Mallam Farouk Salim stated this at the pre-World Standards Day press briefing that held in Lagos recently.

Salim stressed that providing standards for MSMEs was non-negotiable, in view of the crucial roles they played in the economy.

He described MSMES as undeniable agents of growth.

He said, "SMEs are easily accessible as they operate very close to our homes and offices. The most feasible way to bring their growth to bear on Nigerians is to provide standards for their activities."

He disclosed that organisation aimed to integrate all sectors of the economy into its programmes.

He added, "There is need to provide effective standards for an estimated 40m SMEs as this will further further assist them in breaking barriers in the face of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement".

Salim further pointed out that standardising activities of MSMEs would help eliminate discrimination and rejection against made-in-Nigerian goods at the international market.

CITN Inducts new Fellows, Tasks FG on Fiscal Policies

The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) has advised the federal government to raise critical fiscal policies that speak to taxation and present economic realities.

President and Chairman of Council, CITN, Adesina Adedayo, declared this at the institute's fellowship conferment ceremony that held in Lagos, recently.

While admonishing the new fellows, Adedayo said that the content of 2023 budget Appropriation Bill that was recently presented to the National Assembly places more responsibility on them to develop the profession.

He added that with the country's present debt profile, fellows' inputs would come handy to assist government with actionable policies and implementation strategies.

The key note speaker and Special Adviser to Kano State Governor on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), Habibu Mohammed lamented that the recent Finance Acts of 2020 and 2021 do not reflect rich involvement and consultation of tax professionals.

He said, "In my opinion, exempting businesses with annual turnover of less than N25m from paying taxes, while at the same time, collecting taxes from salary earners with N300, 000 annually, as well as controversies surrounding the minimum tax, suggest a little involvement and participation of CITN and its members in producing such acts".

"CITN should strive to gain more participation in the subsequent acts to be made".

He also advised the new fellows to take the conferment as challenge, but not just a title or fashion.

Stanbic Renews Commitment to Multisectoral Business Growth

Stanbic IBTC Holdings PLC has pledged continued support to Nigerian businesses across all the sectors.

The organisation made this known while unveiling its proposition for business success and sustainability in Lagos, recently.

At the event, the foremost end-to-end financial services provider unveiled a bouquet of innovative financial business services that cuts across sectors, both within and outside the country.

The bank's Executive Director, Business and Commercial Clients, Remy Osuagwu stated that the bank was repositioning its business to align with Nigerian local and international business. Osuagwu disclosed that the bank was also putting up solutions that will resolve growth challenges in Nigerian businesses.

He said, "We know that some businesses think they can grow alone, but the truth is no business can survive without the right partner. We are glad that we are positioned as an experienced financial partner to support business growth.

"The idea of our launch is to showcase all the financial solutions, including advisory services that businesses can take advantage of to meet their growth aspirations, especially in the face of the current challenging operating terrain. Our solutions are thoughtfully created to meet the needs of businesses across diverse sectors.

"For instance, one of our solutions, the Africa-China Trade Solution (ACTS), facilitates trade dealings, imports, and exports with China. Our customers in that line of business are covered because it grants African enterprises access to new markets, expands their customer base, and creates a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries and the rest of the Asian continent."

Also speaking, Executive Director, Corporate and Investment Banking at Stanbic IBTC, Eric Fajemisin assured customers to see the bank as a trusted partner that offers opportunities and risk management strategies.

NCC Harps on Competitive Neutrality in Regulating Fintech, Emerging Technologies

Emma Okonji

Given the global shift to digital services, just as financial services and payments are now powered by mobile phones, providing access to new data, embracing technological innovations, and changing mindsets of users, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the telecoms industry regulator, has said it will regulate Nigeria's digital space.

NCC, however, said it would be mindful of protecting the consumers and meeting the needs of the robust operating environment that the digital economy has created, while considering regulation.

Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta made this known during the NCC's Day at the just concluded Nigerian Fintech Week in Lagos, with the theme: 'Navigating the Next Normal-Sustainable Impacts in FinTech, e-Government and Emerging Technologies.'

Danbatta who was represented by the Director, Digital Economy at NCC, Mr. Austin Nwaulune, said the backbone of the FinTech and any emerging technology, remained hyper connectivity, which means growing interconnectedness of people, organisations, and machines that result from the internet, mobile technology and the Internet of Things (IoT).

According to Danbatta, "It is therefore imperative to note that NCC, being the regulator of the communications sector, is responsible for ensuring that regulation is innovative, technology neutral, competitively neutral, protects the consumers and meets the needs of the robust operating environment that the digital economy has created.

"The digital economy is taking shape and changing conventional notions about how businesses are designed; how firms network; and how consumers obtain services, information, and goods. It is in recognition of the impacts of the digital economy that Nigeria developed its guiding Policy and Strategy document known as the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) and the NCC has positioned itself to ensure full implementation of its responsibilities as communicated in the NDEPS."



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MISSILE

Pro-Ekweremadu Protesters to UK

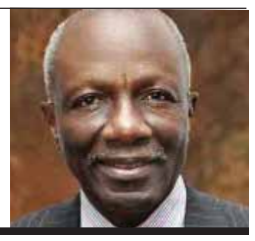
"Where is the presumption of innocence for the accused? Would the Nigerian government subject a UK Member of Parliament to the same shabby treatments and protracted detention on a clearly bailable offence under similar circumstance?"

–Protesters at the British High Commission in Abuja querying the British Government over the continued detention of ex-Deputy President of the Senate, Ike Ekweremadu in London.

THISDAY 27 years OF ROBUST JOURNALISM SINCE 1995

BASHORUN J.K. **RANDLE**

GUEST COLUMNIST



Lagos as Second Worst City to Live

I was in total shock when Lagos was recently presented on several international media as the worst city in the world to live, and by extension, the dirtiest capital city. When I had sufficiently recovered, I reverted to the actual text which reads as follows: "With a relatively low score of 32.2%, Lagos was just a little above Syria's war-torn capital, Damascus, and a place behind Libya's Tripoli. Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, is the second-worst city to live among 172 cities worldwide.

The revelation is according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in its 2022 ranking of the world's most liveable cities.

Lagos scored very low in all the five metrics used to assess an individual's lifestyle. On the stability metric, Lagos scored 20 per cent, the same point as Damascus. Under the healthcare category, the city scored 20.8 per cent, the same point it got last year. For culture and environment, Lagos finished with 44.9 per cent while on education metric, the city scored 25 per cent. Nigeria's former capital maintained 46.4 per cent for the infrastructure category.

Over the last five years, Lagos' position remained largely at the bottom of the EIU liveability ranking.

The response by the government has been somewhat feeble. Could it be that they do not care or they are not bothered by the seriousness of such a grave indictment?

Regardless, we must confront our moment of truth. To make matters worse, an American visitor to our beloved city slammed it (and its prime locations-Ikoyi, Victoria Island, Banana Island, Park View Estate, Snake Island, Monkey Island, Crocodile Island, etc) as the most expensive slums in the world. In addition, the traffic is chaotic and the roads are an advertisement for urban guerrilla warfare with potholes as the arena for combat between motorists and motor-cycles of various categories ranging from the "Danfos" (rickety buses); "Okadas" (two-wheel motorcycles); "Keke Marwa" (tricycles) and vehicles meant for goods but carrying human species (mostly labourers) instead. The real Kings of the road are the tankers who are overladen with cement, fuel, water or whatever.

They feel entitled to park anywhere without let or hindrance. Every now and again, they empty their bowels and crush other vehicles or passers-by. Sometimes, they fall off bridges. Thrown into the mix are the siren-blaring government officials, military and businessmen (masters of the universe).

We must not forget the cash-laden bullion vans. Every day and night, it is a feisty no holds barred struggle for survival in jungle warfare. The ultimate supreme claim to preferential and deferential treatment is the "articulated" lorry belching smoke and poison.

Rather than press the mute button, it is time to carry the battle to the enemy. It is our last great hope. We are dealing with monumental human devastation and egregious desertion. To start with, we must necessarily evaluate the prospects for a truce or a peace accord - between the oppressors and the oppressed (victims). The alternative is to disarm the oppressor for whom suppression is the weapon of first choice with intimidation as the ammunition.

We are right on the cliff edge of civilization. In the ravine below is the field of anarchy, chaos and vanquished hope. The elderly and the vulnerable count for nothing when the battle cry insists that might is right. It is war crimes galore without declaration of war. We have willy-nilly walked through an unlocked door into a fire fight of rage and fury. Unprovoked threats have overwhelmed unwarranted invasion. Only more mendacity and sheer vindictiveness are on offer as derisory options.



MUSON Centre, Lagos

Saint Augustine may have had our dearest and priceless city in mind when he delivered judgement: "Indeed, man wishes to be happy even when he so lives as to make happiness impossible."

We must throw the "Omolanke" (four-wheel cart) and wheel barrows, which for all we know, may be ferrying arms and ammunition beneath the bricks and mortar-piled sky high, into the mix as they regally and majestically compete for space on the highways and side streets. While gazing in awe, there will be plenty of time and energy for reflection. We have chosen to confuse sacrifice with cowardice and empathy with denial.

Regardless of the feeble exertions of the overladen refuse disposal vans and intimidating compactors, which ironically lament their own misuse and starvation, we are confronted with the spectre of grievous social wrong plus pompous lies and empty vanities. The flashing billboards advertise the squalid cruelty of tyrants who have mastered the black arts of tantalization – promise everything but deliver nothing.

We are compelled to endure the worst possible time where anger, grief and rage dictate the tune. We are utterly mortified by the prospect of a city that is not much different from an active war zone. Our steadfast prayer is that the enemy is not provoked to the point of exercising the nuclear option; and thereby blow everything up. It is as frightening as it is terrifying. The magnitude of our calamity is beyond exaggeration. In order to survive, we must become invincible and invisible. Our detractors have become even more irritating, insulting, aggressive, greedy, calculating and vindictive. Mendacity and subterfuge reign supreme.

As we seek to negotiate with friends and foes alike to switch gears from recurring conflict to peace, harmony and equilibrium, we must recognise that changes in circumstances require changes in strategy. The critical issue is not just about facts but far more importantly crucial data.

It was W. Edwards Deming who emphatically declared: "Without data, you are just another person with an opinion."

There is an acute and embarrassing shortage of data regarding how many homes are without drinking water. It is the same with electricity which has been supplanted by 24/7 (twenty-four seven) non-stop generators pumping and belching lethal fumes into the hitherto fresh air and unpolluted eco-system. Even more nightmarish are the data on crimes – ranging from rape to fraud, robbery, kidnapping, money rituals and murder to Ponzi schemes as well as impersonation (the living pretending to be dead and vice-versa !!).

In this seedy and claustrophobic cauldron of grime, filth, ruin and remnants we nevertheless have to deploy our fierce and feisty navigational skills. There was no such requirement when in 1952, the same Lagos won the first prize in the British Commonwealth as the city with the cleanest water. It was Dr. Ladipo Oluwole (an old boy of King's College, Lagos) who travelled all the way to Australia to collect the glittering trophy and the generous accolades plus the inspirational encomiums. But back then, the population of Lagos was just a little more than two hundred and fifty thousand.

Now, we are twenty-million during the day and twenty-five million at night (without including the living dead !!) Besides, in the 1950's, Lagos was blissful, serene and had no debts.

In addition, fresh air was freely available to both the rich and poor who had no qualms about walking up and down the Marina just to enjoy the breeze. Now, the air is foul and the debts keep mounting. Officially, Lagos owes N780.5 billion according to the data published by the Debt Management Office. The mandate of the Debt Management Office does not extend to hidden debts or hidden doubts not to talk of hidden depths.

In the meantime, the government has unleashed terror and terrorism on the J.K. Randle family. It commenced with stealth in 1969 and gathered momentum in 1975 with the compulsory acquisition of vast tracts of our land (286.4 Hectares). Almost fifty years afterwards, we have not received a dime in compensation. It is prime location which stretches over Alausa/Agidingbi/Ikeja. In Surulere, the "Shell Club" (Adeniran Ogunsanya Street) and the adjoining Nigerian Ports Authority Sports Grounds have been the target of government intrigue and malfeasance.

However, as regards Nigerian Ports Authority Sports Grounds it was a lease granted by my late father, Chief J.K. Randle and my uncle, Chief Romanes Adewale Randle to Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) which the tenant/lessee hijacked and converted into its own property. The matter has dragged on in court for several decades.

Where government has surpassed itself is with regard to our family land at Onikan, Lagos. It was my grandfather, Dr. J.K. Randle who bequeathed the garden ("Love Garden") when he died in 1928 "…….to the people of Lagos for their peaceful enjoyment and recreation". He left it in the custody of Lagos Town Council which was subsequently replaced by Lagos City Council (now Lagos Island Local Government). He provided generous funds in his estate for the maintenance of the garden.

During the colonial government, the garden was in pristine condition. The flowers bloomed; and both the rich and the poor were welcome to savour the soothing balm provided by nature in a bold endeavour to connect us with humanity and civilization while lovers, both young and old wandered freely literally "In The Garden of Love" – exchanging furtive kisses, swapping love letters and the occasional outburst of everlasting love, unflinching devotion and eternal fidelity.

The Colonial Government (British) kept faith but no sooner after their departure in 1960, the funds were purloined or diverted by government officials into private pockets. Neglect and decline followed in rapid succession. By the time the military struck on 15th January 1966, the garden was a shadow of its old self.

Subsequently, the military acquired it ostensibly for "public purpose" with the Land Use Act of 1978 as cover but promptly handed it over to a private organisation – Musical Society of Nigeria (MUSON). It is now known as the Muson Centre.

Of course, both the law and morality have combined to point the way to justice and fairness – if the garden would no longer be used for the purpose for which it was donated equity demands that it should be returned to the Randle family.

As for the adjacent property – the Dr. J.K. Randle Swimming Pool that was where several generations of Lagosians learnt how to swim. It bears repetition that my grandfather graduated from Edinburgh University, United Kingdom, in Medicine with a Gold Medal in surgery in 1888. Thereafter, he joined the Colonial Service but resigned on account of racial discrimination. White doctors who were his juniors were being paid higher salaries!!

•Bashorun J.K. Randle is a former President of the Institute of the Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and former Chairman of KPMG Nigeria and Africa Region. He is currently the Chairman, J.K. Randle Professional Services.

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All Correspondence to POBox 54749, Ikoyi, Lagos. **EMAIL:** editor@thisdaylive.com, info@thisdaylive.com. **TELEPHONE Lagos:** 0802 2924721-2, 08022924485. **Abuja:** Tel: 08155555292, 08155555929
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