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# TRIBUNE

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TANTITA SECURITY SERVICES NIGERIA LIMITED

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**The Strategist and Performer**  
*Congrats,*  
**Mr. President**  
**On hitting the one-year mark**

The Chairman, Management, and Staff of Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited congratulate and celebrate with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Iyelawei of Gbaramatu Kingdom, on your one year in office as the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic Nigeria.

We feel honored to be associated with you, in your determination to reposition Nigeria for healthy economic growth and prosperity with your Renewed Hope Agenda.

Mr. President Sir, well-meaning Nigerians and foreign investors appreciate your resolute effort to lay a foundation for a modern

Nigeria.

We confidently stand with you in this vision to make Nigeria prodigious again.

*Once again,  
Congratulations,  
Mr. President.*



**SIGNED:**

**High Chief Dr. Government**  
Oweizide Ekpemupolo, alias Tompolo  
The Ibe-Ebidouwei of Ijaw Nation,  
and Chairman, Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited

HIS EXCELLENCY  
ASIWAJU BOLA AHMED TINUBU GCFR  
PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE  
ARMED FORCES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OYO STATE  
GOVERNMENT

## WE WELCOME MR PRESIDENT TO THE COMMISSIONING OF **76.67km ISEYIN-FAPOTE-OGBOMOSO ROAD**

In line with our commitment to building infrastructure that targets the economic expansion agenda of the government, the Iseyin-Fapote-Ogbomoso Road, a 76.67 kilometres road project started in 2022 and named after former Governor Adebayo Alao-Akala, comes on stream today.

I, on behalf of the Government and good People of Oyo State, welcome the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, to the commissioning of what can be adjudged as the longest road project by any government in Oyo State in modern history.

This project connects the agriculture hub of Oyo State to the ready markets in city centers across Nigeria. It is another stride in reengineering a modern Oyo State.

Signed  
**'Seyi Makinde, FNSE, D.Sc., GSSRS**  
Governor of Oyo State



# Reps probe CBN's reform, sack of 600 staff

## Affected staff were not given fair hearing —Gbwevi

**T**HE House of Representatives on Wednesday unveiled plans to investigate the retrenchment of about 600 staff of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The resolution was passed sequel to the adoption of a motion of urgent public importance, move by Honourable Jonathan Gbwevi who expressed grief over what he called the unfair circumstances that led to the retrenchment of the affected

staff.

In his lead debate, Hon. Gbwevi lamented that the apex bank's extensive reform which led to the downsizing of the workforce, has affected close to 600 employees including Directors and nearly all staff members in the Governor's Directorate being terminated.

"The House is aware that the recent downsizing by the Apex Bank has raised significant concerns and controversies among stakeholders, including the

affected employees, labour unions, and the general public.

"The House is cognizant that now more than ever before, there is a dire need for meritocracy in institutions and the importance of maintaining and sustaining strong institutions. Nigeria currently has the highest Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and Chartered Financial Analysts.

"The nation is at a critical point of economic resuscitation. We therefore

cannot afford to develop capacity and lose it to Europe and America.

"The House is worried that these retrenchments, without any sort of fair hearings or panels could cause the nation a lot in settlements.

"A Director's tenure according to the civil service rules is two terms of four years or 60 years of service, which ever comes first I believe. This make them like permanent secretaries. The capacity being thrown away

can it be easily replaced?

"The House is also worried about staff morale and progression, people choose careers in civil service so that they can end careers like their superiors and mentors who trained them.

"Seeing their bosses being treated with disregard and like criminals will send a message that professionalism is not rewarded, as well as, meritorious service to our great nation Nigeria.

"The House is concerned that considering the

President's renewed hope agenda, which is meant to improve lives will only to more hardship, and will lead to another batch of brain drain outside Nigeria," he noted.

To this end, the House mandated the joint Committee on Banking Regulations and Federal Character to look into aforementioned reform of the Apex Bank leading to the downsizing of staff members and report to the house within four weeks.

## Reps seek end to Oyo, Osun inter-State land dispute

· Task Boundary Commission to activate adjustment process between Iwo/Ayedire, Lagelu LGAs

Kehinde Akintola | Abuja

THE House of Representatives on Wednesday tasked Federal Government through National Boundary Commission (NBC) on the need to find a lasting solution to the boundary issues among Iwo Local Government, Ayedire Local Government in Osun State and Lagelu Local Government in Oyo State.

The resolution was passed sequel to the adoption of a motion of public importance on the urgent need to address the continuous fatal boundary dispute amongst Communities in Osun and Oyo State, sponsored by Hon. Lukman Mudashiru, who solicited for the House intervention.

In his lead debate, Hon. Mudashiru lamented that there has been a "prolong

interstate boundary disputes in communities in Iwo Local Government Area and some parts of Ayedire Local Government area of Osun State and Lagelu Local Government Area in Oyo State which has been causing immense challenges for the residents of these communities.

"The House also notes that the boundary disputes in these Local Governments in Osun state and Oyo state have led to numerous violent clashes which has claimed many lives of people living in these affected communities.

"The villages affected in Osun state include Paapa Village, Paku Village, Oloya Village, Ogunajo Village and Malamu Village all in Iwo Local Government as well as Eleye Village and Arikese Village in Ayedire Local Government area.

## Labour to resume minimum wage talks with FG on Friday

Christian Appolos | Abuja

THE Federal Government and organised Labour will resume negotiation on a new national minimum wage on Friday following earlier breakdown of talks.

President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Comrade Joe Ajaero confirmed this to our reporter following a letter by the Chairman of the Tripartite Committee on National Minimum Wage inviting Labour to the table.

A copy of the letter, which was signed by the Secretary of the Committee, EkpoNta, was obtained by our reporter on Wednesday.

Ajaero confirmed that organised labour will honour the invitation but warned that the discussion will not be a "monologue."

He said: "Yes, we will attend but you know our ultimatum expires on Friday.

If they present a better offer on Friday we will accept it.

"But we will not attend the meeting for the sake of talks. We will not go into a monologue."

On Tuesday, talks between the Federal Government and organised Labour broke down after government and organised private sector (OPS) raised their offers to N60,000.

The government added N3,000 to its initial offer of N57,000 proposed last week, taking the total figure to N60,000.

It was dismissed by labour at the meeting.

Labour described the proposal as "insulting" while walking away from the tripartite meeting.

At the meeting, labour again lowered its demand by removing N3,000 from the N497,000 it proposed last week.



From left, Akarigbo and paramount ruler of Remoland, Oba Babatunde Ajayi; Alaperu of Iperu, Oba Idowu Basibo; wife of the Ogun State governor, Mrs Bamidele Abiodun; Ogun State governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun; Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Oludaisi Elemide; Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Engr Ade Akinsanya, at the commissioning of the Sagamu Junction-Iperu Roundabout-Ode Junction Road, on Wednesday.

## Nigeria needs \$10bn yearly to achieve SDGs —Kalu

· Laments daunting challenges faced by MSMEs

Kehinde Akintola | Abuja

DEPUTY Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Benjamin Kalu on Wednesday disclosed that Nigeria needs \$10 billion yearly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Honourable Kalu made the observation in Abuja, at the Stakeholders' lunch on developing legislation on philanthropy and impact investing in Nigeria hosted by Impact Investors Foundation (IIF) in collaboration with the Nigeria Office for Philanthropy and the Office of the Deputy Speaker.

While addressing the delegation, Honourable Kalu advocated a legislation to back philanthropy and impact investing in Nigeria, saying it will help to increase capital flow for development, create jobs and reduce poverty rate in the country.

He therefore noted that enacting a law will help to mainstream philanthropy and impact investing into the national financial structure of Nigeria and in turn raise the inflows to achieve the desired development aspirations and also improve the living standard of the

people.

The Deputy Speaker stated that once achieved, the legal framework will drive inclusive economic growth and unlock the potentials for innovative financing solutions that will promote multi-stakeholders commitment and participation.

He noted that it is the duty of the parliament to observe the existence of gaps in the governance ecosystem and block them through legislative interventions.

Honourable Kalu reaffirmed the commitment of the parliament towards national growth and development.

The Deputy Speaker also noted that global philanthropy and impact investing funds are estimated to be trillions of dollars and by creating the right policy environment and frameworks, the nation can attract more funding and drive meaningful change.

Hon. Kalu expressed optimism that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will assent to the bill when the time comes, saying he is working hard to create jobs and reduce unemployment rate.

He said: "At the heart

of this conversation lies the need to mainstream philanthropy and impact investing into our national financial structure and enact legislation that unlocks increased capital flows to achieve our development aspirations and improve living standards.

"Philanthropy and impact investing play a vital role in addressing our nation's most pressing challenges, including poverty, education, innovation, and environmental protection. Your contributions are pivotal in driving positive social and economic outcomes.

"Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the Nigerian economy, accounting for nearly 96.7% of businesses, 87.9% of the workforce, and 46.31% of national GDP.

"However, they face significant financial constraints, inhibiting their contributions to our nation's progress. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Nigeria requires \$10 billion in annual funding. Today's agenda is ambitious and necessary.

"The 10th National Assembly is committed to the well-being of our people,

and our engagement on this issue demonstrates our leadership's unwavering commitment to charting a better course for our nation's growth and prosperity".

Speaking earlier, the head of projects, GIZ, Mrs. Ana Vinambres, said that the Impact Investors Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, at the forefront of unlocking private capital for social investments in Nigeria, and eliminating the barriers to impact investing.

She stressed that Nigeria needs a comprehensive national policy framework for philanthropy and impact investing to address systemic issues, hindering sectoral growths and effectiveness.

According to her, IIF and NPO in collaboration with NABH spearheaded a national framework to mainstream philanthropy and Impact investing in Nigeria, to among others promote policies that enable innovative financial vehicles like the NABH's \$7 billion Wholesale Impact Investment Fund (WIIF), NPO's \$200 million Job Creation Fund and other financial models such as gender lens investing and outcome-based contracts.

Ajaero confirmed that organised labour will honour the invitation but warned that the discussion will not be a "monologue."

# 46 years after, Nigeria reverts to Old National Anthem, 'Nigeria we hail thee'

## Tinubu signs bill into law

From Leon Usigbe, Lawrence Bajah, Kehinde Akin-tola and Soji Ajibola

**P**RESIDENT Bola Tinubu gave an insight into why the old Nigerian national anthem was re-adopted as its recitation officially took off on Wednesday.

Speaking at the launch of the Abuja Light Rail System commercial operations, he said that the fulfillment of the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Nyesom Wike's promise to deliver the project on time, was all about service delivery to the nation as captured in the an-

them.

President Tinubu praised the implementation of the project, which was flagged-off by former President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2007 as part of the move to host the 2014 Commonwealth games.

The loan agreement for the project was first signed under former President Goodluck Jonathan on November 7, 2012 by Nigeria and the China EXIM Bank.

It is a 45.245km standard gauge rail line starting from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport to the Abuja metro station.

The project was commissioned by former President Muhammadu Buhari on July

12, 2018.

The rail is conceived to link 13 communities with 12 stations, including the Abuja Metro, Stadium, Kukwaba 1 and 2, Wupa, Idu, Bassanjiwa, Airport, Gwagwa Dei-Dei, Kagini and Gbazango.

Tinubu said: The re-commencement of the project is a dream come true for the current administration. It is a demonstration of the commitment to value that we all should embrace in this country."

The president observed that at the last review, the access roads to the train stations were non-existent, noting "but today, we are proudly saying you are truly

serving the nation, and that is part is the critical elements of our new national anthem...it is all about service, you are proud to serve your motherland.

"Abuja Light rail metro stands as a symbol of progress, connectivity, inclusivity and it signifies our determination to modernise our transportation infrastructure, reduce traffic congestion in FCT and enhance accessibility to whole residents, visitors within and outside Abuja," he said.

The president recalled the pledge by the FCT minister to make commuting on the train free for two months but appealed to him to extend it to the end of this

year.

"Our dear landlord and his team, I heard you saying two months free ride. I appeal to you to make it till end of the year free ride. That will give the people hope and reason to celebrate

"As I speak to you today, all those roads have been completed for people to use to the various train stations. We constructed access roads to all the 12 train stations, including car parks at N21.4 billion

"What we are doing today is the inauguration of the commercial operation," he said.

Wike also said the previous administration awarded the contract for the training of manpower for 29 months at 128 million dollars but his administration was able to reduce the amount.

Meanwhile, the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, has said that President Bola Tinubu has signed into law the bill for the adoption to revert to the old National Anthem - 'Nigeria we hail thee'.

He disclosed this during the joint sitting of the Senate and House of Representatives on the commemoration of the 25 years of democratic system in Nigeria.

The House, had last week Thursday, passed a Bill to revert to the Old National Anthem, while the Senate followed suit on Tuesday.

The bill sponsored by the Majority Leader, Honour-

able Julius Ihonvhere, was for Nigerians to act according to the lyrics contained in the National Anthem.

Meanwhile, mixed reactions have trailed President Tinubu's approval of the new National Anthem for the country.

Senator Enyi Abaribe representing Abia South senatorial district in the National Assembly, and Dr Oby Ezekwesili, had in a separate statements, described the new anthem as misplaced priority.

"While we support the efforts of the Federal Government under President Tinubu to ameliorate the difficulties Nigerians are facing today, we do not feel that it is a priority to embark on a homegrown National Anthem 46 years after its adoption by Nigerians," Abaribe said

Also, Ezekwesili, in her x handle wrote, with all the horrible indicator on the state of governance, it is a new National Anthem that is their priority

"I thought it was a joke and gave it no attention. What an egregious case of majoring in the minor," she said.

However, a Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Lowo Obisesan, described the signing of the bill into law as a welcome development.

He said it will further give the citizens a sense of belonging as well letting them know they have critical roles to play in building a virile nation.

## Glo voted Champion's Telecom Company of The Year

into doing more good".

She also said that "for Nigeria to get better and bigger, we will need more of this caliber of people and institutions who we set out to honour this evening because they constitute an integral part of the best".

The ceremony was graced by the elite of society, including prominent figures from the public and corporate sectors and elected officials. The CEOs of UBA, Zenith Bank, Fidelity Bank, Julius Berger Plc, First Bank, and Consolidated Hallmark Insurance Limited were among them.

The Managing Editor of Champion, Mr Kelvin Egerue remarked that Globacom has made a lot of sacrifice to make telecommunications services available to Nigerians at the most affordable rate. "Nigerians will forever be proud to note that Globacom is always there to ensure that they are not exploited, he said.



From left, Vice President Kashim Shettima; President Bola Tinubu; FCT, Minister, Nyesom Wike; President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio and others, during the Presidential flag-off of the Commercial Operation of Abuja Light Rail, held in Abuja on Wednesday. Photo Felix Onigbinde

## Again, court orders forfeiture of \$1.4m linked to Emefiele

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, has again, ordered the interim forfeiture of the sum of \$1.4million linked to the former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele.

Justice Ayokunle Faji ordered the forfeiture of the money to the Federal Government.

The judge also ordered the EFCC to publish the interim forfeiture order in a national newspaper for anyone interested in the money sought to be forfeited to appear before the court and show cause within 14 days why the final order of forfeiture of the said sum should not be made.

The court made the above orders while granting an ex parte application moved by the counsel to the EFCC, Bili-kus Buhari-Bala.

The money forfeited in the interim is said to be in Donatone Limited's account and domiciled in Titan Bank Limited.

Justice Faji has adjourned the matter till June 25 for

hearing of the final forfeiture of the money.

On May 23, Justice Yellim Bogoro of the same court, had ordered an interim forfeiture of the sums of \$4,719,054, N830,875,611, and several properties also linked to the former governor of CBN.

At Wednesday's proceedings, Mrs Buhari-Bala told the court that the orders sought for are pursuant to Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud and other fraud-related Offences Act No. 14, 2006, and Section 44 (2)(b) of the 1999 constitution (as amended).

She also said that the court had the statutory powers under the provisions of Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006 to grant the reliefs being sought.

"That the funds sought to be forfeited are reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities," she said.

Buhari-Bala also told the court that the motion ex parte is supported with an affidavit deposed to by one

David Jayeoba, an investigator with EFCC.

In the affidavit, the deponent stated that his commission received a credible and directed intelligence which led to the tracing of funds suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities warehoused in the Donatone Limited (DL) Titan Trust Bank account, which funds are reasonably suspected to be part of proceeds of unlawful activities.

The deponent stated that the EFCC whilst investigating the fraud carried out by the erstwhile CBN governor and his cronies, discovered a huge amount of money warehoused and concealed in the account of Donatone Limited, domiciled in Titan Trust Bank.

He stated that investigation revealed that some of the brains behind the fraudulent concealment of funds reasonably suspected to have been proceeds of unlawful activities of Emefiele are the natural persons behind Donatone Limited, Uze-

obo Anthony and Adebanjo Olurotimi, who are directors at Donatone Limited.

The deponent further stated that: "Between 2021 and 2022, when accessibility to Forex in Nigeria was difficult, several international entities operating in Nigeria had to resort to different means to source Forex.

"That Uzeobo Anthony and Adebanjo Olurotimi used the firm, to collect bribes and gratification on behalf of Emefiele to get approval for accessing Forex. And that one of the entities (NP) paid a total sum of \$26,552 million USD, into the account of firm domiciled in Titan Trust account number 2000000500.

"That the said credits came into the account of firm on November 9, 2021: \$6,450,000; November 5, 2021: \$6,050,000.00; December 16, 2021: \$5,400,000.00; December 23, 2021: \$652,000; January 31, 2022: \$3,000,000.00 and September 21, 2022: \$5,000,000.00.

# Kano emirate tussle: CJN summons Federal, Kano State High Court Chief Judges, over conflicting orders

**·Conflicting judgments expose legal profession to public ridicule —NBA boss**

**·Calls for investigation of lawyers' conduct**

Sunday Ejike | Abuja

**T**HE Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, has summoned the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho and the Chief Judge of Kano State High Court, Justice Dije Aboki to appear before him today over conflicting interim injunctions regarding the Kano Emirate tussle.

A statement by the Director of Information of the National Judicial Council (NJC), Mr Soji Oye on Wednesday said, the meeting,

which is a prelude to whole scale investigation, is to enable the CJN to have a proper briefing on the development.

According to Oye, "There is strong indication that the National Judicial Council will conduct an emergency meeting next week where the subject Judges are likely to be invited and subjected to serious investigations."

The statement reads in part, "Sequel to the conflicting judgments emanating from the Federal High Court, and Kano State High Court of Justice on the Chieftaincy matter in Kano State, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman, National Judicial

Council, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola has summoned the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho and Chief Judge of Kano State High Court, Justice Dije Aboki for an emergency meeting in his chambers tomorrow Thursday 30 May 2024".

It will be recalled that, the Federal High Court in Kano, presided over by Justice S. A. Amobeda, issued an order for the eviction of Emir Muhammadu Sanusi II from the Kofar Kudu Palace, reinforcing the authority of the 15th Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero.

Also, the Kano State High

Court, presided over by Justice Amina Adamu Aliyu, issued an injunction to protect Muhammadu Sunusi and other key figures from potential harassment by state authorities.

This order prevents any interference with the Emir's autonomy and the seizure of key symbols of his authority, such as the twin spear, the Royal Hat of Dabo, and the ostrich-feathered shoes.

These conflicting orders have led to significant confusion regarding the rightful authority and protection of the Emirs in Kano State.

The State High Court's case is set for further hearing on

June 13, while the Federal High Court has adjourned its case to June 4.

Meanwhile, The President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Mr Yakubu Maikyau said, the conducts

of counsel and the Courts in the handling of the proceedings which culminated in the orders issued by the Federal High Court, the Kano State High Court and again the Federal High Court exposed the entire legal profession in Nigeria to public ridicule and opprobrium.

Reacting to the issue, Maikyau, in a statement by the National Publicity Secretary of the NBA, Mr Akorede

Lawal said, "Without prejudice to the subsisting actions before, both the Federal High Court and the Kano State High Court, it is my considered view that there is urgent need to scrutinize the professional conducts of both Counsel and the Judges involved in these matters.

The NBA will investigate the conducts of the counsel involved in these cases and shall not hesitate to commence disciplinary action against them before the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC), should there be any finding of alleged professional misconduct against them.

## Yusuf bans public, students' group demonstration

**· Police deploy armed personnel to flashpoints**

Kola Oyelere | Kano with Agency Report

at averting any potential breakdown of law and order orchestrated by adversaries of the state."

Gov Yusuf therefore said that "The state government has explicitly outlawed protests, demonstrations, or processions of any kind, and individuals found on the streets of Kano engaging in such activities will be promptly apprehended."

He also disclosed that "Through this declaration, we caution student groups against being manipulated by troublemakers who are resolute in fomenting disorder in Kano."

Meanwhile, the Kano State Police Command has hinted that it has heightened its security presence in identified flashpoints in and around the metropolis to tackle any potential security threats in the state, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* reported.

The state Commissioner of Police, Usaini Gumel, made this known in an interview with NAN, on Wednesday in Kano.

Gumel said: "Equipped and armed personnel have been deployed to handle any unforeseen circumstances around the identified areas."

"The state government's order banning all protests would be strictly enforced with vigour anyone found participating would be arrested and prosecuted."

"The police will not tolerate any form of violence or criminality, and anyone found with weapons will be arrested and charged with armed robbery," he said.



Delta State governor, Honourable Sheriff Oborevwori (eighth left), his wife Tobore (ninth left), his deputy, Sir Monday Onyeme (fifth right), immediate past governor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa (fifth left); his wife, Edith (sixth left), a former governor, Dr Emmanuel Uduaghan (third right); his wife, Rolly (second right); Chief Judge of the State, Justice Tessy Diai (fourth right); Chairman, Delta State Traditional Rulers Council, General Felix Mujakperuo (retd); Orodje of Okpe Kingdom (third right) and host of others, cutting the cake, during the state Praise Day to mark the governor's one year anniversary, in Asaba, on Wednesday.

## NSCIA cautions clerics, calls for fairness

Kola Oyelere | Kano

AS controversies continue to trail the reappointment of Emir Sanusi Lamido Sanusi II as the Emir of Kano, the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has called on the political, traditional and judicial authorities in the state to resolve the current issue with godliness, fairness and justice.

This is even as the apex Islamic organisation in the country urged Islamic schol-

ars in Kano to exercise caution and refrain from making inflammatory statements.

A statement signed by the Deputy Secretary-General of the Council, Professor Salisu Shehu, on behalf of the Secretary-General, Professor Ishaq Oloyede, also called on people of Kano State to remain calm, pray and avoid taking laws into their hands.

The statement read: "The Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has noticed the contradictory

statements emanating from some quarters of the Ulama in Kano concerning the current traditional leadership crisis in the state.

"At this trying period for the Ummah, the Council calls on Islamic scholars, who are custodians of Islamic learning, values and guidance, to exercise caution and refrain from making statements that can further exacerbate tension and polarise the Ummah.

"Ulama within and outside the state should prayerfully

allow the current traditional leadership conflict in Kano, to be handled and resolved by the political, judicial and customary authorities.

"Meanwhile, the Council calls on Kano's political, traditional and judicial authorities to resolve the current issue with the fear of Allah, fairness and justice.

"The Council calls on the people of Kano to sincerely call on Allah, remain calm and avoid taking laws into their hands."

He however stated that

"By virtue of his position, the governor has directed the Police, the Directorate of State Security Services, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to apprehend, detain, and prosecute any individual or group partaking in demonstrations on the streets of Kano.

"We call on the Kano State Government and House of Assembly to uphold the rule of law and adhere to the directives of the Federal High Court by promptly restoring the emirates to prevent further escalation of the crisis."

"This decisive action is a preemptive strategy aimed

Kola Oyelere | Kano

CRITICAL stakeholders from Kano South senatorial district have called on Kano State Government and House of Assembly, to uphold the rule of law and adhere to the directives of the Federal High Court by promptly restoring the emirates to prevent further escalation of the crisis.

Making the call while addressing newsmen on Wednesday in Kano, the group spokesperson, Alhaji Musa Saliu Doguwa, said that "It is important to note that the new emirates in Kano South Gaya, Rano, and Karaye, evolved as separate chiefdoms with a rich historical background."

The group then commended the members of the

State Assembly from Gaya, Takai, Doguwa and Tudun Wada Local Governments for their support for progress and development in the emirates.

The group noted that: "The sudden removal of our respected emirs without just cause or due process is a grave injustice that must be rectified.

"We acknowledge and

appreciate the judicial intervention that has brought a temporary halt to this regressive legislation.

"We call on the Kano State Government and House of Assembly to uphold the rule of law and adhere to the directives of the Federal High Court by promptly restoring the emirates to prevent further escalation of the crisis."

# UBA emerges Best Regional Bank in West Africa at African Banker Awards 2024

**A**FRICA'S Global Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, has been announced as the Best Regional Bank - West Africa at the prestigious African Banker Awards 2024.

The annual African Banker Awards, organised by the African Banker Magazine, took place on Tuesday at the JW Marriott Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, on the side-lines of the African Development Bank Annual Meetings.

The ceremony was attended by over 300 of the continent's leading figures in

banking and finance and UBA being recognised as the Best Regional Bank - West Africa, marks a significant milestone especially as the bank celebrates 75 years of delivering on its promises, solidifying its legacy as Africa's Global Bank.

While receiving the awards on behalf of the bank, The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, UBA Kenya, Ms. Mary Mulili, highlighted the significance of this achievement in line with the bank's commitment to its customers and partners.

She stated, "We are hon-

oured to be recognised as the Best Regional Bank - West Africa. This award is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and innovation of the entire UBA team.

"It reflects our commitment to excellence and our unwavering focus on delivering value to our customers. For our global presence, this award reinforces UBA's position as a leading global financial institution with a deep understanding of the African market and a strong international network.

Continuing, she said, this award also showcases our

ability to serve as bridge between Africa and the world, providing seamless financial solutions that drive growth and prosperity. As we celebrate 75 years of UBA, we remain committed to inspiring innovation, growth, and excellence. This award is not just a recognition of our past achievement but a motivation to continue striving for greatness in the years to come."

In his speech, Chair of the Awards Committee, Omar Ben Yedder, noted that banks and financial institutions are going through an important

transition and are playing a critical role in financing growth especially with the retreat of international banks from the continent.

"We are seeing a coalition of DFIs taking shape and these will have to see considerable capital increases to plug the gap in infrastructure, trade, climate and also SME Financing.

"We are also seeing further reform and new capital requirements for banks. This will lead to bigger banks and we have seen how the likes of UBA play a role in financing big conglomerates and

large infrastructure projects, something unimaginable two decades ago," he said.

United Bank for Africa is one of the largest employers in the financial sector on the African continent, with 25,000 employees group wide and serving over 45 million customers globally. Operating in twenty African countries and in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France and the United Arab Emirates, UBA provides retail, commercial and institutional banking services, leading financial inclusion and implementing cutting edge technology.

## Tinubu to commission NASENI CNG Conversion Centre

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu is set to commission the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Conversion, Filling, Reverse Engineering and Training Centre in Utako Abuja.

The landmark event which take place tomorrow, marks another NASENI milestone in its commitment to supporting the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda, particularly on sustainable energy alternatives and a clean energy ecosystem.

The NASENI-Portland CNG Conversion and Training Centre, a partnership between NASENI and Portland Gas Limited, is a state-of-the-art facility for the conversion of fossil fuel vehicles to CNG, a cleaner and more cost-effective alternative.

The centre equipped with the latest technology and staffed by highly trained professionals to ensure efficient and safe conversions, is

aimed at building local capacity in CNG technology.

It will offer comprehensive training programmes for technicians, engineers, and other stakeholders, fostering domestication of expertise in CNG systems and promoting the adoption of green energy solutions across the nation.

The Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of NASENI, Khalil Suleiman Halilu, as part of pre-launch activities, said the establishment of the NASENI-Portland Gas Reverse Engineering Centre marks a transformative moment for Nigeria's energy sector.

He explained that the CNG Centre underscores NASENI's unwavering commitment to sustainable innovation and the development of home-grown technological and manufacturing capabilities. "At NASENI, we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and providing affordable, eco-friendly fuel alternatives to Nigerians."

## Capital market stakeholders express concerns over proposed amendments to CBN Act

Kehinde Akinseinde-Jayeoba | Lagos

tary policy decisions, hampering the central bank's ability to manage the economy effectively and objectively.

Oluopo Dada, President and Chairman of the Council of CIS, emphasized the pivotal role of the central bank in maintaining economic stability and preserving international credibility.

"Safeguarding the independence of the Central Bank of Nigeria is crucial for aligning with global economic best practices and ensuring decisions are driven by sound financial principles, free from undue influence," Dada stated emphatically.

Sam Onukwue, Chairman of ASHON, highlighted the potential impact on investor confidence. "An independent central bank is a cornerstone for maintaining the country's standing in the global financial community, which directly affects investor confidence, credit ratings, and the overall economic outlook," Onukwue cautioned.



From left, Chairman, Dangote Cement Plc, Aliko Dangote; Non-Executive Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Abdu Dantata; Group Managing Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Arvind Pathak; Non-Executive Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Olakunle Alake; and Non-Executive Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Devakumar Edwin, at the 15th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Dangote Cement Plc, in Lagos, on Tuesday.

## Dangote Cement increased revenue by 36.4% to N2.208bn in 2023

**Proposes dividend up 50% at N30.00 per share**

By Dayo Ayeyemi

DANGOTE Cement says it has increased group revenue by 36.4 percent to N2.208.1 billion from N1,618.3 billion, reflecting an increase in prices in line with inflationary realities compared to the same period last year.

Besides, it said the group earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) for the year was increased by 25.1 percent to N886.1 billion at a margin of 40.1 percent (FY 2022: N708.28, 43.8 percent).

The company also proposed dividend up 50 percent at N30.00 per share to the admiration of all shareholders.

These were disclosed dur-

ing the Dangote Cement PLC Annual General Meeting in Lagos, on Tuesday.

According to the group's Annual Report and Account 2023, this was in addition to a strong volume growth from pan-Africa, saying the latter revenue was up by 123.2 percent to N1,925.9 billion, owing to robust demand from the region in addition to price increases.

The sales volumes from the core Nigerian operations decreased by 8.1 percent to 16.4 Metric tonnes in the year under review, according to the report.

The decrease was attributed to the combined impact of the cash crunch and election-related uncertainties in the first quarter.

Additionally, it said the sharp currency devaluation and heightened transport costs resulting from the subsidy removal in the second quarter, collectively contributed to the decline in sales volume from Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the annual report and account 2023 revealed that pan-African volumes were up by 12.7 percent to 11.3Mt from around 10Mt in 2022, on the back of improved sales, especially coming from Senegal, Congo, Zambia and Ghana.

In total, manufacturing costs increased by 51.8 percent to N1,006.3 billion in 2023 from N662.9 billion in 2022, owing to inflationary pressure.

A major driver of the in-

crease was fuel and power consumed which increased by 49.8 percent to N399.2 billion," the report read.

According to the report, the total selling and administration expenses rose by 31.1 percent to N491.6 billion in 2023. The rise in administration expenses, it said was driven by the 27.6 percent increase in haulage expenses due to the significant rise in AGO costs. Inflationary pressure, adding that the devaluation of the currencies also drove part of the increase.

In the year under review, the company's interest income decreased by 29.2 percent to N27.4 billion due to reduced interest earning balances.

## Maritime stakeholders urge govt to arrest exchange rates volatility

THE Customs Consultative Committee has urged Federal Government to review the Nigerian Customs Law to cushion the effect of naira exchange rate volatility against the dollar.

At a Stakeholders meeting held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island on Wednesday, the nascent body said this has become imperative to protect local businesses engaged in import and export.

According to the body made up of various stakeholders in

the maritime sector including top customs officers, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), business owners and active players in the industry, the new law has the potentials of increasing Africa's volume of trade which currently stood at two percent globally.

CCC also resolved to partner with government through institutional support aimed at ensuring the workability of the policies enunciated in the new Act.

It said, good as the new law was, government at the

center needs to ensure the implementation of the Act with the Act with the necessary political will it deserved.

According to the body, government needs to incentivise good corporate governance and absolute compliance to the laws governing the maritime sector, while not sparing infractions to serve as deterrent.

"It snacks of duplicity to encourage violators of laws in the maritime sector by not punishing infractions, while those who out of compliance with government

policies continue to suffer huge loss," the body said.

The Consultative Committee said efforts must be geared towards making Nigeria Ports more efficient and profitable in line with global practices.

"Ports, anywhere in the world do not sleep. It works 24 hours. This is the only way to go. Ports do not close businesses at all. However, it is not the same as Nigerian port who works like the Ministry in Nigeria. This must be addressed," it said.

Critics argue that these changes could introduce political interference in mone-



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# Tinubu to present 2024 supplementary bill to National Assembly soon

Kehinde Akintola | Abuja

**P**RESIDENT Bola Tinubu on Wednesday disclosed plans to transmit the 2024 supplementary bill to the National Assembly.

Tinubu disclosed this at the National Assembly complex, Abuja, while addressing the joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives in commemoration of 25 years of democracy.

"We are walking the talk. I will soon bring the 2024 supplementary appropriation bill that is just for your information

"But, we must not risk this democracy, build this nation so that the future of our great-grand children will be sure of prosperity and progress," he said.

While acknowledging the support enjoyed from both chambers over the last one year, the president showered encomiums on the federal lawmakers for strengthen the institution, which he noted, "represents our consciousness for freedom and sense of belonging."

Tinubu, who recalled his sojourn as a former senator, observed that: "Without this House, probably I may not find a path to the Presidency. I started all from here and that is why I am giving that respect, this response to you.

"Please, continue to collaborate and work together build our country. We have no other choice. It is our nation. No one, no other institution or personality will help us except we do it our self

"No amount of aid that may be coming from foreign country or any other nation. They take care of themselves first.

"Let's us work together as we are doing to build our nation. Not only for us, but generations yet unborn," he said.

Earlier, President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio, had disclosed that the National Assembly will be expecting the proposed 2024 supplementary budget as announced by President Tinubu.

Akpabio, who doubles as the Chairman of the National Assembly, disclosed that President Tinubu has signed the bill which seeks to adopt the old National Anthem.

"Of all the significant things you have done, if you take us back to our genealogy, that though tribe and tongue may differ, in brotherhood we stand, Nigerians all, and proud to serve our sovereign Motherland.

"There is no better place to go back to our genealogy than the National Assembly where we have elected representatives," he said.

In his remarks, the speaker, House of Representatives, Honourable Tajudeen Abbas, who applauded Tinubu for being supportive over the last one year, described him as "a true democrat who has seen it all.

"A former governor, senator and the leader of the party in all its precedence," he said.

He affirmed that the symbiotic relationship between the Executive and Legislative arms of government "has been a partnership that have been beneficial to all of us."

While pledging the 10th Assembly's support for Tinubu's administration, he said: "I want you to know that we in the National Assembly are happy with your report card;

## Court dismisses Jimoh Ibrahim's suit seeking to sack Aiyedatiwa as APC's gov candidate

Sunday Ejike | Abuja

THE Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on Wednesday dismissed the suit filed by Senator Jimoh Ibrahim challenging the candidacy of Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, as the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the November 2024 governorship election.

The dismissal of the suit, which is challenging the conduct of the primaries that produced Aiyedatiwa as APC governorship candidate for the forthcoming gubernatorial election followed its withdrawal by Senator Ibrahim.

The trial Judge, Justice Inyang Ekwo had, on May 14, ordered the APC, Aiyedatiwa and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to file their defence in the suit seeking the removal of Aiyedatiwa as APC governorship candidate.

However, at Wednesday's proceedings, Jimoh Ibrahim's lawyer, Mike Uche, informed the court that his client had resolved to withdraw the suit.

He told Justice Ekwo that the withdrawal notice dated May 27, but filed on May 28, had already been served on the defendants as required by law.

Lawyers representing various parties in the matter confirmed receipt of the notice of withdrawal by the plaintiff and did not object to the withdrawal notice.

Consequently, Justice Ekwo dismissed the suit in its entirety on the grounds that parties have already joined issues with each other before the withdrawal.

Reacting to the judgment, the Attorney General of Ondo State, Mr Kayode Ajulo, commended Senator Jimoh Ibrahim for allowing sense of reasoning to prevail on the matter.

As members of the same family, he urged the senator to team up and work together for the common development of the state, especially in the forthcoming governorship election.

The senator, who is representing Ondo South senatorial district in the National Assembly, had, in his suit, prayed the court to cancel the nomination of Aiyedatiwa as APC candidate on the grounds that the April 20 primaries that produced him was unlawful.

The senator, a governorship aspirant who participated in the primaries, alleged that the poll was marred with a lot of irregularities.

Among others, he claimed that Sections 221, 228 of the 1999 constitution (as amended) and that of 84 of the Electoral Act 2022, were violated in the conduct of the disputed primaries by the APC.

## Staff of Oyo tertiary institutions begin warning strike

By Nurudeen Alimi

ACADEMIC and other activities will be grounded at the state-owned tertiary institutions in Oyo State, as academic and non-academic staff under the aegis of Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Trade Unions in state-owned tertiary institutions on Wednesday embarked on a three-day warning strike to press home their demands from the government.

The JAC of Trade Unions, comprising the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP),

Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU), Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Polytechnics (SSANIP), Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU), and Senior Staff Union of Colleges of Education in Nigeria (SSUCEN), representing The Polytechnic Ibadan, The Oke-Ogun Polytechnic (TOPS), Saki, Adeseun Ogundoyin Polytechnic (AOP), Eruwa, Oyo State College of Education (OYSCOED), Lanlate, and Oyo State College of Agricultural Technology (OYCAT-

ECH), Igboora, announced that the three-day warning strike will commence from Wednesday till tomorrow (Friday).

In a statement signed by the JAC's secretary, Akin Adekanbi, and made available to journalists in Ibadan, the workers' unions noted that the three days warning strike is necessitated by discussions and numerous deadlines issued to the state government through the Ministry of Education, noting that that no substantive resolutions have been made.



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2024 - 2026**

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### A. EDO INDIGEN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- i. All applicants must be of Edo indigene.
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- iii. All applicants , including persons with disabilities, must have atleast a 4.0 Cumulative Grade point Average (CGPA ) on a five - point (5) scale or 5 on as even - point scale or equivalent
- iv. All NCE and HND applicants must have a CGPA o f 3.5 and above on a scale o f 4.0
- v. Awards are tenable in Nigeria and take effect at the beginning of each academic session for three consecutive academic years .

### B. FIELD OF STUDY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE AWARD AREAS FOLLOWS :

- i. Science and Technology
- ii. Medicine and Medical Sciences
- iii. Education
- iv. Agriculture
- v. Business/Entrepreneurial Studies
- vi. Law
- vii. Environmental Science

### C. METHOD OF APPLICATION

All applicants must:

- I. Submit a letter of intent to edoclubofnj@gmail.com with the subject line "2024 SCHOLARSHIP".
- ii. Submit all supporting documents.
- iii. Undergo the selection process by the Edo Club of New Jersey Education Committee .

**Note that any Double Application will be disqualified!**

### D. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Attach the following documents:

- I. A copy of the applicant' passport photo
- ii. Letter of Admission to the Institution .
- iii. CGPA results
- iv. National Identity Number (NIN) Card
- v. State of Origin Certificate

**The submission will be open from June 03, 2024, to July 26, 2024. Please note that these applications are entirely free of charge. NO AGENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE PROCESS.**

**Signed:  
Mr. Michael Osas Adeyin, Ed.S.  
President  
Edo Club of New Jersey, USA**

# Ademola Lookman's magical night

**H**ISTORY was made on an unforgettable Wednesday night in Dublin, Ireland, as Super Eagles forward, Ademola Lookman, scored a hat-trick to help Atalanta defeat German champions, Bayer Leverkusen, in the 2023/24 Europa League final held on May 22. That triumph marked Atalanta's first-ever European trophy and its second major title, the first in over 60 years. It was classic, legendary stuff, as the German champions had entered into the Aviva Stadium on a terrific momentum. The side parading Super Eagles stars Victor Boniface and Nathan Tella had just won the Bundesliga title for the first time in the club's history. The Coach Xabi Alonso-tutored team had won the league in royal style, becoming the first team in the competition's history to go unbeaten in a season. Boniface had scored 14 goals and registered eight assists. Tella, on the other hand, had registered five goals and provided two assists. Bayer Leverkusen's extraordinary 51-game unbeaten run was the story on many lips. The club had its sights on an unprecedented treble, and a million bookmakers were on its side. But history had other ideas: the German team was going to lift the DFB Pokal, which was won on Saturday, May 25, but not the May 22 Europa League cup.

Lovers of the beautiful game have not ceased telling the magical story as the lurking Lookman shot the Italian side ahead after just 12 minutes on that golden night in Dublin. Two of his team-mates missed Davide Zappacosta's angled ball back across the box, but Lookman was there with a fierce look, smashing a low effort past Matěj Kovář. He then doubled Atalanta's lead 14 minutes later after collecting the ball and dribbling past Granit Xhaka. The stadium went wild as the ball landed in the bottom right hand corner of the Leverkusen net, but the Eagles' danger man was not done yet. In the 75th minute, he latched onto a pass by Gianluca Scamacca and shattered the history books. The scene after the final whistle was terrific. Said the 66-year-old Atalanta coach, Gian Piero Gasperini, who had just won the first major trophy of his long career: "Nobody could ever have imagined he would make this much progress. He wasn't overly prolific in England. I changed his position to a more attacking role. Tonight he achieved something which will remain in the annals of football history - a stunning hat-trick." And hear the man of the moment himself: "These past two years I've been able to take my game to a whole new level. Maybe it could have come earlier, but it has come now. But this is just the beginning. I hope for more nights like this and to just keep getting better and better." Lookman scored 10 goals as La Dea finished fourth in Serie A, and he and his teammates will now receive the gold medal from the City of Bergamo following their Europa heroics.

Things haven't been a bed of roses for the Wandsworth, Greater London-born Nigerian prodigy. Lookman, who joined Charlton Athletic's academy in 2014 after signing from Waterloo, a youth football club based in the London Borough of Lambeth, made his first-team debut for

the Addicks (Charlton Athletic) on November 3, 2015. He would later pen a four-and-a-half-year contract with Everton on January 5, 2017, making his debut for the club 10 days later in a 4–0 thumping of Manchester City, and registering his name on the scorers' sheet. Lookman made his first European appearance for Everton in a 1–0 win over MFK Ružomberok in the Europa League third qualifying round first leg but because he was not guaranteed first-team football, he switched allegiances to the German Bundesliga club RB Leipzig until the end of the 2017–18 season. He dumped his five-year contract with RB Leipzig and joined Premier League side Fulham on a season-long loan in September 2020. It was from here that on 31 August 2021, he joined Leicester City on a season-long loan. On August 4, 2022, Lookman joined Serie A club Atalanta on a four-year contract, and here is where the story began to take a phenomenal turn. The winger scored, as he always seems to do, on his debut for the club, in a 2–0 win over Sampdoria. In January 2023, he scored braces in three consecutive matches. Then came May 22, 2024....

That magical night, the AFCON 2023 silver medalist became the first player to score a hat-trick in a European final since Pierino Prati in 1969. Although born in England and fielded in the country's youth competitions, including a golden run at the FIFA U-20 World Cup held in South Korea, Lookman looked Nigeria's way in 2020, making his debut for Nigeria on March 25, 2022, in a barren draw with Ghana as part of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers. At the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations held in Côte D'Ivoire, Lookman scored both goals for Nigeria in a 2–0 win over Cameroon in the round of 16, and the only goal in a 1–0 win over Angola in the quarter-final. And although the Eagles lost the final 1–2 to Ivory Coast, the extremely versatile and explosive winger had made a stunning statement at the continental showpiece.

If Lookman's Europa night of triumph proves anything, it is the fact that hard work, determination, zeal and focus come with amazing rewards. Throughout his career, and as the world saw at the 2023 AFCON, Lookman has always sought to exit his comfort zone. He shone brightly at the AFCON tourney where he displayed amazing skill and mastery while proudly representing his fatherland. His star performance at the Europa League final where he mesmerised the world, bagging the three goals that humbled Bayer Leverkusen, was only an icing on the cake of hard work baked over the last few years. The magic of May 22, the day Lookman rose above his peers to shoot Atalanta to a great record, did not happen by chance; it was preceded by grueling self-exertion and discipline. He is a real source of pride to his compatriots, especially young boys and girls with abundant talents and skills beginning to be discovered and groomed to stardom.

We are extremely delighted with his success and hope that this is only the beginning of many legendary stories woven around him. We urge him to see his historic feat as only a stepping stone to greater heights in his flourishing career. Go on and create better records, champion.



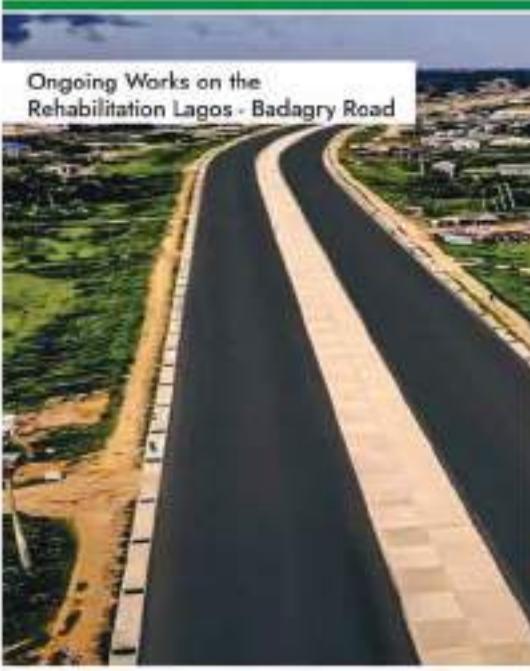


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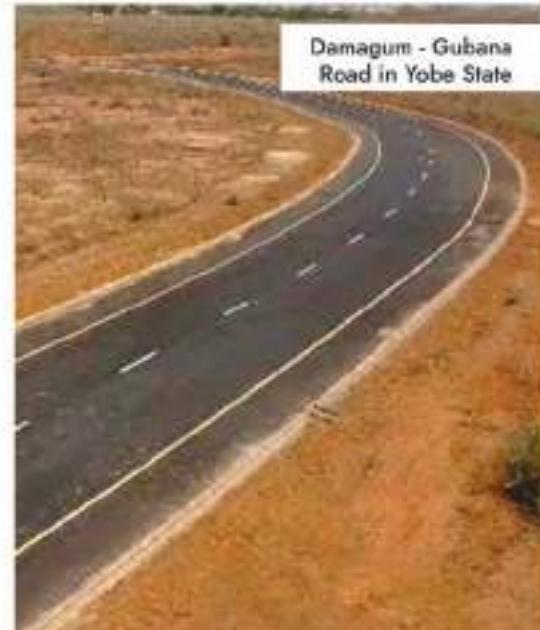
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Dualization of East-West Road, Section 1, Werrki-Kiemu in Delta State now 100% complete.	Construction of Kano Western Bye-Pass is now 71.45% now complete.	Rehabilitation of Bende-Arochukwu-Ohalia Road, Section now 50.06% complete.
Rehabilitation of Outer Marina-Bonny Camp Road & Eko Bridge Through Apongbon with Access Ramps in Lagos State is now 93.58% complete.	Rehabilitation of Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano Road, Section II; Kaduna-Zaria, Kaduna State now 90% complete.	Reconstruction of Bida to Lapai road in Nigeria is now 62.25% complete.
	Rehabilitation of Enugu-Port Harcourt Dual Carriageway Section II; Umuahia-Aba in Abia in Abia State is now 67.93% complete.	Groundbreaking for the Lagos-Calabar Coastal highway with simultaneous construction from Lagos, Uyo and Calabar ongoing.

These along with several other ongoing and awarded road rehabilitation and reconstruction projects are incontestable testaments to our commitment to make Nigeria work in our lifetime.

# How Makinde ended age-long agonies with 76km road in one year —Ogbomoso-Iseyin residents

THE age long narrative of agony of community dwellers along Iseyin-Ogbomoso road especially in the transportation of their farm produce to the market has become a thing of the past with the construction of a long stretch 76km Iseyin-Ogbomoso road. SOJI AJIBOLA recently took a tour of the road and writes on its impact on the beneficiaries.

NFRASTRUCTURAL development, especially the construction of roads to link the various communities in the three senatorial districts in the state remains the topmost priority of Governor Seyi Makinde-led administration.

In the past five years, an average of 600km of roads made up of intra and inter city roads have been rehabilitated and constructed on a virgin land across the 33 local government areas of the state. Some of the roads are; Moniya-Iseyin road, Theophilus Akinyele way, Onipepeye road, Oyo-Iseyin road, Ibadan-Airport road Olorunsogo-Akanran road, Eruwa road to mention but few.

This development has endeared the present administration to the heart of the people as many have noted the economic impact and other benefits to the affected communities. Most of the rural communities in the three senatorial districts are now developing at a fast rate as the government infrastructural policy is gradually bringing an end to the rural-urban migration.

Most of the communities, prior to the advent of the present administration had been deserted as they could not be accessed due to bad roads and lack of other basic amenities. Farmers in the affected communities were worst hit as they could not transport their farm produce to the nearest market because of the bad roads. Also, some of the produce got spoilt in the process thereby resulting into an unquantifiable loss.

After noting the importance of agricultural sector to the economic growth of the state, Governor Makinde-led administration decided to open up the rural areas through massive roads rehabilitation/construction. One of such projects is a newly constructed 76km Iseyin-Ogbomoso road which to the dwellers looked like a dream that will never come to reality.

Many administrations had in the past promised the different communities that fall within the axis motorable roads, but this never came to a reality. When Governor Makinde, on assumption of office made similar promise, they saw it as a political talk that would not be actualized but they were shocked when the workers were mobilised to the site.

With the construction of Iseyin-Ogbomoso road, Makinde becomes the first governor in the political anal of the state to construct a long stretch 76km road on a virgin land. Not only this, the project was completed within a space of one year even with the fluctuating monthly allocation from the federation account which is occasioned by the economic depression.

In order to ensure a quality job, the contract was awarded to the two giant construction firms, KOPEK and Craneburg not minding the costs. The community dwellers that fall within the axis testified to the quality of the job as they described it as long lasting job.

The value of properties in the affected areas has also witnessed a geometric increase as a plot of land that was previously sold for N150,000 now goes for between N1m and N1.5m. Also, it has eased the traffic congestion along Oyo-Ogbomoso-Ilorin road as motorists now see the newly constructed road as an alternative.

Former Commissioner for Works, Oyo State, Professor Raphael Afonja lauded Governor Makinde's policy on infrastructural development as he submitted that "It is important that we understand that the baseline behind Governor Makinde's vision on infrastructure development is to connect Oyo State in order to enable farmers, business owners, miners and all that have access to opportunities that can make the state economically viable."

"Opening new roads means giving people



the opportunity to have access to new spaces, new lands in places that have never been looked at as places where there can be opportunities to host some kind of businesses.

In his assessment, Comrade Alhaji Rafiu Elewa, Unit 2 PMS chairman, Express, Iseyin said: "We appreciate this because it used to take drivers four to five hours to get to Ilorin. We used to first go to Oyo and then to Ogbomoso to connect Ilorin and everyone knows the state of that road. We never thought we could ever travel to Ogbomoso or Ilorin without first reaching Oyo, but that has happened now. The people of Oke-Ogun are happy with this development.

"Now, in one hour and 30 minutes, we can get to Ogbomoso from here. And for those going to Ilorin, it could take up to two hours. So, we commend Governor Makinde for this great feat, which will affect our lives positively.

"Since the government completed the road, it has gained more traffic as people now prefer to pass through the route. Those coming from the North and other parts of South-West now use the road, because it is easy for them."

A hotelier and the Adimula of Iseyinland, High Chief Ifasoji Fashola said, "I am very happy over this project. A lot of people told me when I started a hotel project on this route that I should not have built a hotel in an undeveloped area. But as a Babalawo, I had consulted Ifa and Ifa told me that a road will come up here, but I didn't know when."

"I have had the land for a long time and I divined to ask what I should do with it and Ifa told me I should build a hotel. I also felt nearly discouraged, because the small road in the area was impassable.

"When I told my friends that Ifa said I should build a hotel on this land; some of them said Ifa lied but I said that I would follow Ifa's dictate. Some of them even mocked me that I was building a hotel for ghosts and that continued until we heard that Governor Makinde wanted to build this road. No one thought that any government would open this road in 20 or 30 years, because it is a new road. It was a surprise to us. Let me also say that when I started building the hotel, people said I should use all my land and I told them that Ifa said a road would pass through here and I didn't want to have any issue. When they were opening the road; the contractors were surprised that I left a wide setback."

"I appreciate our governor; he is a fortunate man. There is no amount of prayers that one can offer that will be enough, but anywhere

he is; I am sure his prayers will always be answered because he has been doing what makes people happy. When I came here about 15 years ago, land was sold for a very cheap amount but today, if you are going to buy land close to the road, you

have to spend millions. Before the road was started, the highest cost for a plot of land was N250,000 but it is about 10 times higher now. The area has picked up and people have been building houses.

"The governor has done well. May God continue to be with him. Look at the number of people that will ply this road and will eke out a living on the road. The road has also reduced the stress of going through Oyo to access Ogbomoso and Ilorin. Now, anyone going to Ogbomoso or Ilorin will just go straight. We are grateful to the governor for his commitment to developing the state."

At AGIP Area, Iseyin, where the road started one of the residents Lateef Suliyat, a cloth seller in Iseyin, when asked how she used to cope with the dust before the Iseyin-Fapote-Ogbomoso Road was fixed, said: "We had no other choice than to continue to trade even with the bad condition of the road back then. You know, we had to survive."

"What I always did was to make sure clothing materials, especially white ones, are not exposed so that they don't become dirty or rough before customers buy them. But with the road done by the government, things have changed. We appreciate Governor Makinde for fixing the road for us."

Alhaji Salaudeen Bamidele, a resident of Iseyin, had this to say: "Our governor is a promise-keeper and he has been doing extremely well. This road project is a very laudable one, which we are all happy about. I pray that God will continue to strengthen him. Where I am presently is where we call 'Ile Ago.' This road was not like this before but when the time came for the government to fix it, we showed cooperation and, now, we are enjoying it. Though some structures were affected, we appreciate the development that we are witnessing today in Iseyin."

Adeleye Akinkunmi, another resident in the

area, said: "I was born in Ahoro Dada and I had my education there before I left for Ogbomoso. From here to Ogbomoso, there used to be only one way; we used to go to Odo-Oba first before we could access Ogbomoso. But when the governor did this road, we were very happy with the development. This new road used to be a thick forest.

There was no road here before, not even a foot path. Now, the bush has been turned to a road.

"Before the road was done, a plot of land used to be sold for N70,000, but now that development has come, the price has gone to N200,000. The governor really tried, because people had no hope that a road could be created on this route. We also doubted when they started the construction of the road. But now, we are happy, because Ahoro Dada to Ogbomoso, which used to be about 40km, is now 21 km through the new road."

To Mr Sheriff Akanji, a commercial driver from Abeokuta: "This road is a great blessing to us drivers that ply Abeokuta-Ilorin, Lagos-Ilorin roads and so on. Ever since we heard that the governor wanted to build a road linking Ogbomoso to Iseyin, we have been praying for him. This is my first time passing the road and I am surprised that a governor can start and finish a 76km road this fast. I have heard so many things about Makinde, but this road here confirms that what they say about him is true; that he cares for his people. If not, he would not have opened a road where there was none before."

The Soun of Ogbomoso, Oba Afolabi Ghandi Olaoye appreciated the governor for the road as it connected two zones of Ogbomoso and Oke-Ogun. This, he said, will bring about enormous relationship between the two zones, promote commerce and agriculture. He added that the road will also boost trade and agriculture in the Northern part of the state.

Oba Olaoye, who spoke through his spokesman, Rev Peter Olaoye, said: "We have always been relating together but this will bring us closer. The two zones have a lot in farming and when they harvest, they need roads to take the produce to the markets. One thing is to do the farming, another is the good road to transfer to the market. This will boost trade and farming. Another importance is that this road will help lecturers and students of the LAUTECH Iseyin campus in their commuting."

# ECOSCOPE

with Paul Omorogbe | 0705 360 6932 | paul2001m@yahoo.com

## Why Nigeria's endangered species must be protected from extinction

By Paul Omorogbe

**C**ONSERVATION initiatives in Nigeria, according to studies, have been underway for more than a century, beginning with forestry conservation and the establishment of game reserves by colonial authorities. Nigeria signed the London Convention in 1933, promising to protect its natural resources and environment. However, new surveys by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) show that Nigeria's wildlife is growing endangered due to poaching, overhunting, and habitat destruction.

A United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report confirmed that in the last 10 years, Nigeria has seen a marked rise in illegal wildlife trade. The report, "Organised Crime in Nigeria: A Threat Assessment," found the involvement of Nigeria being a country of origin or transit for the trafficking of several wildlife specimens, such as pangolin scales, elephant ivory and rosewood.

The Nigeria Customs Service has made seizures recently and over the past couple of years, that support these findings. The UNODC says that illegal wildlife trade poses a severe threat to Nigeria's already vulnerable species and its rich biodiversity and ecosystem.

### Animals under attack

The total number of species that are at risk in Nigeria is not known. However there are certain species that are known to be endangered. The big five species - lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos, and buffaloes are the worst hit. According to Wild Aid Africa, rhinos and buffaloes are locally extinct in Nigeria, which means they can't be found anywhere in Nigeria because they have been hunted, poached, and killed in Nigeria.

In the past, hundreds of lions roamed the savannah region of northern Nigeria. However, there are less than 50 lions in the region, and they are hiding deep inside Yankari Games Reserves and Kainji Lake National Park due attacks from poachers and hunters.

Lions are an apex species and are the star wild animal for tourism. Hundreds of people visit Africa yearly to see wild animals such as lions - which can only be found in Africa. But Nigeria's lion is on the verge of extinction, and if nothing is done to protect them, we risk losing them forever.

### Why wildlife in Nigeria is depleted

Country representative for Nigeria for Wild Africa Fund, Festus Iyorah said there are three reasons why wildlife in Nigeria is being depleted.

"Habitat loss is one of the biggest factors that have caused the depletion of wildlife. In the last 60 years, Nigeria's population has increased from 44 million in 1960 to over 200 million. Places where wild animals used to live have been converted to where humans inhabit. As a result, these wild animals have lost their homes and have been killed, hunted, or exposed to poachers in that process. We have lost about 80 percent of our rainforest to deforestation. Nigeria has one of the fastest deforestation rates in the world," he said.

"Secondly, excessive poaching and hunting of these wild animals as bush meat affects their depletion. In the past three decades, Nigeria's wildlife has massively declined as a result of poaching and hunting. Species like lions, elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, drill monkeys, and even some bat species have been driven to the verge of extinction. Poachers have gone after animals such as el-



Indiscriminate bush meat trade and consumption in Nigeria. PHOTO: Biodiversity Preservation Centre

ephants for their tusks and exported them to the Asian continent as part of the illegal ivory trade criminal network," Iyorah added.

"Thirdly is the growing appetite for bush meat among urban residents who have disposable cash to buy wild animals such as crocodiles, pangolins, and monkeys and consume them as bush meat," he noted.

### More reasons for wildlife extinction

Speaking to the issue, award winning biodiversity conservation expert, Professor Edem Eniang, said "Conservation in Nigeria requires urgent action because it has reached a crisis level. It is an emergency and requires urgent positive action and everyone must be involved."

According to him, current efforts by government, non-governmental organisations and professionals were "grossly inadequate."

He said, "There is a crisis bedevilling biodiversity across the length and breadth of Nigeria. I travel everywhere in Nigeria. Last week, I took a trip from the Northeast to the South-South part of Nigeria by road. The essence was to observe. I have gone from South-South to Southwest; and from Northeast to Northwest.

"When I stopped at Ode Remo, between Ikenne and Sagamu, the number of bush meat I saw on the roadside sickened me for days. When I went from Keffi to Abuja by road, the number of trucks carrying wood, charcoal upset me for days because they were all from trees that are supposed to be standing and protecting the environment."

He said he had a similar experience on journeys to other parts of the country as he saw the level of decimation of forests in those places. "The only trees of significant size are fruit trees, oil palm or those left for traditional purposes. Many indigenous tree species are gone. The era of rhetoric and talking politics when it comes to conservation should be put to rest," he added.

### 'Nigerians had a culture of conservation'

Professor Eniang said that Nigeria is a country that historically cared about wildlife conservation. He said the country's undoing in that era was that "Nigerians did not document and celebrate the diversity of species we had. But they had their traditional means and methods of conserving the species. The efficacy of their methods is what makes us to still have some species that are ranking well globally in the country."

Professor Eniang stated that there were traditional festivals observable in today's society that pointed to historical conservation practices. "If you go to Akwa Ibom State, there is the Ekpe festival celebrating the lion, leopard and other big cats, till date. People come and perform, dancing and acting like the real lion.

"In Igbo land, there is the Mawu festival that celebrates the elephant and other animals in their land. In other parts of Nigeria, they do similar things in different names.

"In Ikot Ekpene, there is a craft market where you find carvings of tortoises and all kinds of reptiles. These carvings were done from ancient times and handed over generations after. This is promoting conservation."

He added that even idiomatic expression in local Nigerian dialects contained references to animals and animal behaviours. "These are all conservation strategies that popularised the species; that attached importance and value to these species."

"We had sacred forests where these species were protected and people were not allowed to hunt them or destroy their habitat. Among the Ibibio tribe which I belong to, we have closed season and open season for hunting," the professor of biodiversity conservation noted.

He went on to say that a peculiar monkey species known as Sclater's monkey is still surviving in his native community in Akwa Ibom State "because my people do not eat mon-

keys."

"Many species of animals cannot be killed because it is a taboo to do so. This is why such species are still surviving till today. These are traditional conservation strategies handed down to us by our forefathers."

### Any intervention so far?

Wild Africa Fund said it is conducting a public awareness campaign to save wildlife. According to Iyorah, "Wild Africa Fund believes that Nigeria can become a regional leader in countering wildlife trafficking and helping prevent the outbreak of further new disease pandemics. With its large population and pan-African reach through music, media, and the film industry, Nigeria has the potential to be a regional leader in raising awareness of these issues."

Wild Africa Fund is also working with the government to update its wildlife laws and enforcement. It is pushing a bill alongside the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and African Nature Investors (ANI) at the House of Representatives. The Endangered Species Conservation and Protection Bill, just passed its second reading on Monday.

Iyorah said that results were coming after three years of campaigning in Nigeria. He said, "Market Surveys International Limited (MSI), a Lagos-based research agency, surveyed 1,000 respondents across Nigeria and found that 88 percent of the respondents have seen our public awareness campaign featuring influential celebrities. Furthermore, 86 percent said they considered not to kill or consuming wildlife because of what they learned from the campaign, which strongly discouraged bush meat consumption using calls to action like 'please tell your family and friends not to eat or buy illegal bush meat.' Specifically, 39 percent said they stopped consuming bushmeat due to the campaign."

### New approach to conservation needed?

Professor Eniang told *Nigerian Tribune* that a different approach to conservation from what is presently being practised is needed.

He said forest reserves were set up without the consent of the owners of the land. Professor Eniang said conservation "must be a participatory process whereby the local people who live with the resources, who depend on the resources are carried along in any decision targeted at conserving both land resources and the inherent biodiversity."

**Illegal wildlife trade poses a severe threat to Nigeria's already vulnerable species and its rich biodiversity and ecosystem.**

# Sanwo-Olu inaugurates 15 40-passenger OmiBus boats

Tola Adenubi | Lagos

**A**S part of efforts to enhance the daily transit experience of residents through safer, faster and more comfortable trips, Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday added 15 OmiBus boats to the state's multi-modal urban transportation system.

Sanwo-Olu said the 40-passenger modern boats – the first phase of the planned 25 boats – were fully built locally, except their engines, with an eye on improving inland waterways transportation and setting standards.

According to him, the expansion of the water transport infrastructure is meant to achieve more efficient, sustainable and accessible transportation system, reflecting the government's unwavering dedication to progress and innovation.

He explained that riding in the boat took 27 minutes from Falomo to Badore for a journey that would have taken about an hour.

Noting that the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) has distributed 20,000 life jackets in the past year towards enhanced safety, he tasked private operators to stick to safety regulations, including time of movement and passenger capacity.

Towards safety and reliability on waterways in the state's entire multimodal transport system, he said the state has

made significant investments in jetties and other marine infrastructure, as well as road construction and rehabilitation, while the Cowry Card payment system enhances the integration.

Sanwo-Olu further urged the general public to use the boats and keep them neat as their part in maintaining public infrastructure and contributing to keeping government property safe while ensuring its sustainable use.

He commended Carverton Marine, the builders of the boats, for their commitment and delivery of the boats.

On his part, the Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Seun Osiyemi, said the new OmiBus Ferries are testament to the collective commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Lagos residents.

"The Omi-Bus Ferries project is not just about improving transportation, it is about transforming the way we live and move; it is about connecting communities, fostering economic growth and reducing the stress and congestion that often characterise our daily commutes."

Earlier, the General Manager of LASWA, Mr. Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, said the launch of the Nigeria-made modern ferries showed the state's dedication to developing water transport, and that LASWA is aligned with this approach in setting standards for inland waterways infrastructure and services across the nation.

According to him, through



Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu (middle); his Deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat (sixth right); Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin (fifth right); Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro (fourth right); Executive Vice-Chairman and CEO, Carverton Offshore Support Group, Mr. Olabode Makankajuola (sixth left); behind him is General Manager, Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), Mr. Oluwadamilola Emmanuel; Alara of Ilara-Epe Kingdom, Oba Olufololarin Ogunsanwo (fifth left) and other traditional rulers, during the inauguration of 15 FerryBoats at the Badore Ferry terminal, Lekki, on Wednesday.

safety awareness strategies, LASWA has significantly increased ridership figures and reduced waterway accidents, facilitated multi-modal transport connections and integration at several jetties by introducing the Cowry Cards payment solution, Last-Mile Transfer Buses, and Park-and-Ride facilities.

"More so, with a state-of-the-art Waterways Monitoring and Data Management Centre, LASWA is committed to providing reliable services, and is the ideal agency in providing reliable data, research materials and accurate time information on Lagos inland waterways," he said.



Some of the newly-acquired ferryboats inaugurated by Governor Sanwo-Olu at the Bodore Ferry terminal, Lekki, on Wednesday.

## NAF airstrikes eliminate 30 terrorists in Katsina, Borno

THE Nigeria Air Force (NAF) has said components of Operations Hadarin Daji and Hadin Kai have eliminated 30 terrorists as air strikes hit their hideouts in Katsina and Borno states, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* has reported.

The Director, Public Relations and Information of NAF, Edward Gabkwet, made this known in a statement on Wednesday in Abuja.

Gabkwet said the air strikes undertaken by the air component of Operation Hadarin Daji in North West on May

27, eliminated several terrorists loyal to notorious terrorist kingpin known as Babura.

He said the strikes were conducted around Bakai, times Bakarya, and Yartsintsiya bandits' hideouts in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State.

According to him, credible intelligence received after the strike reveals that about 30 terrorists were confirmed to have been neutralised.

He said it was also confirmed that Babura narrowly escaped being eliminated,

while most of his foot soldiers were killed.

Gabkwet said that similar air strikes were also carried out by the air component of Operation Hadin Kai same day at Tumbun Fulani, near Lake Chad, against terrorists at a once abandoned hideout.

He said the strikes were authorised after Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions observed a pattern that was consistent with the relocation of terrorists to new hideouts and movement of their logistics.

## Alleged terrorism: Court discharges Bello Bodejo as AGF withdraws charge

Sunday Ejike | Abuja

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on Wednesday discharged the President of Mi-yetti Allah Kautal Hore, Alhaji Bello Bodejo, of the terrorism charge preferred against him by the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF).

Justice Inyang Ekwo, in a short ruling, discharged Bodejo after counsel for the AGF, Aderonke Imana, moved

an oral application for the withdrawal of the three-count charge.

When the matter was called, Imana informed the court that the oral application for the withdrawal of the charge against Bodejo was brought pursuant to Section 108 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015.

She said the request was further predicated on the powers of the AGF under Sec-

tion 174 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

"Consequently, the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation has instructed me to withdraw this charge against the defendant in the interest of justice. That is our humble application my lord," she told the court.

Bodejo's legal team, led by Ahmed Raji (SAN), did not oppose the application and thanked the AGF, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), for his "mag-

nanimous gesture.

"We urge your Lordship to discharge the accused person under the Sections referred to by the prosecutor," Raji told the court.

Bodejo, who was docked for allegedly establishing and unlawfully supporting an ethnic militia group – Kungiya Zaman Lafiya, was arrested on January 23 in Malia, Nasarawa State, and kept in the custody of the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).

ing.

A source noted that police operatives were drafted to the area at about 8:00p.m. on Tuesday after an accident involving a vehicle and motorcycle, popularly known as okada

It was learnt that the driver of the vehicle knocked down the motorcycle with the rider and passenger sustaining life-threatening injuries and was about to be lynched when the operatives arrived at the scene.

The source said: "Trouble started when some youths accosted a hit-and-run driver who knocked down a commercial motorcyclist and a passenger, breaking the legs and arms of the victims in the process.

The yet-to-be identified driver put a call to the men of the Rapid Response Squad and when they got there, one of them opened fire, which hit two persons in the process. They were confirmed dead at the Ekiti

State University Teaching Hospital."

Confirming the incident, the Commissioner of Police, Adeniran Akinwale, sympathised with the families of the deceased, adding that the policeman had been identified and will face appropriate disciplinary measures.

Also, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Sunday Abutu, in a statement, said: "On getting to the scene, the operatives met a resistance as some irate youths disallowed them from performing their lawful duty and insisted on carrying out jungle justice. This necessitated a call for re-enforcement to assist the officers on ground."

"However, in the process, one of the officers accidentally fired a shot that fatally injured two persons."

"The officer responsible for the shooting has been disarmed, arrested and detained and shall be made to face disciplinary action immediately."

# Makinde, UNICEF, others unveil first solarized medical oxygen plant in Nigeria

By Sade Oguntola

**G**OVERNOR Seyi Makinde, on Wednesday, unveiled the first solarized PSA medical oxygen plant in the health sector in Africa and a level 2 newborn unit at the Jericho Specialist Hospital as part of interventions to ensure equitable health care services to save mothers and new babies from dying.

He also launched the five-year Oyo State Strategy for the Scale-up of Medical Oxygen in Health Facilities roadmap to streamline efforts to ensure all patients receive

oxygen therapy when and where needed.

The Solarized PSA medical oxygen plant and the Level 2 Newborn Units were donated by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), IHS Towers, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with the governments of Canada and Norway.

The governor stated that the provision of medical oxygen was a big issue at his birth and in the heat of COVID-19, when people on ventilators require oxygen for survival, adding that the solarized PSA medical oxygen plant will fill the gap in

case another pandemic occurs.

"Provision of oxygen was a big issue in the heat of COVID-19. But Oyo State used the pandemic as a fulcrum for developing health-care facilities. Although no one is praying for another COVID-19, it is always best to be prepared. And there's no better way to be prepared than to have facilities like this."

"Even if there's no COVID-19, at least newborn babies that may be like me when I was born will not have to tell a very long story. They can be saved."

Governor Makinde said

that the projects were key to his administration's plan to move people in the state from poverty to prosperity even as he announced plans to recruit more doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to address the personnel shortage within the health system directly.

UNICEF's Nigeria representative, Ms. Cristian Munduate, said in a goodwill message that the oxygen plant and Level 2 Newborn Unit were a testament to what can be achieved through collaborative efforts in ensuring the health and wellbeing of every child and mother.

According to her, the solar-

ized oxygen plant is a beacon of innovation and resilience, promising to save countless lives and provide a model for similar initiatives across the country.

She added that the Level 2 Newborn Unit, dedicated to providing specialised care for premature and critically ill newborns, will significantly reduce neonatal mortality rates and improve health outcomes for our youngest and most vulnerable population.

On the launch of the Oyo State Strategy for the Scale-Up of Medical Oxygen in Health Facilities, she said the strategy is a comprehensive

roadmap designed to ensure that every health facility in the state is equipped with the necessary resources to provide medical oxygen.

She added: "It outlines the steps for capacity building, infrastructure development, supply chain management, and sustainable financing mechanisms. These facilities, including the strategy, are critical in our efforts to improve health outcomes and are aligned with UNICEF's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."

## HPV vaccine, not a new vaccine to reduce population

—Oyo govt

THE Oyo State Government has declared that the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for girls has been in existence for decades and is not aimed at reducing the population of Africa, contrary to insinuations.

The Executive Secretary of the Oyo State Primary Healthcare Board, Dr Muideen Olatunji, speaking to the media in Ibadan at a press conference after the HPV vaccination campaign flag-off in Ibadan, said the primary purpose of the vaccine is disease prevention and there is no association between HPV vaccine and infertility.

According to him, "this vaccine has been in existence for over ten to 20 years. People have been receiving it. There is no consequence. The difference is just that people pay to get it. Elites pay as much as N80, 000 to get the vaccine for their daughters."

"It has been rolled out in 16 states in the first phase; Oyo State falls within those that are phase two states. And it was declared open by the wife of the deputy governor on behalf of the wife of the governor."

"And to further show our commitment, she brought her granddaughter to be vaccinated today and showed the world that if it was good and the government meant well for the health of our young girls."

"The Oyo government is now joining the rest of Nigeria to say it is free. This is a demon-

stration of our continued partnership and, indeed, our collective efforts to protect young girls from cervical cancer, the second deadliest cancer in women's gender. It is enough to be a public health concern for any serious government to come in to intervene."

Dr Olatunji declared that the state government has trained and retrained on the administration of the vaccine and has supervisors to regularly ensure safety measures are complied with in the administration of the vaccine across the state.

"The HPV vaccine is protective against cervical cancer. We are focusing on young girls between the ages of 9 and 14, since they have not been so sexually exposed that, in decades, we are sure that our community is protected from cervical cancer."

"We want to make sure no one is left out of this vaccination; for this reason, we must utilise the opportunity as critical stakeholders to significantly reduce the prevalence of HPV and cervical cancer."

"A man can actually contract the HPV; it is not only women. So, if we have protected the woman now and the woman does not have HPV in her system, even if a man eventually has sex with that woman, the man has been protected indirectly. By showing love to women, we are actually showing love to ourselves because eventually, we will reap the reward of our investment in them."



From Left, Deputy governor of Oyo State, Barrister Adebayo Lawal; Mr Ayobami Adisa; UNICEF's Nigeria representative, Ms. Cristian Munduate, Oyo State Commissioner for Health, Dr Oluwaserimi Ajeturmobi, and Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo state, while inspecting the oxygen plant, recently.

## 48% of young girls feel that their fathers don't understand menstrual-related difficulties —Report

By Sade Oguntola

U-REPORT Nigeria, UNICEF's digital community for young people, has said there is a relatively low level of father support for girls going through their menstrual cycle, and 48% of young girls feel that their fathers don't understand menstrual-related difficulties.

UNICEF's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) specialist, Mr Monday Johnson, made this disclosure at the 2024 World Menstrual Hygiene Day celebration with the theme "Together for a Period-Friendly World," organised by the Oyo State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (OYORUWASSA) in collaboration with UNICEF in Ibadan.

Mr Johnson said the report on what young women think about the support that they get from their parents declared that 28% say that they don't feel listened to by their fathers, 25% say their fathers dismiss issues around menstruation, and 36% say that they are using menstrual hygiene packs.

According to him, "it is a normal process that happens to every woman, and it comes and goes. And so we need the support of the government, the NGO, donor organisations, and parents, especially the fathers, and the voice of boys supporting girls during menstruation."

"A lot of taboos exist, and a lot of myths exist. Everybody

must be involved in supporting girls during menstruation. We need to have a situation where, during the period, everybody is friendly and supportive, and they are able to have access to the products at an affordable price."

Oyo State Health Commissioner, Dr. Oluwaserimi Ajeturmobi, stated that more than 300 million women are menstruating worldwide, and an estimated 500 million lack access to menstrual products and adequate facilities for menstrual hygiene management.

According to her, stigmatisation, misinformation, and inadequate access to resources continue to undermine the ability of many to

manage their menstruation healthily and respectfully.

For a period-friendly world, she urged that comprehensive menstrual education should be integrated into school curricular and community programmes to dispel myths and normalise conversations about menstruation, as well as ensuring access to menstrual hygiene products as a right.

Dr Ajeturmobi reiterated the Oyo State government's commitment to health, including menstrual hygiene management, and urged everyone to be a champion for menstrual health and to build a future where everyone can manage their periods with dignity and pride.

A control group also repeatedly counted out loud from 1 to 100 for 8 minutes and maintained a neutral emotional state.

The study's lead author, Professor Daichi Shimbo at the Columbia University, said: "We saw that evoking an angry state led to blood vessel dysfunction, though we

don't yet understand what may cause these changes."

"This suggests that intense emotions could contribute to cardiac events in people who already have poor health. Repeated episodes of a negative emotion may affect cardiovascular physiology over time, causing irreversible damage."

## Getting angry regularly increases risk of having heart disease, stroke —Experts

By Sade Oguntola

IN a new study, researchers warned that anger is bad for the heart and the brain because regularly getting angry may increase an individual's risk of heart disease and stroke.

Researchers said getting briefly angry—but not other

emotions such as sadness or anxiety—can change the functioning of blood vessels, which might make heart attacks and strokes more likely.

The study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association shows that there is a relationship between an acute episode of anger and an increased risk

of heart attack.

It suggests that even short bouts of anger could worsen cardiovascular health and may trigger heart diseases, heart attacks, and strokes. Heart attacks and strokes typically occur when the blood flow to the heart or brain is blocked.

The study was conducted

by researchers at Columbia University Irving Medical Centre, Yale School of Medicine, St. John's University in New York, and other institutions. They invited 280 healthy adults and randomised them into four groups that recalled events that made them angry, sad, or anxious.

# Reps seek end to Oyo, Osun inter-State land dispute

Kehinde Akintola | Abuja

**T**HE House of Representatives on Wednesday tasked the Federal Government through the National Boundary Commission (NBC) on the need to activate the boundary adjustment process involving Iwo Local Government, Ayedire Local Government of Osun State and Lagelu Local Govern-

ment in Oyo State in order to find a lasting and amicable resolution.

The resolution was passed following the adoption of a motion on Matter of Public Importance on the urgent need to address the continuous fatal boundary dispute amongst communities in Osun and Oyo state, sponsored by Hon. Lukman Mudashiru.

In his lead debate, Hon. Mudashiru lamented that

there had been a "prolonged interstate boundary dispute in communities in Iwo Local Government Area and some parts of Ayedire Local Government area of Osun State and Lagelu Local Government Area in Oyo State."

He noted that the boundary disputes had led to numerous violent clashes which had claimed many lives of people living in the affected communities.

"The villages affected in

Osun State include Paapa Village, Paku Village, Oloya Village, Ogunajo Village and Malamu Village all in Iwo Local Government as well as Eleye Village and Arikele Village in Ayedire Local Government area.

"As a result of this interstate boundary disputes, on 24th April, 2024 Eleye Village in Ayedire Local Government area of Osun State was burnt down, leading to loss of lives.

"The continuous bound-

ary disputes among these communities have inflicted a great deal of hardship on the people of Iwo and Ayedire local governments and hindered the development of infrastructure, investment and crippled meaningful progress in different sectors such as agriculture, education, healthcare and commerce."

To this end, the House urged the Federal Government, National Boundary Commission and other relevant agencies to promptly reopen the boundary adjustment process in order to find a lasting and amicable resolution.

The lawmakers also urged the institutions to conduct a thorough and impartial assessment of historical records, traditional boundaries, land title documents to ensure an accurate demarcation that respect the cultural and historical significance of the affected areas.

## Transportation engineers award scholarships to FUNAAB students

NIGERIAN Institution of Highway and Transportation Engineers has awarded scholarships of N150,000 each to two students of Civil Engineering of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

The recipients of the scholarship awards are Adio Joseph, a 200 level student of Civil Engineering, and another 300 level student from same department, Adekogbe Oluwaferanmi.

Speaking during the presentation of the scholarship, held at the conference room of the College of Engineering, FUNAAB, Abeokuta, the na-

tional chairman of NIHTE, Engineer Saidu Hassan, said that the scholarship was a testament to the organization's commitment to supporting academic excellence and promoting the development of transportation professionals.

Hassan, represented by the National General Secretary of NIHTE, Bola Mudashiru, said "as we present these scholarships, we recognize not only the academic achievements of these students but also our shared dedication to nurturing the potential of our future engineers.

"We believe that investing in

education is crucial to transforming the nation's highway sector and promoting a safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation system."

Engineer Hassan also announced that the organisation had decided to support the beneficiaries of the scholarship until they graduate from the university.

In his remarks at the event, the Dean, College of Engineering, Prof Olawale Dairo, lauded NIHTE for its selflessness and favourable disposition to pushing for excellence in engineering profession with the scholarship award.

Professor Dairo, represen-

ted by the deputy dean, Prof O Adetunji, said "as engineers, we have a critical role to play in addressing the nation's infrastructure challenges.

"We must continue to innovate, collaborate, and push the boundaries of what is possible."

The Head of Civil Engineering Department, Dr Simeon Odunfa, also praised NIHTE for helping the students to achieve their academic goals, urging other organisations to come around and partner with the university to build a rewarding future for the country.

## Benue SUBEB canvasses menstrual hygiene, education, distributes kits to female students

IN celebration of the World Menstrual Hygiene Day, the Benue State Universal Basic Education Board has made a case for menstrual hygiene education.

The board made the call on Tuesday in Makurdi, the state capital.

The World Menstrual Hygiene Day, which is usually observed on 28th of May, witnessed distribution of menstrual kits to 100 girls selected from 10 basic edu-

cation schools.

The Day is aimed at promoting safe and healthy menstrual hygiene practices for all and to serve as a platform to advocate policy changes through awareness campaigns where menstruation is seen as a natural and positive aspect of a woman's life.

In his remarks, the executive chairman, Benue SUBEB, Dr Grace Adagba, called on stakeholders in education to

ensure every child has the needed support to manage menstrual health hygiene.

Adagba, who was represented by the board secretary, Dr Joseph Jande, during the presentation of the menstrual kits, reiterated the commitment of the Benue State governor, Hyacinth Alia, to creating a supportive and inclusive environment through sharing of accurate information in ensuring cultural shift from

stigmatization to open dialogue for the womanhood, especially the girl-child, to be treated with dignity.

In a presentation on effective menstrual hygiene practices, Head of Department, Clinical Psychology, Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi, Dr Perpetual Chia, stressed the need for people to always have a sincere conversation on menstruation, which she noted is a natural phenomenon.

## PCNGI launches conversion, refueling site in Ilorin

By Rotimi Ige

THE Presidential CNG Initiative (PCNGI), in collaboration with its core partner, Rolling Energy, has announced the launch of its PCNGI Conversion and Refueling Site in Ilorin.

This state-of-the-art facility marks a significant milestone in its mission to drive sustainable energy solutions across Nigeria.

The new Ilorin site is developed and managed by Rolling Energy, a leader in

innovative energy solutions.

This facility will play a crucial role in supporting the transition to cleaner energy by offering comprehensive conversion and refueling services for vehicles.

In a statement made available to *Nigerian Tribune*, the management said,

"In conjunction with this launch, PCNGI is thrilled to announce the commencement of the Nationwide Mass Transit Conversion Program. This ambitious initiative aims to convert mass

transit vehicles to cleaner energy sources, significantly reducing emissions and promoting environmental sustainability.

"The initial phase of the conversion programme will be initiated in Lagos, Kwara, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and Rivers States.

"This phase will be executed in partnership with major transport unions, including the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Road Transport Employers' Association of

Nigeria (RTEAN), and Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO).

"To ensure the success of this program, the rollout will commence in eight of over 120 designated conversion workshop sites.

"These key union partners will have the opportunity to observe and evaluate the conversion process, providing valuable feedback as we plan to scale up operations across 15 states over the next 45 days."

## Ijesa society doles out scholarship to 28 brilliant, but indigent students

NO fewer than 28 brilliant but indigent students from Ijesaland, Osun State, were presented with bursary cheques by The Ijesa Society on Sunday in Magodo, Lagos.

The presentation, which saw each of the successful applicants taking home a sum of N200,000 each, took

place during the meeting of the society.

In all, the society doled out a total sum of N5.6million to the lucky sons and daughters of Ijesa land, across six local government areas in Osun State.

These local government areas include Obokun, Oriade, Ilesa West, Ilesa East,

Atakumosa West and Atakumosa East.

Speaking on the awards, former vice chancellor of the University of Lagos, Prof. Duro Oni, said the motive was to motivate and encourage the students to do well.

Prof. Gbenga Akingbehin,

the chairman of the educa-

tion committee that was responsible for the screening and selection of the beneficiaries, said the parameters for the selection include being a student of public university, being indigent and having scored at least a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.5.

## FG orders outgoing VCs to appoint deputies as acting vice chancellors

Clement Idoko | Abuja

THE Federal Government has directed all vice chancellors in federal universities whose tenure will be completed soon to nominate their deputies to oversee the office of the vice chancellor in a temporary capacity.

Executive secretary, National Universities Commission, Mr Chris Maiyaki, conveyed this in a circular dated May 28, 2024 to all the affected outgoing vice chancellors.

The NUC's letter to the outgoing vice chancellors followed a directive from the Federal Ministry of Education informing the commission about the end of tenure of some vice chancellors and the urgent need to nominate through the recommendation of the Senate a deputy

vice chancellor that would oversee office of the vice chancellor until the new governing councils are inaugurated.

The leadership of the Academic Staff Union of Universities had earlier rejected move by the Federal Government to appoint new vice chancellors to replace the outgoing ones in the absence of the governing councils.

The union insisted that the Minister of Education could not take the place of the governing councils by approving appointment of a vice chancellor, which they argued is the prerogative of the governing council.

Maiyaki added that the soon-to-be inaugurated governing councils would appoint acting VC after their inauguration.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

REVALIDATION OF DOCUMENTS OF ALL THE LAND ALLOTTEES ON AWESIN DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 1 AND 2, OBA YUSUFF OMOLOYE OYAGBODUN II RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT AND REVOCATION OF ALL UNDEVELOPED PLOTS OF LAND INIREPODUN LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA, ERIN-OSUN.

- The management of IREPODUN Local Council Development Area, Erin-Osun is hereby using this medium to notify members of the public that all allottees on AWESIN SCHEME 1, AWESIN Development SCHEME 2, OBA YUSUFF OMOLOYE OYAGBODUN II RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, ERIN-OSUN should report at the Department of Town Planning and Land Services office in the above named Local Government secretariat between 8 am and 4 pm working days of the week with the relevant receipts and various landed documents on respective plots allocated to each allottee for proper verification
- Also, all allottees who have not developed their allotted plots on the schemes are hereby notified that such plots would be considered for revocation if found still undeveloped from the date of this notice/publication till the end of June 30th, 2024.

**Signed:**  
HON, WASIU SULAIMAN KAYODE (CHAIRMAN IREPODUN SOUTH LCDA FOR MANAGEMENT)

For Enquiry, Contact  
TPL (MRS) ABIOLA OLANIKE, Director of Town Planning and Land Services Irepodun South LCDA.



# BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT

## Bala Mohammed's Giant Strides in Education Transformation



**His Excellency, Sen. Bala A. Mohammed, CON (Kauran Bauchi)**  
Executive Governor, Bauchi State

The education sector in Bauchi State under the leadership of Governor Bala Mohammed has seen significant improvements and reforms aimed at enhancing the quality of education in the state. One of the key initiatives undertaken by the governor was the declaration of a state of emergency on education, highlighting the importance of education in the development of the state.

This was followed by the organization of an educational summit that brought together educationists from across the country to discuss ways to improve the education sector in Bauchi State.

One of the major achievements in the education sector under Governor Bala Mohammed's administration was the construction of 238 new classroom blocks, the renovation of 406 classrooms, and the provision of school furniture worth N5 billion.

This was made possible through a joint effort between the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and the State Universal Education Board (SUBEB) during the 2017-2018 intervention period.

Additionally, the administration was able to access an additional N3 billion in UBEC funding after fulfilling its counterpart funding obligations for the 2018-2019 intervention.

Furthermore, the administration focused on upgrading three

Model Primary Schools in three different local government areas - Alkaleri, Dambam, and Itas-Gadau. These model schools were equipped with modern facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, ICT centers, staff accommodation, computer centers, health centers, and administration blocks. This initiative aimed to provide quality education to students in these communities and improve the overall learning environment.

In addition to infrastructure development, Governor Bala Mohammed's administration implemented various measures to address key issues in the education sector. These included providing more access to out-of-school children, tackling WAEC racketeering, promoting teachers' welfare, reviewing the school curriculum, introducing biometric registers for teachers, and enhancing teachers' capacities. These initiatives were crucial in improving the quality of education and ensuring that students in Bauchi State receive a well-rounded education.

Also, in a monumental step towards revolutionizing the educational infrastructure, the State Government, under the visionary leadership of Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, equipped the Examination Directorate with state-of-the-art machinery, a brand new Kord Printing Machine and Polar Cutting Machine – tools that promise to elevate service

delivery to unprecedented heights!

Dr. Jamila Dahiru, the esteemed Commissioner of Education, extends heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Governor for his unwavering support and generosity. These cutting-edge machines mark a new era for our ministry, ensuring efficiency, precision, and excellence in all examination-related processes.

Rest assured, the Ministry of Education, Bauchi is committed to maximizing the potential of these innovations. We are ready to harness their power for the betterment of our students and the entire educational system.

Here's to a brighter, more efficient future for education in Bauchi State!



# Welcome to Ogbomoso.



**President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**

**Governor Seyi Makinde, FNSE**

It's a great sense of Honour to welcome the Executive Governor of Oyo state,  
**His Excellency Engr. Seyi Makinde, FNSE.**  
and Our Dear President, **His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
to the official Commissioning of **76. 67 km, Ogbomoso -Fapote - Iseyin Road** today.  
We appreciate you for your kind gesture and we pray that Almighty will continue  
to be with you, guide and guard you.

Signed:  
**Engr. Muftau Open Salawu, FNSE.**  
**Babalaje of Ogbomosoland.**



THE RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR WALE ADEBANWI ON WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS AWARD OF GUGGENHEIM FELLOWSHIP AS HOSTED BY CHIEF OLATOKUNBO AND DR FOLASADE AJASIN AT CAFE CHRYSALIS, AWOLOWO AVENUE, OLD BODIJA, IBADAN, ON SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2024



# EDUCATION

EDITOR: CLEMENT IDOKO

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## Why Nigeria needs more universities —NUC Boss

Clement Idoko | Abuja

**T**HE Acting Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Chris Maiyaki, has responded to those criticising the Federal Government for approving more universities in the country. He argues that the current 272 public and private universities are not enough to accommodate the ever-growing demand for university education by the Nigerian youths.

Members of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) have been vociferous in their opposition to proliferation of universities in Nigeria, noting particularly that the Federal Government has continued to approve new universities

when the existing ones are not properly funded.

The ASUU president, Professor Emmanuel Osodeke, speaking on the development, demanded that the Act establishing the National Universities Commission (NUC) be amended to make it more potent in arresting excessive establishment of universities in Nigeria.

Osodeke said: "As you are possibly aware, the proliferation of universities was one of the issues that led to the series of strike actions of 2020 and 2022.

"The union demanded and still demands that the 2020 ASUU-FGN Memorandum of Action (MoA) which stressed the need to review the NUC Act to make it more potent in arresting the reckless and ex-

cessive establishment of universities be fully implemented.

"During the lifetime of the last legislative session, a joint committee of ASUU and NUC submitted a draft bill to the National Assembly on this matter. However, that bill did not see the light of the day.

"The fallout from that is the reckless manner by which both the Federal and State governments have continued to pronounce universities without preparations for their funding. This recently came to a worrisome height when a sitting Governor boastfully declared that he would establish ten universities in his State before the end of his tenure!

"However, rather than supporting our advocacy for adequate funding of public

universities, each Senator is surreptitiously pushing for the establishment of a university as part of their constituency projects while visitors to State Universities who could not find existing universities are creating two or more purely for electoral gains.

"This trend has put much stress on intervention funds of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) which are diverted to establish new universities contrary to the Fund's Act. ASUU shall explore all legal means to resist the pervasive moves by politicians to keep proliferating crisis centres for the children of the poor in the name of universities.

"We urge the President Tinubu-led administration to refrain from further pro-

liferation of universities and refocus the system. What we need are universities that are adequately empowered to address the challenges confronting Nigeria and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their peers elsewhere in the world and mushroom glorified high schools," Osodeke said.

However, the NUC boss in his reaction justified the need for establishment of more universities in Nigeria to cater for the growing demands of applicants, especially the youth.

He said the existing 272 public and private universities in Nigeria are grossly inadequate to accommodate the growing demand for university education by the youth.

While comparing the population bracket of Nigeria to those of India, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, the United States and Russia, Maiyaki noted that enrollment of just two million Nigerians in universities represented barely one per cent, saying it was not good enough.

"In an enrollment of two million Nigerians, barely one percent are in the University, while in some of these countries they have over 25 to 30 per cent of their population in the University.

"Until we get to the point of saturation where the teeming Nigeria youths who want to acquire a university education are comfortable, we will continue to approve more Universities," he said.

## FG urged to improve concern over school security

Tunbosun Ogundare | Lagos

IN response to incessant armed attacks on educational institutions, particularly the recent abduction of 200 students in a school in Kaduna State, calls have been intensified on the Federal Government to genuinely prioritise the safety and security of schools at all levels nationwide.

At a media roundtable in Lagos recently, stakeholders in the education sector emphasised the interconnectedness of all individuals with school-going children, underscoring the collective responsibility to demand government accountability in safeguarding educational environments.

Pointing to the country's commitment to the Safe Schools Declaration, advocates called for concrete action beyond rhetoric and urged the government to allocate adequate funds and declare a state of emergency to address the pressing security challenges confronting schools in the country.

This was the focal point of discourse at the roundtable organised by the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC), a civil society group in conjunction with the United Nations Democracy Fund.

Speaking at the event, the founding director of WARDC, Dr Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, emphasised the need for a comprehensive legal framework to establish maximum security standards for schools

across the country.

She stressed the importance of proactive measures, such as deploying what she tagged 'Edu-guards,' for example, to prevent security breaches and ensure the safety of students and educators.

Reflecting on past incidences like the Chibok school girls abduction over 10 years ago, stakeholders at the event, emphasised the critical role of the Ministry of Education in providing financial support and legislative backing to enhance security in schools.

While acknowledging measures like the Safe School Initiative launched by the Federal Government, they maintained that there remains concerns over the vulnerability of schools to attacks, as evidenced by incidents in Yobe, Katsina, Zamfara and even in the southwest and east.

Highlighting disparities in security measures between urban and rural schools, the stakeholders called for equitable distribution of resources and increased vigilance to protect all students, irrespective of their geographical location.

With the emergence of groups like the Education in Emergency Working Group, which conducted extensive research to assess school safety nationwide, there is a growing consensus on the need for concerted efforts from government, civil society, and the media to address the security crisis facing schools.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**The only dreams impossible to reach are the ones you never pursue —Michael Deckman**



From left, Head of Operations, Woodhall Capital Foundation, Henry Ugwoha; Lagos State Coordinator, Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Princess Adaobi Ekwuno; National President, All Nigerian Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools, Musa Muhammed; Human Resource Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Grace Omo-Lamai; Corporate Affairs Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Sade Morgan; Lagos Chairman, Nigeria Union of Teachers, Hassan Akintoye and Head, Strategic Brand Management, Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, Alvin Agorom at the flag-off of the 2024 Maltina Teacher of the Year competition, in Lagos.

## Lecturers demand conclusion of FGN/ASUU re-negotiation agreement

### • lament same salary regime since 2009

Alphonsus Agborh | Asaba

dalous under-valuation of scholars.

Igbafe said what is central to the unresolved issues between the government and ASUU is the demand to conclude the re-negotiation of the 2009 FGN/ASUU agreement.

According to him, the union and its members had endured enough as "there is no long story on this anymore."

"You are not unaware that the government had been foot-dragging on the need to conclude and sign the renegotiated 2009 Agreement which commenced in 2017.

"After a tortuous exercise, a draft agreement was reached with the Professor Briggs-led Committee in

2021. Unfortunately, agents of the Buhari government refused to approve of the draft Agreement for reasons best known to them.

"The then Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr Chris Ngige, played the leading role in truncating the successful conclusion of the FGN-ASUU renegotiation process that had lasted for more than four years.

"The union believes that the satisfactory and conclusive renegotiation of the agreement and its successful implementation is the desirable recipe for the worsening living and working conditions of staff, the pandemic problem of underfunding and other challenges of university governance in the country.

"Indeed, the depressing existential condition has made it expedient on the President Tinubu-led administration to immediately set in motion the process leading to the review and signing of the Nimi Briggs-led renegotiated draft agreement as a mark of seriousness and assured hope for Nigerian academics and Nigeria's public universities.

"Any further delay on this path is an invitation to crisis," he stated.

The ASUU leader also took a swipe at the culture of dissolution of the governing councils of public universities in the country as well as the refusal or neglect by some state governments to manage their own without governing councils.

## 'Tinubu determined to give sweet experience at Nigerian's airports'

Stories by Shola Adekola  
| Lagos

**M**INISTER of Interior, Dr Olubummo Tunji-Ojo, has said that President Bola Tinubu is bent on giving Nigerians the required sweet experience across the country's airports through his Ease of Doing Business policy.

Tunji-Ojo stated this during an inspection of the User Acceptance Test (UAT) of the E-gate already installed at Terminal 2 of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

The minister, who expressed satisfaction with the

job already done at the Lagos airport terminal, disclosed how one of the eight gates at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport at Abuja is 100 percent done and awaiting commissioning.

Speaking on the ease of doing business at the airports, the minister said, "It also helps with perception of the government. When you travel to New York and you get to JFK, as a foreigner, you are on the queue. The American carries his passport and goes in easily. That gives him lots of confidence that he is in his country. This is called sweet experience and Mr President is bent on giving Nigerians the sweet experience. It is about changing the

narrative and telling us that things we see in other places can work in Nigeria."

On the already installed User Acceptance Test (UAT) of the E-gate at the Lagos airport, Tunji-Ojo said, "The Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja is already 100 percent complete but this is just one terminal of about eight gates. This is delivered and ready for commissioning. Lagos has three wings. This is Terminal 2. We have the D and E wings. Now you see that the gates have been installed. What they are doing now is called the User Acceptance Test (UAT) which is the last stage and by Monday morning, this wing will have been completed 100 percent.

As it is, it is already installed. So, we just need to align the sensor.

"From here, we will move the D Wing, which has four gates because we can't block the three entrances at the same time. We can't work simultaneously because of ease of passengers. So, we have to be taking one after the other. The assurance we have is that by next weekend, the D Wing will have been fully completed. We will then be left with the E wing which has eight gates. This may take us maximum of two weeks.

"In the next three weeks, Lagos will be 100 percent good to go then we will move

to other airports like Kano, Enugu and Port Harcourt, which each has four gates. This will be faster. Lagos airport alone has 21 gates. Lagos is where you have the major traffic.

"President Bola Tinubu became president just last year and he started work immediately on this. This is not late for the administration. The electronic fares are important because of the enhancement of national security. This is connected to the database all over the world. We are making life easier for Nigerians and at the same time securing the country. The passengers get more comfortable and it's more

convenient but at the same time the nation is secured."

On passport delivery, he remarked, "We have completed the whole solution but when we came onboard, we realised that the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the data centre was not really there. We were leveraging on a private company data centre and we appreciate them for that assistance. We think that it is better to create a permanent solution to problems rather than quick fixes. We could have done it in February but we had to build our data centre from scratch to be able to keep the integrity of our data and national security intact."

### IAC Ilorin signs pact with NCAT

THE International Aviation College (IAC), Ilorin, Kwara State, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria, Kaduna State.

The Kwara State Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Dr (Mrs) Mary Ronke Arinde, hinted this while welcoming the League of Airport and Aviation Correspondents (LAAC) to the college.

Speaking on behalf of the Kwara State governor, Mallam AbdulRahman AbdulRasaq, Arinde said: "The state government has created the enabling environment for the college to collaborate with sister institutions to promote the aviation sector.

"As we speak, arrange-

ments have been concluded on Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between International Aviation College (IAC), Ilorin and Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria. Let me use this opportunity to inform you that any moment from now, the management of IAC, Ilorin will be heading to Abuja or Zaria to sign the MoU with NCAT, Zaria.

"Permit me to add at this juncture that IAC, Ilorin is presently in partnership with the Nigerian Army in the area of training. As a matter of fact, the Chief of Army Staff has sent down 10 officers to IAC, Ilorin for Private Pilot Licence (PPL) training.

"I want to assure you all that the college is determined to complete the training within the stipulated period of six months."



Director-General, Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), Captain Alex Badeh Jnr (left) and the Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, NSIB, Mrs Bimbo Olawunmi Oladeji, during the presentation of reports of previous crashes to the public.

## FG must change tactics in aviation —Akpan

Captain Amos Akpan, is the Managing Director of Flight and Logistics. In this interview with some aviation journalists, he rated the one year performance of the present administration in aviation and his expectations in the next year. SHOLA ADEKOLA brings excerpts:

WHAT is your assessment of the government's performance in the aviation sector in the last one year?

The government has been very busy trying to catch up with what they consider applicable solutions to the problems in the country. The government has been reacting to rising inflation, to energy crisis, to insecurity, to lack of forex, to back trade transactions and to insufficient funds to meet budgeted expenditure. These problems are increasing and multiplying faster than the government proffers and applies solutions.

In aviation, you must have enough power to speed and lift before the end of the runway otherwise the end of the runway will catch up with you before you can lift. The opposite end threshold must never rise faster than the aircraft speed at take-off.

The government must change tactics. The government must be proactive and preemptive against banditry, against public offices that hinder ease of doing business like small and medium scale enterprises. The government must identify and stop those that make cost of production and logistics for delivery of goods and services high. Think steps ahead of oil bunkerers, bandits and cyber-criminals. Think of security to farmlands, improved seedlings.

The Aviation Minister has been up and doing, trying to apply solutions to existing problems. He assisted Air Peace secure the commencement of flights on the London route. He has shown support for the heads of the aviation agencies in whatever remedies they are applying to existing problems. He has communicated clearly that he wants to design and build hub airports. But I do not agree with the drive to generate revenue hurriedly and at all cost from the agencies in the industry. Why? Operators pay for the services they get from the agencies. The agencies are supposed to use the payments to provide and maintain the facilities and infrastructures as well as upgrade them. When you mandate the agencies to give up over 40 percent of these receivables, then you put numerous



taxes on the operators, you are starving them while you expect the industry to grow.

What areas do you think the government should focus attention on to move the industry forward?

What the Nigerian aviation industry needs include a guaranteed means for operators to access funds on single digit interest rates and a minimum tenor of seven to 15 years; encourage existing Maintenance Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) organisations to get more space and equipment to accommodate aircrafts operated by Nigerian airlines. I am referring to the existing MROs that are certified by NCAA and are currently carrying out category A to C maintenance on aircraft operated by Nigerian airlines and functioning and verifiable total radar coverage of Nigerian airspace.

Others are certification of airports in Nigeria by NCAA. Each airport should be classified in accordance with the status of infrastructures and facilities provided; align the training cur-

riculum of Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria to meet the manpower needs of the operators in the industry.

Determine the personnel and equipments NCAA needs to carry out effective oversight on the operators in the industry and provide them. Too much gap currently exists. NCAA needs capacity to oversee compliance of aviation fuel suppliers, catering suppliers, handling companies, maintenance organisations, training organisations, travel and airfreight agencies, federal and state airport authorities and the airlines.

There should be punishment for negligence and infractions by persons in office. Somebody must account for breaches and infractions in FAAN, NAMA, and NCAA for failure to do their jobs.

This government should include in their key performance indicators monitoring and ensuring existing infrastructures and facilities are maintained, repaired on time and upgraded. This government should set up a yardstick that keeps these facilities functioning at installed capacity, plus install intervention programmes for predictable return to service when any equipment breaks down.

This government should change the concept of FAAN from, 'doing favour to airport users' to 'making sure the end users of all their infrastructures and facilities are happy'. FAAN should strive to make every end-user of their products and services happy. Make the airport easy and friendly for the users. Communicate and guide airport users firmly into compliance with FAAN procedures at the airport; don't bully them. This government should adopt consultation with stakeholders, accommodate opinions and be able to sift recommendations to use what fits into their policy agenda.

This government should set timelines to eliminate the obstacles to cargo export in our airports, streamline the procedures, reduce number of inspection points, cut off the papers, emphasise the screening machines and electronic documentation.

# One year after: The Legacy Man and his strides

By Bayo Onanuga

**O**NE year after being in the saddle, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will be the first person to admit that the ride has been bumpy. He is also the first to say he is unfazed by the turbulence as he remains focused on the marathon of the next three years. The past year has been months of baby steps, months of laying the foundations for the next three years of canter. As Nigeria's 16th President, Tinubu, during his campaign for the office, said he would make difficult decisions and that running the country would not be business as usual.

From day one, he sought to fulfill his promises, beginning from his earthshaking 'subsidy is gone' announcement at the Eagle Square, on the day he was sworn in. The announcement reverberated around the country and beyond. He was not just actualising a promise he made. He was also affecting the consensus of all the major candidates in the 2023 election that the several decades old, wasteful subsidy must end.

His administration followed this up with the decision to harmonise the foreign exchange rates. The multiple exchange rates executed under his predecessor had given room to various abuses, among which was arbitrage, where people close to the power loop made humongous money, getting forex at the official rate and offloading it at the so-called parallel market for almost 100 percent profit. Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank advised the Nigerian government to end the policy, to no avail, as forex obligations piled up, FDI's dried up, and investors shunned Nigeria. Tinubu knew that to reset the economy and build renewed confidence locally and internationally, there must be a policy change. He took the measure, just as he promised during the campaign, with the government announcing that it wanted to harmonise the rates in 'weeks'. The financial world took notice that Nigeria is at the cusp of great change.

Although it has taken months to achieve the harmony, with the Naira in the interregnum, taking a massive bashing from the dollar. The heavily hurt currency at a stage fell to about N1,900 to the dollar, with the naysayers and the opposition predicting a total destruction of the currency. Their wish did not come to pass, as the currency rebounded to earn global acclaim as the world's best performing currency. After weeks of amassing muscle against the US dollar, the Nigerian currency weakened again. Now, the monetary authorities are working hard to ensure the currency did not fall into the abyss like it did in February, before the rebound.

Together with the abrogation of the subsidy regime, the forex harmonisation policy triggered an inflationary rage, with food inflation hitting unprecedented levels. Cost of living rose countrywide. Some analysts, however, blamed the inflation on other factors such as insecurity that prevented farmers from going to farm and the poor state of roads, that escalated transportation costs, pushing up the costs of virtually everything.

The administration responded on many fronts with a raft of ameliorative policies. Last December, it offered subsidised bus transport and free train service to Nigerians going home for Christmas and New Year. The subsidy was also offered for the return journeys. Over 200,000 Nigerians benefited from the bus service.

In agriculture, the government declared a food emergency, launched a massive dry season farming in important crops such as wheat and maize, along with assisting farmers with N100 billion worth of fertilisers. The government released 43,000 metric tonnes of grains in the reserves and bought another 60,000 metric tonnes of rice from local millers for distribution to the people. States, rich individuals, National Assembly members joined in distributing food and cash to the vulnerable millions in the country. For months, food inflation



President Bola Tinubu

resisted all the measures, hitting 33 percent in April. Government also rejected the panicky measure of importing food, reposing confidence in the Nigerian farmers, that from their yields, Nigeria will overcome its food crisis. In recent weeks, the news from the markets has been that some food prices are going down.

As part of the ameliorative measures, the Tinubu administration announced wage awards of N35,000 to Federal workers to enable them cope with food inflation and transport costs, as it works out a new national minimum wage. It announced in July last year the Presidential CNG Initiative. Under the programme, that will herald a new industry and new jobs, hundreds of buses and tricycles, which will be powered by Compressed Natural Gas(CNG), will be locally assembled for countrywide rollout. Some of the vehicles will be electric for use in some Nigerian states, where CNG is not readily available. A panel to drive the vision was inaugurated in October 2023. However, bureaucratic delays slowed its procurement work. A large number of the buses and tricycles will be available as part of the ceremonies to mark the first anniversary of the Tinubu administration.

Businesses were not left out of government's mitigation measures. The Bank of Industry, in conjunction with Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, is implementing Presidential Conditional Grant Programme for nano businesses. Disbursement of N50,000 each to the applicants that registered began in April. Beneficiaries included retail marketers, corner shop owners, petty traders, market men and women, food and vegetable vendors, vulcanisers and shoemakers. Over 1,000,000 nano businesses are targeted. To help big businesses, Government announced an aid package of N1billion each to 75 of them.

The Tinubu government also approved \$617 million for up-skilling Nigerian youths, providing startup funding, catalytic infrastructure, and policy advocacy. Youths with digital skills are now registering to benefit from the fund, being administered by the Bank of Industry.

In a country with 200 million people and tax to GDP ratio less

than 10 percent, President Tinubu knew from day one, that it will be difficult to make any great, historic impact, if he fails to tinker with the tax structure and bring more money into the national purse. He announced his plan by setting up the Oyedele Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy Reform, which is winding up its work and has recommended far-reaching reforms in the tax regime. President Tinubu also changed the leadership of the Federal Inland Revenue Service(FIRS) to plug revenue holes and introduce creative ways to increase revenue without necessarily overburdening the people. The result has been astonishing. Government now takes 50 percent of the revenue of the MDAs, with record N840 billion recorded in the first quarter. The NNPC was ordered to remit its dollar earnings into CBN. Revenue inflow generally is increasing. FIRS is working towards increasing the percentage of tax to GDP to about 20 percent.

The inflow of money is making the Tinubu administration dream big and plan big. With Renewed Hope Infrastructure Fund due for launch, the government is already embarking on legacy projects, such as the 700 kilometre Lagos-Calabar Coastal Superhighway, which began in March. Government also plans to reactivate the Sokoto Illela-Badagry Superhighway, which was abandoned in 1976. Many roads and bridges in state of disrepair are to be refurbished. There are plans for rail. Funding for the Ibadan-Abuja-Kaduna rail is being arranged. Port Harcourt-Maiduguri rail will be resuscitated while the Kano-Kastina-Maradi rail line, started by the Buhari administration will be completed with \$2billion dollar loan already secured.

Government has not been short about rolling out several policy initiatives, from the issuance of travelling passports, which has been made quicker, to the planned implementation of some aspects of the Oronsaye report, to cut the costs of governance.

Notably, President Tinubu issued an executive order to enhance investment in the oil and gas sector. The quick fruit of the policy was the opening of three big gas plants in the Niger Delta by the President in recent weeks. Mega investments running into over \$15 billion are expected in weeks.

The Tinubu administration has also fulfilled some of the campaign promises with the students loans and Credit Corp ready for take off. To President Tinubu, no Nigerian child should be denied education because the parents could not afford it. He also hopes that the Credit Corp will enhance the purchasing power of workers and boost national commerce.

President Tinubu at various occasions has acknowledged the pains that some of his reforms are causing the generality of our people. But he says they are pains we must bear to make progress as a nation. An ever caring leader, he is always evolving measures to help reduce the pains. Best of all, he listens to the voice of the people and make necessary adjustments.

In one of the most profound analysis of our situation and an endorsement of the reforms being executed by the Tinubu administration, Planning and Budget Minister, Atiku Bagudu said in a recent interview: "We want to be like Asian countries, we want to grow like Brazil but Brazil and those Asian countries that we want, (that) we are competing with, have taken measures that we needed to have taken decades ago."

"The president is even bold to acknowledge that. Let's do it now. Some of these measures have consequences which we acknowledge. And that's why again, a number of measures are introduced in order to ameliorate the situation. These measures are helpful to Nigeria, irrespective of North or South because they are to restore macroeconomic stability, to restore security in the country and make it better so that investors will feel confident".

Onanuga is Special Adviser on Information and Strategy to President Tinubu

## Return to old national anthem: Memo from good people of Abia South

THE people of Abia South Senatorial zone hereby resolve as follows:

1. That while we support the efforts of the Federal Government under President Bola A. Tinubu GCFR to ameliorate the difficulties that Nigerians face today of biting Inflation, crippling unemployment and widespread insecurity, we do not feel that it is a priority to embark on a homegrown National Anthem 46 years after its adoption by Nigerians.

2. That the reasons given for such unseemly haste to revert back to the colonial era anthem are rather nebulous and mostly self-serving.

3. That reverting to an anthem that harks back to our troubled past as a nation does not enhance unity. Rather, it reminds us all of nomenclatures such as 'Tribes, Tongues', 'Natives' which divides us as a nation and which led to the unfortunate civil war.

4. That the present anthem has a second stanza that is used as our National Prayer. Thus, going back to the old anthem will make the nation be put even further apart as it will mean we

will not have a National Prayer.

5. That furthermore, the present National Anthem was accompanied by a "PLEDGE" which all our children and patriots recite at official functions. Will reverting back to the old anthem not mean abrogation of the pledge since they go together?

6. That the peoples of Abia South Senatorial District are desirous of policies and plans to reduce the pump price of petrol from the present 1.000 naira per litre in Aba, the 224 naira per kWh of electricity, the more than 100% increase in food prices than going back to an anthem written by a colonial citizen of Britain and bequeathed to Nigerians at our independence in 1960.

7. Therefore, the people of Abia South Senatorial District in their entirety reject the bill to revert back to the old anthem.

\*Senator Enyi H. Abaribe, Senator representing Abia South Senatorial District, submitted this memo to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters.



Abaribe

# MARITIME

with Tola Adenubi

07068476673

adenubiadetola@yahoo.com

## 10 years after, Nigeria's maritime industry inches towards economic salvation

The House of Representatives Committee on Shipping Services and Related Matters recently concluded a Public Hearing on the repeal of the Nigerian Shippers Council Act which pushed the Nigerian Shipping and Port Economic Regulatory Agency Bill for third reading. In this report, TOLA ADENUBI looks at why the nation's maritime industry is due for economic regulation. Excerpts

TEN years ago, precisely in February 2014, the Federal Government announced the appointment of the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) as the Port Economic Regulator for the maritime industry, bringing to rest questions of who answers to arbitrary increment in charges and other forms of impunity at the nation's ports.

The announcement, despite coming after a Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, was met with strong resistance by shipping companies and other port stakeholders due to an absence of a legal framework backing it up.

Without an enabling law that backs up its new status, the NSC struggled to enforce regulatory compliance among the many foreign shipping companies and the nation's terminal operators, with many of them dragging the agency to court when confronted headlong over issues that infringed on economic rights of port users.

### ARBITRARY CHARGES

As the Honourable Abdussamad Dasuki-led House Committee on Shipping Services and Related Matters moved to the next stage towards the actualization of the missing enabling law, port users are upbeat that the era where they are exploited by the various port operators is finally coming to an end.

Speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune* on the sidelines of the Public Hearing, the Head of Research at the Sea Empowerment Research Center, Dr Eugene Nweke explained that the era of impunity at Nigerian ports is drawing close to an end.

According to Eugene Nweke who is also a former National President of the National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF), "This law is overdue for implementation in the Nigerian maritime industry."

"You need to know the number of charges that port users are levied unnecessarily by operators at the ports to know why we need such law. Cargo owners have been at the mercy of port and shipping operators for years, with many losing billions of Naira to arbitrary charges that ought not be levied against them."

"If your cargoes get delayed inside the port for no fault of yours, you pay extra charges because your cargoes are spending extra days inside the ports. For example, when the Service provider handling Customs server has issues, and the network is down, cargoes spend extra days inside the port because without network, Customs cannot process your consignment."

"The port terminal operator and the shipping company will slam additional charges on your cargoes because your cargoes stayed extra days inside the port even though they know you don't have powers over when Customs server is up and running."



The Headquarters of the Nigerian Shippers Council

"Another issue that we still battle over is when there are labour strikes nationwide and the ports are shut down. During such strikes, cargoes spend extra days inside the ports while vessels get delayed for weeks over such issues. After the labour strike is over and the ports are opened, cargo owners are slammed with all sorts of arbitrary charges from the shipping companies and the port terminal operators over the delays caused by the port shut down."

"Most often times, importers end up paying huge sums of money just to clear their cargoes from the ports because there is nobody to fight for them. But now, with the Nigerian Shipping and Port Economic Regulatory Agency Bill nearing fruition, there is hope for importers. There is hope for port users. The era of impunity in broad daylight with nobody to cry to looks like it's coming to an end very soon."

### CONTAINER DEPOSITS

Another issue that has pitched port users against shipping companies is the issue of Container Deposit Fee's.

The Container Deposit Fee is a refundable fee shipping companies collect from consignees to ensure empty containers are returned safely. The fee is meant to be refunded to the consignee as soon as the empty containers are returned to the shipping company.

Speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune* on the sidelines of the Public Hearing on the repeal of the Shippers Council Act, some clearing agents who attended revealed that many shipping companies don't refund Container Deposit Fees even when deadline for container return is met.

"Many shipping companies don't refund container deposit fees when the deadline for return of empty containers are met by the agent. We have had so many instances where agents have nobody to complain to when the

shipping companies refuses to refund the fee.

"Many of them don't return container deposit fees, only few does. We have been at loggerheads with many shipping companies over this issue. We have written letters to errant shipping companies several times on this issue. It is difficult to get container deposit fee from the shipping companies in Nigeria and there won't be anybody to assist you reclaim your fund."

"Clearing agents are losing at least N40m daily in unrefunded container deposits to shipping companies. We cannot continue this way. Something has to change. It is laudable that this new bill is being pushed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tajudeen Abass."

"The issue over Container Deposits Fee is just one of the many issues that this Bill, when passed into law, will address. Foreigners cannot come to our ports and be dictating to us what amount we will pay even when we didn't cause any delays."

"We hope this Bill does not suffer the fate that befell similar Bills like the Ports and Harbours Bill that never saw the light of the day. We hope vested interest won't hijack the process of making the Bill a law?"

"We know some people don't want this Bill to become law, and it's because they are benefitting from the various impunity that pervades the nation's maritime industry. We want to urge the House Committee on Shipping Services and Related Matters to remain dogged and ensure the Bill is passed into law."



**Clearing agents are losing at least N40m daily in unrefunded container deposits to shipping companies.**



## NCC: A DIGITAL ENABLER OF THE RENEWED HOPE AGENDA

In Nigeria, a young tech-savvy and upwardly mobile population is teeming, and exploring derivable benefits of digital technologies. They are propelled by rapidly expanding internet access and steady broadband penetration, currently about 43 per cent. Our digital economy is poised for significant growth, positively impacting various sectors and benefiting the nation through enhanced connectivity and digital skills.

Digital transformation is happening globally at a record pace. During the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, remote work and virtual collaboration tools took centre stage; platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet became—and still are—essential for meetings, conferences and team collaboration. E-commerce and online retail have transformed how consumers seamlessly order and receive goods and services. Even traditionally brick-and-mortar businesses are changing the ways they engage with their customers through introduction of digital solutions to improve the customer experience. It is a no-brainer that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) are revolutionising our lives for the better, whether in education, healthcare delivery, living, public services, energy management, and much more.

Suffice to say, that underpinning this global digital transformation is the indispensable role of telecommunications infrastructure. Universal, affordable, reliable and fast telecom services are becoming social rights, as mobile networks and data-centres form the backbone for digital transformation by enabling the storage and processing of large amounts of data as well as the integration of digital technologies into numerous use cases.

For President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Renewed Hope Agenda draws us all to a more promising outlook. Inherent in his agenda is the pledge to embolden and support the youth and women by harnessing emerging sectors such as the digital economy. In delivering this vision, the Honourable Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani unveiled a blueprint appropriately titled—"Accelerating our Collective Prosperity through Technical Efficiency" with the goal of supporting Nigeria's economic growth by enhancing productivity, facilitated by digital innovation.

Acknowledging the criticality of resilient telecommunications infrastructure to a robust digital economy, Dr. Tijani's Strategic Agenda 2023 — 2027 sets targets to achieve a 50 per cent improvement in Quality of Service (QoS) by the end of 2024; to boost Nigeria's broadband penetration rate to 70 per cent by the end of 2025; to deliver data download speed of 25Mbps in urban areas and 10Mbps in rural areas by the end of 2025; to provide coverage for, at least, 80 per cent of the country's population, especially the underserved and unserved populations by the end of 2026; to reduce the gap of unconnected Nigerians in rural areas from 61 per cent to less than 20 per cent by 2027; and to secure between 300 per cent to 500 per cent increase in broadband investment by the end of 2027.

Drawing from the Strategic Agenda of the Ministry, Dr. Aminu Maida, the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has emplaced three Strategic Focus Areas for the Commission: The Consumers, the Industry and Licensees; and the Government.

Dr. Maida's approach to delivering on President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda comes from the recognition that each of these stakeholders has a unique perspective and different, occasionally-paradoxical expectations of the Commission. His goal is to forge a path that carefully balances each stakeholder's needs while meeting their expectations.

Consider the Consumers—who are central to Dr. Maida's focus—for example. His approach focuses on ensuring that they receive an enhanced Quality of Experience, beyond the narrow and very technically-evaluated Quality of Service. Quality of experience takes into account all touch points along the consumer's journey in using telecom services from selection, through onboarding, usage, support and even off-boarding. This means that, consumers are empowered to make the right network selection, enjoy a seamless onboarding into the network of their choice, enjoy quality service at fair costs, receive responsive customer service and enjoy protected off-boarding where they chose to leave the network. To address consumer complaints on data depletion, the Commission has directed Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to conduct an independent audit of their billing systems and is concluding a consultation process to simplify tariff plans. These initiatives would provide enhanced transparency to the consumer.

The Commission, under Dr. Maida, rather than taking a national outlook on data collection for Quality-of-Service delivery, has adopted an approach where more granular data is collected from operators and analysed to determine quality of service at very small, local levels, to allow the deployment of optimised solutions or regulatory actions where needed.

On the side of the Industry and Licensees of the Commission, Dr. Maida's focus is aimed at forging a resilient industry and enhancing the delivery of regulatory services. Since he came on board, the Commission has shown commitment to tackling industry debt issues more seriously. It has also embarked on critical advocacy initiatives to address long-term challenges in the sector, including advocacy for designating telecom infrastructure as Critical National Infrastructure, as well as successfully persuading over six states to waive Right of Way (RoW) fees, even as he initiates discussions with more states. The Commission, under Dr. Maida's leadership, is equally engaging with the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms towards addressing multiple taxation issues in the telecoms sector.

In order to ensure that the industry is in line with current realities, the Commission is also undertaking a review of its extant Regulatory Instruments and Licensing Frameworks. For instance, Quality of Service Regulations have been reviewed to incorporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 5G and other participants that are critical to the Quality of Service.

By achieving expected QoS KPIs, high-speed internet connectivity, and forging a resilient and innovative telecommunications industry, the Commission is actively supporting the Ministry's vision of boosting economic growth and productivity through technological innovation, delivering on the promise of Renewed Hope for all Nigerians.

Signed:  
Reuben Muoka  
Director, Public Affairs

## OKE-OGUN SALUTES TINUBU, MAKINDE



His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu  
Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



His Excellency, Engr. Seyi Makinde  
Executive Governor of Oyo State

Oke Ogun Development Consultative Forum (ODCF) under the leadership of Barrister Dr Ahmed Raji, SAN, congratulates His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the occasion of the first anniversary of his administration.

This is wishing His Excellency more years of selfless service to Nigeria. ODCF, on behalf of all Oke Ogun people, thanks His Excellency for coming to commission the Ogbomoso-Iseyin road (Adebayo Alao-Akala memorial express way) constructed by our amiable Governor, His Excellency, Engineer Abiodun Oluseyi Makinde.

Nigeria, Oyo State, Oke-Ogun etc will continue to march forward by the grace of God.  
Congratulations Your Excellencies.

Signed:  
Prince Remi Adegbola,  
Publicity Secretary



- Building & Civil Engineering Construction
- Engineering Designs
- Structural Maintenance Services
- Electrical Works
- Environmental Services

📍 23, Ladoke Akintola Avenue,  
New Bodija, Ibadan  
📞 07056417452

## Congratulations Your Excellency



On behalf of the management and staff of A-B Bond Habitat Ltd, we congratulate the Executive Governor of Oyo State, His Excellency, 'Seyi Makinde, FNSE, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his second term.

We also congratulate His Excellency and the good people of Oyo State on the commissioning of the brand new Ogbomoso-Fapote-Iseyin Road, constructed by your administration.

The last one year has witnessed phenomenal development in Oyo State from Education to Social Welfare, Infrastructure, Tourism, Security and Health.

Your Excellency has really made a difference in governance, not just in Oyo State but in the country as a whole.

As you begin the second year of your second tenure, we pray for more giant strides for you.

Signed  
Management,  
A-B Bond Habitat Ltd

# Congratulations

## TO OUR GOVERNOR OF **INCOMPARABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**



On behalf of the management and staff of the Pacesetter Transport Services Ltd, I rejoice with our Governor of Incomparable Accomplishments, Engr 'Seyi Makinde, D.SC, GSSRS, on this occasion of the first anniversary of his second tenure.

Your Excellency, over the past five years you have touched every facet of life with your projects of great impact. Your many interventions have improved the lives of Oyo State citizens.

Your feats in various sectors have surpassed your predecessors.

We also congratulate you on the commissioning of the 76.67km Iseyin-Fapote-Ogbomoso Road, which is the longest road constructed by any state government in the last 25 years.

You have demonstrated that with you in the saddle, Oyo State is on a journey to irreversible development.

We are glad that you have justified the confidence reposed in you by the people of Oyo State when they re-elected you last year.

Thank you, Your Excellency, for being so exceptional. Oyo State will never forget you.

Signed

**Dr Ibraheem Salami Dikko,**  
Chairman and Sole Administrator  
Pacesetter Transport Services







## news

# International Children's Day: Give us uniform curriculum, PICCAMEN Toy World boss charges government

By Olawale Olaniyan

THE Chief Executive Officer of PICCAMEN Toy World, Mrs Adedoyin Tijani, has made a call to the state and federal governments to redesign the school curriculum so as to aid the educational progress of children.

Tijani stated this during the Children's Day programme organised by the firm, which was held at the House of Chiefs, Secretariat, Ibadan, where she hosted over 3,000 children.

The celebration saw children engaged in different games and other activities, including, bouncing castles, boat rides, face painting, cartoon characters, among others.

She said: "This is our second edition of hosting Children's Day event; last year was our maiden edition and the purpose is to celebrate children as every child looks forwards to this day, May 27, and being who we are, our motto is Learn 2Play, Play 2Learn, so we organised Children's Day celebration for children; this is not only about having fun, but about learning."

"For this year's edition, we have Spelling Bee competition and talents hunt and we realised during our Spelling Bee competition that government needs to merge the syllabus for us for both public and private

schools.

"We saw that there were some little discrepancies when the children were having Spelling Bee competition and we are using this occasion to urge government that it should be one syllabus, for both public and private schools.

"The syllabus should be one, we should not be using different syllabuses because they will all attend same universities and stay in one environment, which is Nigeria.

"So, we are using this edition to promote education, reading ability and also promote spoken English. Some children can write very well, but speaking is another thing and this is one of the things we are aiming to achieve in PICCAMEN Toy World. When we are having fun, we are inculcating values, reading ability into the children so that they will become the envy of all.

"Our focus is Nigerian child, once you are a Nigerian child, our focus is on you. We don't know where you are coming from as we want to inculcate great values and educational system into you."

Also, a school proprietress, Abiodun Adesokan, lauded the organisers for the dedication, adding that all the activities were enjoyed by the children are educative.

## New Telegraph editor, Juliet Bumah, loses husband

He is survived by his wife and two children.

Burial plan will be announced later by the family.



Mr Obum Bumah-Onunkwo

THE editor of New Telegraph newspaper, Juliet Bumah, has lost her husband, Mr Obum Bumah-Onunkwo.

It was gathered that the late Bumah-Onunkwo, who hailed from Alor in Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State, died at the age of 60 on Friday, May 24, during a brief illness.

An astute businessman of many decades, the late Bumah-Onunkwo until his death was respected for his philanthropic and kind heartedness which endeared him to most people, including his kinsmen.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Abraham Adeniyi Adeyemi died on 4th May, 2023 after a brief illness and was buried on 19th May, 2023.

This notice is for record purpose. General public take note.

Signed: Family

### PROBATE PUBLIC NOTICE

We, AJIBADE LATIFAT FOLASADE & AJIBADE QUADRI OYINOLA of c/o our Solicitor, LUKMAN ADENIJI Esq. of Lukman Adeniji & Co., As-Salaam Super Market Shopping Complex, Eko-Ende Road, Ikorun, Osun State have applied to the Probate Registry of the Customary Court of Appeal, Osogbo, Osun State for LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION to administer the Estate of Late MR AJIBADE ADEWALE KAMARUDIN of Alafia Tayo Street, Ikorun, Osun State who died intestate on the 24th day of July, 2023.

Any objection to this application is to be forwarded to the Probate Registry of the Customary Court of Appeal, Osogbo within 14 days of this notice.

### BALOGUN

I, formerly known as Balogun Gbemisola Titilola henceforth want to be known and addressed as ADEDAYO GBEMISOLA TITILOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### KARIM

I, formerly Miss Karim Oluwunke Nimotalai now MRS AROWOSEKILA OLUFUNKE NIMOTALIA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### UMAR

I, formerly Miss Umar Aminat now MRS ISMAIL AMINAT. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ILESANMI

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Ilesanmi Ibukun Abosede now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. PEACE IBUKUN ABOSEDE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and general public take note.

### AFOLABI

I, AFOLABI OLUKOJO will like to correct my name on my NIN which was registered on 28th of August, 2019. My surname was spelled incorrectly as (OLUKOJO) instead of (OLUKOJU). NIMC and general public take note.

### INEZE

**ADDITION OF NAME:** I, Ineze Osilumiameh Elizabeth Iyabo am the same person as Ineze Elizabeth Iyabo. Now, I wish to be called INEZE OSILUMIAIMEH ELIZABETH IYABO. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

### ADEWOYIN

**CORRECTION OF NAME:** My correct name is Adewoyin Christianah Tawa and not Osiainka Tawa Christiana (as wrongly written on my BVN details). Henceforth, my correct name is ADEWOYIN CHRISTIANAH TAWA (as stated on my NIN details). All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### MORUFF

I, formerly known as Moruff Latifat Iyabo now to be known as MRS. KOLAWOLE LATIFAT IYABO. All former document remain valid. Concerned authorities, bank and general public take note.

### ISIAKPHERE

I, formerly on BVN as Isiakpere Christianah and on account as Isiakpere Ogodo Christianah now ARIERHIRE CHRISTIANAH OFOKUKUTAN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ABEGUNDE

I, formerly Miss Isiaka Fatima Enehezeyi now to be known and addressed as MRS ABEGUNDE FATIMA ENEHEZEYI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### BABATUNDE

I, formerly Gbadebo Taiwo Mercy now to be known and addressed as BABATUNDE TAIWO MERCY. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

## NIGERIA POLICE FORCE

### POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

### OYO STATE POLICE COMMAND

### Police State Headquarters, Eleyele, Ibadan

### AUCTION SALES

The Oyo State Police Command wishes to inform the general public that there will be auction sales of abandoned and unclaimed motorcycles and other items at Mokola and Iyana-Offa Divisions

Members of the public who may have lost any of the item listed below are enjoined to visit Mokola and Iyana-Offa Divisions with proof of ownership before the expiration of 21 days of this publication.

#### Mokola Division:

- One TVS motorcycle with Reg. No. GBH 757 QM
- One TVS motorcycle with Reg. No. AKN 143 UR
- One TVS motorcycle with Reg. No. SEY 846 QG
- One TVS motorcycle with Reg. No. MNV 741 QD
- Seven cylinders and six table gases
- A bag containing four different types of cough syrups.

Members of the public who are interested in the auction sales are advised to go to Mokola and Iyana-Offa Divisions after the expiration of 21 days of this publication, please.

### WASIU

I, formerly Wasiu Kafayat Odunola now OLATUNJI KAFAYAT ADEOLA. All former documents remained valid. General public take note.

### OLATUNBOSUN

I, formerly Miss Olatunbosun Mary Adenike now MRS ADEDIPE MARY ADENIKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### OLAPADE

I, formerly Olapade Oladayo Aminat now AKINJIDE OLADAYO OLAITAN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### SANNI

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Sanni Moromoke Victoria now wish to be known, called and addressed as ADEWOLE VICTORIA RONKE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and general public take note.

### ADEYEMO

I, formerly Adeyemo Adeola Ronke now ADELEKE ADEOLA RONKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ALAWODE

I, formerly Alawode Omoniyi now ALAWODE OLUFEMI OMONIYI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### AKINTUNDE

I, formerly Miss Akintunde Olawumi Victoria now MRS. ADENIJI OLAWUMI VICTORIA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### AKINPELU

I, formerly Miss Akinpelu Esther Abosede now MRS ADEKOLA ESTHER ABOSEDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ISHOLA

I, formerly Ishola Lateefah Ayobami now MRS OMOTOSO ISHOLA LATEEFAH AYOBAMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ADESEKO

I, formerly Olatunde Bukola Bosede now to be known and addressed as MRS ADESEKO BUKOLA BOSEDE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### OLORUNFEMI

I, formerly Olorunfemi Ibukun Seun now to be known and addressed as OLORUNFEMI IBUKUNOLUWA SEUN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### OGUNYEMI

I, formerly Ogunyemi Jimoh Zainab Omolara now ADELEKE ZAINAB OMOWUMI. My correct date of birth is 25th November, 1993 and not 25th November, 1992. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### OLUWADARE

I, formerly known as Miss Oluwadare Opeyemi Bisola now MRS. AKINTOBI OPEYEMI BISOLA (nee OLUWADARE). All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ADEBAYO

I, formerly Adebayo Adewale now ADEBAYO ADEWALE MATHEW. All former documents remain valid. Polaris Bank Ltd and general public take note.

### GANIYU

I, formerly Ganiyu Monsurat Ayokunnu now OYETUNDE MONSURAT AYOKUNNU. My correct date of birth is 6 April, 1964 and not 3rd March, 1966. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### OLANIYI

I formerly Olaniyi Olaide Damilola now OLADUMIYE OLAIDE DAMIOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### OLAWALE

I, formerly Olawale Subaru Oyetunde now OYERINDE OLAWALE SUBARU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

### KAWENG

I, formerly Miss Kaweng Sandra Badooh now MRS KAWENG SANDRA AKPOMIE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### TUNWAGUN

I, formerly Miss Tunwagun Folake Foyeke now MRS ADESANYA FOLAKE FOYEKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ADERINTO

I, formerly Aderinto Bayo now ADERINTO HAKEEM ADEBAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### KEHINDE

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH:** In my bank account and Bank Verification Number, my name and date of birth were written as Ayo Ismaila Kehinde and December 8, 1993. My correct name and date of birth are KEHINDE AYO ISMAILA and December 8, 1994. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### OKWESE

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH:** In my bank account and Bank Verification Number, my name and date of birth were written as Lambe Okwese and January 1, 1940. My correct name and date of birth are OKWESE OLUWALAMBE RISIKAT and August 1, 1967. All former documents remain valid. First Bank Plc, other banks and general public take note.

### AYODELE

I, formerly Fadare Khadijat Yetunde now to be known and addressed as AYODELE ABIODUN YETUNDE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### LAWAL

I, formerly Lawal Omotomiwa Akorede now BROWN OMOTOMIWA AKOREDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### SHITTU

I, formerly Miss Shittu Rukayat Folashade now MRS ADETUNJI RUKAYAT FOLASHADE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### DAUDA

I, formerly Miss Dauda Anifat Atoke now MRS ANIFOWOSE ANIFAT ATOKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### GAFARU

I, formerly Gafaru Musa Adewale now GAFAR MUSA ADEWALE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ADERINTO

I, formerly Miss Adejare Mariam Adedoyin now to be known and addressed as MRS. ADERINTO MARIAM ADEDOYIN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### IJIWOLE

I, formerly Ijiwole Oladepo Bank-Sylvester now IJIWOLE OLADEPO. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and general public take note.

### WAHAB

I, formerly Wahab Ogbeyemi Amidat now JOEL AMIDAT OPEYEMI. All former documents remains valid. General public take note.

### ODUOLA

I, formerly Oduola Blessing Adekemi and Oduola Blessing A. now ODUOLA ADEKEMI BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### OTUSANMI

I, formerly Miss Otusanmi Damilola Adeola now MRS WILLIAMS DAMIOLA ADEOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### SANUSI

I, formerly Sanusi Titilayo Madinat now ADELEKE TITILAYO MARVELOUS. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### PAUL

**ADDITION OF NAME:** I, formerly known as Paul Osaze and I want to add Ogbeide to my name while Osaze is my first name and Paul Ogbeide is my surname now wish to be known as PAUL OGBEIDE OSAZE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

### ILESANMI

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH:** In my bank account and Bank Verification Number, my name and date of birth were written as Ilesanmi Esther Olufunmilayo and January 10, 1960. My correct name and date of birth are ILESANMI ESTHER FUNMILOLA and January 10, 1969. All former documents remain valid. Polaris Bank Plc, other banks and general public take note.

### FASELUKA

I, formerly Olawale Toyin Esther now to be known and addressed as FASELUKA TOYIN ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

### TAYLOR

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH:** In my Bank Verification Number, my name and date of birth were written as Olutunji Tayo and January 15, 1979. My correct name and date of birth are TAYLOR OMOTAYO OLATUNJI and April 17,

## ADU

I, formerly Miss Adu Opeyemi Funmilayo now MRS OLASEENI-KAYODE OPEYEMI FUNMILAYO. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

## OKORISA

I, formerly Okorisa Arinola Joy now EHINMOWO ARINOLA SHADE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## AREMU

I, formerly Aremu Jimoh now to be known and addressed as AREMU JIMOH ADELANI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

## ANI

I, formerly Miss Ani Chiemerie Ednah now MRS IHEJIETO CHIEMERIE EDNAH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ABDULAHMEED

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH:** I, Abdulahmeed Nurudeen Akanni my name was wrongly written as Abdulahmeed Nurudeen. Henceforth my correct name is ABDULAHMEED NURUDEEN AKANNI. My correct date of birth is 02/06/1981 and not 21/6/1981. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## IKPONWONSA

I, formerly Miss Ikponwonsa Happy now MRS OGBONMWAN OSAYEMWENRE HAPPY. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

## ADETUNJI

I formerly Adetunji Fatima now ADETUNJI FATIMOH. All former document remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

## NWANTU

I, formerly Miss Nwantu Kyenpia Josehp now MRS KYENPIA DANGKAT BITRUS. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## BELLO

I, formerly Miss Bello Moridiat Kehinde Omoyele now MRS OKEOLA MORIDIAT KEHINDE OMOYELE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADEMOLA

I, formerly Ademola Yetunde Oyindamola now IDOWU YETUNDE OYINDAMOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OSINAIKE

I, formerly Miss Osinaike Gbemisola Motunrayo now MRS. ADELAKUN GBEMISOLA MOTUNRAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## WASOLA

I, formerly Wasola Oguntimiehin now OMOWASOLA BEATRICE JOHNSON. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## AGUNBEDE

That my name was formerly written as Agunbede Ayo and my date of birth was wrongly written as 12/10/1975 as it appears on my BVN. Henceforth, I wish to state that my name is AGUNBIADE MUTIU AYOADE and my correct date of birth is 12/09/1975 as it appears on my NIN. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

## OGBUAGU

**CHANGE OF DATE OF BIRTH:** My name is Ogbuagu Leonard Ikenna. My date of birth is 8/11/1985 and not 8/11/1990 as is wrongly written on my driver's license. All former documents remain valid. Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and general public take note.

## SEBASTINE

I, formerly Sebastine Blessing Grace now WASIU BLESSING GRACE. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

## OYETAKIN

I, formerly known as Oyetakin Esther Ebu now wish to be known as AKINBULEJO EBUNOLUWA ESTHER. My correct date of birth is 01/07/1980. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

## OLAITAN

I, formerly Olaitan Emmanuel Damilola now BROWN TAIWO DAMIOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## AJAYI

I, formerly Ajayi Opeyemi Grace now ABIOLA OPEYEMI GRACE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLUOKUN

I, formerly Oluokun Nike now ADEYEMO ROMOKE TITILAYO. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

## CHUKWUEMKA

I, formerly Chukwuemeka Chikodi John now CHUKWUEMKA JOHN NNAMDI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLADERU

I, formerly Oladeru Julie Juliet now OLADERU JULIET IDOWU. All former documents remain valid. NIMC and general public take note.

## OLALEKAN

**CORRECTION OF NAME:** On my BVN and account details my name was mistakenly registered as Olalekan Taibat Yina instead of Olalekan Taibat Olayinka. Henceforth, I wish to be known as OLALEKAN TAIBAT OLAYINKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## REUBEN

This is to inform the public that my name was wrongly written as Reuben Chioma instead of John Chioma. Henceforth, my correct name is JOHN CHIOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADEMOLA

My correct name is Ademola Elizabeth Abosede while BVN mistakenly wrote Ademola Elizabeth Abosede instead of ADEMOLA ELIZABETH ABOSEDE. All former documents remain valid. First Bank of Nigeria Plc and general public take note.

## ALAMU

I, formerly Miss Alamu, Oluranti Modinat now MRS, RAZAQ OLURANTI MODINAT. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## LAMIDI

I, formerly Lamidi Jelili Olawale now EMMANUEL JOSHUA OLAWALE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SULEMAN

I formerly known and addressed as Miss Suleman Fatimoh Omorilewa now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ABDULWAHAB FATIMOH OMORILEWA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADEDAYO

I, formerly Adedayo Bukola Blessing now AKINLEYE BUKOLA BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLAFADE

**CORRECTION OF NAME:** My name was erroneously captured on my NIN as Olafade Joseph. Henceforth, my correct name is OLAFADE JOSEPH SOLA as shown on my bank account. All former documents remain valid. Wema Bank Plc, NIMC and general public take note.

## IKUSEMORAN

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Ikusemoran Ayodele Talabi now wish to be known, called and addressed as JACOB PEACE OYE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and general public take note.

## OGUNBADENIYI

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH ON BVN:** I, Ogundadenyi Aina Margaret. My name and date of birth was wrongly registered as Ogundadenyi Magaret and 21st January, 1967 on my BVN. My correct name and date of birth are OGUNBADENIYI AINA MARGRET and 25th January, 1965. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

## ONUMEGBU

I, formerly Onumegbu Chioma C. now MRS ALIA CHIOMA C. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLORUNSOGO

I, formerly Miss Olorunsogo Bunmi Stella now MRS GBOLU BUNMI STELLA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

## OLALERE

I, Olalere Raheem Basiru am the same person bearing Raheem Basiru and Basiru Adisa Raheem. Henceforth, I wish to be known and addressed as OLALERE RAHEEM BASIRU. My correct date of birth is 04/11/1978 and not 05/04/1978. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

## ISIAQ

I, formerly Isiaq Sherifat Adenike now ONIWIDE SHERIFAT ADENIKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ODUTADE

I, formerly Odutade Anthonia Ifeoluwanimi now OLAJIDE ANTHONIA IFEOLUWANIMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLANIYAN

I, formerly Miss Olaniyan Sadiat Odunayo now MRS. OSHEWA SADIAT ODUNAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADEBAYO

I, formerly Miss Adebayo Bose Esther now MRS OGUNMODEDE BOSE ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## AREGE

I, formerly Arege Mariam Omodebowale now OLANREWAJU MARIAM OMODEBOWALE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## FOLARIN

I, formerly Miss Folarin Ranti Opeyemi now MRS AJAO RANTI OPEYEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OJO

I, formerly Ojo Kehinde Omowumi now ADEYANJU KEHINDE OMOWUMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLUWAREMILEKUN

I, formerly Oluwaremilekun Igbaroola Tajudeen now REMILEKUN IGAROOOLA TAJUDEEN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADELEKE

I, formerly Mrs Adeleke Ranti now MRS MUDASHIRU RANTI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## JACOB

I, formerly Jacob Akintayo Akinloye now AKINLOYE AKINTAYO JACOB. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SAMUEL

**ARRANGEMENT OF NAME:** That my name was mistakenly written as Samuel James Akpomiemie on my Stanbic IBTC Bank account instead of AKPOMIEMIE JAMES SAMUEL as on National Identification Number. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

## ENIOLA

I, formerly Mr Eniola Kehinde Moruf now MR ENIOLA MORUF KEHINDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## AYODELE

I, formerly Miss Ayodele Yetunde Janet now MRS. OLADIPUPO YETUNDE JANET. All former documents remain valid. Institutions, banks and general public take note.

## AKINREMI

**CHANGE OF NAME AND CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH:** I, Akinremi Zainab Opeyemi wish to be known and addressed as AKINREMI OPEYEMI OLAMIDE and my correct date of birth is 13/10/1994 and not 13/10/1995. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## IDOWU

I, formerly Idowu Kehinde Adetola now ADERIBIGBE KEHINDE ADETOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ANOFI

I, formerly Anofi Racheal Saidat now AKEEM OMOBOLA SAIDAT. My correct date of birth is 1/2/1986 and not 1/2/1987. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OSUNTOKI

I, formerly Osuntoki Anuoluwabamise now ODUYEBO ANUOLUWABAMISE. All former documents remain valid general public take note.

## ELUSANMI

I, formerly Miss Elusani Miracle Victoria now MRS OLUWATUNBI MIRACLE VICTORIA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OWOLABI

I, formerly Miss Owolabi Patience Kehinde now MRS OLAYODE PATIENCE KEHINDE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

## OSEMUDIAMEN

**CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH:** My first name was wrongly written as Oserumense on my BVN instead of Osemudiamen it is written on my NIN. Henceforth, I wish to be known as FRIDAY OSEMUDIAMEN ASIBOR. My correct date of birth is 27th November, 1998 and not 1st January, 1990. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADENIPEKUN

I, Adenipekun Temitope Olayinka. My name was wrongly captured on my BVN as Ajayi Temitope Yinka. Henceforth, I wish to be addressed as ADENIPEKUN TEMITOPE OLAYINKA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

## VINCENT

I, formerly Vincent Chidima now UWAKWE CHIDIMA. All former documents remains valid. General public take note.

## AFOLABI

I, formerly Afolabi Dorcas Abiola now OLAYINKA DORCAS ABIOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SIYANBOLA

I, formerly Miss Siyanbola Abisola Olajumoke now MRS AJIBOLA ABISOLA OLAJUMOKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## NWAIWU

I, formerly Nwaiwu AMARACHI Blessing now KELECHI AMARACHI BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADEBAYO

I, formerly Adebayo Oluseyi Mayowa now MR ADEBAYO OLUWASEYI MAYOWA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

## RAJI

I formerly Miss Raji Kehinde Oluwemimo, now MRS OJO KEHINDE OLUWEMIMO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLOFINMAKIN

I, Olofinmakin Adedotun Oluwaseun wish to be known and addressed as BAMIDELE OLUWA DARA SIMI ADEDOTUN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## RAHEEM

**CORRECTION OF NAME:** I, Raheem Idaya Funmilola that my name was wrongly written as Raimi Idaya Funmilola. Henceforth, I wish to be known as RAHOYE MUFTAU ALAMU. My correct date of birth is 25/5/1969 and not 25/3/1969. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OLAOYE

**CONFIRMATION OF NAME:** I, Olaoye Muftau Alamu am the same person bearing Alamu Muftau on my BVN. Henceforth, I wish to be known as OLAOYE MUFTAU ALAMU. My correct date of birth is 1/3/1948 and not 24/3/1948. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ADESINA

I formerly Miss Adesina Kadirat Adejoke now MRS. OLUWATADE FAVOUR ADEJOKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## IBI

I, formerly Ibi Ajiri now IBI AJIRI FELICIA. All former documents remain valid. Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc and general public take note.

## ADEBAYO

I, formerly Miss Adebayo Rukayat Tolulope now MRS ADAM RUKAYAT TOLUOPE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

## AKHAGUEGBE

I, formerly known and addressed as Akhaguegb Victoria Aimuomofia now wish to be known and addressed as ANTHONY VICTORIA AIMUOMOFIA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## DAUDA

I, formerly known and addressed as Dauda Ozemoya now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID MICHAEL OZEMOYA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## ALADESOFI

I formerly Aladesofi Tolulope Phebe now AYENI TOLUOPE PHEBE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SALAKO

I, formerly Salako Bukola Abigail now wish to be known and addressed as AKINLEYE EBUNOLUWA BUKOLA. All former documents remain valid. Banks, concerned authorities and general public take note.

## OLABIMI

I, formerly Olabimi Omolara Rejoice now BADEJO OMOLARA REJOICE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SIYANBOLA

I, formerly Miss Siyanbola Busayo Titilayo now MRS AKINOSUN BUSAYO TITILAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## OYEBAMINI

I, formerly Miss Oyebamini Latifa Abimbola now MRS OLUSOLA

## Henry Nwosu endorses Elegbeleye for Pitch awards

A former Super Eagles player, Henry Nwosu has endorsed the nomination of the Chairman of the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), Hon Gbenga Elegbeleye for the annual Pitch Awards Sportsmanship category for the year 2023.

In a touching testimony, Nwosu who has coached a number of professional league sides including Union Bank of Lagos and Gateway of Abeokuta, described the former National Assembly member as embodying the traits that are needed for leadership in the country.

"When I was the Coach of the U-17 team back in 2008, Elegbeleye saw me in Abuja and showed interest in how I was getting on with the job. I didn't have any official car and was moving around in taxis.

"Three days afterwards, he called me to take delivery of a car. I didn't ask for it and it was not as if we had a relationship beyond saying hello", Nwosu recalled his encounter with the then House of Representatives member.

On the Pitch Award, Nwosu who remains one of the best Super Eagles midfielders insisted that Elegbeleye merits the nomination and in his words, "he deserves to win this award and any award meant to recognise selfless contribution to sports by an individual".

He said the selfless contributions of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) second vice president is such that "unlike some other people who would assist a Coach the way he did for me, Elegbeleye never once called to send any player or players to me. He didn't even make a public show of the gift but was always ensuring that I had a free hand and was comfortable to carry out the task assigned to me by the NFF".

Super Eagles forward, Victor Osimhen, Remo Stars Chairman, Hon. Kunle Soname are the other two nominees for the Sportsmanship Award category.

Elegbeleye was in April crowned the Sports Administrator Of the Year, 2023 at the Sportsville Awards.

## Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10km race unveils Febbs Premium as partner

NILAYO Sports Management Limited, organisers of Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10KM Race has announced Febbs Premium Drinking Water as the hydration partner of the race.

Mr. Ebidowei Oweifie, the Chief Operating Officer of Nilayo Sports Management Limited said: "We are delighted to announce Febbs Premium Drinking Water as the hydration partner of the fourth edition of Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10km Race. Febbs is a brand that adheres to stringent quality standards to ensure purity and safety of their water for end users.

"Quality is a key attribute for us across all our marathons and road races. It is a valuable characteristic that makes this partnership a perfect symbiosis."

He added that Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10km Race promises to be bigger than the previous edition, "this edition is also intended to celebrate the birthday of His Royal Majesty, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbedebo,

Okukenu IV, the Alake of Egbaland, Alake has been a source of inspiration for Egba home and abroad, we feel it is apt to use this race to commemorate his birthday, he is a unique symbol of unity."

In his remarks, the CEO, Febbs Global Limited, Mr Olasegun Dada, said "In the pursuit of greatness, hydration is not just a necessity; it's a vital companion on the road to success. Febbs Global proudly joins forces with the Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10km Race as the hydration partner, empowering athletes to push their limits, defy expectations, and embrace every challenge with renewed energy and vigour."

Together, let's raise our bottles to celebrate the resilience and commitment that define the essence of this exhilarating event."

Lotus Bank Abeokuta 10KM Race is scheduled for 7th of September 7, 2024. The race starts at Iyana Oloke and will finish at Ake Palace.



From left, Captain of Ibadan Golf Club (IGC), Mr Seyi Alaba, winner of the competition, Ali Hajaig and the celebrant, Barrister Idowu Salami during the presentation to the winner of S.I Salami 60th birthday kitty at IGC, Onireke, Ibadan, on Saturday. PHOTO: Olawale Olaniyan.

## Boniface battles Lookman, Kudus, others for Europa award

**S**UPER Eagles striker, Victor Boniface, has been nominated for the Europa League goal of the season alongside national teammate Ademola Lookman and eight others, [soccer.net.ng](#) reports.

Boniface had an impressive debut campaign with Bayer Leverkusen. The 24-year-old played an important role for the club in all the competitions he featured in. Boniface registered 14 goals and eight assists in 23 Bundesliga appearances for Die Werkself.

Boniface was also effective on

the continent, as he registered five goals and one assist in eight UEFA Europa League appearances. His brilliance was key in Bayer Leverkusen's run to the final, but he could not help them clinch the title, as they suffered a 3-0 defeat to Atalanta.

Nonetheless, despite Bayer Leverkusen's loss to Atalanta in the final of the UEFA Europa League, Boniface's brilliance did not go unnoticed.

The former Royale Union SG star has been nominated for the Goal of the Season award. His goal for Bayer

Leverkusen in their 5-1 win against Eintracht Frankfurt was nominated alongside nine others.

Boniface was not the only Super Eagles player that was nominated. Lookman was also nominated for his second goal against Leverkusen in the final.

The other nominees are Mohammed Kudus (West Ham), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Marseille), Darwin Nunez (Liverpool), Robert Andrich (Bayer Leverkusen), David Doudera (Slavia Prague), Rafael Leao (AC Milan), and Joao Pedro (Brighton).

TRABZONSPOR striker, Paul Onuachu and Fenerbahçe right back, Bright Osayi-Samuel, have been named in Whoscored.com's Turkish Süper Lig's Team of the Season following

the conclusion of the campaign last weekend.

The Nigeria internationals have been named alongside Victor Osimhen's former teammate Dries Mertens, two-time Serie A top scorer Mauro Icardi and seven others.

Onuachu who is on loan from the English Premier League returnees Southampton was in brilliant form for Trabzonspor, helping the club to a third place

finish, scoring 15 goals in 21 matches, the joint most that has been scored for the Black Sea Storm in the last four seasons.

With a rating of 7.43, the lanky striker is second most rated player in the side with only Icardi getting a higher score, having finished the season as the league's top scorer.

Similarly, Osayi-Samuel also played a vital role for Fenerbahçe who finished second, featuring in 23 games across the campaign and failing to start just two games when he was named in the matchday squad.

The 26-year-old scored four goals and provided two assists, the most he has registered for the Yellow Canaries and earned a 6.90 rating.

League champions Galatasaray and runner-up Fenerbahçe have the most representatives in the side with five players apiece while Trabzonspor had one.





Kajola Local Government, Okeho

## Congratulations Your Excellency

The Executive Chairman of Kajola Local Government, Hon. Mustapha Akeem Olawale, on behalf of the Vice Chairman, Secretary, Councillors, Political Leaders, members of Traditional Council, Management, Staff and the good people of the Kajola Local Government congratulate our Leader and Captain



**His Excellency  
Engr. Seyi Abiodun Makinde FNSE**

on the occasion of your first year in office for second term as the Executive Governor of Pacesetter State.

Sir, your integrity made your performances visible, highly remarkable and characterized by uncommon achievements that have been emulated by your counterparts.

That is why we are proud of you for being our Great Ambassador at the helms of affairs of which the people at the grassroots have really felt your positive impacts.

May God grant you divine wisdom, knowledge and grace to pilot the affairs of Oyo state to a greater heights.

**Once again, Congratulations!**

Signed:

Hon. Mustapha Akeem Olawale Esq.  
Executive Chairman



**PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
SAKI WEST**



## THE OKE OGUN POLYTECHNIC, SAKI RENAME: SAKI PDP LEADERS COMMEND GOVERNOR SEYI MAKINDE



**ENGR. OLUWASEYI ABIODUN  
MAKINDE FNSE,  
The Executive Governor  
of Oyo State**

**CHIEF MICHAEL  
ADENIYI KOLEOSO  
The Babalaje of Sakiland**

We write on behalf of our great party members, the PDP in Saki West Local Government area of Oyo State on the great honour bestowed on our father, a leader of men and a leading patriot of Sakiland, Chief Michael Adeniyi Koleoso, the Babalaje of Sakiland as Your Excellency honours him by naming the Oke Ogun Polytechnic after him.

Your Excellency's action is a manifestation of your unalloyed love and devotion for recognition of a decade of service and stewardship to one's land.

Baba played an historical role in the establishment of the then satilite campus of The Ibadan Polytechnic in Saki which later metamorphosed into The Oke Ogun Polytechnic, Saki. Aside The Oke Ogun Polytechnic, the Oyo North Agricultural Development Programme (ONADEP) now OYSADA, Saki Stadium, and others were masterminded by him.

Your Excellency has through this made it known that one can indeed be honoured in his lifetime not necessarily after one leaves the world.

The generation to come will be encouraged by Your Excellency's show of magnanimity to Baba and we shall continue to appreciate Your Excellency for this as a party and major stakeholders in Saki Town.

**H.E Engr. Hamid Gbadamosi**

**Hon. Adebisi Adeniyi Olabode**

**Rt. Hon. Abdulwasi, Musah, Ph.D**

**Hon. Tunji Rafiu Adekunle**

**Hon. Engr. Alhaji Najeem Ahmed Omirinde**

**Alh. Oluwakemi Waheed**

**Alh. Lateef Adebayo Salami Koomi**

**Alh. Alaraje Dauda Adebayo**



## SIDELINES

The Lagos State Police Command recently paraded a suspect, named Charles, for allegedly impersonating the police and forging the stamps of two Magistrates. Faced with the fury of officers and the bench whose roles he had usurped, Charles has a slim chance of justice tempered with mercy.

# AFE ON THURSDAY

aareafe@gmail.com

OFR, CON, SAN, LL.D, D.Litt



## Democracy and the people's role (3)

### Two countries made one

**O**RIGINALLY, the country now known as Nigeria was treated as two distinct and separate countries but the two were merged to further entrench the colonial dominance over the area for the sake of propagating the hegemonic tendencies of the British Colonial Administration and was principally geared towards enhancing the economic base of the United Africa Company (U.A.C.) formed in 1879 which was to later assume a new name, Royal Niger Company in 1882. It is a matter of recorded history that on December 1, 1899, the Charter granted to the Royal Niger Company was revoked. Barely 24 hours later, Lord Lugard became the first British High Commissioner to the newly designated protectorate of Northern Nigeria. The protectorate of Southern Nigeria was also created from the said Niger Coast protectorate. By 1903 Lugard had succeeded in bringing the Sokoto Caliphate under the British rule.

Lugard thereafter started a campaign towards unification of all British protectorates. This campaign was to yield the first fruit in 1906 when the southern Nigeria Protectorate and the colony of Lagos were amalgamated to become the colony and protectorate of southern Nigeria. The incumbent colonial Governor of Lagos, Sir Eagerton continued as Governor under an enlarged administration. He had been briefly posted to Hong Kong as Governor General. Upon resumption of office Lord Lugard intensified campaign for the unification of the Northern Nigerian protectorate and the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria and colony of Lagos. The British King had no difficulty in approving of lord Lugard's suggestion because of his proven track record and experience as a seasoned administrator. The official approval was given on the 22nd of November 1913 by King George V from his court at Windsor Castle.

### Amalgamation of northern and southern Nigeria

The amalgamation process took effect from the 1st of January 1914 and Lord Frederick Lugard assumed a new title as Governor-General. It is a significant historical fact that even though the country had in law been amalgamated or unified, yet the day to day administration was not. Whereas a separate legislative body was in charge of law making for the affairs of the colony of Lagos, the Governor General was making laws for the protectorate of Northern Nigeria by proclamation. It is therefore clear to all that the principal reason towards the amalgamation was basically economic.

### Evolution of constitutionalism and political activities

In the words of P.A.O. Oluyede: "The gradual unification of the entire country was given a greater impetus in 1912 when Lord Lugard, in his second term in office, was made Governor of both Northern and Southern Provinces and by January 1, 1914, the colony and Protectorate of Nigeria was inaugurated. In January 1914, Lugard amalgamated the Northern Protectorate and Southern Protectorate into one as the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria under the British Crown. Thereafter, the Governor of Nigeria, with the assistance of an Executive and Legislative Council, was responsible for the administrative of the country."

The Clifford's constitution of 1922 and the commencement

### of political activities

The assumption of duty in 1919 as Governor of Nigeria by Sir Hugh Clifford ushered into Nigeria the first Electoral System. The first election took place in 1923 with four seats comprising three for Lagos and one for Calabar. Clifford's constitution effectively replaced the Legislative Council of 1862 enlarged in 1914 and graduated to the Nigerian Council of 1914. The Legislative Council made laws for the Colony and Southern Provinces while the Governor continued to legislate for the North by means of proclamations. Governor Clifford was succeeded by Governor's Cameron and Bernard Bourdillon. Sad enough they left no remarkable imprints on the sands of constitutional development. Before he finally left the shores of Nigeria in 1943, all that Bourdillon succeeded in making were constitutional proposals.

### The Richard's Constitution of 1946

Sir Arthur Richards succeeded Sir Bernard Bourdillon and introduced constitutional reforms in 1946. By these reforms, the existing Eastern, Western and Central provinces that constituted the British Trust Territory of Nigeria became Regions. Each of the emerging Northern, Eastern and Western Regions had a House of Assembly and the North alone had a House of Chiefs in addition. Suffice it to say that these Houses had only consultative powers. Their powers were clearly defined and limited to the consideration of budgets and serving as electoral colleges into legislative council in Lagos. In spite of its inherent flaws, Richards constitution was a product of painstaking exercise. For the very first time in the history of Nigeria, an arrangement to weld all the ethnic groups together under a unified but slightly loose central government was put in place.

### The collapse of the constitutional arrangements

Before the introduction of Richards Constitution in 1946, the NCNC had masterminded a general strike in 1945 that virtually paralysed colonial administration in Nigeria. The collapse of the constitutional arrangement was therefore a matter of time. New parties began to emerge and participated fully in the new arrangement geared towards the replacement of Richards Constitution. For example, the Action Group (AG) was formed by the late sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo from Egbe Omo Oduduwa of which Chief Obafemi Awolowo was Secretary. Similarly, Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) evolved from a similar awareness group from the North and was formed by the Sardauna of Sokoto, Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (who was to become the Prime Minister later in life). The NCNC that had been in existence prior to the formation of AG and NPC became increasingly associated with the Igbo.

### The Macpherson Constitution of 1951

By 1951, Lord Macpherson took over from Sir Arthur Richards and introduced a new constitution. The new constitution sought to formalize the informal division of the country by his predecessor into three regions with each region now having a lieutenant Governor rather than a Chief Commissioner. With some minor modifications, the legislative and executive councils of the three regions and Lagos were enlarged. Interestingly enough, the unique feature of the constitution was the predominance of the council with Africans whose elections

were made possible through electoral colleges. The North and West however continued to operate bicameral legislative whereas only one legislative house existed in the East.

The main critique of Macpherson Constitution was that it sought to operate the country like a unitary state. The crises that engulfed the Northern part of the country as a result of rioting by the supporters of the NPC when the delegations of AG politicians visited the North for a rally and the consequential threat of reprisals by disgruntled supporters of the AG quickened the convening of a conference in London in 1953 at the invitation of a Secretary of State for the colonies, Sir Oliver Lyttleton.

### Littleton Constitution and the advent of federalism

The aftermath of the constitutional conferences of 1953 was the advent of "Littleton Constitution of 1954" which ushered in federalism. By this singular development, the executive, legislature, judiciary, public service and marketing board were regionalized. Nigeria thus became a federation of three regions with the federal territory of Lagos as capital. The Governor in Lagos became Governor-General while the Lt. Governors became Governors of the Regions. But after elections by political parties, the Regional Executives became Premiers. The British officials consequently withdrew their membership of both the Western and Eastern legislative Houses although three of them continued to reclaim their positions at the Northern and Federal Executive Councils. The NCNC and NPC formed a coalition government at the center while AG became the official opposition.

The Federal Constitution of 1954 for the first time made provision for an exclusive legislative list reserved for the federal legislature. There was also a concurrent list containing matters that could be legislated upon by the federal and the regional legislatures. Items which were neither stipulated in the exclusive nor concurrent lists were reserved for the regions. These were residual matters. The House of Representatives was enlarged to 194 members, including ex-officio and nominated members. The colony of Southern Cameroons was represented by six members. The Governor-General was still President of the Council of Ministers which had ten Nigerian Ministers. All of them had specific Departments to administer. The Governor-General and the Governors had reserved powers.

Each of the three regions continued to have a bicameral legislature, except the East which had only the House of Assembly. Just as Premiers were appointed for the Regions (all of them leaders of their respective parties) Ministers were also appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Premier. Southern Cameroons was ruled by a High Commissioner and some Ministers. In all cases, each Minister had a Department in his charge. The Judiciary for the first time was re-organized along federal lines. Consequently, the Supreme Court had appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the regional High Courts. The revenue of the country accruing to her are paid into a specialized account and divided between the regions on the basis of derivation whilst the federal government kept about half of the revenue from customs and excise duties.

To be continued...

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# sports

## New date for Fury, Usyk rematch revealed

TYSON FURY faces a wait to rematch Oleksandr Usyk as the new Christmas cracker date has been revealed.

The heavyweight superstars put on a 12-round classic in Saudi Arabia on May 18 with Usyk crowned a historic undisputed champion.

And beaten Fury was armed with the right to run it back per a stipulation in the original contract.

Not long after losing for the first time in his 36-bout career, Fury's handlers announced his intention to invoke

his rematch clause.

A rerun was always eyed for October - until the pair hilariously went blow-for-blow for 36 magnificent minutes.

As a result, fans must wait until the winter to see it all over again.

However, Saudi boxing chief, Turki Alalshikh, spoke out to reveal the rematch is now set for December 21 in an early Christmas treat to fans.

He posted online: "The rematch between the Undis-

puted Champion Oleksandr Usyk and the Champion Tyson Fury is now scheduled on December 21, 2024 during Riyadh Season.

"The world will watch another historical fight again...Our commitment to boxing fans continues...We hope you enjoy it..."

The two were first meant to meet on February 17 but Fury was forced out following a horror cut sustained in sparring, just two weeks out.