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FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
LEADERSHIP©
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Security Beef-up In 11 States As INEC Holds Rerun Polls

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, Abuja

Rerun elections in 28 constituencies will be conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in 11 states of the federation today.

INEC national chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, said that most of the elections were ordered by the courts.

Yakubu made the disclosure during the swearing-in of two resident electoral commissioners (RECs) in Abuja. The RECs are Dr Alalibo Sinikiem Johnson from Bayelsa State and Umar Mukhtar Gajiram from Borno State, who have been posted to Cross Rivers and Taraba States respectively,

Yakubu immediately gave then marching orders preside over today's elections in their states.

LEADERSHIP Weekend discovered that all the polls holding today were for legislative seats such as the Senate, House of Representatives and states'

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APC Govs Back Community Policing, Differ On Amotekun

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- N/Central, S/South ethnic nationalities too
- We are ready to meet PMB for approval – *Akeredolu*
- Post lower cadre police officers to state of origin – *Al-Makura*

L-R: President Muhammadu Buhari; minister of Defence, Maj-Gen. Bashir Magashi (rtd); minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Sa'adiya Umar Farouk, and Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Tukur Buratai, during the visit of European Union Commissioner for Crisis Management to the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO BY STATE HOUSE

CBN Cautions FG On Rising Debt Stock

BY MARK ITSIBOR, Abuja

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has expressed misgivings over the country's rising debt stock and therefore admonished the federal government to exercise restraints on the matter because it was getting above the nation's domestic and external revenue.

It specifically urged the fiscal authorities not to be carried away by the fact that Nigeria's debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was still within the 25 per cent debt limit set by the government.

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Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed (sitting third from left), with other African ministers and UNWTO officials at the 11th Tourism Investment and Business Forum (Investour) in Madrid, Spain, on Thursday.

Nigerian Army Deploys 185 Peacekeepers To Guinea Bissau

The Nigerian Army yesterday completed pre-deployment training for 185 troops for peacekeeping mission in Guinea Bissau.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) the 185 troops began their pre-deployment training on Jan. 6, at the Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peace Keeping Centre (MLAILPKC), Jaji, Kaduna State.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen Tukur Buratai, said the troops will be Nigeria's Company 8, in the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea Bissau.

Buratai was represented by Maj.-Gen Kelvin Aligbe Commandant Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI) .

Buratai said that the graduation further confirmed the commitment of Nigeria to deploy quality peacekeepers, as part of its contributions to the quest for global peace and security.

He explained that the pre-deployment training was aimed at refreshing and polishing their knowledge and expertise in peace support operation.

"The training was to equip you with the requisite skills required to protect yourselves, ECOWAS Mission in Guinea, equipment and the citizens of Guinea Bissau your host nation, while carrying out the mission's mandate."

Buratai cautioned the troops to avoid any ugly incident that could tarnish the image of the Army and Nigeria during their stay in Guinea Bissau.

"Let me categorically state that you are to discharge your duties in consonance with the mission's mandate at all times.

"I must also remind you that the rules of engagement in the mission give you the latitude to exhibit utmost professionalism in the discharge of your responsibilities.

"Additionally, you must respect the culture and religious sensitivity of the people of the host nation and must not involve yourselves in trafficking of illicit substance of any kind."

He added that the ECOWAS Mission has zero tolerance to sexual exploitation and abuse.

"The Nigerian Army and indeed the government will also not tolerate the contravention of these policies," he said.

Earlier, Maj.-Gen James Ataguba, the Commandant of MLAILPKC said that the training included classroom lectures on prescribed United Nation pre-deployment training materials.

Ataguba said that the physical and field training covered areas such as intensive physical exercises, occupation of basic camp, crowd dispersal, tactical convoy movement, escort of VIP and weapons handling.

"I therefore make bold to say that the Nigerian Company 8 Economic Community of West State mission in Guinea Bissau has received adequate training required to be into any UN or regional coordinated mission."

PSC Slams Amnesty International Over Corruption Report On Nigeria

BY ERNEST NZOR, Abuja

The Presidential Support Committee (PSC) has berated Amnesty International (TI) over Nigeria's latest position on the 2019 global corruption index, saying ranking the country 146 out of the 180 countries on the 2019 corruption perception index was the lowest watermark of the group's ranking index career.

In its latest ranking, TI said Nigeria scored 26 out of 100 points, dropping from the 27 points that it had maintained since 2017.

But in a statement by its director of communication and strategic planning, Mallam Gidado Ibrahim, the PSC regretted that the Nigerian branch of Amnesty International that has hitherto been well respected has deviated from the core values, principles and objectives of the original Amnesty International domiciled in the United Kingdom.

Ibrahim said: "All Amnesty is doing points to the fact that it is against the government of Nigeria. Based on their rumpus with the Nigerian military some time ago, it is becoming clearer that Amnesty is against all the activities of the Nigerian government."

Despite pleas from right thinking Nigerians that Amnesty International should work within the confines of their mandate, it is still trying to incite or bring disaffection among the Nigerian state.

"The group's effort to undermine the federal government in order to disrupt the nation, is what is manifesting in its mendacious and tendentious ranking. The obvious bias and inaccuracies in Amnesty International's recent country reports on Nigeria, risk Amnesty's reputation as an impartial international organisation."

The PSC also accused Amnesty International of involving in undercover funding of dissenting groups to protest against the Nigerian government.

"We are increasingly worried about the role that Amnesty International is playing in the anti-corruption war in Nigeria. The organisation's manoeuvres in Nigeria appear as if TI is deliberately trying to colour the Buhari administration bad before the international community.

"Accordingly, we urge Nigerians to be wary of Amnesty International (Nigeria) because its goals are to destabilise Nigeria and to cause strife among its citizens. The PSC would have no choice than to call for the closure of Amnesty International offices in Nigeria if such unruliness continues.

"President Muhammadu Buhari has reduced incidences of corruption in Nigeria to the barest minimum. We have seen how the anti-graft agencies have been prosecuting and securing convictions in high profile corruption cases, with former governors being sentenced to jail. We wonder where TI got it data from to keep Nigeria at that level of its index. It is a sham".

Lassa Fever: 76 Test Positive In Edo, 57 Under Surveillance In Rivers

BY ANAYO ONUKWUGHA, Port Harcourt

The Rivers State Ministry of Health has placed a total of 57 people under close surveillance following the outbreak of Lassa Fever in no fewer than 11 states in the country.

The acting permanent secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Chinwe Atata, who disclosed this yesterday while briefing newsmen in Port Harcourt, said a resident of the state died of suspected Lassa Fever in Edo State.

Atata stated that two samples have been sent to National Reference Laboratory for Virology, pointing out that all two cases were still suspected, unconfirmed and results still being awaited.

She said: "In the last few days we have received four reports of suspected cases of Lassa fever in Rivers State, all these cases have received prompt and adequate attention. Two rumours have been investigated and discarded.

"Two samples have been sent to National Reference Laboratory for Virology. All two cases are still suspected, unconfirmed and results still being awaited.

"However, the state was notified of a resident of Rivers State who was diagnosed in Edo State as a case of Lassa Fever on 22/1/2020.

"Incidentally, the Patient passed on at Irrua Specialist Hospital on 22nd January, 2020. Investigation are still ongoing at Edo State together with the Management of the Hospital, family and National Centre for Diseases Control (NCDC), as we are working assiduously to ensure Public Health safety in the exposed clusters, especially among health care personnel and the first responders.

our stand

Ike, Administrator And King, Takes A Final Bow

With the death of Professor Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike at the ripe age of 89, Nigeria has suffered, yet again, a depletion in her ranks of the best and brightest as far as literary enterprise is concerned. Though he became famous as a writer of note in the class of Professor Chinua Achebe and Christopher Okigbo, his first love was educational administration where he excelled rising to become the first indigenous registrar of University of Nigeria, Nsukka and later the first Nigerian registrar of the West African Examination Council (WAEC). In these two capacities, he nurtured many young Nigerians and even non Nigerians as they clawed their way up the academic ladder. To many of the younger generation, he was popular as the author of Expo '77, a critical look at academic examination malpractice in west Africa.

He left office as Registrar of WAEC when the Nigerian government refused to recommend him for reappointment.

As a writer, his themes were at the same didactic and entertaining, a mixture of lampoon, humor and satire. He owed a little bit of his style to his Igbo cultural upbringing.

He cut his academic teeth at the famous Government College, Umuahia and later studied history, English and Religious Studies at the University of Ibadan just as he earned a master's degree at Stanford university, California, USA. On retiring from intellectual, administrative enterprise, he returned to his home base in Ndi-ikelionwu in Orumba South Local Government Area of today's Anambra State.

An Aro of the Igbo extraction, his people established him as a monarch from which vantage position he spearheaded the renaissance of his people becoming, in the process, the fulcrum around which their development strides revolved. His Royal Highness latched on to the goodwill he garnered over the years in public life and used same to enhance the wellbeing of his people.

Born in Anambra state, Nigeria, Ike was given the Christian name of Vincent but later chose his Igbo name, Chukwuemeka as his preferred choice (meaning "God has done great"). He was raised in a strict home. His father was a king, civic leader and disciplinarian who instilled in his son the necessity of civic duties and education. Chukwuemeka started early education in his native town. He left home for further education at Ife-Mbaise and then from 1945 to 1950, he attended Government College Umuahia. He started writing at Umuahia for the school magazine, The Umuahian, and he was also influenced by teachers that included Saburi Biobaku, who had honours in English from Cambridge. Some eminent Nigerian writers who attended the school include Chinua Achebe, Christopher Okigbo, and Ken Saro Wiwa. After completing his secondary education, he studied at the University of Ibadan. While at the college, he was invited by Chinua Achebe to join the magazine club. He was a king, Eze Ndikelionwu of the great Aro town Ndikelionwu in eastern Nigeria, with the title "Ikelionwu XI" in his hometown of Ndikelionwu in Anambra State.

Despite his status as a high profile administrator, a university professor and later a first class traditional ruler, he did not depart from the discipline inculcated in him by his father. He maintained a spartan lifestyle that earned him much respect and adulation from his peers and, of course, the younger generation who saw in him a model worthy of emulation. His world view was pan-Nigerian that influenced his marriage to a Yoruba lady with who he sired a son who died much earlier.

Since his passing, the education sector he served so well has continued to eulogise the man who was a leading light in the effort to instal the Nigerian as sufficiently qualified to compete with their peers at all levels.

To his people of Ndi-ikelionwu, it has been a cry of when comes another as he died without an heir. However, they are consoled by the fact that his attainments and accomplishments are legacies enough for which he will be remembered.

This newspaper joins the rest of Nigerians in wishing him a peaceful repose in the bosom of the Almighty.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
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mission statement

LEADERSHIP is a national paper symbolically embedded in the nation's capital. We shall stand up for good governance. We shall defend the interest of Nigerian people even against their rulers, and we shall raise our pen at all times in defence of what is right. These are the values by which we intend to be assessed.

We shall never, ever for any reason forget the noble reason of our coming into being:

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!

APC Govs Back Community Policing, Differ On Amotekun

BY OUR REPORTERS

Governors elected on the platform of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) have accepted the federal government's community policing arrangement but differed on "Operation Amotekun" adopted by six of their members from the South West zone.

The governors, who operate under the umbrella of the Progressive Governors Forum (PGF), said that they were confident that the community policing planned by the federal government would curb the security challenges facing the country.

Although they expressed opposing views on the creation and deployment of regional security operatives within the country, the governors unanimously condemned the recent killing of a pastor and a student by Boko Haram insurgents in Adamawa and Plateau states respectively.

They said that the terrorists resorted to the callous acts to cause religious disharmony in the country.

While addressing a press conference in Abuja, yesterday, the Plateau State governor, who doubles as the co-chairman of PGF Governance Programme Steering Committee, Simon Lalong, appealed to Nigerians not to succumb to the insurgents' ploy, even as he tasked security agencies to go back to all the places where the insurgents were still operating.

Lalong insisted that Boko Haram could not be superior to the country's security agencies.

He said: "We are all talking about community policing. That one, we (APC governors) have all agreed on it but we don't want a situation where you start doing something and the federal government will say you are doing it outside the law just like what they said about 'Amotekun'.

"It is now that they are going to dialogue. Even if they are doing that, it has to be within the law. So, what is within the law as far as governors are concerned is the issue of community policing. We all agreed on that.

"I made a briefing in Lafia, Nasarawa State and I told them that I have been using community policing for a very long time. In Jos, the Plateau State capital, I have about three organisations - three security outfits. I have the headquarters of a division; I have 'Operation Safe Haven' established by the federal government for only a few states at that time, and I have what is called 'Operation Rainbow'.

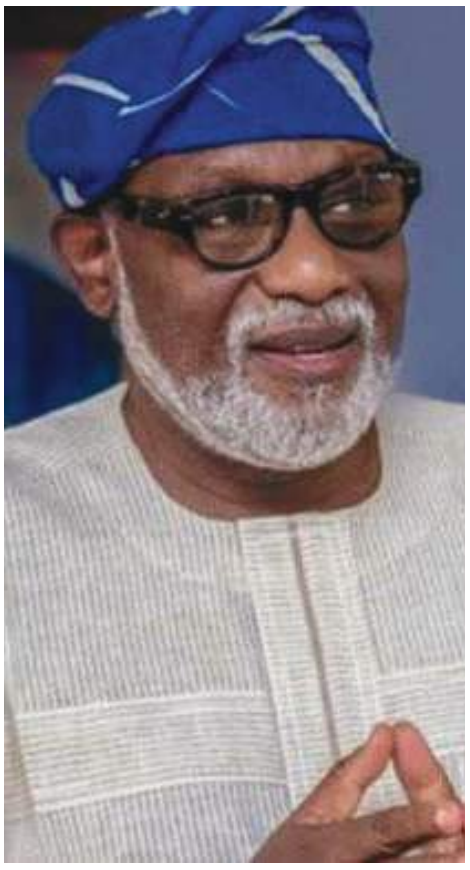
"For us, 'Operation Rainbow' is like community policing because while 'Operation Safe Haven' and the police are answerable to the federal government, 'Operation Rainbow' is answerable to the governor and it is a combination of different security organisations.

"So, what they do is intelligence gathering and we find that very effective because if you do not understand the intelligence, you will not understand how to even nip the security situation in the bud. So, because of this intelligence, before anything happens, we know because we have an early warning system," Lalong stated

On the killing of a student in Jos and a pastor in Adamawa, Lalong said: "I take it as part of their (Boko Haram) propaganda because when they are getting to that level, they can use any means to propagate and incite people to go into killings.

"We heard what happened in Adamawa where they killed a pastor and then they went to Plateau State and killed a student. I have been trying to caution the people because their intention is for people to start fighting on religious grounds. By the time you fall into it, they will come back and start mingling with the people.

"So, it is very unfortunate when they start killing students and religious leaders. We have to keep appealing to the people; we have made strong appeals to the security agencies to go back to those places because we do not expect Boko Haram to be superior to our security agencies," he said,



Akeredolu

Governor Lalong explained that his committee has the responsibility to design policies for implementation for good governance in APC states and once they are approved, the governors go for their implementation.

But the head of the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), North Central zone, Mr Steve Aluko, said that Governor Lalong, who is the chairman of the Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF), should set the agenda and lead the people of the North Central zone to have their security platform to protect their people against incessant attacks by bandits and terrorists.

He said that the existence of the security outfit would give the people a sense of personal safety and that of their property.

The national president of Plateau Initiative for Development and Advancement of the Natives (PIDAN), Dr. Aboi Madaki, declined to give the position of his organisation on regional security bodies because he was bereaved.

But a source in PIDAN told LEADERSHIP that the North Central zone would welcome the establishment of a regional security.

Similarly, the president of Berom Cultural and Educational Organisation (BECO), Da Gyang Dalyop, said that the establishment of the "Operation Rainbow" in Plateau by the former governor Jonah Jang was a pointer to that direction.

He said that federal government had failed peace-loving Nigerians in terms of securing their life and property.

Daylop said that establishing a security outfit to complement the conventional police and other security agencies was not out of place in view of the incessant attacks and killing of innocent citizens.

A former chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria MACBAN in Plateau State, Mallam Nura Abdullahi, said that regional security outfits were not the solution to the precarious situation in the country.

Abdullahi said that the federal government should equip and boost the present security architecture to perform its duties without fear or favour, adding regional security would send a wrong signal across the country.

In Benue State, even though there are security challenges ranging from farmers/herders' conflict to banditry, there are no plans on ground to form any security outfit as the residents are only agitating for state police.

Some of the socio- cultural group leaders who spoke told LEADERSHIP Weekend that they preferred state and community policing to regional security bodies.

The president-general of Mdzough u Tiv, Chief Edward Ujege, described the emergence of "Amotekun" as a reaction to the inability of the federal government to create state and community police.

Ujege said that he was not aware of any plan either by groups or the state governments to form any regional security outfit in the Middle Bbelt region or Benue in particular.

He said: "I am not in government, so I can't raise a security outfit and I am not even aware of any plan like that, but I think the coming of 'Amotekun' is as a result of the inability of the federal government to meet the yearnings of the people to create state and community police which the people believe will be more closer to them at the grassroots."

The patron of Yoruba Community in Benue State, Asiwaju Isaac Akinkunmi, said that "Amotekun' was not the solution to the worrisome insecurity in the region.

Akinkunmi urged the governors to rather press for the creation of state police, which he noted, was a better solution to checking criminality in the country.

In Niger State, there is a law made by 7th House of assembly that gave legal backing to the existence of vigilante groups.

Vigilantes used to operate as mere neighbourhoods security arrangement until Hon. Adamu Usman, representing Momsa constituency sponsored a bill on the issue.

The bill was passed and the vigilantes in most parts of the state operations are based on the law and often controlled by the local governments' chairmen.

When bandits recently took over parts of Shiroro local government area of Niger State, the chairman of the council, Suleman Chukuba, said that vigilante groups were among the security personnel mobilised to dislodge them.

So, the people of the state support makeshift security arrangement such as the operations of vigilantes and oppose regional connotation of such groups, describing it as strange.

From traditional rulers in Akoko area of Ondo State, an area that had suffered a lot of security challenges such as kidnapping, armed robbery, human rituals and banditry than any other parts of the state, have declared that "Amotekun" has come to stay irrespective of the opposition of the federal government.

The traditional rulers who noted that the issue of security challenges in the country was the central theme in all the addresses at the local government areas, states and even at federal level during the just- celebrated 2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day, insisted that having a security outfit that combined vigilantes, Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) with police personnel to see to the lapses in the six states of southwest should not be misunderstood as ploy to harass certain tribal populace in the region or an indirect way of introducing state police.

In a statement signed by Alhaji Ibrahim Kilani, the monarchs noted that the reason for the establishment of "Amotekun" was due to claim by the police that the mandate given to them did not include entering the forests, whereas the bandits that harass the people live and operate from the forest.

In its reaction, the Socialist Party of Nigeria (SPN) alleged the failure of President Muhammadu Buhari-led government through the police, military and other security agencies to tackle banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, social conflicts like the farmers and herders' clashes in addition to Boko Haram insurgency in the North East.

The party's acting chairman, Comrade Abiodun Bamigboye and the national secretary, Chinedum Busah, said that while there was no yet an official framework and policy document in the public domain, the popular narrative on 'Amotekun, both in the main and social media, showed that "it as a Yoruba ethnic militia.

"This suggests that the activities of 'Amotekun' could be divisive in the region. Even though the south-western region is predominantly Yoruba, the fact remains that there is a considerable number of residents who are of other ethnic extractions. Furthermore, the perception of 'Amotekun' as a Yoruba militiarisks provoking further ethnic tension," Bamigboye said.

While not ruling out the possibility that "Amotekun" might fight some crimes, SPN believed that in the absence of mass democratic control, its activities would sooner or later constitute a threat to democratic rights and the dignity of the ordinary people including extortion, extra-judicial killing, election rigging, attacking opposition figures as currently obtained with the police, DSS and other security agencies.

We're Ready To Meet PMB For Approval - Akeredolu

Amid the raging controversy, Ondo State governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, has said that the South West governors were ready to meet with President Buhari to explain the entire concept of "Amotekun" with a view to ensuring its smooth take-off.

Akeredolu told some editors in Abuja, yesterday, that the "Amotekun" is prepared to work in concert with the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and other security agencies to protect life and property.

The governor said that Amotekun was never conceptualised to operate as a stand-alone state or regional army as being speculated by some persons, but was designed as a child of necessity to assist other security agencies to improve the security

CONTINUE ON **PAGE 5**

LOW GI FOR BETTER SLEEP

You may have heard about the health benefits a low-GI diet can have for you-more steady energy levels, less bloating, no sugar cravings – but eating a low-GI diet can also be beneficial for your sleep quality. GI stands for Glycaemic index – the ranking of carbohydrate – containing foods based on their overall effect on blood glucose levels. When we eat foods with a high GI, such as white bread, pastries and sweets, our blood sugar spikes and then drops rapidly, leaving us tired, irritable and hungry. This can continue on into the night, so if you have finished the evening off with sweetened tea and biscuits, you can wake in the night with feelings of hunger. Eating low-GI foods helps ensure your body is fuelled throughout the night, meaning you don't get the midnight snack-attack and have steadier sleep.

*– Culled from **"50 Tips To Help You Sleep Well"***

CBN Cautions FG On Rising Debt Stock

FROM COVER

Before the apex bank's warning yesterday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had in April 2019 said Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio was good but risky and cannot be guaranteed going forward.

After its meeting in Abuja, the MPC said that since public debt was rising faster than both domestic and external revenue, there was need for the government to tread consciously in interpreting the debt-to- GDP ratio.

CBN governor, Mr Godwin Emefiele, who briefed journalists on the outcome of the MPC meeting in Abuja, yesterday, said that "the committee also noted the rising burden of debt services and urged the fiscal authorities to strongly consider building buffers by not sharing all proceeds from the Federation Account at the monthly FAAC meetings to avert the macroeconomic downturn in the event of an oil price shock,"

Meanwhile, the MPC has announced an increase in the bank's Cash Reserve Requirement (CRR). The committee by a decision of nine members voted to alter the CRR by 500 basis points from 22.5 to 27.5 per cent while leaving all other policy parameters constant.

This implies that the MPC voted to change the CRR from 22.5 to 27.5 per cent; retain the MPR at 13.5 per cent; retain the asymmetric corridor of +200 and -500 basis points around the MPR and retain the liquidity ratio at 30 per cent.

Emefiele

The committee said that it considered it prudent to raise the CRR to curtail liquidity soffit in the banking system and asserted that "increasing the CRR at this time is fortuitous as it will help address monetary- induced inflation whilst retaining the benefit from the bank's Loan-to-Deposit Ratio policy, which has been significantly increasing credit to private sector as well as pursuing market interest rate downwards."

Emefiele said that the aim is to mop the excess liquidity to a level that it (MPC) considers optimal to be able to run the economy in a way that the level of excess liquidity does not become injurious to the economy.

MPC charged the management of the apex bank to be more vigorous in its drive to improve access to credit through its pursuit of the LDR policy because it would help to create job opportunities and boost output as well as moderating prices.

It noted that gross credit in the industry grew by N2 trillion between May 2019 and December 2019, which was channelled to employment stimulating sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing.

The MPC also urged the government to gradually reduce reliance on oil receipts and focus on revenue diversification through reforms in the tax system.

Also, the committee charged the government to rationalise fiscal expenditure towards reducing the current high cost of governance.

While applauding the government for the recent signing of the 2020 Finance Act which opens a new vista of opportunities in the public finance management, MPC expressed concern about the rising inflation which increased consecutively in the last four months as at December 2019 to 11.48 per cent and higher than its target range of 6.9 per cent.

The rising price level is attributable to a combination of structural and supply factors, expansionary fiscal policy and growth in money supply due to rising liquidity soffit in the industry and changes in the bank's Open Market Operation (OMO) policy.

The MPC, therefore, called on fiscal authorities to speedily address structural impediments, which are responsible for the development.

MPC identified the impediments as infrastructure deficit and the continued clashes between herdsmen and farmers which have constrained domestic production and contributed substantially to a rise in food inflation.

It therefore urged the federal government to relentlessly seek innovative ways of addressing the security challenges facing the country in order to boost aggregate food supply.

Security Beef-up In 11 States As INEC Holds Rerun Polls

FROM COVER

Houses of Assembly.

The various election petitions tribunals which handled grievances arising from the 2019 general elections received 807 post-election cases, of which 582 were dismissed and 183 withdrawn by the petitioners.

The remaining 42 cases, according to INEC, 30 were decided for rerun while the court ordered that 12 should be given certificates of return.

Of the 30 rerun cases, two are Kogi West Senatorial District supplementary rerun election and Ajaokuta federal constituency, which were conducted on November 30, 2019

"There are, so far, 30 such court-ordered rerun and supplementary rerun elections. Two of these, namely, the rerun elections for the Ajaokuta federal constituency and the supplementary rerun election for the Kogi West Senatorial District, were conducted on November 30, 2019.

"Consequently, there are 28 court-ordered elections still outstanding, which are distributed across 11 states of the federation.

The breakdown comprises one senatorial district out of 109; 12 federal constituencies out of 360 and 15 state assembly constituencies out of 991," Yakubu had said.

For today's elections, the INEC chairman said that six would involve entire constituencies while 22 elections will be held only in some polling units.

"In all the constituencies, the elections will be contested by the same political parties and candidates that participated in the 2019 general elections except where the elections were nullified on grounds of candidate disqualification.

"The two affected constituencies are Gamawa federal constituency in Bauchi State and Agwara State constituency in Niger State where elections will be held without the candidates and parties that were declared winners in the general elections.

"There will be no substitution of candidates as these are not bye-elections but court-ordered rerun elections and the period for nomination of candidates had lapsed since the end of 2018 in preparation for the 2019 general elections," Yakubu added.

Ahead of the elections, the inspector-general of police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, has ordered security beef up in the affected states.

Adamu

The force public relations officer (FPRO), DCP Frank Mba, disclosed this in a statement he issued in Abuja, yesterday.

Mba said that the IGP had ordered the commissioners of police (CPs) in the affected states to ensure comprehensive security arrangement for INEC offices and facilities.

He explained that the directive was to ensure hitch-free elections and a level playing ground for all the candidates and parties.

The police spokesman named the states participating in the elections as Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Ogun, and Sokoto.

He said that the IG had ordered police personnel deployed for the elections to abide by rules guiding their conduct on election duty.

Mba promised that the officers would be professional and apolitical in the discharge of their duties and enjoined politicians, candidates and the electorate to obey the laws of the land during the elections.

APC Govs Back Community Policing, Differ On Amotekun

FROM PAGE 4

apparatus in the region.

He said: "From the outset, Amotekun was to work with the police and the military. The operatives were to be embedded with the other security agencies just to complement their efforts in combating crimes and insecurity in the Southwest."

The governor stated that from their discussion on Thursday with the Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, the inspector-general of police (IGP) and the attorney-general of the federation, it was safe to say that they had a fruitful discussion but not a final approval for "Amotekun" given the fact that the six states were to return and prepare a legal framework on which the security outfit could operate.

Post Lower Cadre Police Officers To State Of Origin – Al-Makura

Relatedly, the immediate past governor of Nasarawa State, Senator Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, has advocated for the posting of lower police cadre officers to their state of origin for the effective implementation of community policing.

Al-Makura made the call in a goodwill message he sent to the recent North Central Security Summit held in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

The lawmaker called for the retention of the police rank and file, up to the rank of the Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in their states of origin, stressing that the arrangement would afford the police officers opportunity to acquire rudimentary understanding of policing the environment they know very well.

He also called on governors in the geopolitical zone to deploy members of the various quasi-security outfits in their states to participate in community policing.

Senator Al-Makura recalled how his administration channelled youth restiveness to positive use through the establishment of the Nasarawa State Youth Empowerment Scheme (NAYES), thereby adding value to the society.

News Brief

Group Seeks Court Injunction To Stop IMN Spokesman's Book

BY ISAIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna

Civil Rights group, Centre for Social Justice, Equity and Transparency (CESJET), has approached Kaduna state high court seeking for an order to stop the spokesman of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) Ibrahim Musa, from publishing a book on the clash between the IMN and the Nigeria Army in 2015, saying it is capable of jeopardizing the ongoing trial of the IMN leader, Sheik Ibraheem El-Zakzaky.

Barrister Edward Omaga who spoke with newsmen after filing the suit said the centre views the attempt to publish the book as an attempt to prove that Ibraheem El-Zakzakky and his followers are not guilty whereas the state is prosecuting him.

He said one cannot release a book for public consumption when issues are before the court of law, stressing that allowing same will amount to subjudice.

CESJET in an originating summons filed at the State High Court Kaduna, wants the court to determine whether by virtue of the report of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the clash between IMN and the Nigeria Army and the gazetted white paper emanating from it, whether the IMN was not proscribed and designated as a terrorist group and whether Ibrahim Musa is not by writing a book on the IMN attempting to commit an act of terrorism.

The centre is also asking the court for an order mandating the Commissioner of police in Kaduna State to arrest and prosecute the IMN spokesman for trying to publish the book entitled, 'December 2015 Massacre of Shiites in Nigeria. Survivors accounts which it says amounts to trying to dislodge the Nigerian government.

Lalong Is A Honest Leader – *LG Boss*

BY ACHOR ABIMAJE, Jos

The executive Chairman of Langtang North Local Government Council of Plateau state Hon Ubandoman Joshua-Laven, on Friday described the state Governor, Barrister Simon Lalong as a honest leader .

Speaking with newsmen in Jos, Joshua-Laven further congratulated Barrister Lalong over his victory at the Supreme Court .

Our correspondent report that Laven is the only LGA Chairman elected under the platform of the opposition party in the state, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In his words "Since I resumed office as Executive Chairman of Langtang North over a hundred days ago, Gov Lalong has given us chairmen free hands to operate, he carries me along despite the fact that I was elected under the platform of the PDP".

While congratulating the Governor on his supreme court victory called on him to carry the opposition party along as he develops the state and pursue projects and programs that will promote lasting legacies for the people.

"I call on him to operate a unity government "

Firm Gives Classrooms, Others To Kaduna

BY ISAIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna

As part of her Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the education sector, Nigerian Breweries Plc has handed over a block of five classrooms and six toilets built and refurbished to the government of Kaduna State.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony, the Commissioner for Education, Honorable Shehu Markarfi, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs Phobe Yayi, stressed that Nigerian Breweries Plc has continued to contribute to education through building and refurbishing of education facilities in Kaduna State.

According to her "education is not meant for Government alone, the private sector also has a key role to play and Nigerian Breweries Plc has taken that lead in Kaduna State.

"The Government of Kaduna State under the leadership of Mallam Nasir Ahmad El rufai will send parents to Jail who fail to send their children to school hence Government has criminalised failure to attend school by pupils"

The Alara of Ara, Oba Dr Olubayo Adesola Windapo, flanked by wife, Olori Victoria Titilayo (right); special adviser to the governor of Osun State on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr. Razak Adeosun, and chairman, Planning Committee, Dr Tunji Olugbodi, at the presentation of Staff of Office to the new Alara of Ara kingdom, yesterday.

PMB Signs Agreement On Transfer Of Sentenced Persons Between Nigeria, Macao

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH

President Muhammadu Buhari has assented to the Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons between the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

This was disclosed in a statement issued by the special adviser media to the president, Femi Adesina .

He said "This is sequel to the Federal Executive Council Conclusion of August 1, 2018, which approved and directed the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to prepare the Instrument of Ratification of the above Agreement for the President's signature.

"President Buhari's assent formally executes the Agreement.

PMB Greets Amosun At 62

BY JONATHAN NDA- ISAIAH

President Muhammadu Buhari, on behalf of himself and the Federal Government, has felicitated most sincerely, with the immediate past Governor of Ogun State, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, on the occasion of his 62nd birthday.

This is contained in a congratulatory letter to the Distinguished Senator.

The President in a statement by his media aide, Femi Adesina rejoices with him "for legions of achievements and successes in various fields of human endeavour."

According to President Buhari, the former governor's "dedication to public service and contributions to nation-building, both at state and federal levels are highly commendable."

The President joined Senator Amosun's family, friends and other well-wishers to celebrate with him on this joyous occasion.

He prayed that Almighty Allah grants the celebrant long life and good health to continue in the service of the nation and humanity.

CSO Tells National Assembly To Support NDDC's Interim Team

The Anti-Corruption and Research Database Initiative (ARDI) has urged the national assembly to reconsider the interim management committee of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) approved by President Muhammadu Buhari.

In a statement signed by ARDI's executive secretary, Chief Dennis Aghanya said that the organization has written a letters to the leadership of the two chambers, which were submitted on the 21st of January, 2020 became very necessary in view of series of accusations and counter accusations by the leadership of the two chambers of the National Assembly against the Interim Management Committee on one hand and the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs on the other hand.

The statement noted that the common denominator for all the parties involved in the squabble is that there is urgent need to curb the monumental fraud being perpetuated in the Niger Delta Development Commission, (NDDC) since its inception.

"It is indemonstration of this that President Muhammadu Buhari took practical step and approved the appointment of a three-man Interim Management Committee, with Dr. Gbene Joi Nunieh as the Acting Managing Director, to oversee the activities of the NDDC while a forensic audit of the commission is carried out.

"Before now, there was a Board earlier appointed by Mr. President to manage the commission. Members were screened and approved by the Senate but President Buhari did not inaugurate for obvious reasons.

"Also, as part of the oversight function of the National Assembly, the two chambers expressed the desire to coordinate a forensic investigation into the finances of the Commission since its establishment," the statement added.

The statement however said that with this conflict of interest playing out, the National Assembly leadership have refused to recognise the Interim Management Committee of the NDDC in all capacities and stopped the approval of the commission's 2019/2020 Budget; a development that has adversely affected the programmes and activities of the IMC.

"Our Investigation clearly shows that there is a smooth working relationship between President Buhari's-led federal executive who appointed the Interim Management Committee of the NDDC and the 9th National Assembly."

However, further investigations suggest that the crux of the matter may be a resurrection of personal differences between some major players involved in the game which has stalled level of progress in the assignment Mr. President gave.

This is a most disturbing development as the direct looser are the people of Niger Delta and Nigerians in General.

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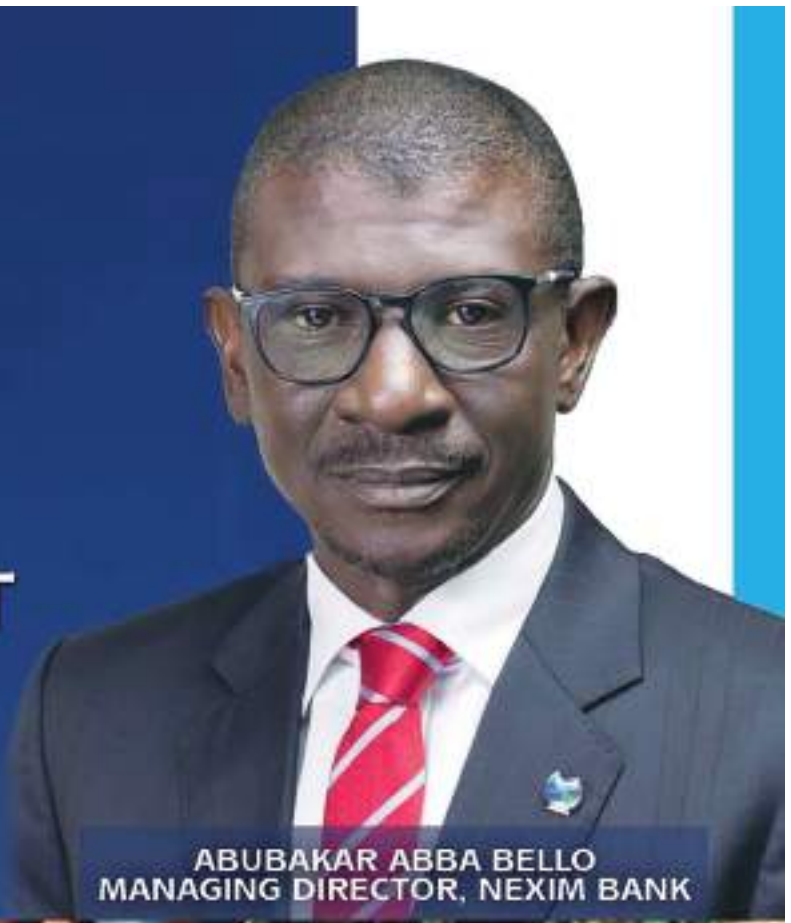

ABUBAKAR ABBA BELLO
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEXIM BANK

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THEME:
MAXIMIZING NON-OIL EXPORT POTENTIALS IN THE SOUTH-SOUTH REGION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

DATE:
28TH - 30TH JANUARY, 2020

VENUE:
THE DOME EVENT CENTER, OKPANAM ROAD, ASABA, DELTA

TIME:
8.00AM DAILY

SPECIAL GUESTS OF HONOUR

SOUTH SOUTH GOVERNORS

HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. (SEN) IFEANYI OKOWA
DELTA STATE GOVERNOR

HIS EXCELLENCY,
PROF. BENEDICT B. AYADE
CROSS RIVER STATE GOVERNOR

HIS EXCELLENCY,
MR. UDOM GABRIEL EMMANUEL
AKWA-IBOM STATE GOVERNOR

HIS EXCELLENCY,
MR. GODWIN NOGHEGHASE OBASEKI
EDO STATE GOVERNOR

HIS EXCELLENCY,
BARR. EZENWO NYESOM WIKE
RIVERS STATE GOVERNOR

HIS EXCELLENCY,
HON. SERIAKE HENRY DICKSON
BAYELSA STATE GOVERNOR

SPEAKERS

ALIYU ABDULHAMEED
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NIRSAL

OLUSEGUN AWOLOWO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NEPC

DR. DIKKO UMARU RADDA
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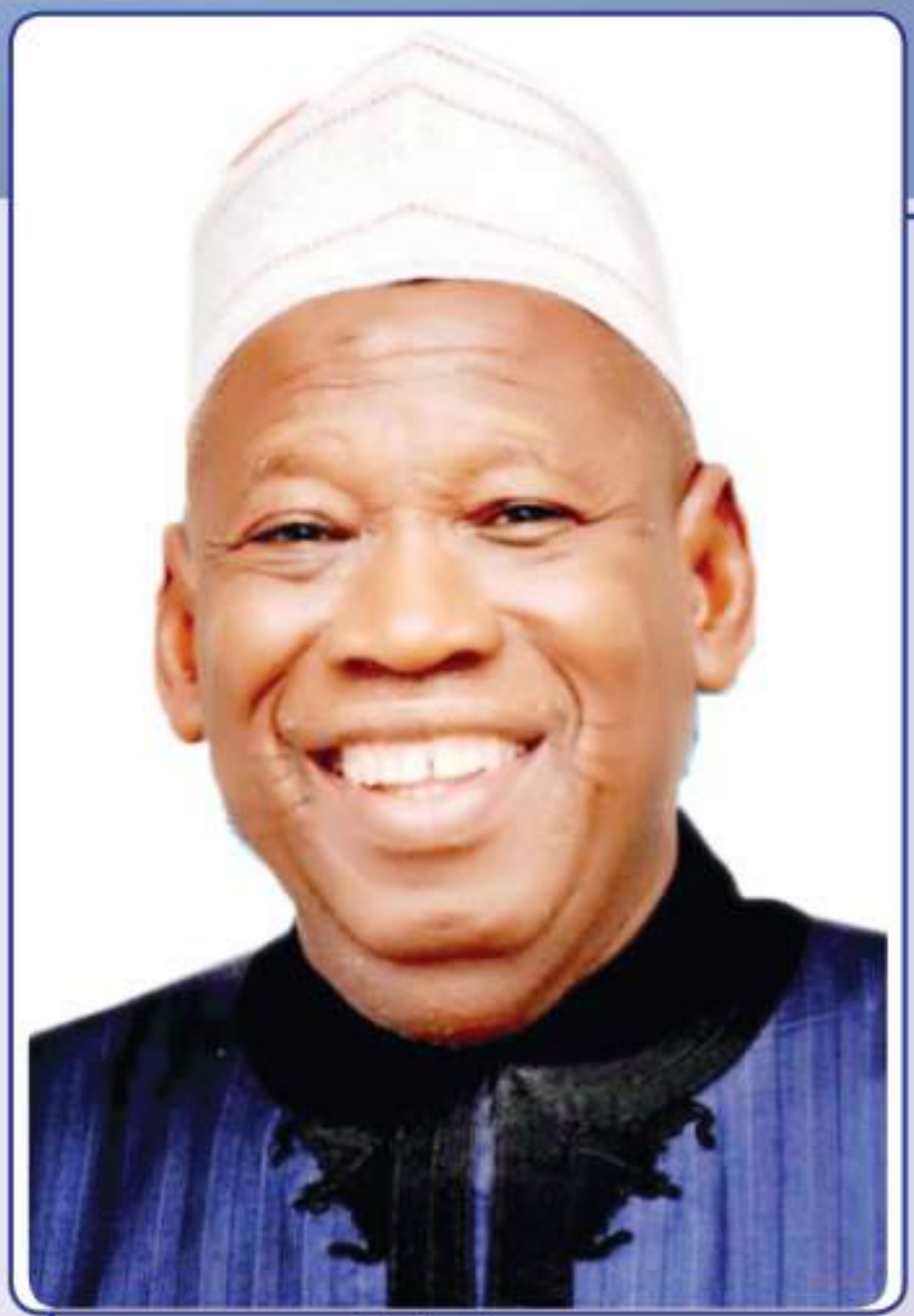
It is with a heart full of gratitude to Allah that we join millions of your disciples and well-wishers across Nigeria and globally in felicitating with Your Excellency, as the Supreme Court affirms your re-election by the people as Governor of Kano State.

We have no doubt that with this distraction now pushed aside, Kano will continue to witness greater strides in the realm of unprecedented governance, and you surely can count on us, as representatives of the people, to be with you every step of the way.



His Excellency
Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje
(Khadimul Islam)
Executive Governor, Kano State

Signed:

Hon. Mustapha Bala Dawaki
MHR, Dawakin-Kudu/Warawa Federal Constituency, Kano
Chairman, House Committee on Housing and Habitat
House of Representatives

Hon. Aminu Suleiman
MHR, Fagge Federal Constituency, Kano
Chairman, House Committee on Tertiary Education
House of Representatives

The family of Presidential Spokesman, Mallam Garba Shehu jointly organised a Mothers' Night with the family of Mallam Usman Farouk being the traditional rites to prepare a blessed wedding fatiha between their children, Muhammad Garba Shehu and Zuwaira Usman Farouk at the An Nur Mosque, Wuse 2, Abuja.

The Bride, Zuwaira Farouk Usman discussing with her groom, Muhammad Garba Shehu during the dinner for the couple.

Muhammad and Zuwaira Garba Shehu flanked by the Mother of the Groom, Hajia Hafsatu Garuba Shehu (r); Chairman of the Reception, Hajia Fatimah Ogohi (l); Mother of the Bride, Hajia Saádatu Usman Farouk (3l) and the grandmothers of the day at the dinner.

The Bride, Zuwaira Farouk Usman flanked her groom, Muhammad Garba Shehu and the Wife of the Inspector General of Police, Hajia Fatima Mohammed Adamu in a photograph with members of the Police Officers Wives Association at the dinner for the couple.

Muhammad and Zuwaira Garba Shehu in a photograph with the Mother of the Groom, Hajia Hafsatu Garba Shehu (r) at the dinner.

From the left, Former Deputy Governor of Yobe State and Minister of State Works and Housing, Alhaji Abubakar Aliyu; Permanent Secretary State House, Mallam Jalal Arabi; Jigawa State Governor, Alhaji Abubakar Badaru and his Kebbi State counterpart, Alhaji Atiku Bagudu during the wedding fatiha at the mosque

Muhammad Garba Shehu and his Bride, Zuwaira Garba Shehu cutting the wedding cake at the dinner.

Cross section of friends of the bride dancing at the dinner.

Cross section of friends of the groom dancing at the dinner.

The SGF, Mr. Boss Mustapha (r) exchanging greetings with Former Kogi State Governor, Capt. Idris Wada while the Chairman Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Chief Elias Mbam (m) looks on during the wedding fatiha Muhammad and Zuwaira Garuba Shehu at Annur Mosque, Wuse 2, Abuja.

Former Military Governor of Niger State, Col. Habibu Shuaibu (l) discussing with Governor Atiku Bagudu of Kebbi State during the wedding fatiha.

From the left, Former Kogi State Deputy Governor, Arc. Yomi Awoniyi (left)and the father of the groom, Mallam Garba Shehu (right) with other guests during the wedding fatiha.

The Groom, Muhammad Garba Shehu (m) flanked by his friends during the wedding fatiha.

Wife of the Inspector General of Police, Hajia Fatima Mohammed Adamu (3r) in a photograph with members of the Police Officers Wives Association at the dinner for the couple.

Father of the Groom, Mallam Garba Shehu flanked by his friends, Dr Saleh Ibrahim (r) and Mallam Danjuma Ibrahim before the wedding reception.

Father of the Groom, Mallam Garba Shehu (2l) with some guests after the Wedding Fatiha.

Cross section of guests after the Wedding Fatiha

Father of the Groom, Mallam Garba Shehu joined by the Oloro of Oro-Ago Kingdom, Oba Olanrewaju Dada (5th r) and Former Kogi State Deputy Governor, Arc. Yomi Awoniyi (3rd l) in a photograph with some old classmates after the Wedding Fatiha

The Groom, Muhammad Garba Shehu flanked by his Bride and the his Mother In-law, Hajia Saádatu Umar Farouk with some members of the Bride's family at the Mothers'Night in Abuja.

Uncles of the Groom at the reception.

Grandmother of the Groom, Hajia Inna Marshal (r) being assisted by the Aunt of the Groom, Hajia Hauwa Sanni Marshal (l) to unveil the Bride at the reception in Kano.

The Groom, Muhammad Garba Shehu flanked by his Bride, Zuwaira and his Mother, Hajia Hafsat Garba Shehu as they were joined by Hajia Rakiya (r) as well as other guests at the dinner in Kano.

Sisters of the Bride and Groom in a photograph with the Aunt of the Groom, Maria Kyawa (l) at the Dinner in Kano.

Governor Abudullahi Ganduje of Kano State (r) negotiating to pay the bride's dowry to the family of the groom during the wedding fatiha Muhammad and Zuwaira Garuba Shehu at Annur Mosque, Wuse 2, Abuja.

The Groom, Muhammad Garba Shehu (r) arriving with his friends after the wedding fatiha

The Bride, Zuwaira (m) flanked by some elderly women at the groom's house in Kano

Cross section of Aunties at the Reception

Guests being entertained at the reception

Cross section of Hisba women representatives at the reception

Mother of the Groom, Hajia Hafsat Garba Shehu (m) flanked by Aunties of the Groom during the reception

The Bridal train ushering the bride to the venue of the reception

the Bride, Zuwaira flanked by her Groom, Mohammad and her Mother In-Law, Hajia Hafsat Garba Shehu at the reception

Father of the groom, Malam Garba Shehu and some guests during the wedding fatiha

Katsina Speaker Disburses N8.5m Cash To Students

BY GODWIN ENNA, Katsina

The Speaker, Katsina State House of Assembly, Alhaji Tashiu Maigari, has disbursed the sum of N8.5 million as bursary to 1,292 students in his constituency.

While launching the disbursement in Zango yesterday, he said the gesture was to assist indigenes of the area, particularly students in pursuance of their education.

Those that benefited from the scheme are students of Post Graduate, Under Graduates, Master Degree, Diploma, NCE and Higher National Diploma.

According to the breakdown, "post graduate students undergoing Masters degree would receive N15,000 each, first degree students, N10,000, NCE and Ordinary Diploma, N5,000 and Higher Diploma, N7,500."

The Speaker added that students of other tertiary institutions such as School of Health Technology and other related programmes would get N5,000 each, adding that the scope would be expanded to accommodate more students.

Speaking at the event, Governor Aminu Masari thanked the Speaker for the initiative, describing the gesture as worthy of emulation for other politicians and we'll meaning individuals in the state.

Masari said education is the bedrock for human development, noting that whoever said education was expensive should try ignorance, hence advised school leavers to be creative and innovative not waiting for white collar jobs, saying gone are the days when one would be expecting jobs from government.

The governor used the occasion to issue stern warning to politicians campaigning for 2023, saying those caught campaigning would be prosecuted.

Malam Ashiru Hafizu, one of the beneficiaries and a student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, described the award as timely and would immensely help students in their academic pursuit.

Former THISDAY editor and media adviser to Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, Mr. Tunde Rahman (left), and another former editor of the newspaper and special assistant, Media to Enugu State Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, Mr. Laurence Ani, at THISDAY Awards and 25 years anniversary celebration on Monday in Lagos.

EFCC Jails 3 Persons Over Vote Buying In Sokoto

BY ANKELI EMMANUEL, Sokoto

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Sokoko Zonal Office, said it secured the conviction of no fewer than 3-persons in Sokoto, over vote buying offence committed in the 2019 general elections.

Addressing newsmen ahead of the Sokoto supplementary/rerun elections slated for today, Saturday, the Zonal Head of EFCC, Abdullahi Lawal said that their men are fully on ground to ensure that those preparing to buy or sell votes are apprehended and prosecuted adequately.

According to him, politicians and electorate alike should take caution, as their men and their informants are all over the place.

EFCC Sokoto Zonal Office comprises of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara states.

The Zonal Head, Mr Lawal while raising alarm over fake currency in circulation in Sokoto State lately, said, they are working round the clock to ensure that anybody caught in possession of such currency face the full wrath of the law.

While warning politicians that EFCC will carry out arrest even at the polling units, Mr Lawal advised against carrying huge sum of money to such places to avoid been suspected.

"We have gotten vital information in respect of money withdrawal by politicians meant to buy votes ahead of the Saturday's election.

"We have set out machinery in most of the polling units, and we have sent out our informants. We gave out our numbers to be reached by the informants and let me tell you that we will arrest suspects even at the polling units.

"Hold money to the polling units, but it should be reasonable, hence you are not going to the polling units to buy anything or sell as well".

Mr Lawal, who further disclosed that they have had meetings with all the compliance officers of the various banks in Sokoto to report suspicious withdrawals to them, added also that, people must not shiver in divulging vital information to them as the whistle blower initiative is still very much in existence.

"Whistle blowing is still very much in existence. Just that, some started using it to blackmail others unnecessarily, therefore, we became very cautious to avoid litigations.

"We now have a form to be filled by any whistle blower in the event such information given to us is discovered to be fake.

Education Is Key To Successful Life, Rotary President Advises Students

BY ORJIME MOSES, Abuja

The Connect President of the Rotary Club of Abuja Maitama, Rotn. Eucharia Ekweozoh, yesterday, said education is key to a successful life.

She said the present generation of students should aspire to be professionals in various fields.

Eucharia made this statement during a career counselling session and dental hygiene advocacy by the club at the Junior Secondary School, Dutsen Alhaji in Bwari Area Council of Abuja.

She said an educated society will develop faster than an illiterate type, and that it is time for Nigerians to give priority to dental health.

In her words: "The only key to a successful life is education, because it is the pivot of development in any society. With educated citizenry, a nation will have peace, experience growth and development and its social ills will be limited.

"I want to appeal to all of you to see this school level as the beginning of your education. You must aspire to greater heights. This nation needs your service, you must put in your best.

"We have brought a career session to you in order to guide your choices as you move to senior secondary school.

Lassa Fever: Borno Records 1 Death As Delta Moves Against Scourge

BY FRANCIS OKOYE, Maiduguri and BY INNEH BARTH, Asaba

An outbreak of Lassa fever in Borno State has claimed the life of a 24-year-old man, while three other suspected cases recorded are under investigation.

The state commissioner of Health, Dr. Salisu Kwayar Bura, made the disclosure at a press conference held on Thursday in Maiduguri.

The commissioner noted that since the first case of Lassa fever through a German woman in Lassa in 1969, which gave the name of the disease, this is the second outbreak to be recorded in Borno State.

He said the deceased travelled to Hawul and returned back to Maiduguri, before being admitted to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), where the symptoms manifested with sample taken from her testing positive.

He said of the three cases under investigation, one is a health with two other individuals, who are presently being managed in rapid response facility created by the state against the disease.

Bura said:" While it is my responsibility to inform the public about the outbreak, I call for calm, as the state has put necessary measures to halt the further outbreak. "

On the fate of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in the camps over the outbreak, the commissioner explained that the IDPs have no need to worry, as the state is readily prepared for any emergency.

Meanwhile, the Delta State government has allayed the fears of residents in the state over the incidence of recorded cases of Lassa fever at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba and at the same time assured of its ability to control the spread in the state.

The commissioner for Health, Dr Mordi Ononye, made this known yesterday when he briefed the press on the emergence of the disease at the Zonal Office of the Nigeria Institute of Medical Research, Asaba.

He said of the two cases recorded at the FMC, Asaba, one of them - a single mother - was brought to FMC, Asaba, on Saturday, 11th January and unfortunately died the following day Sunday 12th January.

According to Dr Ononye, the other patient - a corps member serving in the state - was also taken to FMC, Asaba, on Sunday 19th and was referred to Irrua Specialist Hospital, Edo State the following day Monday 20th, where he is being managed and is responding to treatment.

The health commissioner assured Deltans that there would not be need for panic saying the situation is not beyond what the state can address.

Delta Begins Inquest On Toxic Waste Dumped On Highway

BY INNEH BARTH, Asaba

The Delta State Government has commenced laboratory inquest on the toxic waste that was recently dumped along Ilah, Uromi federal highway in Ugbolu community, Oshimili North local government area of the state by unknown persons.

The State Commissioner for Environment, Mr Christian Onogba, told newsmen yesterday, that the ministry has sent the sample of the suspected industrial substance for laboratorial analysis saying the suspected substance has been evacuated due to the health hazard it poses to the public.

He said, "Now that the state government has evacuated the waste and successfully taken the sample for analysis, we are waiting patiently for the result of the test. We have alerted the police, the Department of State Security (DSS) and other security agencies as well as Oshimili South and Oshimili North local government areas to be vigilant in order to avert the reoccurrence."

L-R: Executive Secretary, Kano State Agency for the Control of AIDS, Dr. Sabitu Shanono, commissioner for Health Kano State, Dr Kabiru Ibrahim Getso and director-general National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA_, Dr Gambo Aliyu, at the official commissioning of NACA, North-West zonal office in Kano, yesterday.

Kwara 2020 Budget: A Reflection Of People's Aspiration – *Official*

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

Kwara State government has said the budget for 2020 reflected the aspirations of the people of the state.

It said the budget shows government's intention to stimulate the economy, cater for the poor, invest in basic education, healthcare, and physical infrastructure.

The chief press secretary to the state governor, Rafiu Ajakaye stated this when a delegation of the Kwara Must Change (KMC) women wing visited him in his office in Ilorin, the state capital.

"This administration believes that whatever empowerment to be done or investments to be made should address the needs of our people, and that is why His Excellency deemed it fit for the first time in the recent history of the state to hold citizens' engagement session (in November) where people came around to speak to the budget.

"And if you look at the budget today you will see that there are several provisions that address the needs of our people from agriculture, small scale businesses, skill acquisition, road projects, education, health and to many other things," Ajakaye stated.

Ajakaye said the proposed garment factories, intervention funds for youths, and provisions for mechanised farming were some of the takeaways from the pre-budget engagements which were factored into the financial document.

He said the 2020 financial proposal is a viable attempt at gradually industrialising the state, promote enterprise, productively engage the people, and erase the reference to Kwara as a civil service state.

Stakeholders Canvass Increase Funding For Arts

BY TOPE FAYEHUN, Akure

Stakeholders in the fine and applied arts and industrial design departments from tertiary institutions in the Southwest Nigeria have canvassed for increased funding of creative arts as a way of encouraging creativity, self-reliance and job creation in the country.

The position was taken by seasoned arts lecturers and educational administrators during the exhibition undertaken by the 2018/2019 Fine and Applied Arts graduating students of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo.

Speaking at the occasion, the Provost of the institution, Dr. Samuel Akintunde, represented by his deputy, Dr. Gbade Ikuejube, commended staff of the department for their dedication.

Akintunde, who lauded the students for creativity, expressed satisfaction for various artistic works exhibited.

While emphasising the importance of art in the promotion of aesthetic and environment beautification, Akintunde noted that if its potential is properly harnessed Fine and Applied Arts could contribute meaningfully to national development.

He charged the graduating students not to limit the application of skills acquired during the course of their studies to the exhibition but to ensure that they put them to maximum use after leaving the College "so as to be able to contribute their quota to the development of the country."

N1.5 Bn Collected As Duty On Smuggled Vehicles – *NCS*

BY GODWIN ENNA, Katsina

The Nigeria Customs Service, said it has realised over N1.5 billion from smuggled vehicles duty across the country since last October.

Mustapha Sarki-Kebbi, the Controller incharge of Federal Operation Unit (FOU) zone B, comprising seven north west states including Abuja, disclosed this to pressmen while inspecting some 48 seized items in Katsina state.

He said "last year the Controller General has designated Federal Operation across the country to be collecting duties on Smuggled Vehicles, which we have been doing since end of October to date. And I will tell you as at yesterday 23rd January, 2020, we've collected over N1.5 billion as duty on Smuggled Vehicles."

The controller, however, saluted the efforts of his men for being active and discipline to their service, urging them to maintain the spirit and be proactive to the responsibility before them.

He added that the operation in Katsina state also intercepted 48 items worth N63.5 million in the month of January alone, pleading with member of the public particularly those living at the border areas to stop leaking information about the operation of custorm there.

Some of the seized items include: 38 conveyers (4 trucks and others), 611 bags of 50kg rice, 108 cans of vegetable oil (25 litters), 51 bags of sugar, 180 bails of second hand clothes, 120 packs of garment, and over 1000 cartoons of cardies, sweets and chocolate.

Others are: 800 cartoons of spaghetti, 600 cartoons of green tea, 60 cartoons of condense milks, 200 cartoons of touch light, 200 cartoons of finger batteries, 280 kegs of PMS (25 litters), 2500 pieces of rappers, 25 cartoons of caus, and 100 pieces of cylinders. And the DPD stands at N63,550,000.

News Brief

Delta To Partner IFPRI, ARCN For Comprehensive Agricultural Policy

BY INNEH BARTH, Asaba

Delta State government has expressed its readiness to partner the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Agriculture Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN) to fashion out a comprehensive agricultural policy for the state.

Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Hon. Julius Egbedi, stated this when the officials of IFPRI and ARCN paid him a visit in Asaba.

The commissioner who said that agriculture policy in the state was before now handled by Partnership Initiative in the Niger Delta (PIND) stated that the ministry would give every encouragement and the necessary backing in order for the partners to have a good working environment to help in developing a good agricultural policy for the state.

According to Egbedi, "Whether we like it or not, agriculture will be the main stay of the economy of the country in the near future. As it is now, the price of oil is going down and it will not stay forever, but in agriculture you can continue to plant and replant."

The commissioner commended IFPRI and ARCN for the initiative of organizing training for farmers and others in the state to improve their service delivery and performance.

Earlier, the Monitoring and Evaluation Personnel of IFPRI, Mr Fasoranti Adetunji, who was in the company of the Project Management Specialist of ARCN, Dr Gabriel Malomo, told the commissioner that they were in the state to organise a 3-day workshop for monitoring and evaluation which will translate to service delivery on the ministry side, adding that the ministry of agriculture is a key stakeholder in their project.

Group Urges Youth Participation In Agency Banking

BY STELLAMARIES AMUWA, Abuja

The national president, Association of Nigerian Youth In Agency Banking (ANYAB), Adediwura Adesina has urged youths to explore opportunities available in the sector, as part of efforts towards making the federal government's cashless policies a reality.

Adesina made this known at a press conference organized for unemployed youth by ANYAB yesterday in Abuja.

According to him, the association has been contracted by Commercial Banks and approved by the Central Bank of Nigeria to provide specific services on behalf of the banks.

Adesina said, "we are equipped with the skills necessary to provide basic banking services in accordance with standards set by the banks and in line with rules provided by the Central Bank of Nigeria for guiding and management of Agency Banking in Nigeria. We are agents of Commercial banks.

"We can confidently tell you that agency banking has provided the opportunity to access financial products and services at a location nearest to the customer and it has break down certain barriers to financial inclusion such as cost and accessibility.

Ja'afaru Wins NULGE Championship In Nasarawa

BY BODE GBADEBO, Abuja

Mr. Muhammad Ja'afaru has emerged victorious in the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) chairmanship election in Toto local government area of Nasarawa state.

Ja'afaru was declared winner after a keenly contested election conducted in November, 2019. He garnered 296 votes as against his opponent who polled 116 votes.

The new chairman, who is a Principal Technical Officer and works in the Lands Department of Toto local government council, will now pilot the affairs of Toto local government council chapter of NULGE.

LEADERSHIP Friday reports that NULGE is an umbrella body of all local government workers in the country with local branches in each of the 774 local government areas across the country.

Okigwe North Re-Run: Uzodinma, Okorocha, Ararume Unite To Upset PDP

BY EMMANUEL MGBEAHURUIKE, Owerri

Members of the former opposition party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), has united to fight a common enemy, the People Democratic Party (PDP) in the Okigwe Senatorial zone and Orlu senatorial zone, Imo State.

The APC appears to have an upper hand in the Okigwe North House of Assembly seat previously occupied by Hon. Obinna Onwubuariri of the PDP whose election was nullified and now seriously challenges by the candidate of the APC, Princess Odinaka Onuoha.

The PDP earlier holding sway in Okigwe zone seems to have lost the grip of the zone as a result of the January 14, 2020 Supreme Court ruling removing the Governor, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha and installing the candidate of APC, Senator Hope Uzodinma.

Consequently, the die is cast as the two major contenders the PDP, APC and others goes to the poll for the re-run election scheduled to hold tomorrow in Okigwe and Orlu senatorial zones.

The re-run for Orlu zone involves the candidate of PDP, Jerry Alagboso of Federal House of Representatives, representing Orlu, Orsu and Oru East Federal constituency whose election was cancelled and that of Action Alliance (AA) Candidate, Uju Onwudiwe whose election in the state House of Assembly was nullified.

However, as the three gladiators, Hope Uzodinma, Senator Ifeanyi Ararume, Senator Rochas Okorocha teamed up to deliver APC candidates, the other political parties would find it difficult, if not impossible to have a breathing space in the re-run election as they likely to be intimidated by these gang-up.

L-R: Director, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Idayat Hassan; president, MacArthur Foundation, Mr John Palfrey; auditor-general of the Federation, Anthony Mkpe and acting chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, at an interactive session on anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria in Abuja.

We're Not Rubber Stamp NASS, Senate President Insists

BY SUNDAY ISUWA AND AHURAKA ISAH, Abuja

President of the Senate, Ahmad Lawan, for the umpteenth time on Friday, dismissed the insinuation that the ninth National Assembly (NASS) is a rubber stamp Legislature.

Lawan who returned to Nigeria Thursday morning after about three weeks private visit abroad said no amount of blackmail will discourage the present Assembly from working with the executive arms of government for the betterment of the people.

A statement issued by the special adviser, media to the Senate President, Ola Awoniyi, said Lawan was responding to a surprised belated birthday presentation by his North East Support Group at the Dutse Airport in Jigawa State on his way to his Yobe North Senatorial District in Yobe State.

Lawan said: "The ninth National Assembly is focused, united, and is determined to make a positive difference in the lives of Nigerians. We are so terribly misunderstood that when we say we are going to work with the Executive Arm of government in a very harmonious and productive manner, some sects of people, some out of misunderstanding or mischief, say it's a rubber stamp National Assembly.

"But let me say this, no amount of distractions or blackmail will stop us from being united in the National Assembly for the benefit of Nigerians who elected us and nothing will discourage us from working with the executive arm of government for the betterment of our country.

"As a legislature we know where our limits lie in terms of cooperation and in working with the executive arm of government. But we are going to give the President and his team every possible legislative support that they require to make this country better and greater.

Akufo Ado Hails Ooni Of Ife Over Pan-Africanism

BY JOSHUA DADA, Osogbo

President Akufo Ado of the Republic of Ghana has described the Ooni of Ife, Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi (Ojaja II) as the royal symbol of Pan Africanism as the monarch said All Africans are members of the same family that are only divided by artificial boundaries.

A statement made available by the monarch's media aide, Moses Olafare stated that the Ghanaian President through his vice, Muhamudu Bawumia spoke during a conferment of chieftaincy titles on some descendants of Oduduwa organized by the Yoruba Traditional Council Ghana.

The statement read in part: "The GA people and other tribes migrated here centuries ago from Ile-Ife. That is why we have Onipopo and Oninana as Ghanaians till today. Accra, Osu, Labadi, Teshi, Nungua, and Tema are all settlements started by the GA forefathers who came from Ile-Ife in Nigeria. That's why the Ooni of Ife is highly esteemed here in Ghana.

"So, Nigerians and Ghanaians are one people and today's occasion is an avenue to showcase our cultural bond to the world. Your Imperial Majesty the Ooni, my president, His Excellency Nana Akufo Ado who is your friend is away in the UK for another Pan African summit with several African presidents including President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria. He has asked me to assure you of his support in your efforts at fostering unity among the African people worldwide.

"If you look at the relationships amongst various African tribes, you will know that if our monarchs and chiefs get along, our people too will surely get along. This means that the African monarchs must be united if the continent must move forward. That's why you stand out and we must commend your Majesty for this."

It urged the Ooni not to relent in his peace and unification efforts despite challenges of distractions posed by those who have nothing to offer and which will not stand a test of time.

"There must be close interactions interrelationships among our traditional chiefs which you have been leading. Don't worry, we know there are distractions here and there, remain focused, those ones have nothing to offer, you just keep being humble as you are and we will eventually achieve our dreams of a united Africa.

"There is no difference between us beyond our borders and today's cultural event is really timely making us see how similar our respective cultures are as Yoruba is mixing with GA traditions here today," it added.

Gov Fintiri Reintroduces Civil Service Promotion Exams For Optimal Performance

BY HUSSAINI HAMMANGABDO, Yola

The Adamawa State Governor, Ahmadu Fintiri, has reintroduced promotion examinations, to ginger civil servants for optimal performance and development of Adamawa civil service.

Fintiri made this known during an interaction with the State Head of Civil Service, Dr. Edgar Amos, yesterday in Yola, pointing out that rejigging the state civil service, would restore the state's lost glory and enhance productivity.

He said providing requisite knowledge, skills and values remain sacrosanct to the repositioning of the state civil service to attain excellence and productivity.

He lauded the examiners for not compromising their standard during the exercise in the state last month, saying only those who passed the examination would be elevated to the next level in line with the state civil service rule.

The governor reiterated those that wrote the exam with six months to retire will not be considered for the next position, saying it is contrary to the civil service rule.

ECOWAS MPs Bemoan Paucity Of Draft Procedural Rules

BY OMONU NELSON, Abuja

Members of the fourth Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament have called for a drafting of a Draft Parliament Rules of Procedure before the commencement of the fifth Legislature.

The MPs spoke on yesterday in Banjul, Gambia at the ongoing ECOWAS parliamentary seminar.

The session saw the presentation of an evaluation report by a Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant, Mr Urok Una, which looked at areas where the parliament will be needing some improvements.

The MPs, while deliberating on the report, held that the parliament had so far carried out its processes on illegality due to its failure to operate with a Draft Parliament Rules of Procedure as contained in the ECOWAS Supplementary Act.

In his contributions, an MP from Ghana, John Ayariga noted the Draft rule of Procedure ought to be handed to a Legislature during its inauguration to guide their activities on the floor of the parliament through out its tenure.

"It is during the inauguration of the Legislature that the Rule of Procedure should be adopted. It is in the Supplementary Act. So, if we want to correct it, it means that here in the Gambia we must put together a team to come out with some draft Rules of Procedure, so that when we convene at the inaugural session of the fifth Legislature, we have some working draft to be considered and adopted. This will give us some credibility; otherwise we will be perpetuating more illegality," he said.

An MP from Liberia, Clarence Massaquoi, however, questioned the methodology used for the evaluation, citing the non-inclusion of the MPs during the study.

"You realise that the consultant said he did not have the chance to speak with members of parliament because they are not resident in Abuja.

"If an evaluation is done, the conclusion of an evaluation should emanate from those being evaluated. So, can we really say that the basis for your evaluation are valid?" he asked.

Forum Wants NUC, NBTE To Introduce Interreligious Courses

BY SUNDAY ISUWA, ABUJA

The Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) has called on the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to introduce courses that promote peace and religious tolerance in school syllabus.

The group also advocated that a curriculum on peace, justice and reconciliation be added in all primary and secondary school's syllabus in the country so as to promote peace.

A communiqué issued at the end of the group's third General Assembly held in Abuja with the theme "Interreligious dialogue: strengthening the culture of peace, justice and reconciliation," urged the federal government to introduce interfaith desk offices in all ministries and parastatals.

The event was attended by over 150 interreligious leaders mainly composed of Muslims and Christians with their patrons. Present at the meeting was the president, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Eminences, Rev. Dr. Samson Ayokunle; Sultan of Sokoto and President NSCIA, Alhaji Muahammad Sa'ad Abubakar III; Emeritus Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan; Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Mathew Hassan Kukah; Emir of Kano, His Eminence, Muhammadu Sanusi II; Catholic Archbishop of Abuja Archdiocese, His Grace, Ignatius Kaigama; and the director-general, Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja, Prof Taofik Ladan.

Also, in attendance was the diplomatic community (representatives of Israel, United States of America and European Union) amongst many other distinguished personalities desirous of promoting the culture of peace in Nigeria.

The conference was sponsored by the International Dialogue Center (KAICIID), in partnership with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), the Kukah Centre and the Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC).

The communiqué, which was jointly, signed, by the co-chairs, Alhaji Ishaq Kunle Sanni and Bishop Sunday Onuoha said government and all relevant agencies should mobilize the masses to embrace peaceful coexistence and tolerance.

"That religious leaders, parents and guardians should embrace the culture of inculcating religious tolerance and inclusiveness among the young ones early in life. There is the need to train teachers in all strata of education on interfaith relationship especially the tenets of the different faith. There is need for relevant agencies of government to carry out research on hot spots like Kaduna and Plateau states to establish the root causes of conflict and come up with strategies to address them. There is also need to create Interfaith Media outlets in some mainstream media houses.

"Pastors and Imams should be encouraged to teach interfaith relationship in the Churches and Mosques, and there should be a mechanism to step down interfaith training at the grassroots. There should also be regular joint interfaith advocacy team to meet state actors, religious and traditional leaders to secure their buy-in in the promotion of peaceful coexistence. That Government at all levels should put in place mechanisms to make existing peace structures effective and functional. That space should be created to engage more youth in the promotion of peaceful coexistence," it stated.

Firm Deploys App To Tackle Health Challenges

BY TUNDE OGUNTOLA, ABUJA

A healthcare technology and solutions firm, Infodemics has launched an online application that connects a database of medical professionals to manage risk communications in the healthcare industry.

Speaking at a mentorship closing ceremony on Regional Programme Support to Pandemic Prevention (RPPP) in ECOWAS region yesterday, in Abuja, the team lead of Infodemics, Dr Nestor Inimgba said in this era of information technology polarisation, there is a need to fully tap into its potentials even though some communities are yet to start adapting to current realities.

Inimgba said that the infodemics.com is an easy to use interface that assists proactively the management of health-related issues such as plagues, using its integrated SMS, eMail, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and leased shortcode media to communicate risk to the last mile.

According to him, ''Infodemics is a one-stop risk communication solution. It started after GIZ/ECOWAS sponsored West African health risk hackathon in November 2018 in Abuja.

''We are rolling out solutions especially to English speaking West Africa to get early feedback before a public data."

Speaking earlier at the event, the head, Surveillance and Epidemiology, Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Elsie Ilori, applauded the ingenuity of the programme, saying the centre deals with data and would consider such programme because they require an effective feedback mechanism to tackle healthcare challenges, most especially where there are language, cultural and religious barriers, adding the government places a premium on the healthcare of the citizenry, hence funds are available for the agency to carry out their obligations with support from foreign donors and specialists.

Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Mr. Segun Awolowo, briefing the new permanent secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment, Dr. Nasir Sani, on the activities and vision of NEPC in Abuja yesterday.

NACA Restates Commitment To End HIV/AIDS In Nigeria By 2030

BY ABDULLAHI YAKUBU, KANO

The director-general of National Agency for Control of Aids (NACA), Dr. Gambo Aliyu has restated the agency's determination to ensure total elimination of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria by 2030.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony and economic empowerment for indigent HIV vulnerable persons in Kano State, Aliyu disclosed the agency's drive to reduce stigmatization and discrimination as well as make the carriers self-reliant through capacity building.

The NACA boss revealed that 130 and 120 HIV/AIDS carriers were trained and empowered with various professional skills in Kano and Oyo states respectively.

"We decided to train carriers with HIV positive because most of them cannot afford to buy drugs as and when due thereby facing various kinds of health problems in the discharge of their responsibilities," he said.

He added that NACA had decided to give all those who participated in the trainings some tools that they would be using to further advance their skills on the various professions they trained on.

According to him, "After every three or six months, NACA officials will make it a routine exercise by paying unscheduled visits to all those who benefitted from the NACA gestures in order to ensure they fully utilise what was given to them."

Earlier in his remarks, the Kano State Governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje represented by the state commissioner of Health, Alhaji Aminu Ibrahim Tsanyawa commended NACA for embarking on the laudable initiative of training HIV positives to enhance their capacity.

Ganduje said the state government is paying attention on the improvement of health facilities across the state like provision of 400 bedding capacity in the five newly created emirates.

In his address, the director-general of the Kano State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, Alhaji Sabitu Shua'ibu Shanono expressed happiness over the agency's gesture, saying the training has empowered Kano indigent HIV carriers to fend for themselves.

He said the state will never forget with this practical initiative of the federal government in which hundreds of the HIV carriers were trained on how best to conduct themselves as industrious members of the society.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Hajiya Zainab Ibrahim expressed happiness at the foresight of the government that reasoned with the condition of the carriers and the huge amount of money expended on them hoping that they would reciprocate the gesture by utilising the tools given to them judiciously

Okowa Administration Will Continue to Add Value To Education Sector – *Ukah*

BY INNEH BARTH, ASABA

Delta State Government has assured that it will continue to bring the needed value to the education sector through the introduction of various reforms and effective partnership aimed at reinvigorating the education sector in the state.

The commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Chief Patrick Ukah, gave the assurance at Oleh, Isoko North LGA, during the Isoko education roundtable, organised by the Isoko Economic and Investment Council with the theme, 'The future of education in a globalized world: Isoko in focus'

The commissioner, who lauded the people of Isoko nation for their bond of unity and commitment towards the upliftment of their people and for their consistent support to Okowa administration, said that the quest to build the education sector was the responsibility of all.

Chief Ukah stated that the state government had mandated all schools to establish school management committee to be head by a reputable person from the community, adding the Parents Teachers Associations (PTAs) should be more active in a bid to contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of schools.

Ukah warned against the destruction of facilities in schools even as he advised the general public to take ownership of the schools in their area and ensure their protection at all times.

He called on teachers to be more productive and ensure that the students maximize the benefits for their academic growth, even as he enjoined all stakeholders, particularly parents to tackle examination malpractice in schools.

In a keynote address, the chairman of Isoko South local government area, Sir Constantine Ikpokpo, and his Isoko North counterpart, Hon. Emmanuel Egbabor, commended the state commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education for the value he was adding to the education sector just as they described the his series of unscheduled visits to schools as deliberate approach to evaluate the condition of school structures.

They said that the initiative to organize the roundtable was to encourage students of Isoko, especially those in primary and secondary schools, to imbibe the culture of reading and shun acts inimical to their lives and the society in general.

Earlier, the chairman of the Isoko education roundtable, Prof. Abednego Ekoko, noted that the main objective of the roundtable was to sensitize their people on the reality of globalized world, saying the education system needed to be standardized.

PMB Attends Niece's Wedding In Abuja

BY JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH

President Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday, in Abuja, attended the wedding (Nikkah) of his niece, Hajiya Hadiza Lawal, who got married to Muhammad Tukur Ibrahim, at the National Mosque.

At the event, the President according to a statement by his spokesman, Garba Shehu, blessed the couple, while clerics used the opportunity to pray for peace and stability in the country.

In his sermon, the administrator of the National Mosque, Ambassador (Professor) Shehu Galadanchi, preached the virtue of love among humanity, urging obedience to Allah.

He also called on leaders to be truthful to their followers and sustain their trust.

The President's family at the Islamic wedding, was represented by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Muhammed Musa Bello, alongside the Dan Madamin Daura, Alhaji Musa Haro.

The President's presence at the National Mosque provided opportunity for more prayers for the nation and meeting the clerics, since he refrained from attending Friday prayers at the mosque due to heavy human and vehicular traffic.

Most times, President Buhari observes prayers at the Presidential Villa.

New VC Assumes Office At IBB Varsity

BY ABU NMODU, Minna

After successfully piloting the affairs of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, as its Vice-Chancellor for a single term of five years, Professor Muhammad Nasir Maiturare has formally handed over the mantle of leadership to Professor Abu Kasimu Adamu as the new head of the Institution.

Speaking on his stewardship at a brief, but well attended handing over ceremony held at the University's Senate Chamber, the former Vice-Chancellor disclosed that his administration was able to attract infrastructural projects and research grants worth several billions of naira to the Institution, from corporate organisations within and outside the country.

He hinted that the basic foundation projects to kick-start the Medical College at the University were almost being completed; adding that construction of over half a billion naira Geological Laboratory endowed Professorial Chair on Basinal Studies, as well as the construction of multi-million naira perimeter fencing of the entire university by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), were at various stages of completion.

Professor Maiturare also pointed out that a number of collaborations and partnerships that his administration initiated, with some reputable national and international Institutions on critical research areas, were already yielding positive results to the University.

He stated that in no distant time, with fruitful discussions already initiated with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), more development projects would emerge at the Institution.

The former Vice-Chancellor further pointed out that the ultra-model E-learning Centre was recently commissioned to enhance computer-based study programmes of the University; stressing that two successful convocation ceremonies have been held, where notable personalities who contributed immensely to humanity, were recognised with Honorary Degrees and Fellowship of the University.

He maintained that as a result of concerted efforts made by his Management to put in place enabling environment for learning, the University has witnessed a tremendous growth in both students population and quality academic staff.

Professor Maiturare appreciated the level of unwavering support and cooperation his administration enjoyed from the Niger State Government, under the leadership of Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello, Council, Management, entire staff and students of the University, and appealed for same gesture to the new Vice-Chancellor.

In his response after taking over the mantle of leadership from his predecessor, the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abu Kasimu Adamu, commended Professor Muhammad Nasir Maiturare for taking the University to enviable height.

He assured to work assiduously towards consolidating the feat attained by his predecessor, and also initiate more development and research efforts that would accelerate the realisation of excellent Vision of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor called for greater support and cooperation from staff, students and other critical stakeholders of the University, to enable him succeed.

President of the Senate, Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, with his North East Support Group led by Abubakar Mohammed Adam at the Dutse Airport in Jigawa State yesterday.

Ile Arugbo: Kwara, Sarakis For Out-of-court Settlement Monday

BY ABDULLAHI OLESIN, Ilorin

In line with the advice of a Kwara State High Court, the state government has agreed on out-of-court-settlement on the disputed land between it and the family of the late Second Republic Senate Leader, Dr Olusola Saraki.

The state High Court, sitting in Ilorin, had on January 15, 2020, advised parties in the suit to, in the interest of peace, explore an out of court settlement over the disputed land on which Saraki's Ile Arugbo was built.

The state government's action is, however, in response to an earlier letter from the Saraki's lawyers seeking an amicable out-court-settlement of the dispute.

Agents of the state government had, on January 2nd this year, demolished some property at Ile Arugbo, over alleged irregularities in the allocation of the land housing the structures.

This has led to litigation between Asa Investments Limited, (a company owned by the late Saraki) and the state government.

When the court resumed hearing of the case yesterday, Counsel to Asa Investments Limited, AbdulAzeez Ibrahim informed that his clients had received a letter from the Kwara state Ministry of Justice, inviting them to a meeting slated for January 27th, 2020.

Ibrahim added: "On January 15th, your Lordship conscientiously advised parties to explore settlement of the case out of court, in the interest of peace in this state of harmony. Consequent upon that, we, as counsel to the claimant, had to persuade our client, and after thorough

discussions, our client instructed us to write a letter to the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice of the state on our readiness to meet with him. And we served him the letter on the 20th January, 2020.

"Consequently, this morning in this court, we were served with a letter dated January 23rd, 2020 from the Kwara State Ministry of Justice. In the letter we are invited for a meeting slated for 27th January, 2020. We want to explore the opportunity this court has afforded. We therefore, submit that an adjournment is imminent and inevitable."

Counsel to the state government, who is also the director civil litigation, Ministry of Justice, A.M Bello confirmed the receipt of a letter from the claimant's counsel seeking for amicable resolution of the case out-of-court.

"In tandem with the tenet of the said letter, we have invited the claimant for a meeting on Monday next week for out-of-court settlement of the case," Bello added.

He aligned with the claimant's counsel application for adjournment.

Counsel to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), who is the 5th respondent in the suit, Aderemi Ajibola, said, "we shall not be opposing to the adjournment sought by the claimant's counsel."

In his ruling, Justice Abiodun Adebara urged the parties to resolve the case amicably before the next adjourned date.

"This court is particularly impressed by the parties for the steps taken to settle out-of-court; they are therefore enjoined to engage in meaningful discussions that will lead to the resolution of the case out of court. I wish the parties well in their deliberation.

"With the concurrence of the learned counsel, this case is adjourned to March 2nd for the report of out-of-court settlement."

Residents Task FG On Gobbiya Dam Completion

BY HEMBADOON ORSAR, MAKURDI

Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, has urged those living in border communities to provide useful and timely information to government and security agencies, to enable them prevent the influx of nomadic herders with their cattle into the state.

He made the call today at Tse-Kyogen, a community near the border between Benue and Nasarawa states.

The governor, whose convoy stopped on sighting a herds of cattle on the Benue side of the border, ordered security men to apprehend the law breakers.

He reaffirmed the commitment of his administration to ensuring that open grazing of animals no longer has a place in the state.

According to him, security had been reinforced, stressing that anyone who violates the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law of the state would be arrested for prosecution and his animals impounded.

He stated that prompt information to security operatives and livestock guards would enhance surveillance in areas where herders deliberately want to violate the law.

Ortom emphasised that anyone who wishes to breed livestock in Benue should do so according to the law.

It will be recalled that on Wednesday this week, Governor Ortom and other governors of Central Nigerian states met in Lafia, Nasarawa State at the instance of the Inspector General of Police, to brainstorm on the need for intensive community policing.

The meeting also deliberated on curbing conflicts between herdsmen and farmers in parts of the Central Nigeria region.

The governor, on the same Wednesday, raised alarm over the influx of cattle into the Benue valley, following the public announcement of the withdrawal of the military operation, Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS), in the state code name

Presidency Commiserates With Adamawa Over Clergies' Death

BY HUSSAINI HAMMANGABDO Yola

The presidency has condoled with the government and people of Adamawa State, over the death of Rev Lawan Adimi and Pastor Dennis Bagauri, murdered by insurgents.

The secretary to government of the federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha, who led the team in Yola on Friday, urged Christian faithful not to do anything that could bring more grief on the matter.

Mustapha lamented total breakdown of community values, which he identified as some of the causes of violence and insecurity in the society.

Government would create more enabling environment for job creation, geared to reduce unemployed population of the country.

"I want to assure that, government would do everything to ensure that such act did not happen again.

"Lots have been done in curtailing insecurity, and government would continue to do more.

"This is high time for sober reflection, to curtail criminality in the country," he added.

The SGF lauded the leadership of CAN for building its state secretariat.

Bishop Dami Mamza, the state CAN chairman, lauded the presidency for assuring that such act would not happen again.

News Brief

Council Vice-Chairmen Back Malami Over Letter To Oyo Governor

The Association of Local Government Vice Chairmen of Nigeria, ALGOVC, has expressed its support for the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami over his letter to the Oyo State Governor requesting him to abide by the decision of the Supreme Court on the dissolution of Local Government administration in his state.

Reacting to the development yesterday, its National President, Hon. Lawrence Onuchukwu, in a statement to leadership said that the decision of the Attorney General to write the state governor on behalf of the federal government was a welcome development.

He noted that this latest action of the federal government has confirmed what his association had always stood for as it frequently decried it as wrong for democratically elected local government Chairmen to be so sacked.

"Practically, we had demonstrated our commitment to the struggle last year as we openly refused at our award ceremony to confirm the association's merit award to the immediate past Governor of Imo State, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, who had earlier been nominated for the award by our assesment committee.

FERMA Boss Bags Social Service Icon Award

BY ABAH ADAH, Abuja

The Managing Director of FERMA, Engr Nurudden Rafindadi, has bagged the "Social Service Icon of the year 2019" award.

The award which was presented to him recently in Abuja by The Nigerian News is in recognition of his excellent stewardship and great leadership in the intervention and maintenance of federal roads across the nation.

In a statement signed by the Agency's Head of Communication and Public Relations, Mrs Maryam Sanusi, the Managing Director, Rafindadi, on receiving the award, appreciated TheNigerian News team for a job well done, and also thanked the President for the honour to serve this great country.

L- R : Comedian Samuel Perry Animasaun aka Brodashaggy, generator winners in the Glo Recharge and Win Big promo, Ajayi Rasheed and Daisi Jonathan, and Glo dealer, Betsy Iheabunike, at the community prize presentation ceremony held by Globacom at Jakande Market, Lagos, yesterday.

Nigeria Will Overcome Northeast Challenges – *PMB*

BY JONATHAN NDA- ISAIAH

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday in Abuja expressed confidence that the country will soon overcome the challenges in the northeast, adding that though it might take a bit longer, the nation will surely put the issues associated with the troubles in the region in order and move ahead.

Speaking while receiving Janez Lenarcic, the European Union (EU) Commissioner for Crisis Management in State House, President Buhari in a statement by his media aide, Femi Adesina said, "If we were capable to fight a 30-month civil war and reorganised our country, I wonder why people are thinking that Nigeria cannot do it.

"I assure you of Nigeria's commitment to enhance and deepen cooperation with the EU in all areas. Our priorities in the next level is to ensure that Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, are rehabilitated so that livelihood should be established and the children should not lose the opportunity to go back to school, which is very important for the future of that area and Nigeria generally.

"We have the experience of the civil war. I could recall the role of the military, the army, each commander had in his pocket how to behave himself and how to allow international bodies like yourself to go round and see for themselves that people are treated in the most humane way. We have this experience and I assure you that we also have this confidence in your organisation. That is why I feel that Nigeria is capable of handling this crisis, it may take long but we are capable of handling it."

The Nigerian leader also appreciated the recent meeting in Germany which deliberated on the happenings in Libya.

"The important thing really is weapons reaching the Sahel; the instability it is causing. Look at the casualties in Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali; Libya has a direct impact on the stability of the Sahel. As for Boko Haram, we try to disabuse the mind of the people and I think our people now understand the basic dishonesty in it. With my experience personally in the civil war, I am sure we will get over it."

President Buhari further assured that the newly created Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, will do a splendid job of managing the various humanitarian issues evolving from the Northeast:

"I assure you that we are aware of these problems and we will continue to do our best.

We Must Do Everything To Reduce Out-of-school Children – *FG*

BY HENRY TYOHEMBA, Abuja

As Nigeria joined other countries to celebrate International Day of Education (IDE), the federal government has said it will do everthing humanly possible to reduce the number of out-of-school children across the country.

The Senior Special Assistant on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Princess Adejoke Orelope Adefulire made the committment in Abuja yesterday, at an event to commemorate the International Day of Education (IDE) in Nigeria.

The event was organised by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the president on SDGs in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Education, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO and other development partners.

LEADERSHIP reports that United Nations General Assembly in 2018 proclaimed every 24th of January to mark International Day of Education in order to recognize the capital role of education in transforming the society towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Speaking on the theme, "Learning for People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace," which highlights the integrated nature of education, its humanistic aims as well as its centrality to our collective development, Adefulire said that education hold the key for unlocking the huge potentials of people and the planet and as such should be given serious attention.

"More specifically, learning can empower people, bind shared prosperity, foster peace and preserve the planet. But as we celebrate this years IDE, let us be reminded that for every five out-of-school children in the world, one is a Nigerian and of the 10.3million out of school children, 60 percent are girls. This is unfortunate and we must do everything humanly possible to change this narrative," she said.

The Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu who was represented by the director of tertiary education, Mr Joel Ojo urged all stakeholders in the education sector to take advantage of the unique occasion to deeply reflect on the issues of global education crisis.

NANS Condemns Killing Of UNIMAID Student

BY HENRY TYOHEMBA, Abuja

National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has condemned the brutal murder of Ropvil Daciya Dalep, a student of University of Maiduguri.

LEADERSHIP recall that Dalep was abducted on his way back to school by the Boko Haram terrorist group on 9th January, 2019 alongside others in the vehicle to Maiduguri from Jos and after days in the net of the group, he was brutally killed on the 22nd January, 2020 in a video that has gone viral in the social media space.

NANS president, Comr. Danielson Akpan in a statement yesterday, lamented that at the moment, there is no safe place in Nigeria as abduction is carried out close to the seat of power, Abuja and its environs. Travellers and commuters are regularly attacked, kidnapped and killed around Kogi, Kaduna and Jos routes.

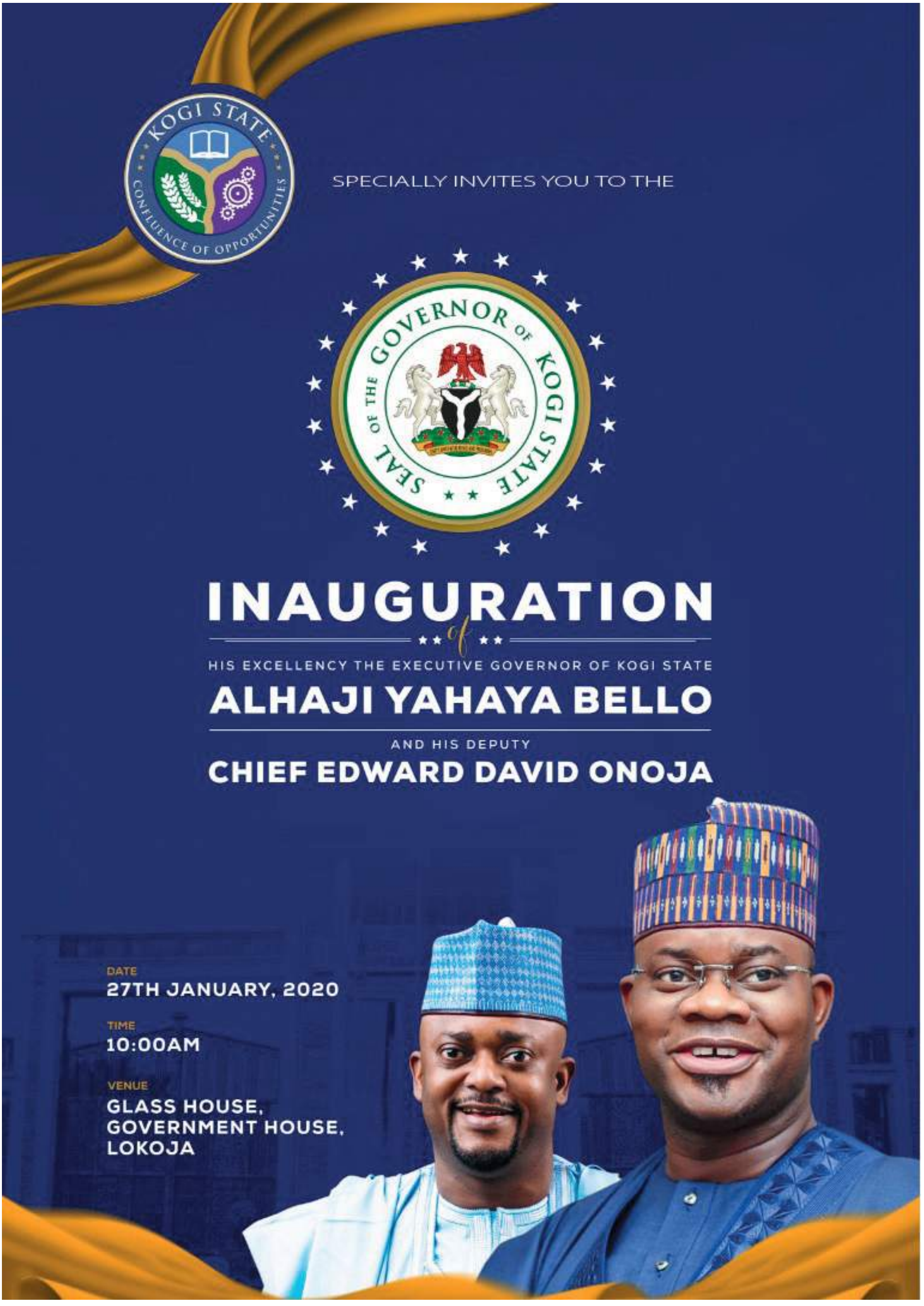
According to him, "Others are still held captive and suffering in the hands of their abductors. On a daily basis, Nigerians are kidnapped and killed by Boko Haram and other unknown armed groups.

"Recall that a few days ago we were shocked by news of the execution of Pastor Lawan Andimi, Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria(CAN) in Michika Local Government of Adamawa State who was abducted and murdered in cold blood by the same terrorist group in a video recorded and release by the terror group.

"Communities in the North East, especially in Adamawa and Borno States have come under heavy attack with untold casualties and tales of woe that has been either not reported or under reported by the media."

He added that the impact of the violent attacks has been devastating on these communities and Nigerian students who now live in perpetual fear and could no longer attend school in these areas due to fear of killings and kidnaps as their campuses come under several attacks and the highways they commute from their various homes to school unsafe.

"We call on President Muhammadu Buhari, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to immediately sack the service chiefs as they have lost touch with the reality. The rising insecurity in every part of the country must be curtailed, as we call for a halt in normalization of blood letting," he said.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What's Going On In Davido's Camp?

SCOOP

AIFF Opens Entries For Film Categories

BLITZ

Jessie Reyez Drops Feminist Anthem 'No Sweat'

AMEBO'S KORNER

with Okrote4real

What's Going On In Davido's Camp?

The social media was agog with the news of the rift between DMW Boss, Davido and Peruzzi's former boss, King Patrick, who were alleged to have exposed some dirty secrets in the course of their dramatic show of shame after he said Davido refused to pay him the money he owed for his artiste Peruzzi.

Recently, Davido and Chioma unfollowed each other on Instagram for reasons best known to them. Though recent reports said they had somewhat reconciled, it is glaring that something isn't right in the camp of the DMW boss.

Fans have been calling out Davido to pay up Patrick and avoid further embarrassment but it seems all is falling on deaf ears.

Following an irreconcilable differences between King Patrick and Davido, he (Patrick) went on social media to reveal some damaging secrets especially saying all Davido's hit songs were written by his former artiste Peruzzi.

This came after an explosive revelation from Peruzzi's former boss, while responding to a penny from Davido, alleging that Peruzzi was dating Chioma and pimping her out as his "cousin".

One can read the fuss between the OBO boss on his earlier tweet. Chioma's love life explained that "if you are feeling depressed, remember you are not alone", it sounds. But he insisted that "God is with you always". The breach of communication between Davido and Patrick could be seen when Davido said: "don't be afraid", but you can "reach out to people in your family, your church, or your friend circles".

He advised him to "reach out to loved ones and get advice from your hunch on how to make love to his side chick and pimp her out to you as his cousin... Let's be guided, please. Incest is a sin..."

After the recent revelation, in a quick check, it may seem that Davido and Chioma no longer follow each other on Instagram. This news is a shock, and we hope that everything is fine with Davido and Chioma.

He also exposed Peruzzi for lying about Chioma being his cousin as she was his side chick before "she started dating Davido".

"Ask them to pray with you and not give you drugs. Hope you feel better, brother. Crackhead," Davido stressed.

The tweet hasn't gone down well with fans as they urge him to pay up his debt because hadn't it been for King Patrick, he wouldn't have had the hits written by his artiste.

King Patrick did not allow the already rolling ball to stop on his corner. In response, he fired back.

Golden Boy CEO Patrick called Peruzzi and Davido out again and this time it was with dirtier secrets. The music boss revealed Davido had given the girls STDs and also has several baby moms whose identities have been hidden from the public.

He reveals that "If you are feeling stupid and you are out there popping babies and giving girls STDs, that he (Davido) should "not be sad".

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AIFF Opens Entries For Film Categories

Gabriel Afolayan

BY SAMUEL ABULUDE, Lagos

Entries for film categories at the 17th Abuja International Film Festival AIFF has opened in earnest.

The festival founded by ace film maker and producer, Fidelis Duker, holds annually in October has continued to be a rallying point for film makers in Nigeria and beyond to learn on the new trends in film making as well as network with other film makers and other professionals.

The festival now in its seventeenth year and waxing stronger offers a contemporary and liberal platform for the filmmakers of the World to exhibit the excellence of the film art form. The aim is mainly to contribute to the understanding and appreciation of cultures of different nations.

At the 2019 Abuja film festival, Gabriel Afolayan won the Outstanding Actor for his role in the acclaimed Nollywood film 'Gold Statue' and Aevese Emokpae won best actress for her role in movie 'The Unbreakable'.

Speaking on the preparations for this year's edition, the festival director, Temitope reiterated the festival commitment in upholding the high standard of the film festival which it has been able to sustain for over 17 years.

She also mentioned that two new competitive categories would be included to broaden the scope of the festival with a view of rewarding excellence in more categories.

Miley Cyrus Is Ready For Her Festival Gigs

Miley Cyrus is coming, but not without her father Billy Ray Cyrus' iconic hairdo: a mullet.

She showed off her further cropped retro 'do on Instagram today (Jan. 7) paired with an old guitar she'll be traveling with for her latest festival dates. Cyrus has been confirmed to perform at BottleRock Napa Valley from May 22-24 in Napa, Calif. and Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival from June 11-14 in Manchester, Tenn.

"Cash me outside (this years festival gigs) ... with a new mullet and an old guitar," she captioned the post, quoting Danielle Bregoli aka Bhad Bhabie's notorious catchphrase from her Dr. Phil interview.

Cyrus paired her vintage hair with a red bandana tied around her neck, white tee, brown suede coat, straight-legged blue jeans and black heeled booties.

'Ultimate Love' Reality Show: What Viewers Should Expect

BY SAMUEL ABULUDE, Lagos

"Ultimate Love", the new reality show from MultiChoice Nigeria, is set to hit DStv and GOtv screens in February.

The reality show has eight males and eight females placed in a secluded location known as the "Love Pad", with hopes that they will find love. The contestants will have to compete and carry out different tasks and win the votes of the public. The winning couple will not only have won each other's hearts and the hearts of viewers but will also win an all-expense-paid traditional wedding ceremony and a fully furnished house, if they commit to getting married. If not, they still get to win a cash prize and other amazing prizes.

One of the unique features of the show is the presence of "Aunty". Who is Aunty and what is she all about?

Just like Big Brother, Aunty will also be a prominent feature on the show but unlike the former who is recognized by his voice only, Aunty will be physically present in the Love Pad. Her job will be to help the singles find their perfect partner and provide them with counsel where necessary.

Aunty will also ensure that the contestants are occupied with loads of daily and weekly tasks and activities, all designed to help them pick the perfect partner and groom their new-found love.

Already, this pivotal character has left soon-to-be fans of the show guessing who would play the role of Aunty. Perhaps she will be revealed before the show or may be not, but what is certain is that the Ultimate Love reality TV show promises to deliver a good dose of excitement, twists,

surprises and suspense when it makes its debut.

This is no regular dating show, as it is a journey for 16 strangers who are willing to take a chance on love against the background of a reality TV show. There will be raw emotions, lovers' spats and most importantly, expressions of love that will keep viewers glued to their screens.

Jessie Reyez Drops Feminist Anthem 'No Sweat'

Grammy-nominated singer Jessie Reyez is entering 2020 without breaking a sweat. It's all in the title of her new single "No Sweat," which she officially released over the weekend after teasing it in a secret deodorant commercial she shot earlier this month with Riverdale actress Camila Mendes and Olympic Gold Medalist Swin Cash.

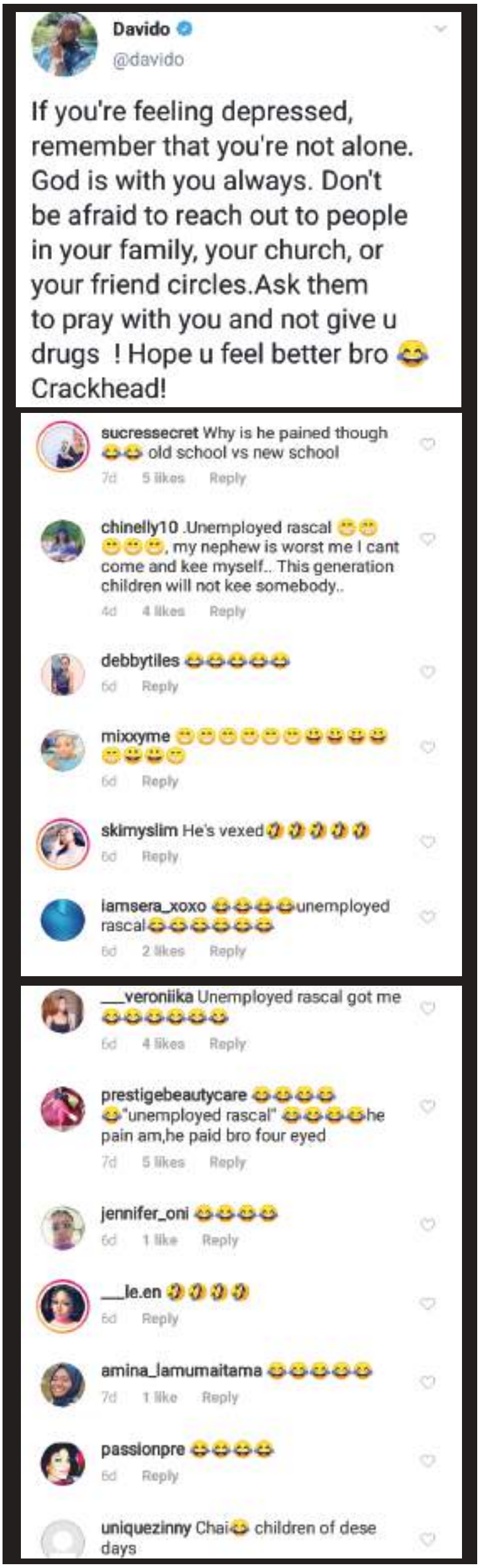
The single is from her forthcoming debut album, 'Before Love Came to Kill Us', which she'll release in March 27 via FMLY.

"Yeah, girls on the floor got a 30-point lead and a minute left," she starts off the dance-ready feminist banger. "Yeah, you workin' hard for the tough spot, just watch it manifest/ I'm a rose and a king at the same time; that's what a woman is."

Reyez tweeted the news Monday (Jan. 20), saying, "My album is done. It's called Before Love Came to Kill Us. It's coming on March 27th and you can pre-save it and pre-order it this Thursday."

The 28-year-old Canadian-Colombian singer is currently up for her first Grammy this weekend for best urban contemporary album for her 2018 EP Being Human in Public.

SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS



You Don't Have To Be Naked To Make A Fashion Statement – *Ikoroha*

Marina Ikoroha is a beauty queen having competed under the Face of Candy City Pageant platform, becoming Miss Tourism. She speaks with **SAMUEL ABULUDE** on her experience at the camp and what she is doing after the competition.

How did you get into pageant?

I got into pageant through a friend. She was talking about the pageant and it was like fun to me. So I decided to give it a trial.

What was the experience like at the pageant?

It was the first pageant I ever did.

It was stressful initially, but I later started coping and enjoying it. It was like another venture or embarking on a project.

Who do you consider as the greatest influence in your life and career?

My mum! She has always been there for me as the greatest influence in my life and my career because of her advice. She supports me financially, emotionally and with other basic things of life.

What are the things that you would never do in the name of fashion?

Irrelevant exposure of my body.

Reasons why I am saying this is because I don't think fashion is all about getting nude. You really do not have to be naked to make a fashion statement or express your feelings.

In what ways has the pageant changed your lifestyle?

The hardest thing I have always faced was self-confidence. I am saying this in respect of modelling. Being part of the Face of Candy City has really helped me build my carriage and reduced my fears. My self-reliance is now of a good balance and thanks to the organisers for helping this part of my life become a reality.

What are some of the changes you would like to see in the beauty pageant industry?

Changes I would love to see... I believe we models have a prominent future because our value clearly outweighs our inherent imperfections so I would love to see changes on expansion of measurement systems.

What are some of the lessons that you have learnt?

As a ruling queen, I have travelled and have come across so many people and places with different characters and beliefs, but in all, I have learnt that people will judge you but you have to learn to make peace with it. Allow yourself to always shine, jealousy is extremely toxic and your essence is everything in life.

What is the secret of looking good? Do you have a beauty regimen that you adhere to?

Having a great skin regimen is like having healthy eating habit. Ultimately caring for your skin has to be personal and effective. I have three routines which are toning- balancing the skin, moisturizing-softening and hydrating my skin and cleansing- which is washing and pampering my face. I recommend organic products all time.

How do you intend to make good use of your reign as the beauty queen?

The crown comes with a title and responsibilities which one must uphold so tight and help bring change to the society. Different doors will open for a beauty queen and she has the opportunities to explore. In our country, winners of beauty pageantries become celebrities and forget about others. I don't know why they do such. I believe partaking in a competition and winning, you have a lot to give back to the society and nation.

What will you do differently during your reign as a queen?

I will inspire the youths who are passionate about their goals in life, that if I can do it they can also too and to use this platform to start up an initiative for what I am passionate about which is protecting the girl child mentally, educationally and emotionally.

Are there plans to give back to the school that groomed you?

Yes, I really want to give back to the school that made this beautiful young lady here to stand out today. I'm working on it. We lacked somethings to make teaching comfortable when I was there and I have thought on making it better for the present students in that same school, so I would say it's a fingers crossed situation. Right now, I want to surprise them that all. I can say for now, their comfort for better learning matters to me a lot.

Tell us about your plans for the school?

I would say I plan on meeting few top organisations and give my project plan to them so we can deliberate on how they can support me in creating a serene environment, labs and equipment for better proper training in the medical sector. I went to State School Of Nursing Agbor, Delta State. I can say it wasn't a comfortable stay but we coped because we wanted a better life ahead of us. Imagine we making everything more than very okay and affordable, we would have better young aspiring people coming out with brighter future .

Can you tell us more about yourself?

My name is Ikoroha Marina. I am 23 years old. I was born and brought up in Agbor, Ika South Local Government of Delta State. I am the first child of a family of four, a student and a serial entrepreneur. I am jovial, emotional, confident, decisive, strong willed, beautiful and bold also fierce.

> *It was stressful initially, but I later started coping and enjoying it*

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Grapefruit For Malaria, Healthy Skin, Others

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WOMEN'S HEALTH

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KIDS HEALTH

Flu In Toddlers

EDITOR'S NOTE

Why You Should Prioritise Eye Check-up

Beyond detecting other health problem, regular eye examinations are important because having your vision corrected can improve the quality of day-to-day life.

The best thing you can do to look after your sight is to go for regular eye tests.

With concerns all over the world on the increasing levels of eye problem, ranging from children to adult, there is need to go for regular eye checks with a trained eye specialist who can detect early signs of problems.

Your vision may appear to be healthy, but there is no way to be 100 percent certain unless a trained professional observes your eyes.

An eye test also determines whether or not you need glasses and can also spot eye conditions that can be treated effectively if detected early enough.

Going for a regular eye check will also help to identify and prevent further issues that might occur and pose threat to your sight.

Raliat Ahmed-Yusuf
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LEADERSHIP Good life

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Infectious Diseases You Need To Be Wary Of

Pneumococcus

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the Streptococcus pneumoniae (S. pneumoniae) bacterium, also known as pneumococcus.

Pneumococcal Disease Burden

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) up to 1.6 million people die each year globally as a result of pneumococcal diseases - about half of them are children younger than 5 years of age in developing countries. WHO classes pneumococcal disease as a major cause of mortality and morbidity.

(Morbidity = illness, disease. Mortality = death).

Even advanced countries are not left out, as pneumococcal disease causes two deaths every hour among children younger than 5 years of age in the Americas annually, according to PAHO (Pan American Health Organization).

It is also among the top two isolates found in otitis media. Pneumococcal pneumonia tends to affect humans when they are either very young or very old.

According to WHO, vaccination is the only available tool to prevent pneumococcal disease.

Infection can result in pneumonia, infection of the blood (bacteremia/ sepsis), middle-ear infection (otitis media), or bacterial meningitis.

The WHO said that pneumococcal disease is the world's number 1 vaccine-preventable cause of death among infants and children younger than 5 years of age.

There are two main types of pneumococcal diseases:

* Non-invasive pneumococcal diseases

These may be less serious than invasive pneumococcal disease and occur outside the major organs or the blood. S. pneumoniae can spread from the nasopharynx (nose and throat) to the upper and lower respiratory tract and can cause:

Otitis media - middle ear infection. Inflammation of the middle ear, typically with accumulation of fluid in the middle ear, swelling of the eardrum, earache. If the eardrum is perforated drainage of pus into the ear canal.

Non-bacteremic pneumonia - infection of the lower respiratory tract without detectable spread of organisms to the blood stream.

* Invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD)

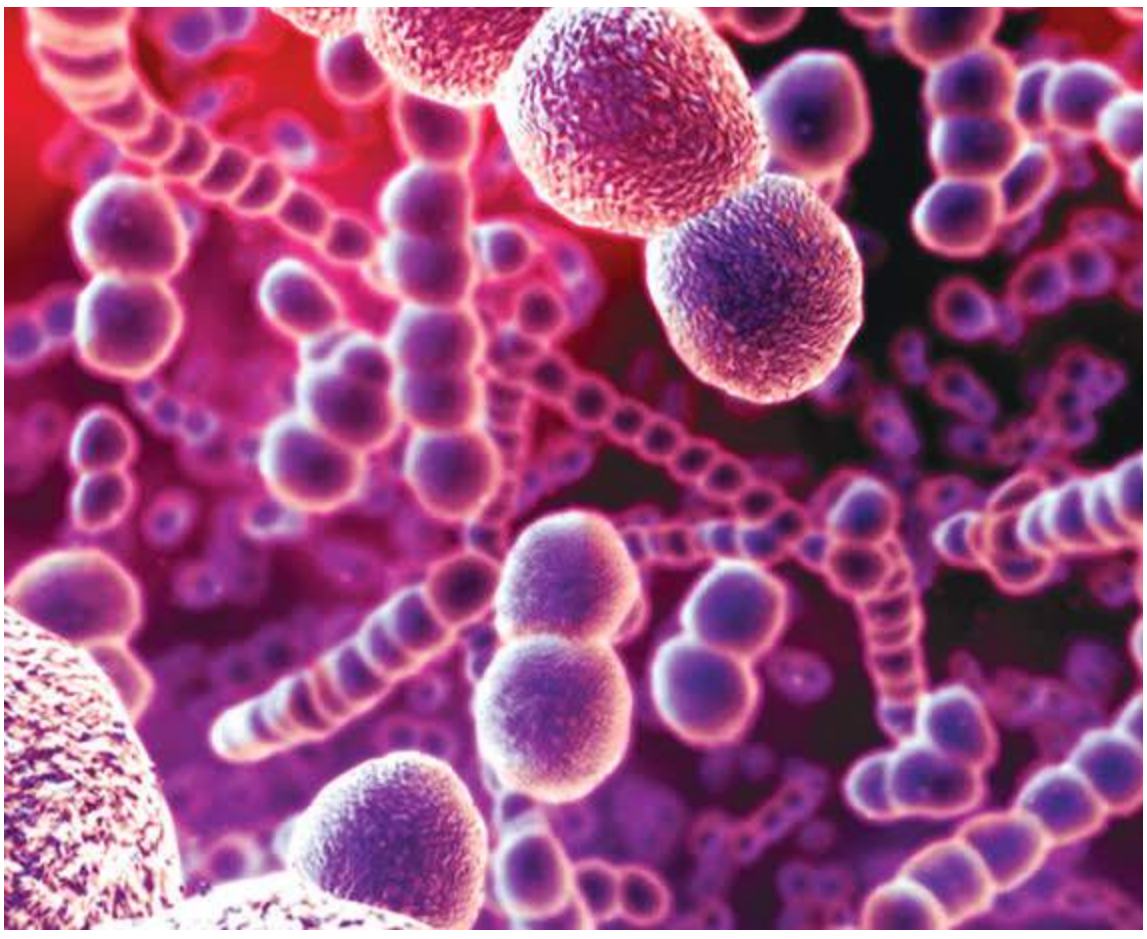
These tend to be more serious and occur inside a major organ, or in the blood. Examples of IPDs include:

Bacteremia (sepsis) - bacterial infection of the blood. Bacteremia refers to the presence of live bacteria in the blood, while sepsis means a blood infection which is associated with capillary leak, shock and an increased risk of mortality.

Meningitis - inflammation of the meninges. The meninges are the three membranes that cover the brain and the spinal cord.

Bacteremic pneumonia - inflammation of one or both lungs, with pneumococcus in the bloodstream.

WHO adds that "the recent development of widespread microbial resistance to essential antibiotics underlines the urgent need for more efficient pneumococcal vaccine.



WThe secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, not to worry about the future, or not to anticipate troubles, but to live the present moment wisely and earnestly. – ***Herophilus***

RESEARCH

Air Pollution, An Invisible Killer

The disasters caused by air pollution are on the rise globally. **TUNDE OGUNTOLA** writes on the risk factors of this smog that has largely become a global health crisis.

Air pollution kills an estimated 7 million people worldwide every year. Most air pollution-related deaths are from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). In terms of global disease burden, air pollution is the cause of over one-third of deaths from stroke, lung cancer, and chronic respiratory disease, and one-quarter of deaths from ischaemic heart disease.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) air pollution is an invisible killer causing 29 per cent of all deaths from lung cancer; 24 per cent of all deaths from stroke; 25 per cent of all deaths from heart disease; 43 per cent of all deaths from lung disease. Data shows that nine out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants.

This invisible killer lurks all around us, preying on the young and old. Statistics show that 24 per cent of all stroke deaths is attributable to air pollution. Air pollution causes 1.4 million deaths from stroke every year. Also 25 per cent of all heart disease deaths is attributable to air pollution. Air pollution causes 2.4 million deaths due to heart disease every year, while 43 per cent of all lung disease and lung cancer deaths are attributable to air pollution. Air pollution causes 1.8 million deaths due to lung disease and cancer every year.

This smug can be causing double the number of excess deaths a year in the world than has been estimated previously, according to a study published in the European Heart Journal recently.

In a research co-author by Professor Thomas Munzel, it states that air pollution caused an estimated 8.8 million extra deaths globally rather than the previously estimated 4.5 million.

Other world international bodies have raised the alarm over the increasing health hazard of air pollution in the recent time. According to the United Nation (UN) special rapporteur on human rights and the environment, air pollution has long been an environmental and health problem - but now it should now be viewed as a human rights issue as well.

Though air pollution has devastating consequences on a global scale, with marginalized communities among the most affected, Boyd, a professor of law, policy and sustainability, said the problem has been overlooked in many places.

That's in part because the most visible air pollution often has been cleaned up, leaving behind pollution that is harder to see and so easier to ignore.

"We've addressed some types of air pollution in some places, and so a lot of the air pollution that we're dealing with today you can't really smell it, you can't see it. It's these really microscopic particles that people are inhaling into their lungs," he said.

Apart from other health hazard of air pollution identified by experts, its implication on the lives of pregnant women or those undergoing fertility treatment has become a matter of serious concern.

Another recent study, published in the journal Cardiovascular Toxicology, found that early in the first trimester and late in the third trimester were critical windows during which pollutants most affect the mother's and foetus cardiovascular systems.

"These findings suggest that pregnant women, women of child-bearing years who may be pregnant and those undergoing fertility treatments should avoid areas known for high air pollution or stay inside on high-smog days to reduce their exposure," said Phoebe Stapleton, assistant professor at Rutgers Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and a faculty member at Rutgers Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute. "Pregnant women should also consider monitoring their indoor air quality."

The researchers stressed that what a mother inhales affects her circulatory system, which is constantly adapting to supply adequate blood flow to the fetus as it grows. Exposure to these pollutants can constrict blood vessels, restricting blood flow to the uterus and depriving the fetus of oxygen and nutrients, which can result in delayed growth and development. It can also lead to common pregnancy complications, such as intrauterine growth restriction.

The study looked at how the circulatory systems of pregnant rats and their fetuses were affected by a single exposure to nanosized titanium dioxide aerosols, a surrogate for particles found in typical air pollution during their first, second and third trimesters. The results were compared to pregnant rats that were exposed only to high-efficiency filtered air.

Besides pregnant women, everyone can be affected by air pollution especially when exposed over prolonged periods of time. However, some groups of people are discovered to be more susceptible than others in regards to exposure to air pollution.

These groups of people include those with asthma, diseases such as lung, chronic bronchitis (also called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or COPD and those with cardiovascular (heart) disease.

WOMEN

Fitness | Beauty | Wellness

Why Do You Get Headaches During Your Period?

Many people experience headaches around the time of their periods. These headaches can be severe and interfere with daily life.

Period headaches may be mild and accompanied by symptoms such as irritability and tender breasts. In this case, a person may be experiencing premenstrual syndrome (PMS).

Also, menstruation can trigger migraine in people with the condition. A menstrual migraine headache may occur before, during, or after a period.

How do periods relate to headaches?

Headaches may occur during a period due to the falling level of estrogen in the body. During a menstrual cycle, the female body's hormones rise and fall in preparation for pregnancy.

One cycle typically takes between 25 and 30 days. It runs from the first day of one period to the first day of the next. Estrogen and progesterone are hormones that help regulate the menstrual cycle, and the levels of these hormones may affect the severity and prevalence of headaches.

According to a 2014 review, for example, acute migraine headaches may occur when the level of estrogen in the body drops significantly.

Causes and symptoms

Hormones play a role in headaches because they govern the body's pain response. Females become more vulnerable to headaches as their levels of estrogen and progesterone fluctuate.

When a person experiences headaches around the time of their periods, the pain may stem from PMS or menstrual migraine.

Menstrual migraine

A menstrual migraine headache typically occurs before, during, or immediately after a period. These headaches can also occur during ovulation. Around 60% of females who experience migraine report that menstruation is a trigger for these headaches. The symptoms may be similar to those of any other migraine headache, though the headaches that occur close to a period may not accompany sensory disturbances.

However, some people do experience auras such as flashing lights or blind spots in the field of vision, or a tingling sensation in the hands or face before a menstrual migraine headache.

Other symptoms of a menstrual migraine headache tend to include: Sensitivity to bright lights, sensitivity to noise, throbbing pain on one side of the head, nausea, vomiting, PMS.

PMS headaches however, typically occur before a period begins.

PMS refers to a group of symptoms that 95% of females of reproductive age experience before their periods start each month.

The symptoms usually appear 1–2 weeks before a period starts.

Beyond headaches, symptoms of PMS may include: Food cravings, tender, swollen breasts, fluid retention, forgetfulness, clumsiness, sleep disturbances, joint and muscle aches, irritability, anxiety or tension, mood swings, depression.

Hormones affecting headaches during pregnancy

Because of the link between hormones and headaches, women may be more likely to experience migraine headaches during pregnancy. According to an article published in The Journal of Headache and Pain, estrogen levels can increase 100-fold during pregnancy, which can influence migraine activity.

Also, it is important to note that a headache can be a symptom of preeclampsia, a potentially serious blood pressure disorder that can affect every organ. Healthcare providers are usually able to detect preeclampsia during regular checkups.

Treatment

Menstrual migraine

The treatment for menstrual migraine headaches depends on the severity of the pain. A person can take medications, such as: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including acetaminophen and ibuprofen triptans ergots.

Taking dietary supplements such as riboflavin, magnesium, and coenzyme may also help manage migraine headaches that occur during pregnancy.

When to see a doctor

If period headaches interfere with daily life, talk to a doctor. When PMS is the underlying issue, a range of treatments can help, including hormonal contraception, antidepressant medication, and calcium supplements.

The right course of treatment will depend, in part, on the severity and specific symptoms.

Healthcare professionals can recommend ways to help prevent menstrual migraine headaches. They can also prescribe stronger pain relief medication, when necessary.

In pregnant women, a persistent headache can be a symptom of preeclampsia. Anyone who thinks that they may be experiencing this potentially serious issue should seek medical attention.

In summary, hormones control the body's pain response. During the menstrual cycle, hormone levels fluctuate as the body prepares for pregnancy, and this ebbing and flowing can lead to headaches. Headaches that occur before, during, or immediately after a period may stem from PMS or menstrual migraine.

Over-the-counter pain relief medication can often ease mild headaches. Anyone who experiences severe pain or any discomfort that interferes with daily life should speak to a doctor.

Symptoms Of Breast Cancer In Women

Some forms of breast cancer cause no symptoms in the initial stages, so it is crucial to attend regular screenings. As with other forms of cancer, a person's outlook is more favorable when a doctor detects the disease early.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), the most common sign of breast cancer is a new lump or mass in the breast. People should become familiar with the typical look and feel of their breasts so that they can detect any changes early on.

Breast cancer can develop in males and females, but due to differences in breast tissue, the disease is much less common in males.

Some early indications of breast cancer in females

A new mass or lump in breast tissue is the most common sign of breast cancer.

The following breast changes can be symptoms of breast cancer:

Full or partial swelling, thickening of part of a breast, change in the size or shape of a breast, irritation of the skin, dimpled skin, red, flaky skin on the breast or nipple, breast or nipple pain, pulling in of the nipple, nipple discharge and swollen lymph nodes.

Many of these changes can also result from other health issues.

However, if a person notices any changes in their breast tissue, they should see a doctor as soon as possible. It is important to rule out cancer as a possible cause.

Symptoms for specific types of cancer

Each form of breast cancer develops in a different part of the breast and can affect different types of tissue. Since many breast cancers cause no symptoms, people should attend regular screenings. This can help identify the disease in its early stages.

Below Are The Types Of Breast Cancer And Their Symptoms.

Lobular carcinoma in situ

Lobular carcinoma in situ refers to an area of abnormal cells confined to the milk-producing glands of the breast in females.

Because these cells do not spread to surrounding tissues, experts do not consider lobular carcinoma in situ to be a "true" cancer. However, it can increase the chances of developing other types of breast cancer.

This condition rarely causes symptoms. In some cases, tiny white specs of calcium called microcalcifications show up on a routine mammogram.

Invasive lobular carcinoma

This develops in the breast's lobules glands that can produce milk and invades nearby breast tissue. In the early stages, invasive lobular carcinoma may not cause symptoms. Or, a person may experience thickening or hardening of breast tissue, rather than a distinct lump, an area of fullness or swelling in the breast, a change in the texture of the breast's skin, the nipple turning inward,

Some less common types of breast cancer include:

Triple-negative breast cancer: The name refers to cancer cells that do not contain estrogen or progesterone receptors and produce little HER2 protein. As a result, the cancer does not respond to hormone therapy. Both lobular and ductal carcinomas can be triple-negative.

Live Well Tips

Live well tips are NOT medical advice. Please consult your doctor before taking medicine or supplement, changing diet or exercise.

• Please check around your eyes. If you have small yellowish spot (fat deposits) it is a sign of high cholesterol, please get it check.

• A new study that thin thighs indicate increased risk for heart disease. However, thighs over 60cm round are not too good for the heart.

• Start a new habit; look for a 15 minute walk after lunch. Do it today, tomorrow and every day.

• When travelling by air, please avoid the window seat, It raises your risk for blood clot, the aisle or middle seat are better.

• Read your palm, spread out your hand if the lines are pure, you may be anemic. If so, please see a doctor.

• Some news to use for women: if the index finger is shorter than the ring finger, they may get arthritis in the knees earlier in life.

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fashion & style
JANUARY 25, 2020
beauty lounge | interview | fashion | looks

FASHION
Vogue Wedding Bouquets For The Fashionista Bride

MEN'S CORNER
8 Natural Ways To Grow Your Beard

LIFE STYLE
3 Easy Ways To Improve Stretch Marks

I Am Obsessed With Kimonos – Seyitan

interview

I Am Obsessed With Kimonos – *Seyitan*

Multi-award winning media personality and fashion-preneur Oluwaseyitan Omatsola Atigarin is the face and creative mind behind Abèbíbytan. In this interview with MILLICENT AREBUN ONUOHA and CHIDINMA ABARAONYE, Seyitan speaks on her lifelong obsession with kimonos, the challenges of quality control and her brand's future projects

Journey so far

Abèbíbytan is two years, it was something I was really passionate about and it has been a long journey for us; I'm just glad that we are where we are today. It's a huge deal and experience to have exhibited at GTBFSHWKD to be picked by such a platform like this. We specialise in making Kimonos out of local and African fabrics because you know Kimonos are mostly Asian based. I wanted to fuse the Asian culture with African culture so I thought to myself; what better way to do that than to take something that they are known for but you use African fabrics that I can get and source locally. I use African fabrics to make my kimonos, for instance, Adire, Ankara, lace and more

Why did you choose to specialise in Kimono?

I decided to specialise in Kimono because that's what I know. I am particularly obsessed with Kimono, I tell people this all the time even before I started making Kimono. Over my lifetime I've probably bought about 20 kimonos and they are still in my closet. I love them because they're the easiest thing to wear and style. For instance, if you don't know what to wear, you can just wear a pair of jean pants and a t-shirt with your Kimono over it. All of a sudden you are looking chic and good to go. I just thought that it's that is timeless, I don't think Kimono will ever go out of fashion. The only thing that could change is maybe the fabric types. So that is why I decided to specialise in Kimono and create a business around it.

Inspiration

My inspiration is largely based on the fabric, so when I go fabric shopping or fabric sourcing I can already imagine what is going to look like as a kimono because Kimonos are basically the same shape, you can just change some things about it. As soon as I see a fabric I already know what it would look like, how it will feel, I transition that from my head into the actual piece of kimono.

Brand and product reception

The reception has been great. When we launched, I was really scared before the launch, I thought nobody was going to care about the brand but we sold out in the first few weeks, so we decided to keep going. There have obviously been some down-down times, especially in the current recession period. But are pushing through and making progress. We started with only informal Kimonos for women but expanded to include a bridal kimonos range as well. By the end of this year, we are looking to include a line of male kimono. We have actually already catered to the male folks because Kimonos are unisex. The difference is that we will now design a line specifically for just men. Basically one can ascertain that we there has been significant growth through our brand journey and I'm really grateful for that.

What has been your challenge so far in business?

One of my biggest challenges is staffing because it's very hard finding people that have the same drives and passion about a product as you the owner. Some people are just only focused and after their paycheques me. Another challenge I feel all designers encounter is finding tailors in Nigeria that are professional in conduct and keep to their words. For instance, a lot of tailors will tell you that your cloth is ready and you get there at the agreed time, you find out that they are just cutting it. So that's one of my biggest challenges right now, actually finding good tailors. I have one really good one and two shaky ones, but they are getting there. Another major challenge I have faced is the issue of quality control. I'm very particular about my Kimono looking exceptional, the finishing is very important to me, so if you don't get the quality control right, you have a problem with me.

Where do you see your brand in the next five years?

Wow, in the next five years I want to see that Abèbíbytan has their own stores in Nigeria and all around the world. That's my five years plan.

Advice

My advice to the budding designer is, "don't just do it because everybody is doing it because as I said there have been times things were really hard and if I didn't have a passion for it I would have quit. So if it's not something that you are passionate about there's no need to try to make a business out of it. Whatever it is that you are good at, or whatever your strongest point is, try and bring out its full potential in whatever business you choose to settle on. Maximize its full

fashion

Vogue Wedding Bouquets For The Fashionista Bride

BY MILLICENT AREBUN ONUOHA

The fashionista bride wedding day is the one day, that she is guaranteed centre stage spot with all the camera/ fashion lenses firmly focused on her for at least ten hours. Needless to say, looking her absolute best on that day can be as important as a presidential election or deciding the aid cut for underdeveloped countries. When picking out your bouquet, it's important to know if;

l You are going for the classic, ultra-modern or bohemian vibe.

l Make a choice between real or faux flowers before you go shopping to reduce the general hassle of bouquet shopping.

l Once you have decided your theme, the next big decision is colours. My advice is to stick to the neutrals with pops of colour. Simply pick a colour or two from your overall wedding colours and surround it with cream, ivory or off-white florals..

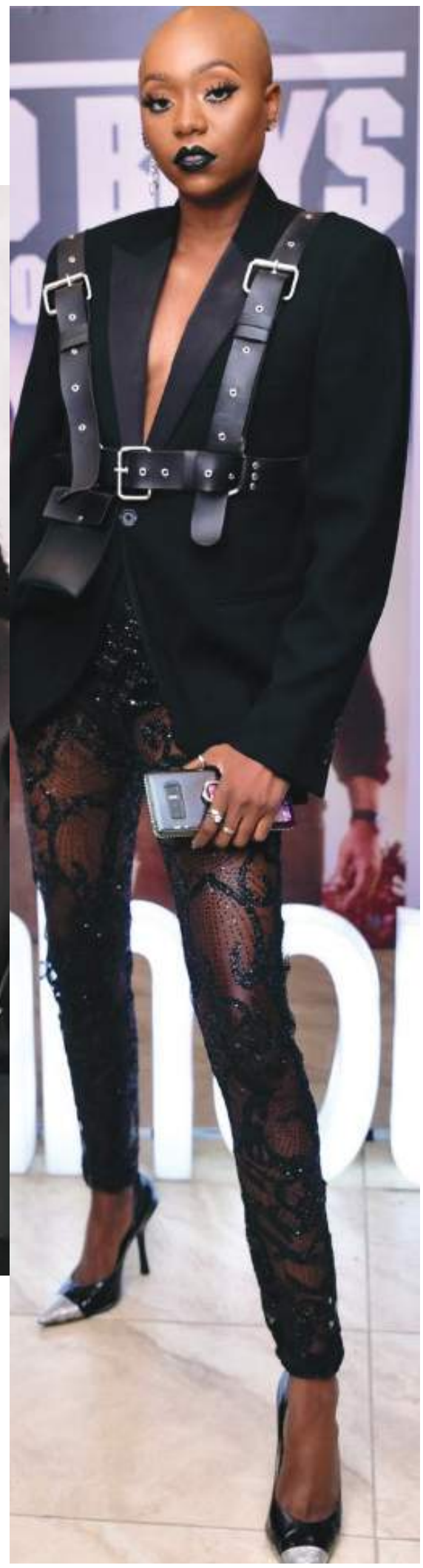
fashion

Utility Chic

BY MILLICENT AREBUN ONUOHA

It's a new fashion year and trends are still gaining traction as fashionistas worldwide try on the trend for size. One predicted fashion trend gaining momentum in the Nigerian fashion circle is the utility chic trend. The trend is all about military inspired looks for fashion lovers. From the one holster belt trend for men, boiler suits to the prevalent patch pockets pieces ; the utility chic looks is all the rage right now in our corner of the world. In describing the trend Van der Goltz cleverly put it as "Function meets fashion in the form of the utility chic trend.

Below are some of our fashionistas wearing the trend stylishly.



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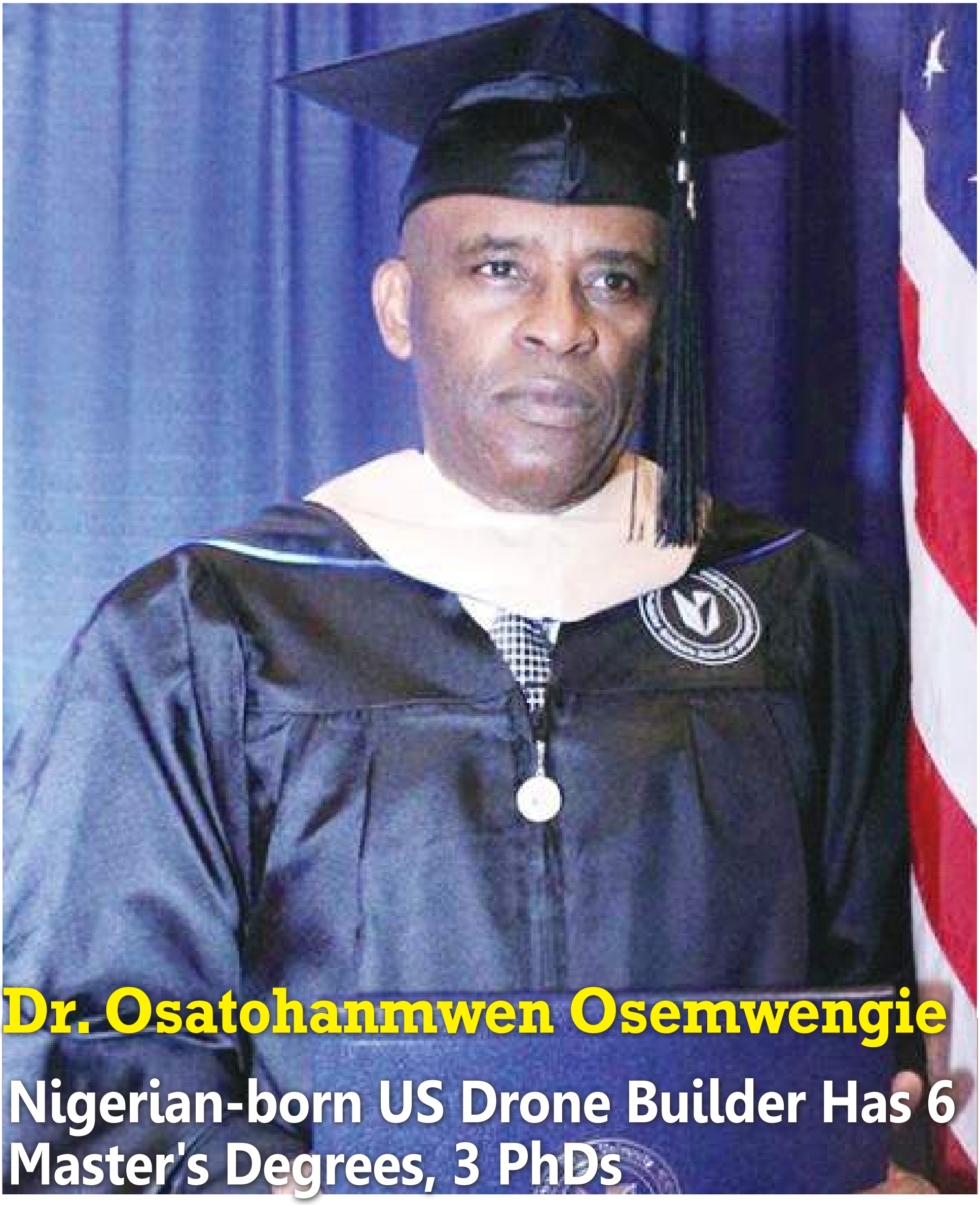
ENRICH YOURSELF



Dr. Osatohanmwen Osemwengie

Nigerian-born US Drone Builder Has 6 Master's Degrees, 3 PhDs

TRAVELOGUE

The Troms region in the very north of Norway, Alesund on the west coast and lovely little places like Flam that are nestled deep in the mountains of this beautiful European country would give any visitor the time of their lives.

DESIRABLES THE MUST-READS AND LINGER-ONS

DR. OSATOHANMWEN OSEMWENGIE

Nigerian-born US Drone Builder Has 6 Master's Degrees, 3 PhDs

Dr. Osatohanmwen Osemwengie is a native of Benin, Edo State, but left the country in the mid 80s and now lives in Texas, USA. He was an administrator at the College of Education, Benin City. There, he was recognised as the Educator of the Year, for securing funding used to design and implement pre-service teacher education programmes.

He has four graduate degrees, a Doctorate degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Cincinnati. He got his 5th and 6th Master's degree in software engineering at Regis University and Information Systems at the Keller Graduate School of Management and started his 7th master degree in January, 2017.

He served as the Administrator of the Columbus City School System from 1992 to 2011, where he coordinated staff and student recruitment. He taught for five years (1987-1992) in the aforementioned school district.

In 2011, he founded the "World's first tuition free, engineering degree-granting university," Open Robotics University. The university, which was powered by Google+, awards bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees in robotics engineering for free. The university headquarters is in Ohio. Open Robotics University currently has students in 45 cities in 25 countries.

He was a facilitator for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, sponsored Ohio Leadership for Integrating Technology Initiative (OLIT). He trained elementary, middle, high school principals and assistant principals to facilitate the integration of technology into teaching and learning process workshops and seminars, coached robotics and served as software engineering mentors to robotics teams. He was selected in 2008 to present at the world robotics championships.

He has been an integral member of the American Armed Forces, building drones for the United States Army. These drones are used for surveillance to gather important information, as well as take out terrorist camps. He is currently working on a military game and collision avoidance software for drones. He keeps a low profile.

THE BIG STORY

MUSEUM OF THE WORLD

The world's greatest cities house the world's greatest collections of art and artifacts ever created. Some are so extraordinary that they're worth a visit to the city just to spend hours or even days to admire them all. You haven't seen the world if you haven't stepped into these buildings:

THE VATICAN MUSEUMS, ROME/VATICAN CITY

The Vatican Museums are Christian and art museums located within the city boundaries of the Vatican City. They display works from the immense collection amassed by popes throughout the centuries including several of the most renowned Roman sculptures and most important masterpieces of Renaissance art in the world.
The Vatican Museums (Italian: Musei Vaticani; Latin: Musea Vaticana) are Christian and art museums located within the city boundaries of the Vatican City. They display works from the immense collection amassed by popes throughout the centuries including several of the most renowned Roman sculptures and most important masterpieces of Renaissance art in the world. The museums contain roughly 70,000 works, of which 20,000 are on display, and currently employ 640 people who work in 40 different administrative, scholarly, and restoration departments.
Pope Julius Ii founded the museums in the early 16th century. The Sistine Chapel, with its ceiling decorated by Michelangelo and the Stanze di Raffaello decorated by Raphael, are on the visitor route through the Vatican Museums. In 2017, they were visited by 6 million people, which combined makes it the 4th most visited art museum in the world. It is one of the largest museums in the world.

MUSEUM OF THE WORLD

MOMA - MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK

The Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York City, colloquially "the Met", is the largest art museum in the United States. With 7.3 million visitors to its three locations in 2016, it was the fourth most visited art museum in the world, and the fifth most visited museum of any kind.
The Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York City, colloquially "the Met",[a] is the largest art museum in the United States. With 7.3 million visitors to its three locations in 2016, it was the fourth most visited art museum in the world, and the fifth most visited museum of any kind.[8] Its permanent collection contains over two million works,[9] divided among seventeen curatorial departments. The main building, on the eastern edge of Central Park along Museum Mile in Manhattan's Upper East Side is by area one of the world's largest art galleries. A much smaller second location, The Cloisters at Fort Tryon Park in Upper Manhattan, contains an extensive collection of art, architecture, and artifacts from Medieval Europe. On March 18, 2016, the museum opened the Met Breuer museum at Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side; it extends the museum's modern and contemporary art program.

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

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Not to be confused with Museum of Modern Art.
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» OTHER FAMOUS PAINTINGS IN THE WORLD

THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM, CAIRO

The Museum of Egyptian Antiquities, known commonly as the Egyptian Museum or Museum of Cairo, in Cairo, Egypt, is home to an extensive collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities. It has 120,000 items, with a representative amount on display, the remainder in storerooms.

The Egyptian Museum of Antiquities contains many important pieces of ancient Egyptian history. It houses the world's largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities. The Egyptian government established the museum built in 1835 near the Ezbekeyah Garden and later moved to the Cairo Citadel. In 1855, Archduke Maximilian of Austria was given all of the artifacts by the Egyptian government; these are now in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, ATHENS

The National Archaeological Museum in Athens houses some of the most important artifacts from a variety of archaeological locations around Greece from prehistory to late antiquity. It is considered one of the greatest museums in the world and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity worldwide.

The National Archaeological Museum (Greek: Εθνικό Αρχαιολογικό Μουσείο) in Athens houses some of the most important artifacts from a variety of archaeological locations around Greece from prehistory to late antiquity. It is considered one of the greatest museums in the world and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity worldwide.[1] It is situated in the Exarcheia area in central Athens between Epirus Street, Bouboulinas Street and Tositsas Street while its entrance is on the Patission Street adjacent to the historical building of the Athens Polytechnic university.

PRADO, MADRID

The Prado Museum is the main Spanish national art museum, located in central Madrid. It is widely considered to have one of the world's finest collections of European art, dating from the 12th century .

The Prado Museum (Spanish: Museo del Prado; Spanish pronunciation: is the main Spanish national art museum, located in central Madrid. It is widely considered to have one ofs by Francisco Goya, the single most extensively represented artist, as well as by Hieronymus Bosch, El Greco, Peter Paul Rubens, Titian, and Diego Velázquez, are some of the highlights of the collection.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM, LONDON

The British Museum, in the Bloomsbury area of London, United Kingdom, is a public institution dedicated to human history, art and culture. Its permanent collection of some eight million works is among the largest and most comprehensive in existence, having been widely sourced during the era of the British Empire.

THE HERMITAGE, ST. PETERSBURG

The State Hermitage Museum is a museum of art and culture in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The second-largest art museum in the world, it was founded in 1764 when Empress Catherine the Great acquired an impressive collection of paintings from the Berlin merchant Johann Ernst Gotzkowsky.

MUSEUM OF THE WORLD

THE LOUVRE, PARIS

The Louvre, or the Louvre Museum, is the world's largest art museum and a historic monument in Paris, France. A central landmark of the city, it is located on the Right Bank of the Seine in the city's 1st arrondissement. Wikipedia

The museum is housed in the Louvre Palace, originally built as the Louvre castle in the late 12th to 13th century under Philip II. Remnants of the fortress are visible in the basement of the museum. Due to the urban expansion of the city, the fortress eventually lost its defensive function and, in 1546, was converted by Francis I into the main residence of the French Kings.The building was extended many times to form the present Louvre Palace. In 1682, Louis XIV chose the Palace of Versailles for his household, leaving the Louvre primarily as a place to display the royal collection, including, from 1692, a collection of ancient Greek and Roman sculpture.In 1692, the building was occupied by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres and the Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture, which in 1699 held the first of a series of salons. The Académie remained at the Louvre for 100 years. During the French Revolution, the National Assembly decreed that the Louvre should be used as a museum to display the nation's masterpieces.

UFFIZI GALLERY, FLORENCE

The Uffizi Gallery is a prominent art museum located adjacent to the Piazza della Signoria in the Historic Centre of Florence in the region of Tuscany, Italy.

The Uffizi Gallery (Italian: Galleria degli Uffizi, pronounced is a prominent art museum located adjacent to the Piazza della Signoria in the Historic Centre of Florence in the region of Tuscany, Italy. One of the most important Italian museums and the most visited, it is also one of the largest and best known in the world and holds a collection of priceless works, particularly from the period of the Italian Renaissance. This 16th-century palace holds hundreds of masterpieces, including marvelous Renaissance sculptures and Botticelli's famous Birth of Venus, among other much-recognized masterworks of the Renaissance.

After the ruling house of Medici died out, their art collections were gifted to the city of Florence under the famous Patto di famiglia negotiated by Anna Maria Luisa, the last Medici heiress. The Uffizi is one of the first modern museums. The gallery had been open to visitors by request since the sixteenth century, and in 1765 it was officially opened to the public, formally becoming a museum in 1865.

STARTINGBLOCKS

THE PACESETTING PAGES

AFRICANFACTS

The largest lake in Africa is Lake Victoria. It is also the second-largest freshwater lake in the world, spanning 26,830 square miles

The shortest distance between Africa and Europe is only 8.9 miles (14.3 kilometers) of ocean

PROUDLY NIGERIA

NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA
International Economist

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, was born on 13th June, 1954 in Ogwashi-Ukwu, Delta State, where her father Professor Chukwuka Okonjo is the Eze (King) from the Obahai Royal Family of Ogwashi-Ukwu. She is an economist and international development expert. She sits on the Boards of Standard Chartered Bank, Twitter, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), and the African Risk Capacity (ARC). Previously, Okonjo-Iweala spent a 25-year career at the World Bank as a development economist, rising through the ranks to the No. 2 position of Managing Director, Operations from 2007 to 2011. As Managing Director, she had oversight responsibility for the World Bank's $81 billion operational portfolio in Africa, South Asia, Europe and Central Asia. Okonjo-Iweala spearheaded several World Bank initiatives to assist low-income countries during the 2008 – 2009, food crises and later during the financial crisis.
In 2010, she was Chair of the IDA replenishment, the World Bank's successful drive to raise $49.3 billion in grants and low interest credit for the poorest countries in the world.[5] During her time at the World Bank, she was also a member of the Commission on Effective Development Cooperation with Africa, which was set up by the Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark and held meetings between April and October 2008. She also served two terms as Finance Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and she was the first female to hold both positions (2003-2006, 2011-2015) under the leadership of President Olusegun Obasanjo and President Goodluck Jonathan respectively. Okonjo-Iweala was

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

educated at Queen's School, Enugu, St. Anne's School, Molete, Ibadan, and the International School Ibadan. She arrived in the USA in 1973 as a teenager to study at Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude with an AB in Economics in 1976. In 1981, she earned her Ph.D in regional economics and development from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a thesis titled Credit policy, rural financial markets, and Nigeria's agricultural development. She received an International Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), that supported her doctoral studies. She is married to Dr. Ikemba Iweala, a neurosurgeon. They have four children. During her first term as Minister of Finance under president Obasanjo's Administration, she spearheaded negotiations with the Paris Club of Creditors that led to the wiping out of US$30 billion of Nigeria's debt, including the outright cancellation of US$18 billion. In 2003 she led efforts to improve Nigeria's macroeconomic management including the implementation of an oil-price based fiscal rule where revenues accruing above a reference benchmark oil price were saved in a special account, 'The Excess Crude Account' which helped to reduce macro-economic volatility. She also introduced the practice of publishing each state's monthly financial allocation, from the Federal Government of Nigeria in the newspapers. This action went a long way in increasing transparency in governance. With the support of the World Bank and the IMF to the Federal Government of Nigeria, she helped build an electronic financial management platform-the Government Integrated Financial Management and Information System (GIFMIS), including the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), helping to curtail corruption in the process. As at 31 December 2014, the IPPIS platform had eliminated 62,893 ghost workers from the system and saved the government about $1.25 billion in the process. Okonjo-Iweala was also instrumental in helping the country obtain its first ever sovereign credit rating (of BB minus) from Fitch Ratings and Standard &

STRICTLY FOR JJCs

Plan Your Trip

Plan your routes and stops before you leave. Have contingency plans just in case you run into unexpected circumstances.
If you're traveling in your own car, take time out to conduct pre-trip checks on your vehicle and have an emergency contact handy.
Travel Light, pack the essentials
It's alright to have something to nibble on while you travel. Again, if you suffer from car sickness, you want to be careful with this one. Try sticking with foods with ginger.
Have the right electronics or books
Sometimes, having the right electronics in place can make a big difference to your entire trip. You would be responsible for your own entertainment so, stock up on movies, music or audio books if you can afford to.

Make Friends
Don't be a stranger; make friends with other passengers. You never can tell, you might need a shoulder to lean on.
Exercise
Staying put for a long period of time can take its toll on you. Most buses will make 2-3 stops along the way, so be sure to get off and stretch out a bit. Also take scheduled breaks if you're driving. While seated, try some foot, neck, and hand exercises as you progress in your trip.

Safety is Key
Maintain a good speed limit and patronize bus companies who enforce that. Make use of seat belts, they actually save lives. It's amazing how much we underrate this. Accidents are preventable but they can happen at any time – that's why they are called accidents. Apply all other road safety principles as a driver or a passenger…

FASHION ENTREPRENEUR
AKINWUMI ADESINA

Adesina was born to a Nigerian farmer in Ibadan, Oyo State. He attended a village school and graduated with a Bachelors in Agricultural Economics with First Class Honours from the University of Ife in 1981, where he was the first student to be awarded distinction by the university. He pursued his studies at Purdue University in Indiana, and briefly returned to Nigeria in 1984 to get married. He obtained his PhD (Agricultural Economics) in 1988 from Purdue where he won the Outstanding PhD Thesis for his research work. From 1990 to 1995, Adesina served as a senior economist at West African Rice Development Association (WARDA) in Bouaké, Ivory Coast. He worked at the Rockefeller Foundation since winning a fellowship from the Foundation as a senior scientist in 1988. From 1999 to 2003 he was the representative of the Foundation for the southern African area. From 2003 until 2008 he was an associate director for food security. Adesina was the Nigerian Agriculture Minister from 2010 to 2015. During this time the Permanent Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was Ibukun Odusote. Adesina was named as Forbes African Man of the Year for his reform of Nigerian agriculture. He introduced more transparency into the fertiliser supply chain. In 2010, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed him as one of 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals. Akinwumi Adesina was elected the 8th President of the African Development Bank in 2015 till date and he is the first Nigerian to hold the position. He previously served as Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Until his appointment as Minister in 2010, he was Vice President of Policy and Partnerships for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). He launched a strategy based on energy, agriculture, industrialisation, regional integration and bettering Africans' lives. The Board of Executive Directors approved the re-organisation of the structure around these five priorities. In September 2016, Adesina was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to serve as member of the Lead Group of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. In 2017, he was awarded 2017 World Food Prize. Upon receiving the prize on October 21, 2017, Adesina donated the $250,000 he received to the development of African youth in agriculture. While at

LEADERSHIP Cognoscenti ENRICH YOURSELF

» KEEPSAKES

6 LUXURIOUS TRAINS IN THE WORLD

1

Blue train

This train is located in South Africa. It has won several accolades for the top-notch service provided to the passengers. The total commute time of the train is 27 hours. It was started in 1946 to provide the best luxurious facilities for the elite of the society traveling from one part of the nation to another.

2

Pride of Africa

This train covers a total of close to 2,000 miles over a span of nine days. The train can accommodate around 72 passengers and most passengers are artistes, nature and wildlife enthusiasts and

3

Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian express

This train operates from Russia and is the country's most expensive train. A journey on this train will take you to Siberia and it gives you the opportunity to visit Lake Baikal, the biggest freshwater lake in the world.

4

Royal Scotsman

This train carries 36 passengers at a time and provides some of the world's best luxury services. The train also has a veranda for the guests to be able to enjoy the landscapes in an open environment and a well-stocked library that is accessible all day long.

5

Maharaja Express

This train is known to have unmatched standards among luxury trains across the world. it has two restaurants and can accommodate a total of 88 passengers. A journey in this train will take you through places like Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and others in Rajasthan.

6

Palace on Wheels

This train was established in 1982 and has since then been one of the most popular trains in India. The train services offer a week-long journey to places like Jaipur and Agra. The train has a fancy bar and restaurant and a spa.

please cut along this line and keep

please cut along this line and keep

BONUSPACK

THE TAKE-AWAYS THIS WEEK

83 kmh

FASTFORWARD

The highest speed attained by a destroyer ship, the 2,900 tonne French ship, *Le terrible* in 1935.

$94.8 billion

JUST UNBELIEVABLE

The total net worth of Jeff Bezos, CEO of Amazon and the world's richest man.

ETIQUETTE FOR ITALIANS

Eating

Italians generally wait for their host to sit before they do so and wait for them to indicate it is time to eat.

Some Italians may pray and say 'grace' before eating a meal.

Guests are invited to start eating when the host or head of the table says "Buon appetito" (Enjoy your meal).

If bread is on the table, try not to fill up on it before the main course begins. Use it to absorb the sauce at the end of the meal.

Some meals on special occasions can take hours to finish as conversation continues.

It is improper to put one's hands on one's lap, or to stretch one's arms while at the table.

Resting one's elbows on the table is also considered to be poor manners.

Do not leave the table until everyone has finished eating.

Drinking beverages other than water or wine with a meal is quite uncommon.

If someone does not want more wine, the typical custom is to leave the wine glass nearly full.

It is generally impolite to eat whilst walking.

Guests are not expected to help the host clean up after a meal.

Breakfast is not a big meal in Italian culture and is sometimes skipped.

Traditionally, Italians eat lunch together as a family. However, this is not always practised in the fast-paced environment of the modern day.

Outdoor (al fresco) dining is very popular in the summer months.

CROSSWORD

X	G	Y	Z	Y	O	H	B	S	W	E	E	P	I	N	G	Z	U	D	R
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X	P	T	Q	M	A	S	T	E	R	N	A	H	T	R	A	M	R	T	S
L	D	M	L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	R	H	L	L	E	S	I	R	M	U
B	R	E	H	T	O	R	B	P	H	D	O	E	B	M	J	N	J	P	R
U	P	L	I	X	E	S	V	R	R	O	P	M	D	J	U	D	E	A	R
R	H	A	Z	F	U	A	T	W	P	O	Y	H	A	R	V	S	W	S	E
I	A	S	G	Q	I	H	C	E	R	G	P	N	V	N	I	W	Y	S	C
A	R	U	Q	K	G	R	R	H	O	A	P	H	A	X	S	N	S	O	T
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D	S	E	L	Z	U	L	I	L	L	R	O	B	V	S	T	P	G	E	O
E	E	J	M	M	F	F	S	D	G	A	B	O	I	F	I	E	Z	R	N
V	E	J	E	A	E	U	D	E	B	R	U	T	R	E	P	E	B	H	F
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I	R	K	I	L	Q	K	C	L	S	A	H	P	A	I	A	C	H	N	T
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ASLEEP
AWAKEN
BETHANY
BLIND
BROTHER
BURIAL
CAIAPHAS
CAVE
DISCIPLES
EPHRAIM
FATHER
GLORIFIED
JERUSALEM
JUDEA
LAZARUS
LIFE
LIGHT
LOVED
MARTHA
MARY
MASTER
MESSIAH
PASSOVER
PERFUMED
PERTURBED
PHARISEES
PROPHESIED
RABBI
RESURRECTION
RISE
ROMANS
SANHEDRIN
SIGNS
SISTER
STONE
TEACHER
TEMPLE
TROUBLED
WEEPING
WEPT

WORD SEARCH

T	Y	V	U	F	A	Y	X	N	I	T	P	U	Q	W	N	J	P	O	P
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R	F	S	J	E	H	O	F	U	Y	L	S	E	L	R	O	P	A	J	R
B	L	Z	U	Q	M	B	F	G	C	C	E	E	O	M	A	X	I	D	E
N	R	U	T	A	S	M	F	H	I	D	O	C	F	Q	W	Y	Q	D	I
P	L	U	E	C	G	P	K	A	E	I	T	Z	Q	O	V	E	L	Y	S
F	A	O	I	T	U	C	R	X	Q	H	A	R	V	C	Z	P	H	C	L
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A	K	E	T	E	C	N	S	A	G	F	C	O	N	S	T	E	L	L	A
N	L	E	U	E	U	M	M	F	M	A	Z	S	J	J	E	W	C	K	L
E	M	T	C	R	R	K	C	I	A	X	T	Y	I	U	D	B	A	B	R
P	T	G	T	O	R	Z	L	O	U	Q	R	Q	V	T	E	S	E	R	O
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M	U	S	Q	W	X	S	O	S	H	C	L	H	I	A	V	L	O	T	E
V	M	R	A	A	N	U	G	C	L	S	X	G	T	I	P	C	V	N	P
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S	J	O	V	T	X	L	A	T	I	L	R	N	T	F	I	Y	S	H	R
K	H	F	K	K	V	R	F	X	G	S	E	S	M	T	L	D	R	Q	S
S	S	L	E	E	O	B	F	V	Y	V	E	U	P	V	L	H	B	I	T
V	R	Z	W	P	N	S	O	R	B	C	N	D	P	B	A	N	T	U	L
C	D	F	D	C	T	Z	E	K	A	U	Q	R	A	L	C	N	D	R	A
G	N	H	W	Y	V	A	J	P	R	L	C	D	H	E	B	Z	C	R	O
V	M	E	N	L	G	E	S	A	I	F	C	D	I	C	E	X	T	R	M
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ALIEN
ASTEROID
ASTRONAUGHT
BLACKHOLE
CALLISTO
COMET
CONSTELLATIONS
COSMONAUT
COSMOS
DARKMATTER
EARTH
EUROPA
GALAXY
GANYMEDE
JUPITER
LIGHTYEAR
LO
MARS
MERCURY
METEOR
MILKYWAY
MOON
NEBULAR
NEPTUNE
PLANET
PLUTO
ROCKET
ROVER
SATELLITE
SATURN
SHOOTINGS
SHUTTLE
SOLARSYST
SPACESTAT
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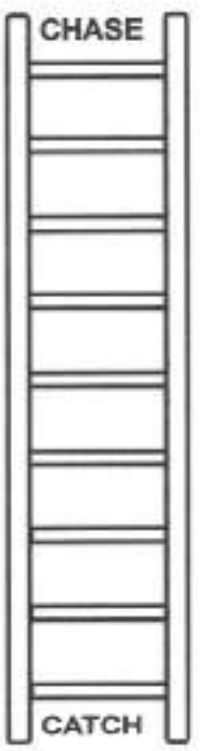

Clues:

Discontinue

Charter

Lead

Percolate

Fruit

Roost

Sear

Mend

SUDOKU CLASSIC

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
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				8			7	9

Beauty LOUNGE

Nail Candies

BY MILLICENT AREBUN ONUOHA

From shimmer bright tones, precious metals, silver sparkles, in-between pinks, and darkly sensual shades, painting your nails is a great style fix for almost anything and a cheer-me-up activity during menopausal episodes.

This season's pick of trendy nail colours are ultra-feminine and perfect for almost every style mood we find ourselves. Ranging from admiral blue, flame orange, lust teal, juicy sangria, shimmer gold, pastel shades, candy cotton pink, nautical blue, coffee brown, marsala red and neither-purple-nor-pink, choosing a stylish shade just got easier.

Lifestyle

3 Easy Ways To Improve Stretch Marks

BY OYINDAMOLA ABIODUN LAGOS

Stretch marks, also known as striae, are a form of scarring on the skin with an off-colour hue. They form during rapid growth of the body, such as during puberty or pregnancy. In pregnancy they usually form during the last trimester, and usually on the belly, stretch marks mostly commonly occur on the breasts, thighs, hips, lower back and buttocks. Stretch marks are natural and not bad if preventive measures even if not ashamed of.

Here are three home remedies improve the appearance of stretch marks

1. Aloe vera: Aloe vera contains vital enzymes, minerals, vitamins and fatty acids that help boost skin elasticity. Aloe can be used as a preventive measure for stretch marks. Apply fresh aloe vera pulp on your skin everyday to reduce the appearance of the marks.

2. Olive oil: Olive oil or extra virgin olive oil should be slightly heated and rubbed on the affected areas. This will also help existing stretch marks lighten. Since olive oil is rich in nutrients, vitamins and antioxidants, it is very effective and will give your skin a smooth finish. Do this twice a day for best results.

3. Sugar scrub: A good exfoliator will help you get rid of dead skin, eventually lightening your stretch marks. All you need for this scrub is: 1 tablespoon raw sugar, a few drops of almond oil and a few drops of lemon juice. Mix all the ingredients together and massage onto the stretch mark-prone areas. Wash off with warm water and you will see that your skin looks brighter and smoother.

event

Best Dressed Celebs @ ThisDay Awards 2020

BY MILLICENT AREBUN ONUOHA

A few days ago , the city of Lagos witnessed a night of major glitz and glamour, as our celebs, politicians, corporate bodies, pressmen and influencers flocked to the ThisDay Awards in their best style finery.

To crown the event, American R'n'B singer John Legend and Nigeria's Asa was live in Nigeria and performed their hits song to the delight of all present . From Naomi Campbell, Aliko Dangote, Femi Otedola, Jim Ovia, Segun Agbaje, Richard Mofe Damijo, Mo Abudu, Ruth Osime, Rotimi Ameachi, Adams Oshiomhole, Nkiru Anumudu to Fela Durotoye, Lisa Folawiyo, Denola Grey, Idia Aisien and more, the guest roll call was a list of the movers and shakers of all sectors of the Nigerian society and economy.

men's corner

8 Natural Ways To Grow Your Beard

BY MILLICENT AREBUN ONUOHA

Some people believe that beards stand for masculinity, so men with fully grown moustache and beard are a source of great pride. That is probably why 'grow beard faster' is one of the most popular search phrases on Google. If growing natural facial hair is what you have always wanted to know, particularly, your beard , here are a few beard growth tips that'll come in handy.

1. One of the things you can do is to exfoliate your skin at least once a week. This will help remove dead cells, stimulate hair growth and that's exactly how to get full beard on face naturally. Washing your skin with warm water using a mild cleanser twice a day helps clean skin which in turn aids fast hair growth.

2. Eucalyptus helps promote facial hair growth, so use a moisturiser with eucalyptus as the main ingredient and massage it on your face to grow your beard faster.

3. There are certain vitamins and minerals that help increase the speed at which facial hair grows. Include Vitamins A, B, C and E in your diet as they speed up the hair growth process. Taking 2.5 mg of biotin every day to help your beard grow faster.

4. Keep a tab on ingrown hair; beards usually don't grow evenly if there are ingrown hairs on your face.

5. Make sure you sleep well as this will help repair damaged skin cells and promote beard growth. Beards will grow more quickly when you are relaxed, and many beauty and health experts believe hair reveals stress. Manage stress in healthy ways through meditation and yoga for better results.

6. Increase the amount of protein in your diet. The protein found in meat, fish, eggs and nuts will help the hair on your face grow quicker.

7. Refrain from shaping or trimming your hair very often. Groom your beard only after six weeks when it is full grown. Facial massage improves blood circulation to the face, which will stimulate new hair growth.

8. Amla oil is a natural remedy to increase facial hair growth. Massage your skin with amla oil and leave it on for 15-20 minutes. Rinse your face with cold water and then clean it.

MEN'S HEALTH

Urinary Tract Infections

Urinary tract includes the parts of your body that make urine and carry it out of your body.

For men, these parts include your kidneys and bladder, as well as your ureters and urethra. Ureters are the twin tubes that carry urine from your kidneys to your bladder. Your urethra is the single tube that carries urine from your bladder past your prostate and to the tip of your penis.

If unhealthy bacteria build up anywhere in your urinary tract, this can cause an infection. And while urinary tract infections (UTIs) are much more common in women, men can also get them.

Types of Urinary Tract Infection

Doctors usually refer to UTIs as either "upper tract" or "lower tract." An upper-tract infection is one that happens in the ureters or kidneys. A lower-tract infection is one that happens in the bladder, prostate, or urethra.

UTI Symptoms

Depending on the location of your UTI, you may have one or more of these symptoms:

Frequent bathroom trips

Feeling like you have to pee all the time

Pain, burning, or discomfort while peeing or just after

Pain or tenderness below your stomach

Wetting the bed

Cloudy or smelly urine

Blood in your urine

Fever

Nausea

Pain in the sides or upper back

Some men don't have any symptoms at all.

Diagnosing a UTI

Your doctor will ask about your symptoms. He will also ask about your sexual history because sex can raise your risk for a UTI.

Urine tests can confirm whether you have a UTI. If your doctor thinks the problem might be related to your prostate, you may get a prostate exam. Rarely, you may also need to get an X-ray or ultrasound so your doctor can get a better look at your urinary tract.

Treatment for a UTI

Doctors usually treat UTIs with antibiotics you take by mouth. Your doctor will probably choose an antibiotic based on the likely source (such as your bladder) and the bacteria that most commonly cause your UTI. You'll probably start taking those antibiotics before you get the results of your urine test. (Your doctor may change the prescription if the test shows that the bacteria causing your UTI aren't targeted by your first antibiotic.)

If you have a lower urinary tract infection, you'll probably only need antibiotics for a week or less. If you have an upper-tract infection, you may need to take antibiotics for up to 2 weeks.

In rare and severe cases, you may need to take antibiotics by IV in a hospital.

UTI Causes and Risk Factors

The most common cause of a UTI in the urethra is a sexually transmitted disease. Chlamydia and gonorrhea are two STDs that can cause a UTI. STDs are also the most common cause of UTIs in younger men.

Prostate problems can also cause UTIs. An enlarged prostate (BPH) is common in older men and can block the flow of urine. This can increase the odds that bacteria will build up and cause a UTI.

Prostatitis, which is an infection of the prostate, shares many of the same symptoms as UTIs.

Diabetes and other medical issues that affect your immune system can also make you more likely to get a UTI.

UTI Complications

If untreated, a lower urinary tract infection can spread up to your kidneys. Doctors can usually treat kidney infections. In rare cases, an untreated kidney infection can lead to chronic kidney disease or kidney failure. A kidney infection can be serious, because it could cause sepsis (an infection in the bloodstream). If that happens and you feel very sick, you may need to be treated in a hospital.

Medical Terms And Meanings

Hematemesis

Hematemesis is the vomiting of blood. The source is generally the upper gastrointestinal tract, typically above the suspensory muscle of duodenum. Patients can easily confuse it with hemoptysis (coughing up blood), although the

Strange But True!

Rare condition causes man's testicles to swell to 7 pounds: case report

A 43-year-old Panama man was the focus of a recent case report that detailed a rare condition that caused his testicles to swell to an enormous size.

The man, who was not identified in the report published in the medical journal Urology Case Reports, was brought to a local emergency room with a rapid heartbeat and fever, as well as swelling and drainage – described as "foul-smelling, purulent fluid" – coming from two open wounds on his scrotum.

The man had reportedly not been to a doctor in 30 years, meaning physicians treating him had little insight into his medical history.

"Over the past three decades, his scrotal swelling had gradually worsened. He relied on a walker for ambulation and his mother attended to most of his daily needs," the researchers wrote, noting that his genitals had swelled to roughly 7 pounds and were 11.8 x 9.6 x 5.1 inches.

The man's testicles weighed roughly 7 pounds swollen, doctors wrote.

The man's testicles weighed roughly 7 pounds swollen, doctors wrote. (Urology Case Reports)

The patient was then diagnosed with Fournier gangrene, what the National Organization for Rare Disorders describes as "an acute necrotic infection of the scrotum; penis; or perineum," which is the area between the anus and the genitals.

"It is characterized by scrotum pain and redness with rapid progression to gangrene and sloughing of tissue. Fournier gangrene is usually secondary to perirectal or periurethral infections associated with local trauma, operative procedures, or urinary tract disease," it adds.

The man had reportedly not seen a doctor in 30 years.

The condition most often affects men but has been reported in women and children in some cases. Urinary tract or bladder infections, hysterectomies and abscesses can sometimes lead to Fournier gangrene.

The man also suffered from grade 4 lymphedema on his right leg and groin, a category of swelling that's most often associated with patients with elephantiasis, according to the report. A CT scan of the man's abdomen and pelvis also revealed he was suffering from a massive hernia in his groin. He also had a large abscess and a swollen left kidney due to a buildup of urine. His flesh was also decaying.

The patient required emergency surgery to remove the infected tissue on and near his scrotum. During the procedure, doctors were forced to perform a "dorsal slit" to his penis – meaning it was cut lengthwise – to insert a catheter.

The man also underwent a scrotectomy, or a total or partial removal of the scrotum, they wrote, before a plastic surgery team at the hospital repaired the affected region.

Two days later, he was released to a rehab center.

Your Sexual Health Question Answered

Can I Get Pregnant The First Time I Have Sex?

Yes, you can. You can even get pregnant even if you have never had a period before.

Pregnancy, or more correctly, conception, happens when a viable sperm enters a viable ovum (egg). Because eggs only live for 12 to 24 hours, sex has to occur around the time of ovulation for a pregnancy to occur - specifically, the five days before ovulation through to the day of ovulation. This period of time is called the "fertile window" and reflects the lifespan of an ovum and the lifespan of sperm (around 5 days although, rarely, some sperm may last 7 days).

Sex that occurs before a first period could potentially result in a pregnancy if ovulation occurs within five to seven days of the sex. And it has done, many times, as numerous teenagers will testify.

Ovulation in many women, and in particular teenagers, can also be hard to predict if menstrual cycles are irregular. Which is why ANY stage of the menstrual cycle should be treated as a "risk period" for pregnancy until your cycles become predictable.

Pregnancy is not the only thing you need to consider before having sex. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are also prevalent; although the risk of transmission is greatly reduced by condom usage.

JOKE

Smart Diana

Diana went to a doctor and asked, "What is your fees for visiting a patient's home?"

The Doctor replied, "N1000."

The Doctor took his bike. Diana sat behind him and reached a house.

DOCTOR: Where is the patient?

DIANA: There is no patient. The taxi driver asked for N1500 to drop me home but you agreed for N1000.

KIDS HEALTH

Flu In Toddlers

Toddlers can experience numerous colds each year before they start school. However, influenza, or flu, can take these aches and pains to a higher and potentially much more serious level.

It is common for very young children to experience illness many times each year due to their developing immune systems and a tendency to put everything into their mouths.

Symptoms

A toddler with the flu may experience a runny nose, sore throat, and dry cough. The flu is an acute, viral, respiratory infection that most people recover from in 3–7 days.

Symptoms of the flu in toddlers are similar to those of adults and may include: Dry cough, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, fever, muscle aches, headaches, tiredness.

When children get the flu, they are also more likely than adults to experience gastrointestinal problems, such as vomiting and diarrhea.

> *Even though most toddlers will recover quickly and without complications, the flu can be dangerous for some young children*

Difference between cold and flu symptoms

What appear to be flu symptoms in toddlers can be signs of other illnesses, such as a cold. Knowing what is causing a child's illness helps adults provide better care, promotes a better recovery, and reduces the risk of complications.

The following are key differences between cold and flu symptoms in toddlers:

Speed of onset: If symptoms come on very quickly, it is more likely to be the flu.

Fever and chills: A high fever and chills are more likely to be signs of the flu.

Muscle aches: Aching muscles are more common in children with the flu.

Headache: Headaches are more frequently with the flu than with a cold.

Low energy and appetite: Children are typically more lethargic and less hungry with the flu than a cold.

Treatment

Children will typically recover in a week, but they may still feel tired for roughly 3–4 weeks. Key elements of successful home treatment include: Getting plenty of rest, drinking lots of fluids, using ibuprofen or acetaminophen in pediatrician-recommended dosages.

People should never treat a child's fever with aspirin due to its connection to Reye's syndrome.

A doctor can offer treatment if it is needed. Toddlers who may be at risk of serious complications can take flu antiviral medication. However, this treatment is most effective if the child receives it within 48 hours of symptoms appearing.

Risk factors

Even though most toddlers will recover quickly and without complications, the flu can be dangerous for some young children.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), children aged 6 months to 5 years face a significant risk of developing complications due to the flu.

The illness results in between 7,000–26,000 child admissions to the hospital every year. Although it is very rare, the flu can be fatal for some children.

According to the CDC, children are at a higher risk of getting the flu and experiencing complications when they have additional health concerns. These concerns include: Asthma, diabetes, cancer, immune system problems, chronic lung disease, heart disease, kidney disorders.

Outlook

Although the flu can be dangerous for some, most toddlers will recover from the flu in a week or less. They can remain contagious for up to 1 week or longer after becoming sick.

A child should be free from fever for at least 24 hours before it is safe for them to return to nursery or childcare. However, some schools or childcare providers may have other specific rules. If a person has concerns about any of the symptoms a toddler has, they should seek medical help

PHOBIA

Tomophobia – *Fear of Swallowing*

refers to fear or anxiety caused by forthcoming surgical procedures and/or medical interventions.

DISCOVERY

Brief History Of Breast Reduction Surgery

Large breasts can make exercising and other activities difficult. Having large breasts can also have negative psychological effects, as some individuals feel self-conscious about their breast size.

Breast reduction surgery, which doctors may call reduction mammoplasty, is a medical procedure that reduces the overall size of a person's breasts and can help people who have overly large breasts that cause neck, shoulder, or back pain.

Doctors may recommend breast reduction surgery for males who have gynecomastia, which is a medical condition in which the breast tissue swells due to high levels of estrogen.

The abnormal breast has raised concern for centuries, thus giving rise to the art and science of reduction mammaplasty. This volumetric reduction in the breast bulk is done to either alleviate clinical symptoms or to improve body image.

Greek physician Paulus Aegina described breast reduction for gynaecomastia in the seventh century AD , while German Hans Schaller reported breast amputation for gigantomastia in 1561 and later on Briton William Durston reported breast reduction for breast hypertrophy in 1669. However, it was the German Dieffenbach who precisely described performing a lower pole breast reduction by excising the lower two-thirds of the breast and its posterior segment whilst hiding the scar in the inframammary fold.

American Gaillard Thomas undertook significant glandular resection via the submammary route in 1880s. While Guinard in 1903 excised the posterior segments of the breast without skin excision, Frenchman Morestin in 1908 excised both glandular tissue with the skin. Resulting breast ptosis was tackled by Pousson in 1897 and Dehner in 1908 by anchoring the upper pole of the gland to the pectoralis major muscle or the periosteum of the third rib respectively.2 Later on, Gobell in 1927 utilized fascia lata to fix the gland to the third rib. As growing concern over breast ptosis grew, Goulian in 1971 developed the dermodermal dermopexy which provided better results than the preceding dermoglandular, dermomuscular and dermohypodermal dermopexies.

To improve the appearance of the breast following reduction, free nipple grafting was introduced by Thorek in 1922 and Lexter in 1925. This technique was not popular and in 1923 Aubert described nipple transposition that permitted variability in the site and volume of breast reduction. However, this came with the difficulty of ensuring that both the remaining glandular stump and the nipple were well vascularized by either an external pedicle or internal pedicle or both. Gland remodeling was also employed to avert contour deformities, scarring and residual breast deviation.

Procedure

Before surgery, a person may need to stop taking over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medications, such as aspirin and ibuprofen, as these can increase bleeding.

Doctors also encourage people who smoke to quit several weeks before the procedure. Smoking will increase the risk of nipple or areolar damage, tissue necrosis, and other complications. Therefore, it is essential that people discuss any tobacco product use, including vaping, with the doctor.

The plastic surgeon performing the procedure will use a marker to draw guidelines for the incisions. The size of the breasts, the position of the nipples, and the person's preferences will determine the exact incision pattern.

A surgeon starts by making an incision around the areola. Then, they continue the incision beneath the breast, at which point they may remove excess skin from the sides of the breast.

After making the incisions, the surgeon will remove excess breast tissue, reshape the remaining tissue, and reposition the nipple and areola. The surgeon will close the remaining skin with sutures and surgical tape.

If the breasts are particularly large, it may be necessary to remove the nipples and areolas from the body and then place them back on the breasts in a procedure called a free nipple graft. The nipples will regrow into the new position, but they will usually be permanently numb afterward.

After the procedure, the surgeon or a nurse will wrap the breasts in gauze bandages. The insertion of small tubes into the breasts is sometimes necessary to drain excess fluid and reduce swelling after the operation. People should avoid showering until a nurse removes these drainage tubes.

> *Doctors may recommend breast reduction surgery for males who have gynecomastia, which is a medical condition in which the breast tissue swells due to high levels of estrogen*

Natural Remedies Café

Grapefruit For Malaria, Healthy Skin, Others

Grapefruit is a subtropical citrus fruit botanically known as Citrus paradise, sweet and somewhat bitter in taste. It has a species called the white grapefruit, with lots of juicy flesh and skinny outer covering.

Grapefruit is a nice fruit containing a beneficial antioxidant, a soluble dietary fiber called pectin that is essential to health, low in calories but high in nutrients. It may vary in color and size but the taste and quality remain the same always; as discussed at the beginning that it has a sweet-sour taste and should not be taken while on medications because it could be risky.

It is rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and other nutrients such as polyphenols, the fiber that offers various health benefits to the body such as heart health management, weight loss program, and others. This fruit also provides wonderful benefits to the body when consumed in several ways such as eating the fruit, drinking the juice or using the seeds as medicine. Some of the health benefits include:

> *Grapefruit is a very good weight loss diet that should be incorporated into daily meals*

Treating Malaria and Feverish Conditions

The juice of grapefruits contains naturally occurring quinine that helps in treating malaria and related feverish conditions.

Grape juice is a natural remedy for malaria and can flush off fever within a few days and supply the body system with certain vitamins and minerals that thwarts malaria.

All you need to do is to drink the juice of this fruit every two hours during the day to flush out all the toxins and malaria-causing parasites in the body.

Controls Blood Pressure

Grape juice helps to bring down high blood pressure, in other words, called hypertension because of the presence of polyphenol in it.

When hypertension is not put under control, it can cause heart diseases such as heart failure. Therefore, taking just a glass of grape juice once daily can help to prevent heart failure caused by high blood pressure.

Grapefruit also has a combination of powerful nutrients such as fiber, potassium, lycopene, vitamin C, and choline that work together to keep the heart-healthy.

Good for The Skin

Active ingredients, such as antioxidants in grapefruit works marvelously on the skin by fighting skin colorations and wrinkles.

Vitamins and other important nutrients in grape make it very good for facial exfoliation which helps to remove dead skin cells, improves collagen production and generally promotes healthy skin.

Additionally, the amount of water content in this fruit helps to keep the skin hydrated just as it does to the internal body system.

Improves Immune System Health

Grapefruits contain essential minerals and vitamins that are beneficial to the immune system. They also have some phytochemicals and micronutrients which the immune system relies on for its several protectives, singling and potential functions.

Good For the Insulin

It has a moderated glycaemic index such that it doesn't have any negative effect on the insulin or blood sugar level.

Grapefruit contains properties that help in preventing insulin resistance and lowering high blood pressure caused by an increase in the blood sugar level.

A scientific experiment was carried out to compare metformin, which is a medication for treating type-2 diabetes and grapefruit juice and grape juice was found just as effective as the drug.

The above experiment proved that grapefruit is used to treat type-2 diabetes and prevent spiking of blood sugar that leads to such conditions.

Stops Cancer Formation in the Body

The presence of essential vitamins such as vitamin C and lycopene helps to suppress the formation of cancer radicals in the body.

Another important property in grapefruit is naringenin, which is an antioxidant that has bioactive benefits on human health such as fighting free radicals in the body and destroying cancer cells.

Hydrates The Body

It is a good hydrating fruit because of the quantity of water content that works to replenish the body fluid.

One grapefruit is said to have 91% of water content in it which can help to prevent dehydration because the body depends on water to survive.

Due to the presence of fiber and enough water in grapefruits, it is good for the digestive tract and prevents constipation.

Grapefruit contains lots of water for body hydration which is very essential to overall human health because it helps all the tissues, organs and cells of the body to function properly.

Good For Weight Loss

Grapefruit is a very good weight loss diet that should be incorporated into daily meals.

Research shows that grapefruit help in weight loss due to the presence of dietary fiber, high water content and low calories.

According to the research made so far, taking the fruit before a meal has proven its effectiveness in weight reduction. (Proven by a nutrition Doctor: Dr. Kellyann Petrucci)

Taking just half of grapefruit or glass of its juice before daily meals helps a lot in weight reduction as its water and fiber content can balance the number of calories in the body and potentially lead to weight loss.

Helps to Quicken Wound Healing

Grapefruit contains a good amount of vitamin C which is the major component of wound healing that helps in new blood vessel formation on wound areas.

One full grapefruit contains 72 milligrams of vitamin C which is equivalent to 120 percent daily value required for the human body.

Therefore, the daily intake of grapefruit supplies the body with the amount of this vitamin that contributes to forming healthy scar tissues caused by surgical operations and other injuries.

Naira Marley Is Not A Marlian

Many celebrities posing under a lifestyle have in one way or another attained a height in education before they even ventured into the business of entertainment. **ANTHONY ADA ABRAHAM** pictures the background of Naira Marley and why his fans must think twice

Gone are the days when parents discouraged their children to take to some professions especially in entertainment or sports. In those days, parents want their children to be either lawyer, doctor, engineer, pilot etc. But today, the case is different. Most parents are in support of their children or wards going into entertainment or sports looking at the huge financial benefits it brings.

Some have even sponsored their songs, football academy fees just to take them to that height that would bring endorsements and signings from big football clubs. But it comes with a prize.

On May 10, 2019, Azeez Fashola popularly known as Naira Marley made headlines and became very popular as he was arrested by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, alongside his friends, Zlatan, Tiamiu Abdulrahman Kayode, Adewunmi Adeyanju Moses and Abubakar Musa. The arrest was made a day after he released the video to his controversial song "Am I A Yahoo Boy?".

On May 15, 2019, Zlatan and three others were released on administrative bail, leaving only Naira Marley in the EFCC custody, because of overwhelming evidence against him.

On May 30, 2019, Naira Marley released a song "Why", accompanied by an image of him in handcuffs, in the track, he talks about why people always makes him the major player of any controversial incident, he also talks about the betrayal of trust, deceit and pretence from his friends. Later that day, he was granted bail in the sum of ₦2,000,000

While growing up, Naira Marley had the passion of becoming an MC and voice over artiste. Later in his life, he also discovered that he had passion for music and began singing in 2014 with encouragement from some of his friends, which led to the release of his first track, "Marry Juana" featuring Max Twigz, who is one half of the Cannabis Boyz, before releasing his debut EP Gotta Dance in 2015.

Though since he became famous, many have looked at him like one of those musical riffraff who are just in the music industry to make money without solid background or foundation.

Many so-called Marlians don't know that at the age of 11, Naira Marley moved to Peckham, South London, England where he started off with his education at Porlock Hall, before moving to Walworth School where he obtained his General Certificate of Secondary Education. Naira Marley graduated from the Peckham Academy in the UK, where he obtained a business degree. The shocking aspect of his biography is that, he holds a master's degree also.

So, his Marlian lifestyle he originated is his own way of pulling fans and making the best out of it financially. It would shock anyone who cares to know that many celebrities have to abandon their career for music because of the passion they have for it. There are professional lawyers, doctors, nurses, bankers, engineers etc who are making wave in the music industry today and making more money while doing what they love most.

The irony of not understanding an entertainer's mind-set is that one gets to indulge in all kinds of lifestyle which the artiste(s) portrays to sell themselves musically and gain fans.

Some so-called Marlians believe Naira Marley is of the streets and want to be identified negatively with him. Though Marley is not righteous as many want to portray him, he has lots of flaws with what he shows to the public and especially, the gullible youths who now feel they can be called Marlians because they are into some certain kinds of lifestyle.

The qualms is , some drug addicts, prostitutes, runs babes, and social media video vixens who are supposed to know better are some of his biggest fans, forgetting that he has attained a certain level of education and enlightenment not in Nigeria but in the United Kingdom.

When LEADERSHIP spoke with a music pundit, Shola Ibukun, he said Nigerian youths should know that Naira Marley is working for his money and could pretend to be anything just to gain attention.

"I amsorry to say, but our youths are really jobless because if they ain't, they wouldn't be killing themselves because of Naira Marley. He has been in existence for long but nobody cared to patronise him until he was arrested by the EFCC.

"I know many may not believe me or my point but he's just working for his money and Nigerian youths should desist from attributing their failure in life to him. I also advise Naira Marley to also use the opportunity he has to school his fans from indulging in negative vices so that people would know he's not just what people think he is."

> *Some so-called Marlians believe Naira Marley is of the streets and want to be identified negatively with him*

DR. YAKUBU TOR AGBIDYE SHOULD BE CALLED TO ORDER – TIV MEMBERS OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE, TARABA STATE

1. Our attention is drawn to an interview granted by Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye and published in the Taraba Truth and Facts, an online publication on the 15th day of January 202. Ordinarily, we had the option to ignore the publication as it was re-circulated in the social media which on several occasions had published unsubstantiated faceless articles on issues relating to this committee but on a second thought it has become imperative to respond to some of the issues raised in the said interview which Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye mischievously, berated, castigated, maligned, disparaged, condemned and incited the general public against the erstwhile formidable, credible and highly intelligent committed Tiv members of the Taraba State 30-man peace and reconciliation committee constituted by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Taraba State to broker peace in the lingering crisis between the Jukun and the Tiv people of Southern Taraba State, so that the people will know the truth about the committee and its achievements so far.

2. ON THE CLAIM BY DR. YAKUBU TOR AGBIDYE THAT THE GOVERNOR OF TARABA STATE HANDPICKED THE TIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

It is our position that the Governor of Taraba State has constitutional and statutory powers to constitute any committee for any particular purpose or function in Taraba State and he has power therefore to appoint any qualified person from Taraba State or beyond depending on the nature of the assignment to be carried out. The Executive Governor of Taraba State has enormous sources he can consult to get qualified and suitable persons to serve on various committees in the course of his Government. This he can do without the permission or recourse of any person whatsoever including Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye who sounds os ignorant of workings of Government in this regard. It is not a requirement of law or administrative best practices that the community must be publicly asked to hold large meetings ot nominate certain names to be appointed to serve on government committees. Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye may recall that when he was appointed as a special adviser to the Acting Governor of Taraba State, Garba Umar (UTC) the whole community in Donga were not asked to nominate him and yet he served graciously, even though the Tiv people were been massacred during the tenure of the Acting Governor until when the present Executive Governor of Taraba State, His Execellency Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku was duly elected and sworn in that the Tiv people were rescued.

Furthermore, maybe Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye has forgotten too soon that he contested and lost woefully the senatorial election for Taraba South in the last election under AA party platform and thereafter proceeded to join APC which gubernatorial candidate also was roundly defeated by his Excellency Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku both at the polls and law courts up to the supreme court and yet Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye wants to be consulted by the same Governor or appointed into the committee before it will be credible! We advise Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye to concentrate in his opposition politics proper and not to hide under Taraba Tiv people's Association to fight the Government of Taraba State and genuine committees put in place by the Taraba State government to find lasting solutions to the lingering crisis in Southern Taraba.

3. ON THE CLAIM BY DR. YAKUBU TOR AGBIDYE THAT THE PEACE COMMITTEE HAS DONE NOTHING AND ACHIEVED NOTHING

We wish to state here without any fear of contradiction that the Taraba State peace committee put in place by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Taraba State has recorded some remarkable achievements and has succeeded in bringing relative peace in southern Taraba State having worked tirelessly in conjunction with the government of Taraba State, the affected, Local Government Councils, Traditional rulers in the affected areas, Security agencies and stakeholders. From the self-induced, sponsored, doctored and tele guided interview we can deduce here that the self-appointed Tiv leader, Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye who is now parading at far away Abuja and who only came back from U.S recently but his wife and children are safe in America as U.S citizens appears to know little or nothing about events that had trended or trending in Taraba State.

It may be recalled that on the 1st of Aprinl 2019, when the crisis broke out between the Jukun and Tiv at Kente in Wukari LGA of Taraba State, it quickly spread to Donga and Takum LGAs of Taraba State. Concerted efforts by the Taraba State Government did not yield the sesired results. The Taraba/Benue Peace Committee set up by the two states could not stop further escalation of the crisis, not even the Taraba/Benue meeting with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation abated the escalation of the crisis.

It was at this critical point that His Excellency the Executive Governor of Taraba State, Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku after due consultations and considerations with relevant stakeholders and security agencies constituted this very important and result-oriented internal 30-Man Peace Committee drawn from Wukari, Takum and Donga LGAs including 15 Tiv members whose nomination was based on their track record of service and community concerns and engagements and infact some of the members are Civil Servants in Taraba State at the status of Directors in their professional capapcities.

The members of the committee after inaugural meetings on the 25th to 26th September, 2019 proceeded to the crisis area of Southern Taraba particularly Wukari, Takum and Donga LGAs, where intensive and crucial meetings were held with a cross section of Traditional Rulers, Stakeholders, Opinion Leaders, Youth and Women, and after intensive deliberations, analysis and considerations, the people accepted the peace initiative by the Government of Taraba State and put forward their demands and suggestions for lasting peace in Southern Taraba, which were well documented and submitted personally to the Taraba State Governor, His Excellency Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku on the 8th of October, 2019 at Government House Jalingo and His Excellency promised to peruse same and take necessary actions. We are patiently waiting for His Excellency's reactions to the demands.

Before this committee was put in place, the security situation in Southern Taraba had deteriorated to the extent that apart from massive attacks on Towns and Villages on daily basis, one could not travel freely from Wukari to Takum, Wukari to Jootar, Wukari to Rafin Kada, Wukari to Kente, Wukari to Ibi road e.t.c but following the intensive work of the committee, road-blocks in these areas have now been dismantled. The Jukun and Tiv now patronize these roads freely. Markets have been opened in Takum and Donga and both Jukun and Tiv go to these markets to do their businesses freely with all other tribes. As of now in Takum and Donga Local Government Areas, the displaced people have now returned almost fully and are going about their normal businesses.

Unfortunately, the situation in Wukari is not good as the displaced Tiv people have not been allowed to return to their ancestral homes before the crisis and we hereby appeal to the Wukari Local Government Council, Wukari Traditional Rulers, and Stakeholders to emulate their brothers from Takum and Donga to facilitate the return of all displaced people to their homes to pursue their normal activities.

It is also record that the Peace Committee succeeded in delivering relief materials to the displaced Tiv people in Wukari, Takum and Donga LGAs which were made available by the Government of Taraba State to ameliorate and cushion the hardship occasioned by the crisis. The wrong assertions by Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye that the Peace Committee has done nothing and achieved nothing is therefore unfounded, unsubstantiated, misguided and misfired and goes to no issue whatsoever.

4. ON CLAIM BY DR. YAKUBU TOR AGBIDYE THAT HE IS A TIV LEADER

We wish to refute here categorically that Yakubu Tor Agbidye is not a Tiv leader in Taraba State. In fact, he is not even a leader in his immediate family of Tor Agbidye, he is a very Junior member of the Tor Agbidye family. He is neither vast nor properly schooled in the historical and trending events in Taraba State because immediately he lost the senatorial elections in Southern Taraba which he contested under the platform of one of the unpopular political parties, 'AA', he ran away to Abuja and aligned himself with those attacking the government of his Excellency Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku, Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye is an egoist and selfish person who hardly not know that holding Ph.D per-se does not automatically bestow on one leadership. In fact, Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye does not attract to himself any respect in his Akate ward in Donga LGA of Taraba State.

In fact, he has a strange character. He was found actively supporting and campaigning for a politician in Taraba State who was actively colluding with outsiders and foreigners to massacre, decimate and annihilate the Tiv people in Taraba State. Immediately he arrived from the U.S, he contested an election against all advises from his senior relations. He lost woefully. He hardly relates and consult with the Tiv people in Taraba State. He has come back from the U.S to grap power.

He has no magic wand to end the Jukun-Tiv crisis but feels without him nothing can be done and he fancy making derogatory and inflammatory comments on his Tiv brothers particularly on the peace committee but our silence should not be misconstrued as weakness on our part but we only want to show maturity in handling issues very vital to our very existence in Taraba State. It is not beating drums of war that is the ultimate. Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye should remember that all wars fought on the battle field are always settled through dialogue on a round table. That is why we prefer peaceful resolutions of the Jukun-Tiv crisis than war without end.

5. ON CLAIM BY DR. YAKUBU TOR AGBIDYE THAT ONLY SHARING OF POLITICAL OFFICES WITH JUKUNS WILL BRING PEACE TO SOUTHERN TARABA

While we agree with Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye that sharing of political offices is one of the many demands and concerns of the Tiv people in Taraba State, we beg to seriously disagree with him that it is the only thing that will end the crisis. In fact, sharing of elective positions was practiced in southern Taraba long before Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye returned from U.S. Recall that in 1979, elective positions in Wukari were shared amongst Jukun, Tiv and Hausa through peaceful negotiations without bloodshed as Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye appears to be agitating.

Also in 1979, in Takum/Donga Federal Constituency a Tivman was elected as a member House of Representatives through peaceful negotiation without bloodshed.

Again in 1983, a Tivman was elected a member of the House of Representative, representing same Takum/Donga Federal Constituency through peaceful negotiations.

Further in 1991, a Tivman was elected a member of the House of Representative, representing Donga State Constituency through negotiation and not through violence or bloodshed.

The above achievements in the political history of the Tiv people was long before Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye came back from the U.S and even the rotation of councillorship in Akate Ward, Donga LGA as claimed by Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye was achieved through peaceful negotiations and not through propagation of violence, threat of war or intimidation.

The Tiv people have collectively submitted a memo on this regard to His Excellency the Executive Governor of Taraba State Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku and the Peace Committee also repeated the same or similar demands or concerns for peaceful resolution of the lingering Jukun-Tiv crisis in Southern Taraba. These include among others:-

a) Issue of indigeneship and settlers. That Tiv people should be considered and treated as indigenes and not settlers in Taraba State.
b) Issuance of indigene certificate to Tiv people particularly in Wukari Local Government Area.
c) Elevation of our Traditional rulers in Taraba State.
d) Return or reinstatement of polling units earlier cancelled arbitrarily.
e) Employment of more Tiv people in Wukari LGA and Taraba State.
f) Arbitrary takeover or seizure of Tiv farmlands.
g) Renaming of Tiv villages.
h) Airing of news and programmes in Tiv language in State media houses.
i) Return of displaced Tiv people and of course
j) Sharing of political and elective positions e.t.c.

In regard to the above, we appreciate His Excellency the Executive Governor of Taraba State as he has already met some of our demands that the Tiv people are indigenes of Taraba State and also he has already appointed a Tiv woman as commissioner in the present regime. Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye may recall that in the 1st tenure of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Taraba State, Arch. Darius Dickson Ishaku set a record by appointing 12 Tiv sons and daughters into key Government positions as Commissioners, Special Advisers, Senior Special Assistants, Special Assistants and Board Members. This represents the highest in the history of appointment of Tiv sons and daughters in key government positions since the creation of Taraba State.

We believe that as we appreciate the Governor, he will even do more for us in Taraba State.

We call on Wukari Local Government Council, Wukari Traditional Council and other stakeholders to emulate what Takum and Donga LGCs have done in the area of return of displaced persons and opening up of markets to bring lasting peace in Wukari LGA of Taraba State.

On the issue of Kwararafa / Dan-Anacha, we, as a peace committee in Taraba State, are calling on all the warring parties to exercise restraint and maintain peace in the area as the Taraba State Government has already deployed security personnel to the area to maintain peace and order.

We finally appeal to Taraba State government and people to disregard, discountenance and dismiss the rantings of Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye and continue with the peace initiative put in place by his Excellency the Executive Governor of Taraba State, as wars fought on battle field are always resolved on round table dialogue.

However, we call on his Excellency the Executive Governor of Taraba State to call Dr. Yakubu Tor Agbidye and his group to order as he appears to be inciting the people to take up arms again and continue to fight each other after the security men deployed to southern Taraba have ended their operation.

SIGNED:

1. Chief Teghtegh Shaakaa
2. Hon Samson Tormusa
3. Hon Kurason A. Kura
4. Hon Ukaa Ukondo
5. Mrs. Mercy Gbashi
6. Hon Stephen Butu
7. Bar Jime Yongo
8. Mr Isaac Waakaa
9. Hon Rebeccah Manasseh
10. Pst. James Unongo — Pst. James Unongo
11. Hon Philip Nzuwe — for
12. Mr. Joseph Yawe — J. Yawe
13. Mr. Bua Yaku — Bua
14. Mr. Peter Suleagboor
15. Mr. Haruna Mku

Regulating Gas Plants' Locations To Reduce Explosions

Incessant gas explosions in Nigeria has been blamed on several factors. In this report, stakeholders emphasised the importance of better regulation of gas plants' locations in the country.

The Jan. 4 gas explosion, which occurred on Kachia Road, Sabon Tasha, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killed about six people, including the Director General, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Prof. Simon Mallam.

The Jan. 4 gas explosion, which occurred on Kachia Road, Sabon Tasha, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killed about six people, including the Director General, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, Prof. Simon Mallam.

The explosion also left several people injured. The incident recorded high casualty because the facility is located in a residential and high population density area.

A brief review showed that several incidences of gas explosions occurred in the country in 2019, while Lagos State was the most affected.

In March, there was gas explosion at Babs Animashun, in front of Census Market, Surulere, Also in July, gas pipeline explosion killed two people and many injured, all in Lagos State.

In October, no fewer than 11 persons in Abuja suffered various degrees of burns from a gas explosion.

A month earlier, in Lafia, Nasarawa State, dozens were left dead with hundreds injured when a gas tanker exploded and caught fire.

Today, cooking gas is widely used by the womenfolk because of its energy efficiency, while kitchens are gradually becoming the den of deaths due to the number of deaths caused by explosions of cooking gas cylinders.

Currently, the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, declared Nigeria a gas nation, and is working out modalities to ensure use of gas for economic development and penetration of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) also known as cooking gas.

Experts attributed the major cause of gas explosion in the country to poor awareness on use of LPG and illegal locations of most gas plants

They pointed out that a lot of fake cylinders were in circulation, and stressed the need to educate Nigerians on how to identify a fake or expired cylinder.

They are of the opinion that penetration of LPG was a step in the right direction, but effort must be made to educate Nigerians on best use of LPG to avoid explosion.

They challenged the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to be proactive and ensure that gas plants are built in safe places.

Mr Tunde Ishmael, an energy expert said that most Nigerians patronise illegal gas sellers because of closeness.

"It will be tough for government to get these illegal gas sellers out of the streets because most of them are making their living from the business.

"What the DPR needs to do now is to go round the streets and take statistics of people doing this business and find a way to relocate them to the right locations.

"If government wants real penetration of LPG, there is a lot of work in their hands, awareness should be key, I have not seen them doing this," he said.

A former National Coordinator of Women in LPG Group, Mrs Nkechi Obi, said that bringing fake cylinders into the country "is like bringing explosives into homes, which can be deadly.

"The monster called corruption is responsible for those cylinders that found their way into Nigeria without foreign certification.

"What do we say of the officials who cleared such goods?" She queried.

But the DPR through its spokesman, Mr Paul Osu, revealed that the gas explosion in Kaduna was caused by illegal decanting (transfer) of LPG into another cylinder by operators of the facility.

To avoid repeat of such incident in the state and other areas, the Kaduna State Environmental Authority, in collaboration with DPR ordered the immediate closure of about 87 illegal gas outlets in the state.

Jibrin Lawal, General Manager of the agency, said the closure was in line with Gov. Nasir El-Rufai's directive, adding that the sealing of gas outlets will be a continuous process.

According to him, gas refilling is a high-risk activity that should not be allowed close to residential areas.

Also, the Director General, Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Mr Osita Aboloma, said the organisation would prosecute importers,

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

> *"The monster called corruption is responsible for those cylinders that found their way into Nigeria without foreign certification*

Regulating Gas Plants' Locations To Reduce Explosions

Kyari

Ahmed

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

manufacturers and distributors of substandard LPG cylinders and other products as provided by law.

This, he said, would serve as deterrent to others and help to ensure safety measures in the country.

However, Mr Saidu Mohammed, the DPR Head of Public Affairs, Abuja, insisted that the DPR had always been proactive in ensuring safety of Nigerians, especially when it comes to location of gas plants or petrol stations.

He said: "It is unfortunate that we continue to witness gas explosions in the country. The DPR from time to time engages with stakeholders and educate them on best practices.

"We always go round the vicinity to clamp down on illegal gas plants, in Abuja, we do that almost every quarter, we have gone to all corners of Abuja, to clamp down on skids and illegal gas plants.

"Most of the people we got were arrested by the men of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) and this is done across the whole country.

"We have informed Nigerians to go to any DPR office and report anybody building a gas plant close to their homes and we also have designate mobile numbers to contact in all the states in the country."

He further noted that DPR would continue to support government's effort to ensure LPG penetration in the country.

Also, Mr Bassey Nkanga, DPR's Head of Port Harcourt Operations, stated that the DPR was also engaging owners of filling stations and other stakeholders to stop the sale of LPG in cylinders to customers.

He noted that the Federal Government was planning to end the unwholesome practice in 2020 due to the attendant risks it posed to lives, property and the environment.

"We are telling the filling stations that it is risky for people to carry cylinders to buy LPG from their facilities. So, government is planning to phase it out in 2020.

"We want filling stations to also have auto-gas add-on plant inside their facility, so that, those whose vehicle uses gas as fuel can drive in and buy rather than in cylinders," he said.

Nkanga explained that auto-gas filling stations are filling stations that do not sell petrol, kerosene and diesel – but only sell gas to vehicle owners.

He said the Federal Government was passionate about ensuring LPG utilisation as well as making available, quality and standard cylinders to Nigerians at affordable prices.

According to him, DPR is providing the necessary support to stakeholders to ensure that LPG becomes accessible to Nigerians in line with government policies on LPG utilisation.

Former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Ibe Kachikwu, had reiterated that the Federal Government was working assiduously to ensure installation of gas filling plants in each of the 774 local government areas in the country.

Kachikwu spoke at the inauguration of the Nigerian Army Welfare Gas Plant at Mambilla Barracks, Abuja.

He said: "We are working with LPG companies producing cylinders, with very strong presidentially backed incentives to enable them to produce LPG cylinders in this country.

"About four of them are getting facilities from the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB), from the more than 200 million facilities we have.

"They are getting import exemption for materials to be assembled for the plants.

"Once you do that, you also expect them to assemble them around the more than 700 local government areas in the country.

"We are targeting that in the next one or two years, every local government area will have gas filling plant."

He added that cylinders produced by the companies would be distributed free to consumers as part of efforts at encouraging local consumption in the country.

Emphasing on what the minister said, Ms Brenda Ataga, Kachikwu's Special Adviser on Gas, disclosed that the Federal Government planned to inject 600,000 gas cylinders to support efforts to boost LPG penetration in the country.

She said that there were about 386,000 micro distribution centres across the country with few licenses issued.

She said that the government would come up with a policy that would remove the ownership of LPG cylinders from consumers.

Also, Mr Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the board would focus on gas value chain, LPG cylinders and offload plant projects.

He said that establishing such in Nigeria would help to reverse an estimated capital flight of 360 million dollars per annum, associated with production outside the country.

But some of the roadside sellers of LPG, said that they were unaware of some of the government policies, but assured of readiness to do anything to ensure they were not out of business.

One of them, who identified himself simply as Udoka, said: "We are doing everything that the DPR said we should do, we have joined the union, we are working out best ways to go about it.

"Most of us are bread winners in our various homes and will not want our families to suffer.''

If government policies are well implemented and the regulators effectively perform their roles, LPG penetration would be achieved and incidences of gas explosions reduced to the barest minimum.

"We have informed Nigerians to go to any DPR office and report anybody building a gas plant close to their homes and we also have designate mobile numbers to contact in all the states in the country

woman of substance

WITH OLUREMI ADEOYE

Smiles Of Gratitude Inspire Me –*Oluremi*

Mrs Oluremi Oyeyemi Adeojo nee Oyawa, is a UK-based Nigerian mental health nurse who has passion for philanthropy. She is the founder of Soworkiq Charity Foundation

Early childhood

I was born in Abeokuta. My parents are from Ekiti. My mother was a nurse. I had my primary school education at St. John's Primary School in Ibadan and then moved to C.A.C Grammar School Efon- Alaaye for my secondary education.

I attended Sight and Sound Institute where I did secretarial studies. In 1990 I travelled to the United Kingdom, I got married after which I attended Southbank College to do my A-levels then Southbank University where I studied diploma in mental health nursing before moving to East London University for my B.sc in Psychosocial studies.

I'm a mother of three, two boys and a girl. I'm also grandmother.

Challenges

It wasn't easy but my way of overcoming challenges has always been to keep in mind that nothing is permanent, with the right frame of mind and my strong belief in God I have been able to overcome all those challenges.

The bible says we should lay all before him. Giving my life to Christ made it very easy to overcome all my challenges. I always tell God to take total control of all the problems. He has been sustaining me up till this moment and it is written that many are the afflictions of the righteous but God delivers him from them all. That has been my case in all challenges.

Soworkiq Foundation

Soworkiq Charity Foundation came into being in 2010. I travelled to Nigeria and during that time I was invited by a pastor to a mountain for a vigil. When I got there (Iyana Offa in Lagelu area), I saw a lot of very young children some as young as two/ three years old. We all prayed throughout the night.

In the morning these little children said they were going back to their village about five kilometers which was quite far. I asked whether their school was close by and I was told there was no school in that vicinity. This really moved me to make a decision. I asked if there was any land to buy so I could build a school and a church in the community, the pastor took me to the Baale who said there was an acre I could buy.

When I returned to the UK I pawned all my gold brought all the money back to Nigeria and bought the land. Through that place I have been supporting the less privileged. So whenever I am in Nigeria I go there to evangelise. The people there have accepted me and I have been touching lives. Same thing here in London, there are a lot of children in gangs. Some of them get locked up, I try my best in counselling and praying for them and this is what brought about the prayer sessions for children that I run on Facebook, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Since I started these prayer sessions there has been a lot of testimonies.

So under this foundation is the Charity fellowship where we provide online prayers 2 4 / 7 especially for our children.

The Charity foundation is building a nursing home in Ibadan as well. After completion this will go a long way in helping mentally challenged people, especially the elderly who have age related problems like dementia which a lot of people here believe to be madness.

There are also those who are going through depression because of ignorance they are labelled mad or as possessed with witchcraft. This foundation has also given some students scholarship. We also help the widows.

Philanthropy

This is the desire I have to promote the welfare of others, especially by giving. I work as a nurse here in the UK and I will send the money to Nigeria to support others. Some, as scholarship, I have five children I'm supporting through school. There are also three others in a mental home that I am helping to sustain with monthly allowances. There are widows as well, all these people I support from my salary. Till date I haven't gotten support from anyone except God and He has been proving himself as God.

There is another property that I want to use for a nursing home where the elderly will be admitted. I also plan to build a rehabilitation Centre; all these things I just love doing. I took after my mum who is also a nurse, she was a matron before she retired. My love to help others is part of me and I will call it a gift from God. When people look at me and say you are just nice. I smile because I love helping others. I don't like people suffering. Whatever I have I love to share. I also love donating to schools and churches.

Mentoring

I have a lot of youths that I mentor, in fact they call me Iya ewe because I love the young ones. I go as far as visiting them, even those in incarceration to provide for as well as to counsel them. I don't have any family member there but I still go to visit the prisons. I also have a club, Soworkiq Charity Football Team for the youths so that they can be involved in positive hobbies like football. I try to motivate and support them.

As for my mentor she is Deaconess Elizabeth Oduntan. She has been my mentor from my university days, she is also a mental health nurse here in the U.K

Inspiration

I am inspired to do good, to give people. The smiles and gratitude inspires me to do more. Like today, on my way home I was accosted by a woman who told me she was hungry. I had just one pound in my purse and I decided to share it equally with her. A lot of people will say you weren't in my budget when I was leaving my house but I can't do that.

Legacy

I want to be remembered as someone, who used all that God gave her to touch lives positively. Not only money oh but love, care and especially prayers.

CORPORATE IMPACT

E-Commerce: Prospective Trends And Ease Of Doing Business

BY FESTUS OKOROMADU

As e-commerce gradually but steadily take root in commercial transactions in the country, experts are of the view that its future is both exhilarating and daunting for players in the sector. But bearing in mind the dynamic nature of the sector it is believe in some quarters that success or failure will depend on how receptive operators adopted to changing trends.

While there are optimistic views that the market will grow rapidly in the coming years as innovations is expected to help businesses to expand market shares,new challenges are also to come along such that some businesses may possibly not keep up with.

But, even in the face of these challenges, there seem to be huge opportunities to look out for. For instance, according to Statista, the global e-commerce retail revenues are projected to grow to $6.54 trillion by 2023 as against the 2019 worldwide e-commerce sales of $3.53 trillion. Players in the sector will profit from the various trends, which are potent to transform the e-commerce sector in Nigeria into a profit-making venture.

Isa

The continued rise of mobile shopping

According to the 2019 Jumia Mobile Report, 85% of the Nigerian consumers on the platform shopped via their mobile devices that is via mobile web and the Jumia mobile App. Experts says, the development not is surprising considering that at the end of 2018, there were over 5 billion unique mobile subscribers across the globe, and 60% of the connection was through mobile devices.

Locally, there were over 172 million Nigerians (87% penetration of the Nigerian population) who had access to mobile devices, whereas only 112 million Nigerians had access to the internet. While the number of mobile/smartphone users might have increased year-on-year, its penetration is still very insignificant.

Experts says, internment connectivity and the availability of affordable smartphones continue to drive an increasing uptake of mobile shopping. Hence the expectations that the year 2020 will witness the entrance of new, affordable mobile devices and, the government's efforts to expand the reach of the internet through the various mobile operators, will further drive increased mobile shopping.

> *internment connectivity and the availability of affordable smartphones continue to drive an increasing uptake of mobile shopping*

Voice commerce will be on the rise

A 2017 data show that about 13% of U.S smart speaker owners say they make purchases by voice; the numbers are projected to grow to 55% by 2022 according to OC and C Strategy. In the U.K alone, the total spend on voice shopping has increased. However, in Nigeria Google trends show that the interest in voice commerce has not generated any substantial data but the number of people verbally describing the products they want to purchase rather than browsing about the product has increased, and this is becoming a trend. The fact that other countries are growing in this aspect is a major reason to latch on this. E-commerce players in Nigeria should look for ways to integrate voice commerce in their respective platforms.

E-commerce platforms doubling as an advertising platform for businesses

The number of unique visitors on most e-commerce platforms is enormously huge. Although, while not all of them visit the platforms to order an item, most of them use the prices listed on the platforms as a benchmark for validating price difference in offline stores. For instance, during the 2019 Black Friday, Jumia recorded over 100 million unique visitors and over one billion page views during the one month campaign.

The increasing number of traffic being witnessed daily on e-commerce platforms presents a compelling case for monetizing this huge advantage. Many advertisers are seeking for innovative ways to reach their target audience, and leveraging e-commerce platforms with reach across the continent will deliver on such objective. Just recently, Jumia announced that its platform will now be available to businesses to advertise their products and services. The company's CEO, Juliet Anammah, stated clearly that the advertising initiative is one of the strategic levers of growth for the company in 2020.

Therefore, e-commerce platforms are expected to play big in online advertising as it provides significant opportunity to grow core offerings and profitability. Alibaba has already become the market leader in digital advertising in China. Amazon is estimated to have generated huge ad revenue. Jumia is building a robust online advertising to help other businesses manage their ads, reach more buyers and increase sales.

More SMEs and big brands will leverage e-commerce to drive growth

As businesses expand beyond their local markets, both big, small and medium-size businesses are expected to leverage e-commerce for growth in 2020. Big and small businesses will increase the use of e-commerce to boost conversion, create a personalized customer experience, use data for deeper insights, cross-sell to existing customers and leverage discounts to increase sales.

Extension of logistics services to third party

Fast and on-time delivery of products to customers will continue to play a major role in e-commerce. However, to address infrastructure challenges such as logistics, large network of leased warehouses, pick up stations for customers and drop off points for merchants will form a trend in 2020. E-commerce platforms will extend their services to third parties in 2020 to address critical infrastructure issues. Technology, innovation, partnerships and collaboration will play a key role in addressing logistics challenges in order to stay competitive and profitable. Beyond delivering items purchased on its platforms, e-commerce giant like Jumia will open up its logistics services to the public. This is the first time that Jumia will be providing logistics and delivery services to people other than the shoppers on its platform.

Fintech will overtake Payment on Delivery

While most online shoppers in Nigeria still prefer payment on delivery, this is expected to reduce drastically by the end of 2020 because the rise of Fintech is changing the narrative. More and more online shoppers are starting to develop trust in online payment. A recent report by Jumia shows that this development will grow bigger in 2020. According to the Jumia Q3 Financial Report 2019, over 30% of the transactions on Jumia was done through JumiaPay, its payment platform. Over a year ago, payment on delivery was the preferred option for most consumers. This clearly is an indication that the trust issues around security and safety of consumers' data and money are clearly disappearing gradually. According to predictions, the company's payment platform might become its cash cow in years to come.

COURTS & CRIMES

Man Clubs Wife To Death With Hoe In Niger

The Niger State Police command on Friday said one Suleiman Gimba of Maratu village in Nasko Local Government Area of the state, had allegedly killed his wife, Aishatu Suleiman, after a minor misunderstanding.

The state Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Adamu Usman, disclosed this in Minna.

Usman said the incident occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at about 11:50 p.m. when Suleiman had a minor misunderstanding with his 35-year-old wife Aishatu Suleiman.

He said the suspect hit Aishatu with a hoe on her forehead which resulted to her death on the spot.

"Consequently, the suspect fled to an unknown destination, and the corpse was taken to Nasco General hospital for autopsy, after which it was released to the family for burial accordingly to Islamic rites," he said.

The commissioner said an investigation into the incident had already begun, while efforts were ongoing to apprehend the fleeing suspect.

He appealed to members of the public to give useful information that would lead to the arrest of the suspect.

Yam Thief Bags 6 Months Imprisonment

BY ALO ABIOLA, ADO Ekiti

A Dutse Grade 1 Area Court, Abuja on Friday sentenced a 20-year-old man, Aliyu Musa, to six months imprisonment for stealing yams valued at N100,000.

The Judge, Mr Suleiman Mohammed, jailed Musa of no fixed address after he pleaded guilty to the one-count charge of theft.

He, however, gave him an option of N25,000 fine.

Earlier, the prosecutor, Mr Tunde Arowolo, had told the court that the matter was reported at the Bwari Police Station by one Auta Musa of Kuchiko village in Niger, on Dec. 17, 2019.

According to Arowolo, Musa, on the said date, stole the complainant's yams valued at N100,000.

The prosecutor said that during the police investigation, 10 tubers of the yams were recovered from the defendant.

He said that the offence contravened Section 287 of the Penal Code.

Cross section of Air Force officers during the inauguration of participants for median course 1/2020 in Markudi, Benue State yesterday.

Police Arrest 5 Suspects In Connection With *Oko Oloyun's* Murder

BY ADEBAYO WAHEED, Ibadan

Operatives of the Nigeria Police on Friday said they have arrested five people in connection with the murder of the renowned alternative therapist, Alhaji Fatai Yussuf a.k.a 'Oko Oloyun in Oyo State.

The state Commissioner of Police, Shina Taiwo Olukolu, said in a statement in Ibadan on Friday that those arrested were some of the staff and his two police escorts.

According to him, they are being questioned by a team of crack detectives from the homicide section of State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID Iyaganku, Ibadan with a view to apprehending the fleeing suspects who carried out the heinous act.

The deceased was on Thursday shot dead by gunmen on the Eruwa-Igboora Road in the Ibarapa area of Oyo State on his way from an outing around 4.30pm, when the gunmen shot at his vehicle.

The Oyo State Police Public Relations Officer, Gbenga Fadeyi, who confirmed the incident, said the state Commissioner of Police, Shina Olukolu, had visited the scene and ordered an investigation into the incident.

He added that Yusuf's corpse had been deposited in the Igbo-Ora General Hospital's mortuary.

Fadeyi said, "Gunmen attacked his vehicle on the Eruwa-Igboora Road in Ibarapa Central; they shot at his vehicle and he was hit by a bullet. Police personnel were immediately mobilised to the area and the Commissioner of Police has gone to the scene of the attack for an on-the-spot assessment and has deployed the police tactical team to trail the hoodlums and comb the area for possible arrest and prosecution".

The police boss said the two cars convoy of the deceased was allegedly ambushed shortly after passing through five different Police Stop and Search teams along the route by yet to be identified assailants who fired at the moving vehicles on the road from the thick forest.

Siblings Buy Exotic Mansions, Cars, Impersonating EFCC Agents

The Ibadan Zonal office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned two siblings, Olatunji Beyioku and Oluwayomi Oluwafemi Beyioku for allegedly presenting themselves as agent of the commission to defraud members of the public.

The duo were on Thursday, January 23, dragged before Justice Mohammed Abubakar of the Federal High Court 1, sitting in Abeokuta, Ogun State capital, on 18-count charges bordering on conspiracy, impersonation, forgery, money laundering and obtaining money under false pretenses.

According to the charges, the accused persons allegedly laundered over N12 million and also defrauded unsuspecting victims of the sum of N404 million.

The facts of the case revealed that the brothers had represented themselves as operatives of the EFCC in order to gain undue advantage of their victims.

The charge also stated that Oluwayomi forged a document to claim that he bagged a Higher National Diploma, HND, from the Lagos State Polytechnic and one other that claim that he participated in the one year mandatory national youth service for degree holders.

The duo were found to have made millions of naira engaging in series of fraudulent activities, using the proceeds to purchase a multi-million naira building, two cars – Honda Accord Crosstour and a Mercedes Benz GLK, different brands of mobile phones and other landed properties worth millions of naira.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the eighteen-count charge.

Upon their not-guilty plea, EFCC's counsel, Festus Ojo prayed the court for a trial date and an order to remand them in correctional custody. However, their counsel, Femi Meyile, prayed the court to admit them to bail.

Businessman Docked For Noise Making In Police Station

A 37-year-old businessman, Lawrence Atikekeresola, on Friday appeared in an Ikeja Chief Magistrates' Court for allegedly making noise in a police station.

The defendant, a resident of No. 5 Alaga St., Alakia, Isebo in Ibadan, is charged with three counts bordering on breach of peace and misdemeanour.

He, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The prosecution counsel, Insp Innocent Odugbo, alleged that the defendant conducted himself in a manner likely to cause a breach of peace by making noise and disrupted the serene and peaceful atmosphere in Area "F " Command Headquarter in Ikeja.

Odugbo alleged that the defendant threatened one Majeed Yahaya.

The offence, he said, contravened the provisions of sections 56 and 168(1) of the Criminal laws of Lagos State 2015, (revised)

Chief Magistrate S. K. Matepo admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N50,000 bail with one surety in like sum.

Couple In Court For Assaulting Landlady

A couple, Ahgwekure and Brevery Solomon, on Friday, appeared in a Life Camp Magistrates' Court for allegedly assaulting their landlady, who did not refund their money.

The police charged the couple, who live in Pinatech Estate, Life Camp Abuja, with assault.

The Prosecution Counsel, ASP Peter Ejike, told the court that the complainant, Mary Michael, reported the matter at the Life Camp Police Station on Jan. 7.

Ejike alleged that on Jan. 6, the defendants went to the complainants' house and assaulted her over non-refund of rent paid into the complainant's bank account by the defendants.

He alleged that the defendants injured the complainant.

The offence, he said, contravened the provisions of Section 265 of the Penal Code.

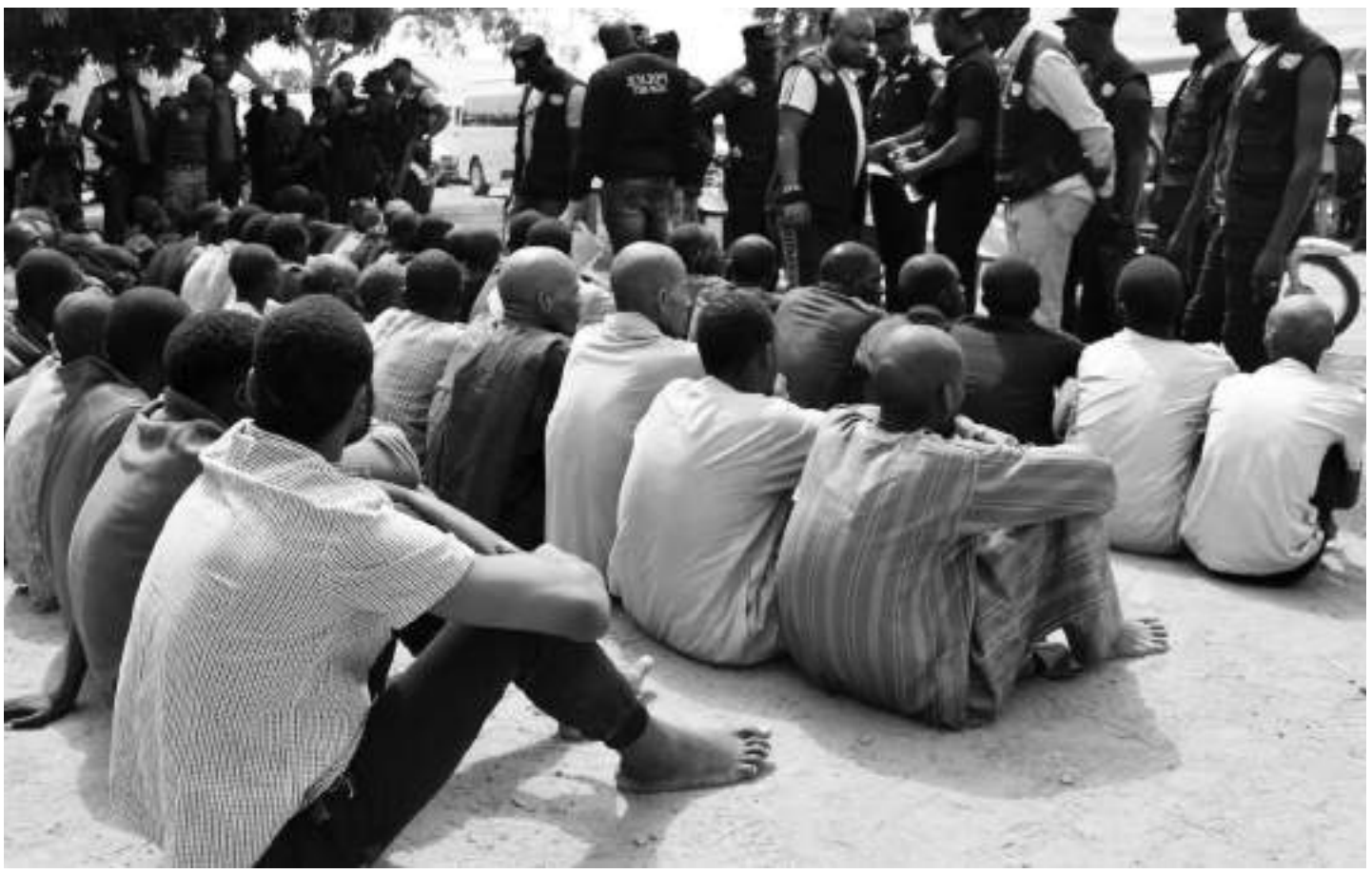
The defendants, however, pleaded not guilty to the offence.

Magistrate Sharon Tanko admitted the defendants to bail in the sum of N200,000 each with one surety each.

Tanko ordered that the sureties must be reliable and must deposit his or her identity card at the court registry for verification.

She also ordered that the sureties must be resident within the jurisdiction of the court and his or her address must be verified by the court officer.

Tanko adjourned the case until March 11, for hearing.



Suspected armed robbers and kidnappers during a news conference by Force Public Relations Officer, at the police headquarters in Kaduna.

Police Nab 4 Herdsmen For Kidnapping Ogun LG's Vice Chairman

BY FEMI OYEWESO, Abeokuta

Ogun state police command on Friday said they have arrested four herdsmen who kidnapped the new vice chairman of the Transition Committee for Remo North Local Government of Ogun state, Hon. Taiwo Soniyi earlier this year.

The suspects, who confessed to be herdsmen, were arrested following a serious manhunts launched against them by police operatives deployed by the command into the forest at Fidiwo axis of the Lagos - Ibadan expressway where the victim was abducted on the 10th of January, this year.

Soniyi was abducted on Friday 10th January, along Fidiwo - Ipara road as he was returning from a function outside the state, while his abductors demanded for a ransom of N50 million.

Parading the suspect, the Commissioner of Police, Kenneth Ebrimson said the kidnappers were arrested after the command's operatives had embarked on a "technical and forensic investigation" which enabled them to geo-locate the criminals and the victim.

"Having realised that the police were closing in on them, the hoodlums released their victim, but three (3) members of the gang were subsequently apprehended as a result of an intense combing of the bush where they were traced to".

Ebrimson, who gave names of the suspects to include a 25 years old Mohammad Abdulahi, Ibrahim Dikko (20), Gambo Abdullahi (25) and Mohammed Sulaimon (23), also told journalists that the arrest of the three suspects led to the arrest of the fourth suspect who was tracked to Idi-Ayunre in Ibadan, Oyo state capital.

The CP also explained that the victim, Soniyi had identified all the suspects as his abductors, while further interrogation was still on notwithstanding the confessional statement already extracted from them to enable the police apprehend other fleeing gang members.

The Ogun CP further maintained that no ransom was paid before the politician's freedom was secured.

Court Remands 5 For Robbing At Gunpoint

An Ikeja Magistrates' Court on Friday remanded five men in the Kirikiri Custodial Centre, Lagos State, for allegedly robbing two men of valuables worth N395,000, at gunpoint.

The defendants – Rasaki Sunmola, 20; Kunle Asemidara, 22; Japhaet Scoth, 28; Joseph Jimoh, 29, and Daniel Joseph, 23 – are facing charges of conspiracy, armed robbery and illegal possession of firearms.

The magistrate, Mrs O.A. Akokhia, who did not take their pleas, ordered that the case file should be sent to the state director of public prosecutions for advice.

Akokhia adjourned the case until Feb. 6 for mention.

According to the prosecutor, Adegoke Philip, the defendants committed the offences in October 2019 at Ikeja, Lagos.

Philip told the court that the defendants, armed with two guns, robbed Messrs David Samuel and Ogadima Obi of valuables worth N395,000.

"They dispossessed Samuel of his three phones, a gold wristwatch and money.

"The defendants robbed Obi of his phone, a wristwatch, a gold necklace and money," he said.

Philip said that the defendants invaded the bar where the complainants were drinking.

"They entered the bar, pointed guns at the complainants, demanding for their phones, cash and other valuables.

"The complainants surrendered their belongings for fear of the unknown," the prosecutor told the court.

He said that one of the complainants sighted one of the defendants a few days after the robbery and quickly called the police.

"The defendant led the police to the arrest of others," Philip said.

The prosecutor said that the offences violated sections 296, 297 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Section 296 prescribes 21 years' imprisonment for robbery, while section 297 also attracts 21 years for unlawfully arming self with firearms.

Armed robbery is punishable with death under the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act.

Applicant Admits Stealing 16 SIM Cards

An Ikeja Magistrates' Court on Friday remanded one unemployed Charles Eze in the Ikoyi Custodial Centre, after he pleaded guilty to stealing 16 Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards and some Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards.

The police arraigned 33-year-old Eze together with Raphael Nwachukwu, 36, before Chief Magistrat T. A. Ojo.

The defendants, whose residential addresses were not given, are facing charges of conspiracy and stealing.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that while Eze admitted guilt, Nwachukwu pleaded not guilty.

Ojo remanded Eze pending review of the facts of the case and sentencing, and admitted Nwachukwu to N100, 000 bail with two sureties in like sum.

She ruled that the sureties must be gainfully employed and have evidence of two years' tax payment to the Lagos State Government.

The chief magistrate adjourned the case until Jan. 29 for Eze's sentencing.

Earlier, the prosecutor, Kenrich Nomayo, told the court that the duo conspired and unlawfully interfered with some people's SIM and ATM cards.

Nomayo said the defendants could not give a satisfactory explanation on the ownership of the items.

He said that they committed the offences on Jan. 10 at 11.00 p.m. on Akerele Street in Agege, a Lagos suburb.

The prosecutor told the court that the police on patrol arrested the defendants while lurking around for more victims.

"The police searched them and recovered 16 different SIM cards and ATM cards which they could not give a satisfactory account of," he said.

The alleged offences violate sections 287 and 411 of the Criminal Code of Lagos State, 2015 (revised).

NAN reports that stealing attracts three years' imprisonment while conspiracy is punishable with two years' jail term. (NAN).

REMINISCENCES

I Travelled To London As A Stowaway – *Pa Chris Ajilo*

A renowned musician, versatile instrumentalist and trainer, Christopher Abiodun Ajilo aka Chris Ajilo, will be 90 years old in December. In this interview with our Osun State Correspondent **JOSHUA DADA**, he spoke on his rough ladder to the top and encouraged upcoming artistes to avoid envy.

When and where were you born?

My name is Christopher Abiodun Ajilo. I was born and bred in Lagos. My father was a Sanitary Inspector and a humble man. He was a Lay reader of the Anglican Communion. He lived a kind of life that was conducive to anybody that lived in those days. My father was a peaceful man who did not interfere in others' business as a health officer. I was the last of the five children he brought to the world, but unfortunately he died even before I was nine years old.

My mother, Christiana Ajilo, was a peace loving and hardworking woman whose interest was to see her children well trained without complaint. One thing I can vividly remember about my mother was that she never raised her hands on me. All she did to me after the death of my father was talk to me and encourage me to be myself, not to depend on anybody and never to go beyond my boundary.

What of your academic life?

l started my education at St Peters School in Lagos. When I completed my primary school education, I proceeded to CMS Grammar School, Lagos. Knowing the tough life in those days where my mother had to take care of five children without assistance from anybody. After I left school, I decided to leave home. My oldest brother was then in the army. He served in the Signals Corps in India and when he got back home, he got discharged. It was from the stories he was giving us about happenings in the army that made me to decide to leave school.

What happened thereafter?

One day, I picked my brother's military uniform, wore it and went to the nearby military camp when I was told that soldiers were being mobilized to Gold Coast (that was the name Ghana was known as then). I approached the officer in charge, a sergeant, it was late in the night and told him that I was an ex-service man and that I served in India and that now that I was discharged, I wanted to join my mother in Gold Coast. He agreed to accommodate me without telling the white man in charge. That was how I sailed to Gold Coast. Upon disembarking, I had no particular place I was going so I slept in the first church I saw. I met a man there who introduced me to a Nigerian family who were members of the church. I stayed with them briefly before I went to Takoradi. There I joined workers who were loading and offloading goods from ships. Along the lines, I saw a ship going to Lagos/ Port Harcourt, I joined it, came back to Lagos and my friends were impressed that I could work in a boat. But my ambition was to go to London for training in the art of music and become a professional musician. With the connections I gathered within my work environment, I boarded a ship going to Congo. My target then was to go to Europe. While traveling in ship here and there, I learned how to bind books. So at a particular time I was invited to join a law chambers in Moronvia. I had also learned about painting. So when I was not binding books, I was painting. It was my art of painting that took me to the presence of Liberian President who awarded me a contract to paint the roof of his country home. I met other friends during my sojourn there and I was encouraged to join Liberia Army, it was about 194---something, that was when Liberia celebrated her 100 years independence. I participated in the Independence day army parade. Along the lines my ambition to go to Britain triggered again and I moved from Morovia to Senegal, Dakar. I got to Dakar through Bamako, I never stayed longer than a few months and moved again because I wanted to get to Europe. I remember a time we got into a train without ticket, we were three in number and were so smart that we got to Dakar without getting caught. You know in those days, Liberia was the only free country then where you can carry pistol not to kill people but to show that you had power. If you had a quarrel with anybody and you demonstrated your power by letting them know that you had pistol, that would be the end of the quarrel.

Pa Ajilo

> *That was how I sailed to Gold Coast. Upon disembarking, I had no particular place I was going so I slept in the first church I saw*

I remember a case in Dakar, when I demonstrated my might by foolishly showing them my gun, I was arrested and when I got to court, my intention was to defend myself because I could not afford to hire a lawyer, the magistrate told me that a lawyer would stand for me. Someone who did not know me at all stood for me. His argument was that I was young for conviction but to serve as deterrent, I was kept in prison custody to serve in the kitchen for a while and it was there I was assisted by the white man to board a ship as a stowaway to London.

During my transit to London, all I did was ask questions relating to how I could acquire skills in music.

Why did you jettison your training as a painter and book binder for music?

All those skills were just by the way. To earn a living. My life ambition was to be a trained musician, not just a musician but a professionally trained musician which I believed I could acquire in Europe. I was trained in various institutes in England and for on the job training, I began to play for different bands, not for money but for skills acquisition and experience gatherings.

During the course of this interview, it was obvious that

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

'I Never Had Time For Envy'

REMINISCENCES

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

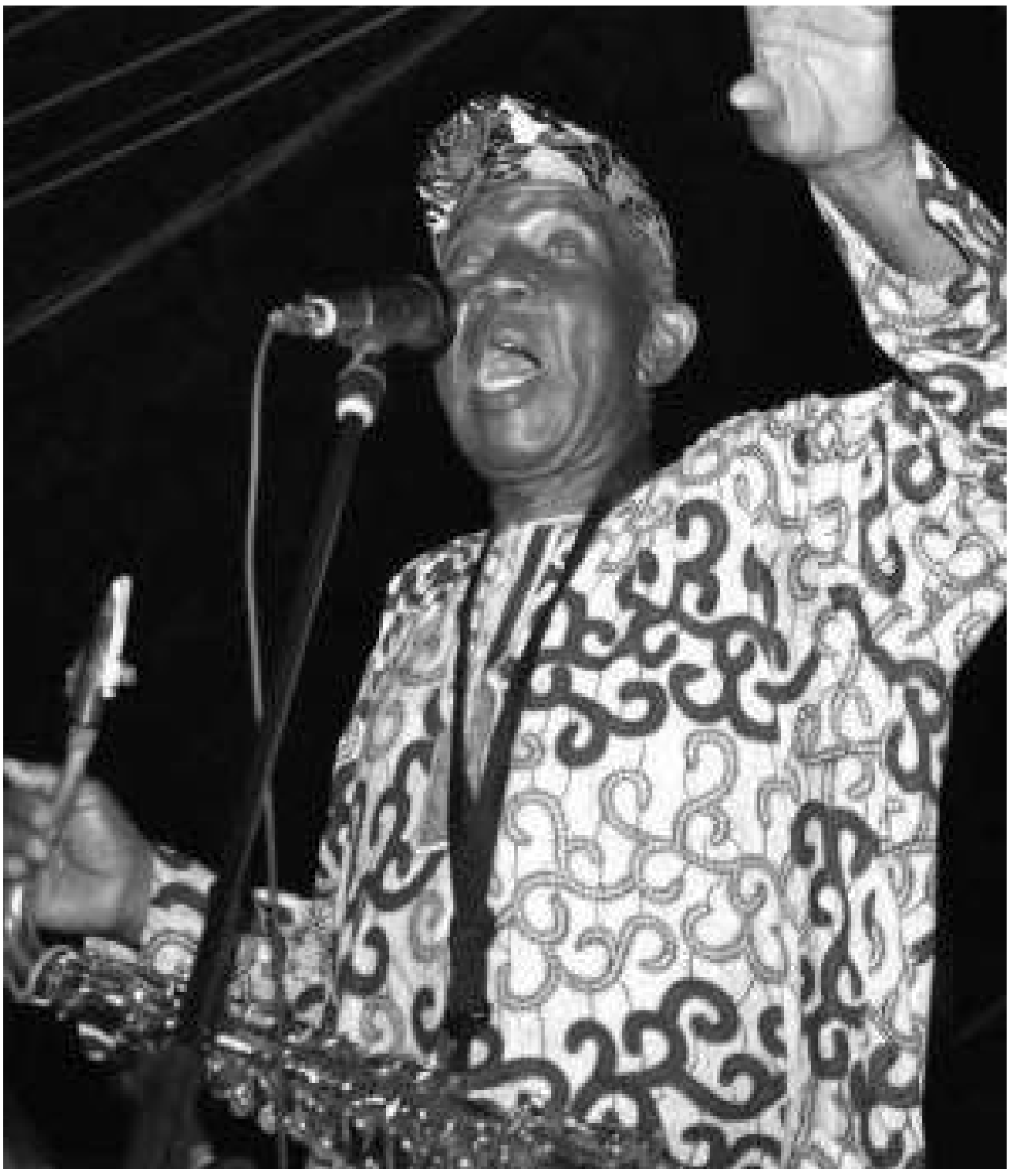
you did not perfect your papers before you got to London, yet you did not end up in jail, what do you think is responsible for the stringent measures attached to perfection of papers this day?

Number one, there was almost free movement in the globe during those days but as population exploded without commensurate provisions, people started looking for more conducive atmosphere to survive which led to the rush for greener pastures abroad. In fact, during those days out currency was of equal value. So there was little or no need at all looking for job abroad. People acquire education there and come home to make use of it. Secondly, nobody can blame those countries for the measures taken because of the attitude of bad eggs among us. Some of our people taught them to handle us the way they are doing now because they were criminally minded. Those who travelled abroad in those days were people of honour and integrity that would not dip their hands in illegality but today our people are too much in haste to get rich and thereby get involved in unwholesome activities. And these people too will not want their land polluted. There are two things, we have people who go there to make money. In our own time, it was skill acquisition that was dear to us and not money. During my stay in Europe, I never stole a dime, I don't drink, I don't smoke marijuana. The police were our friends because we don't indulge in crime. They still remember me today in England as a musician and not a roughian

I thank God, I lived a peaceful life and when I got back home, I started training those who want to be professional musicians and I thank God that those I trained have gone far. I don't have time to indulge in frivolities.

When did you get married and to whom?

I am an old man bachelor. Actually I had a Briton as my fiancée and we got to the stage of getting married when I decided to return to Nigeria with the anticipation that I would go back to her. I would have formalised the relationship before I left London but I didn't want a situation where I would bring her to Nigeria to suffer, so I had it at the back of my mind that I would go back for her after I might have prepared fully for the union that never was.



Pa Ajilo

> *I thank God, I lived a peaceful life and when I got back home, I started training those who want to be professional musicians and I thank God that those I trained have gone far*

Actually, I spent my last weeks at her family house in London. Her parents already approved the relationship. When I was leaving, I remember the last thing she said at my departure, she said, "Chris, you are going to Nigeria without our getting married?" And I said let's leave everything to God. We succeeded in communicating each other for long until both of us lost interest. When I got to Nigeria, I was careful not to get involved in marriage issues. It was then I realized fully that marriage is a responsibility. That sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. Having realized this constraint myself on issue of marriage and I remained a bachelor. Old man bachelor. (laughs)

But you have children now?

Thank God you can see my grandchildren who are on holiday with me along with their mother. Their father is in Lagos. I have two children.

On December 26th, you will be celebrating your 90th birthday and you look fresh and agile, what is the secret?

I don't have any secret. All I do is to do things moderately and I also remember what my mother told me in her last days. It has never got out of my brain. She taught me to be thoughtful of whatever I come about and have free mind. As you see me I don't hold grudges against anybody. I am a free man. I try to do good to whosoever cross my path. There are some organisations I formed for the progress of others but along the line some people usurped them for selfish end, I don't care, I feel fulfilled with whatever I do. I have helped some artistes to get to the top and I won't brag about it all these added to my good health.

What was the relationship between you and your kinsman, Chief I. K. Dairo?

Very cordial till he passed on. He was my junior brother just like Orlando Julius. You know Bobby Benson? He was in music business before I came back from London and we worked together and never had conflict. His son Tony is still very close to me.

What is responsible for the common unhealthy rivalry among artistes these days?

Oh. It is a mere waste of time and unnecessary. There is no cause for it, face your business and I face mine and let us move forward. Avoid envy and making enemies if you want to get to the peak of your career.

What would you have done the other way round if you have another opportunity?

My friend, a man lives but once, I have no regrets whatsoever in all I have done on earth. I give glory to God.

WEEKEND POLITICS

ANALYSIS INTERVIEWS REPORTS DISCOURSE

Weekend Politics Editor: **Chibuzo Ukaibe**

Gowon

Babangida

50 Years After Civil War: Dissecting Nigeria's Quest For Unity

Leaders recently reflected on the unity of Nigeria 50 years the Nigeria-Biafra Civil War. MARY AMODU examines the quest to foster unity amongst in Nigeria

Despite the commemoration of 50 years after, there has been many tussles in leadership, politics, religious and tribal games however pundits presume that If Nigeria could stick to the principles of federal character, fairness and a sense of belonging to all groups, Nigeria would witness a different atmosphere.

Recall that the former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon (retd); Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka; Professor Anya O. Anya, Professor Pat Utomi and Professor Banji Akintoye, during the 50th anniversary of the Nigerian Civil War, tagged Never Again, organized by the Nzuko Umunna and Ndigbo Lagos in collaboration with civil society organisations warned that another war was imminent if the current political, social, and economic challenges plaguing the country were not addressed.

The former head of state urged the country leaders to create enabling platforms to dialogue and proffer ideas on how peace and harmony could be achieved for all Nigerians and the black race as a whole; thus ensuring political and economic security and development of the country.

"Our commitment to Nigeria must be total and patriotic. To me, our Nigeria of today of over 500 ethnic groups of diverse socio-cultural and religious colourations and spread across 774 local government areas and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, is worthy of your support and defence," Gowon said.

Chairman of Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE), Prof. Banji Akintoye, warned that Nigeria was risking the possibility of another civil war if the ongoing injustices in the country persisted.

Akintoye said the mood in Nigeria was similar to what led to the civil war and the character displayed by some of the country's leaders today makes it look like governance is the exclusive preserve of some people.

"A particular minority today is at war with the majority. The government is being managed in ways that make it look like an exclusive preserve of a particular minority. There seems to be an agenda being pursued to establish this minority in all positions of command in the executive, administrative, judicial and security services of the country. He said the country needs to be restructured to reflect the principles of federalism to avert another war.

"The voices of the majority register protests continually and are continually disrespected and ignored. The state of the law is patently being subsumed to the needs of that agenda, with seriously damaging effects on human rights. These situations are inevitably fostering, among the peoples of the Middle Belt and South of the country, the feeling that they are being reduced to the status of conquered peoples of Nigeria.

"Nigeria must, without further delay, restructure with the objective of giving our country a true and generally acceptable federal structure under which the present sections of the country will be able to develop their resources for the conquest of poverty in their domains."

Akintoye said the country needs to be restructured in a way that it will benefit all component parts of the country.

Also speaking, Nobel Laureate, Prof Wole Soyinka, said one of the ways to say "Never Again" was to enthrone principles of democracy. He said humanity tended to forget too soon and repeat mistakes several times. He said no nation survives two civil wars and urged Nigerians to ensure there was no repeat of past mistakes.

Soyinka said the events of the Nigerian/Biafra war needed sombre reflections.

Therefore, Nigeria must borrow ideas from other nations who had similar experience. He warned leaders not to see others as puns, but as real human beings.

"Anytime, the leadership tries to sacrifice our people in the pursuit of absolutism, we must remind them, like black Americans who told their leaders that black Africans life matter, that Nigerians lives matter," he said.

The Nobel Laureate, who de-

CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

> *"The voices of the majority register protests continually and are continually disrespected and ignored*

50 Years After Civil War: Dissecting Nigeria's Quest For Unity

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

plored the insecurity situation in the country, commended the South West governors for coming up with the regional security force, Operation Amotekun, assuring the outfit would respond to the yearnings of the people in the region.

"I thank a number of public-spirited, humanity-considering governors in this nation, who finally responded to the demand and yearnings of the citizens and produced one organisation called Amotekun. It's one of the most unexpected because I had given up on them; it is an unexpected but at the same time a desirable New Year present," Soyinka said.

Prof Anya O. Anya, who was chairman of the event, lamented that Nigeria did not learn lessons from the civil war.

"Our situation is not unique, some other countries have gone through similar experiences, we have to learn from their experiences. Japan fought a war and lost, Germany also fought a war and lost, but less than 30 years after the war, they sprang back from the devastation of the war. We have to learn lessons from their experiences," Anya said.

A keynote speaker, Prof. Pat. Utomi said Nigeria is at war. He referred to what is happening in the social media as a demonstration of leadership failure. He said people who cannot engage in quality and constructive conversation always haul insults on others as a defence mechanism.

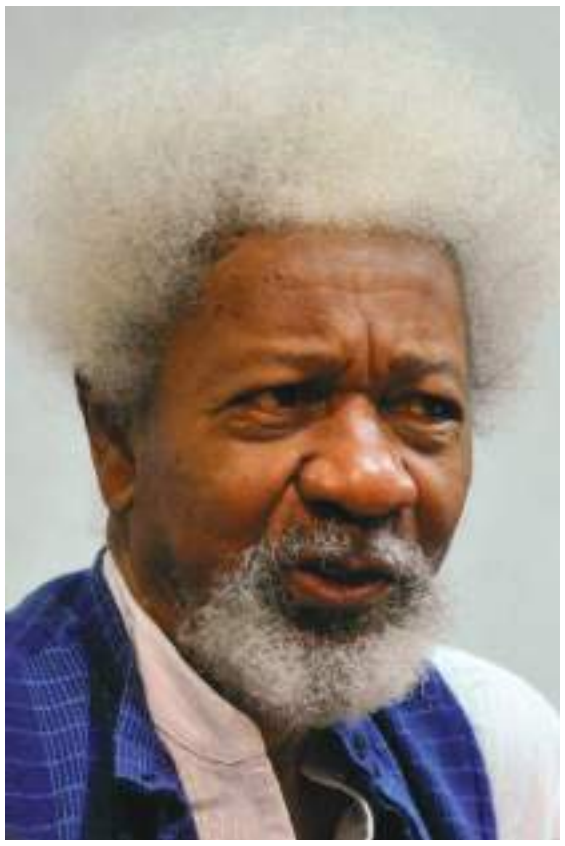
Utomi said management of hostilities determines how people recover after war, and that it also matters how a war is ended. He said that before the civil war, Igbo man was simple and conservative, but the psychological effects of the war changed all that.

Similarly, former military president, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (rtd) speaking to BBC said instead of forming groups that will tamper with the peaceful coexistence of the country, Nigerians should engage in activities that will foster development and unity.

He said Nigerians should praise Almighty God for sustaining the country for 50 years after the war, adding that no country that engage in civil war has witnessed thorough peace within a short period of time as Nigeria did.

"Nigeria is better the way it is now, all parts of the country should come together and see themselves as one and equal. Just like today it is 50 years after the civil war. As everybody knows so many good things have happened in the country, which is indeed better for all of us. So I think it is better if we put all our differences aside and work for the development of our nation", Babangida said.

However, there is a palpable sense of foreboding the voices of this notable statesmen. 50 years after, Nigeria still seem to be struggling with many of the malaise that were responsible for the war. It's unity and territorial sovereignty is still threatened from virtually all sides by groups who do not agree with its system of government and constitutionalism.



Soyinka

Utomi

Ranging from the Niger/Delta militants to the dreaded Boko Haram and the more recent IPOB phenomenon. But the government and the political elites have been working round the clock and deploying innovative policies to stem the tide and stabilise the system. There have been several constitutional conferences both under the military and civilian regime, and more recently the clamour for true federalism and restructuring. Another major issue remains the power rotation among the geo-political zones.

In such conferences, many policies and arrangements have been advocated in a bid to create a more stable and inclusive federalism but very few have seen the light of day.

Prominent among them is the issue of the local government autonomy, and the state police which many believe will enhance the administrative capacities of the lower tier governments and impact the welfare and security of the masses but even them are not without controversies.

Apparently, the Nigerian society has decided to adopt the democratic system and governance as a way of determining how the forces of the nation should be managed and directed but despite this achievement more is still desired as there is still a widening inequality gap which many analysts see as responsible for this vicious cycle of violence and backwardness.

Added on this is the recent controversy emanating from the just concluded general election, which seems to be undermining faith in the Nigerian nationhood as related to the legality and legitimacy.

Debates over whether or not the current administration has undermined the Independence and neutrality of the judiciary and National Assembly rages. Brickbats by ruling and opposition parties over alleged executive excesses have also been topical, a situation which pundits aver isn't good for stability and unity of the country.

The executive director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, reflected on the 50 years experience of Nigeria and points out some of the sore points affecting nation building so far.

In a chat with LEADERSHIP Weekend, he called on the federal government to tackle the issue of marginalisation between those he called the 'haves and have not ' noting that the issue of marginalisation is neither religion nor ethnic rivalry but class segregation.

"This is the only way to deal with the mentality that some people think they have been marginalised or ambushed. Although some of this opinions might not necessarily be the truth because when you do the analysis, part of the economy control; the person that thinks has been marginalised you with discover that he actually have that access to good life".

He added, "For example, here in Abuja, the landed property are owned by people who some persons believe that they have been marginalised. So, the truth is that the people who have are marginalised in this country are in poor people.

"These are the people who the Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern elites have compelled to cloth them into poverty and unemployment. So, those are the people who are actually marginalised," the civil rights advocate said.

Rafsanjani, noted that while Nigeria must continue to promote national unity, the only way to promote it is through security, justice, fairness and access to equal opportunity.

"First and foremost, it is important that we continue to promote national unity in this country and the only way to promote it is through security, justice, fairness and access to equal opportunity.

"If this is not done by ensuring development in every part of the country and ensuring that all those factors that made the perception of civil war are addressed then, we are not going to solve the problem. Although the federal government after the war have tried to bring in some national integration by introducing NYSC, federal government colleges, federal character principle and also ensuring that paramilitary organisations like the police are interchanging, between northerners and southerners and vice visa. These are all part of the ways, government at all levels must continue to uphold this.

"However, it is not a regional or ethnic marginalisation but a class marginalisation that is going on. So, in my opinion the poverty in the South or North are the same. People are suffering the corrupt and wicked leadership that has been embedded."

He also believes corruption is the number one problem of Nigeria. "Until we deal with the issue of corruption also, there's no way we can also make national unity and cohesion, because corruption has integrated into every aspect of life."

Rafsanjani, however, recommends that good governance must be upheld, radical separatist groups must be tamed and suppressed by mechanisms that ensure inclusiveness and social justice.

"Thus, the only solution is to continue to promote national unity, and ensure that we are guided in our utterances and action. So, we do not encourage those who want to see fire in Nigeria, because some people are deliberately trying to ensure the balkanise the country. But a poor person in the north is suffering same way a poor person in the south is.

"However, hands must be on deck to tackle this class marginalisation by bridging the gaps otherwise, we would be promoting what is not even the real issue. So in my opinion, we cannot afford a repeat of civil war in this country because we are even yet to recover from the psychological, material or funds losses from recent spate of violence in the country," he declared.

Another analyst, Aloy Atsenokhai, stated that it is important to ensure inclusiveness in governance, stressing that there is a high sense of discord fuelled principally by the belief that the politics of ethnic dominance is at play.

> *First and foremost, it is important that we continue to promote national unity in this country and the only way to promote it is through security, justice, fairness and access to equal opportunity*

VILLA DIARY
WITH
JONATHAN NDA-ISAIAH

Presidency, S'West Govs And The Amotekun Dance

The most trending issue in the last few days has been the creation of a regional security outfit by South West governors, codenamed Operation Amotekun. The controversy trailing the decision of the governors reached a crescendo when the attorney general of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, declared the outfit unconstitutional. Malami's pronouncement attracted mixed reactions, with some Nigerians describing it as an invitation to anarchy.

The south west, like other regions in the country, is beleaguered by kidnappers and bandits. Apart from these two crimes, ritual killing is also at an all-time high in the region, according to reports. To nip the rising insecurity in the bud, the South West governors came up with the idea of forming a regional security outfit with a view to tackling the crime head on.

But the minister of Justice, Malami, threw spanners in their works when he declared that Amotekun was illegal. The AGF's decollation was all that was needed for the federal government to halt the move. It, however did not go down well with the minister who has come under severe knocks, especially from people in the southern part of the country.

Sadly, the controversy has once again exposed our fault lines, ethnicity and religion, which have been acerbated by the debate sparked by the Amotekunsaga. Again, it has also brought to the fore the argument for state and regional police.

It is no secret that President Muhammadu Buhari is not favourably disposed to the idea of state police, as he has contended severally that most states cannot afford to pay the police. However, the President last year received a report on the reform of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), and one of the recommendations of the panel that submitted the report to him was a creation of a state police. Upon receiving the report, Buhari requested that the report be studied and a white paper produced within three months.a

On the other hand, his deputy, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has been a strong advocate of state police. He had said last year that Nigeria could become a stronger and more prosperous nation if states have more powers. "I have argued in favour of State Police for the simple reason that policing is a local function. You simply cannot effectively police Nigeria from Abuja," the VP averred.

To press home their demand for the creation of Amotekun, the South West governors met with the vice president at the presidential villa on Thursday. After the meeting, the spokesman of the VP, Laolu Akande, said, "The meeting was very fruitful and unanimous resolutions were made on the way forward.

"Having regard to the need for all hands to be on deck in addressing the security concerns across the country, it was agreed that the structure of Amotekun should also align with the community policing strategy of the federal government.

"It was also agreed that necessary legal instruments will be put in place by each of the states to give legal backing to the initiative and address all issues concerning the regulation of the security structure".

Also speaking to State House correspondents after the meeting, Ondo State governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, disclosed that the South West states are going to have a legal framework to back Amotekun.

"So, we have rubbed minds and all of us have agreed on the way forward. The most important one is that we are going to have legal framework to back this Amotekun. And this legal framework is going to be one which we all are going to look at and will be sure to go without any hindrance", he stated.

Asked if the establishment of this outfit had been put on hold until the legal framework is developed, he said, "No; what I believe in our resolution is that Amotekanis there. You know the federal government is starting community policing; in essence really it is about community. So, we are going to work together to see the community policing and Amotekan work in a way.

For now, it seems the tension over the creation of Amotekun has subsided as the federal and state government look for ways to tame the rising insecurity in the land.

OPINION

Why Oshiomhole Can No Longer Function As APC National Chairman

BY ANSELM U. OJEZUA

On the 16 December, 2019, we, as the executive committee members of All Progressives Congress (APC), Edo State Chapter, declared our stand on Comrade Adams Oshiomhole's legality and capacity to function in office as national chairman of the APC due to his suspension as a member of the Party by his own people in Ward 10 of Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State.

In that statement, we posed the relevant question whether a person whose membership is in abeyance could purport to function as an officer of the party. We also raised very pertinent issues regarding the dire consequences of the embattled national chairman purporting to commit the party in any way or even execute documents on its behalf.

In our opinion, these issues were sufficiently serious to warrant the resignation of Comrade Adams Oshiomhole as national chairman and we said so. Our belief then was that he would save our party a lot of trouble and embarrassment by so doing.

Rather than heed the advice of his people, Oshiomhole has persisted in his arrogance and impunity. He has continued to make pronouncements and take actions which have further aggravated divisions within the party thereby moving it towards the precipice.

The problems which now threaten the very existence of the APC in Edo State started with the conduct of primaries to elective offices in 2018. In accordance with the resolution passed by the National Executive Committee of the party, the leadership of the party in the state adopted the indirect mode of primaries but Oshiomhole decreed that it must be done by direct primaries. However, to avoid rancour and acrimony which have the capacity to heat up the polity and being sensitive to the fact that Oshiomhole is from Edo State, we complied.

Contrary to the calendar circulated by the NWC where a separate day was dedicated to the conduct of the exercise for each position, the NWC did not appoint a Committee to conduct the party primaries in the state until the very last day. Worse still, the exercise conducted was unilaterally and arbitrarily cancelled by Oshiomhole without recourse to either the state executive of the party or the governor of the state.

Although we took serious exceptions to this naked display of abuse of power, we complied with his directive to conduct a fresh exercise. Had we not, we would have been exposed to the fatal consequences that befell our compatriots in Zamfara and a number of other states. However, Edo State lost the opportunity to participate in the convention that nominated President Muhammadu Buhari as the flagbearer of our party in the Presidential election because the National Convention was held on the same day as the controversial primaries conducted at the instance of Oshiomhole.

After the presidential elections, we received numerous reports of anti-party activities by individuals closely linked to Oshiomhole. It was obvious that the objective was to justify the wicked falsehood which was quietly being peddled by them at the time, that the governor was a political burden to the party. It is on record, however, that Mr. President scored more votes and recorded a higher percentage in 2019 under the watch of Governor Godwin Obaseki than in 2015 when Comrade Oshiomhole was governor. Governor Obaseki's reputation and acceptability became even more evident during the House of Assembly elections where our party swept all the seats available in a historic and an unprecedented manner; a feat never before achieved by any political party in the history of Edo State.

Having failed to discredit the governor at the polls the same individuals resorted to a campaign of calumny and infamy against him, his deputy and top government functionaries, deploying very raw and uncouth language in a sustained media blitz while showering praises on the National Chairman on each of those occasions leaving no one in doubt as to whose interest they were serving. They also held very well publicized meetings, using the APC logo in their publications.

To check the unwholesome activities of the said individuals, the State Working Committee convened an emergency meeting on the 28th of May 2019 where it resolved, following Article 21 A. (vi), of the Constitution of the APC, which expressly forbids the factionalisation or creation of parallel structures within the Party, to condemn this attempt at factionalisation and accordingly admonished members not to associate with those attempting to divide the party. The state chairman briefed the national chairman on this development when they met at his residence in Abuja on 29 May, 2019.

In consequence of the prevailing state of affairs, series of meetings were held at different levels of the party in the state where far reaching decisions were taken in the overriding interest of the party in Edo State, including the meeting of the APC Executives of Ward 10 in Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State held on the 2nd day of November 2019 where a Vote of No Confidence was passed on Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, consequent upon which he was suspended from the Party. The suspension has since been affirmed by Ward Chairmen of APC in Etsako West Local Government Area, Edo State held on the 6th day of November 2019 and the LGA Executives of APC in Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State via a meeting held on the 9th day of November 2019.

Strangely, rather than follow due process in responding to these actions and in spite of all attempts by the leadership of the party to intervene, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, apparently feeling too big to subject himself to the processes of 'small people' including his Ward Executives and the Local Government Party Chairmen, chose to continue to make and sponsor divisive comments in the print and electronic media.

It was in such dire circumstances and to preserve the sanctity of our constitution and restore order within the ranks of the party that the state chapter of the party had to approach the court, which resulted in an Order of the High Court, Benin, directing the sustenance of status quo ante and effectively restraining one Col. David Imuse (Rtd) from parading himself as Chairman of the party in Edo State.

Our understanding of the decision of the National Executive Committee of the All Progressives Congress on the issue of setting up the Reconciliation Committee is that it ought to be set up directly by President Muhammadu Buhari in his capacity as leader of the Party, as Comrade Adams Oshiomhole and the National Working Committee are currently embroiled in most of the disputes across the country and their actions and inactions resulted in most of such disputes.

Accordingly, we wish to, once again, call on the leadership of the Party, particularly, Mr. President, the Progressive Governors Forum, the State Chairmen, other members of the National Executive Committee of the party and other well meaning leaders of the party to rise up to the occasion, do the needful and deal with the cankerworm currently eating deep into the fabrics of our party. We believe this is supported by our recent experiences as a party, that a political solution is always better than a judicial solution in circumstances such as this.

While we pledge to work with a properly, fairly and duly constituted Reconciliation Committee to resolve this long-drawn, needless and avoidable crisis in the Edo State chapter of our party, our position, which we have mentioned and variously reiterated in the past, is that it has become clearly impossible for Oshiomhole to continue to lead the APC as national chairman. It is imperative that he steps aside to save the soul of the party. It cannot be overemphasized that having been validly suspended as a member of the party by his ward, all actions and steps taken by him as national chairman are in jeopardy with the likelihood of grave consequences for the party.

–Ojezua is the chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Edo State.

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NATIONAL ECONOMY

Buhari Signs Finance Bill, Approves 7.5% VAT Increase

First City Monument Bank (FCMB) has urged stakeholders in the agriculture and power sectors in Nigeria to deepen access to renewable sources of energy for the country to take full advantage of the opportunities in these areas to fast-track and sustain growth. The Bank pointed that this can be achieved by developing and implementing strategies that focus on efficiency, sustainability, accessibility and affordability with off-grid energy systems as drivers.

The Executive Director, Finance of FCMB, Mrs. Yemisi Edun, stated this in her keynote address at a conference organised by the Bank on Energy-Agric Nexus for Rural Economic Development, under the theme, "Stimulating the Agricultural Sector through Off-Grid Energy Development", held November 26 to 27, 2019 in Abuja. It was in partnership with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), The European Union, Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Nigerian Energy Support Programme (NESP), Heinrich Ball Siftung (HBS) Foundation and Power for All.

The conference provided a rare oppor-

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9"X 5 COL	405,379	30,403	435,782	289,797	14,490	306,287
9"X 4 COL	362,781	27,209	389,990	285,864	14,293	300,157
9"X 3 COL	351,335	26,350	377,685	275,987	13,799	289,786
8"X 6 COL	353,389	26,504	379,893	271,429	13,571	285,001
8"X 5 COL	351,071	26,330	377,401	265,357	13,268	278,625
8"X 4 COL	347,940	26,095	374,035	261,419	13,071	274,490
8"X 3 COL	311,113	23,333	334,446	232,476	11,624	244,100
7"X 6 COL	299,391	22,454	321,845	230,864	11,543	242,407
7"X 5 COL	275,861	20,690	296,551	220,842	11,042	231,884
7"X 4 COL	270,620	20,297	290,917	210,354	10,518	220,872
6"X 6 COL	267,181	20,039	287,220	207,642	10,382	218,024
6"X 5 COL	263,961	19,797	283,758	191,753	9,588	201,341
6"X 4 COL	260,954	19,572	280,526	181,975	9,099	191,074
6"X 3 COL	257,750	19,331	277,081	167,675	8,384	176,059
6"X 2 COL	238,056	17,854	255,910	164,864	8,243	173,107
5"X 5 COL	225,495	16,912	242,407	159,853	7,993	167,846
5"X 4 COL	217,462	16,310	233,772	149,725	7,486	157,212
5"X 3 COL	163,097	12,232	175,329	143,235	7,162	150,397
5"X 2 COL	108,731	8,155	116,886	107,935	5,397	113,332
4"X 6 COL	106,019	7,951	113,970	101,347	5,067	106,415
4"X 5 COL	98,259	7,369	105,628	90,335	4,517	94,852
4"X 4 COL	92,055	6,904	98,959	80,802	4,040	84,842
4"X 3 COL	92,051	6,904	98,955	68,580	3,429	72,008
4"X 2 COL	86,985	6,524	93,509	56,132	2,807	58,938
3"X 3 COL	83,433	6,257	89,690	49,757	2,488	52,245
3"X 2 COL	75,700	5,677	81,377	36,435	1,822	38,257
2"X 2 COL	64,932	4,870	69,802	23,333	1,167	24,500
1"X 1 COL	21,859	1,639	23,498	15,963	798	16,761

SPECIAL POSITION	
PAGE 2 OR 3	1,800,000
PAGE 4 OR 5	1,800,000
PAGE 6 OR 7	1,500,000
FRONT PAGE EAR PIECE	1,000,000
FRONT PAGE STRIP	1,500,000
FRONT PAGE SOLOS	900,000
BACK PAGE EARPIECE	1,380,000
BACK PAGE STRIP	510,000
CENTRE SPREAD (COLOUR)	2,250,000
CENTRE SPREAD (BLACK & WHITE)	1,900,000
DOUBLE SPREAD (COLOUR)	1,950,000
DOUBLE SPREAD BLACK & WHITE	1,386,000
FRONT PAGE (10 X 6)	18,000,000
WRAP AROUND	25,000,000
FRONT PAGE (1'X 1)	196,900

		RATE	VAT	TOTAL
REGISTRATION OF TRUSTEE	3"X 2 COLS	19,148	1,553	20,701
LOSS OF DOCUMENTS	2"X 2 COLS	9,574	776	10,350
CHANGE OF NAME	PER BOX	3,000		3,000
LOOSE INSERTS				-
HANDLING FOR THE FIRST 40,000 COPIES		151,709	12,301	164,010
PER 1000 COPIES (1 SHEET)		38,462	3,119	41,580
PER 1000 COPIES (Magazines 4 -8 pages)		64,103	5,198	69,300
per 1000 copies (magazines 8 - 36 pages)		90,812	7,363	98,175

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2. Series discount is subject to the stipulated number of insertions and it is payable only at the end of the campaign (to be deducted from balance paid)
3. Copy date is 2 days for the North and 3 days for the South
4. Cancellation of advert placement in less than 24 hours to publication date will attract 25% surcharge.
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8. Colour guides are to accompany coloured adverts.
9. Alterations to original order should be conveyed in writing 24 hours to desired alteration date.

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Work At Lagos-Ibadan Rail Progressing Remarkable - Minister

BY EJIKE EJIKE, ABUJA

The minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi has expressed happiness with the successes recorded at the ongoing work at the Lagos to Ibadan railway, even as he called for the deployment of more equipment and workforce in order to meet up with the project deadline.

The minister, who stated this when he went on an impromptu inspection of the project yesterday, said he would discuss with the CCECC chairman to ensure that more equipment and personnel are deployed to hasten the job.

Speaking to journalists after the inspection, he said: "I think there are some remarkable progress from the day we came to now. If we saw the number of staff, we saw on site today, we would not have complained. Going from here to the sea port, we see remarkable improvement meaning that something was wrong before their chairman came. I am going now to have another meeting with him and we will have a total conversation about moving forward."

Speaking on the completion date, the minister said: "like someone sent me a text and said let's not tell them the date anymore, let's just work; I won't even tell the conversation I have had with the chairman as per completion but let's see what will happen when we come on February 20.

"If they continue with this kind of speed, we expect that we should be able to commence activities on the track. As far as I am concerned, mentally I'm almost out of Lagos. I am basically trying to focus on Kano to Kaduna, Ibadan to Ilorin and Ilorin to Minna and then to Abuja."

Explaining further on the terms of contract of the project, he stated: "It is complex and the reason is that the original time for the contract to expire is May but they made an argument which we can't also fault. They said additional works which we gave them six months for each additional works. If you add six months to the time, we are talking about next year."

Also speaking, the managing director of Nigeria Railway Corporation, Engr. Fidet Okhiria said: "on vandalism of the rail equipment, "We have had some respite in the last two weeks and the Police have also lived up to their responsibility by ensuring that they pick those that are involved and charge them to court immediately. Once they charge to court, it depends on the judge who sometimes detain them for two months or more and I think their colleagues are hearing it and that is why they have reduced."

APC Withdraws From A/Ibom Rerun Election

BY BERNARD TOLANI DADA, UYO

The All Progressives Congress Party (APC) in Akwa Ibom State said it will not participate in the re-run election scheduled for Saturday.

The APC state chairman, Mr Ini Okopido made this known during a press conference yesterday in Uyo, saying the party has withdrawn from the rerun election in Essien Udim local government area as it was dissatisfied with the conduct of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in the state.

Okopido said both Senator Godswill Akpabio whose candidacy has been replaced with Emem Ekperkpe for the senatorial district election and Nse Ntuen for Essien Udim state constituency will not participate in the elections.

He said the party has instituted a court process against INEC for failing to affirm the election of Nse Ntuen as the member representing Essien Udim in the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly.

"We have officially withdrawn as a party from the rerun elections in Essien Udim local government area. We are so dissatisfied with the conduct of INEC in Akwa Ibom State and we have withdrawn from the elections.

"As far as we are concerned, Igini has shown unprecedented bias against APC. We know he does not like APC in Akwa Ibom State and if he conducts any election in Akwa Ibom, the party will withdraw. Igini has not been fair to us as a state," he said.

EU Earmarks €26.5m For Victims Of North East Conflict

BY OMONU NELSON, ABUJA

European Union (EU) has announced a €26.5 million emergency package for conflict victims in the North East of Nigeria.

Over 160,000 more people have been forced to flee their homes in the North East as a result of increase in violence, EU also stated.

The emergency package which is the first for the 2020 according to the European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarcic is to provide food aid, access to clean water and sanitation facilities, shelter, basic primary healthcare and education for children caught up in the conflict.

Speaking to journalists yesterday in Abuja, Lenarcic stressed the importance of access for the aid workers.

He said: "I saw first-hand today, the suffering that conflict has brought to people's lives and how crucial humanitarian aid is to people's survival. What matters most is that humanitarian Organisations can reach all the people in need, without restrictions, including in areas under the influence of non-state armed groups.

"It is vital that all states and parties to armed conflicts respect their obligation to allow and facilitate the rapid and U impeded passage of humanitarian relief."

EU Commissioner also added, "It is also key to implement in parallel a comprehensive strategy in the region, exploring political tracks while addressing the root causes of conflict."

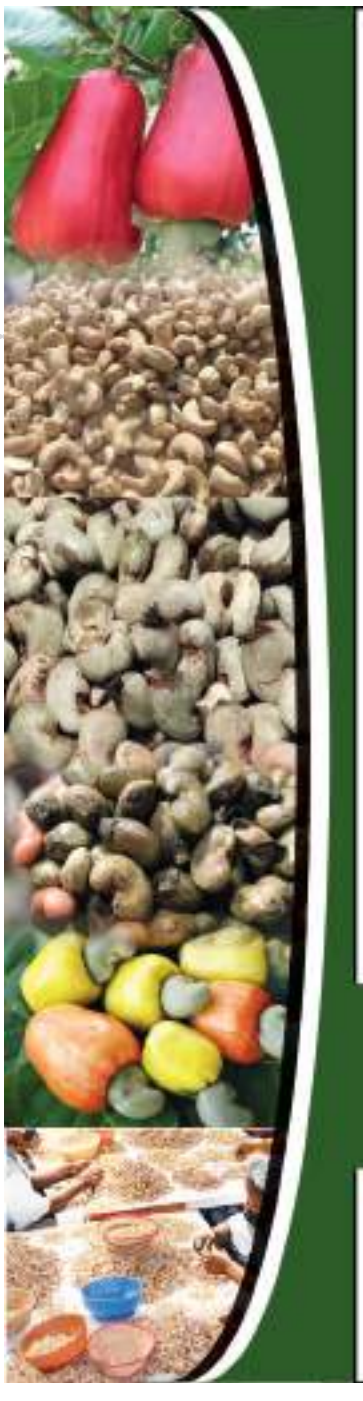
In his remarks, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon stressed the need for safety of aid workers regretted that two aid workers abducted in March 2018 and July 2019 were yet to be released.

"Our ability to provide humanitarian assistance to millions of people affected by the crisis will depend on a secure environment, for the civilians and we are here to assist, as well as the safety of our aid workers, majority whom are Nigerians.

"Our ability to respond also depends on the trust we have in our respective actions towards our common goal of supporting the most vulnerable people in surviving and rebuilding their lives and their communities," he added.

He noted that in 2020, the target is to reach 5.8 million people in conflict areas; stressing that the current situation demands increased collaboration among all actors and stakeholder to prevent the crisis from spiralling to levels seen three years ago.

On her part, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar-Farouq assured EU of government's support to ensure safety of humanitarian aid workers in areas of conflict.



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Time: 9:00am

Venue: *International Conference Centre, Abuja*
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LEADERSHIP weekend SPORTS

3 ELATING PAGES

25.01.2020

Australian Open: Serena, Osaka Crash Out; Federer Survives

Serena Williams crashed out, 15-year-old Coco Gauff stunned Naomi Osaka and Roger Federer survived a five-set thriller as the form book went flying out of the window at the Australian Open, yesterday.

Men's title-holder Novak Djokovic eased into the last 16 but elsewhere there were surprises all over Melbourne Park with Williams the biggest victim and Federer fighting back from 4-8 down in a fifth-set tie-break with John Millman.

Williams' bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam was shattered by the unlikely figure of China's Wang Qiang, who triumphed in three tough sets – after winning just one game when they played at the US Open in September.

Gauff then stepped up her giant-killing Melbourne debut as she ousted Japanese defending champion Osaka, 22, in dismissive style, winning 6-3, 6-4 in just 67 minutes to reach round four.

"Oh my gosh. Two years ago I lost first round in the juniors and now I'm here – this is crazy," said the teenager, who shocked Venus Williams in the first round.

Federer came within a whisker of repeating his 2018 US Open upset by Millman as he was taken to five punishing sets by the tough Australian.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion was facing defeat in the super tie-breaker but he clawed back from 4-8 down to clinch his 100th win at the Australian Open.

"Oh God, it was tough," said Federer. "Thank God it was a super tie-breaker (10 points), otherwise I would have lost this one.

"It came down to the wire in the end."

With Williams now 38, 23 years older than Gauff, the two players are at opposite ends of their careers.

And with Williams' close friend Caroline Wozniacki retiring on Friday, after defeat to Ons Jabeur, it looked like a changing of the guard in women's tennis.

But Williams, who has now had eight winless Grand Slams since returning from childbirth, said she hadn't given up hope of matching Margaret Court's 47-year-old record for Grand Slam titles.

"I definitely do believe (I can equal it) or I wouldn't be on tour," said Williams.

Williams was the bookies' favourite to lift the trophy for the eighth time but she came unstuck against a determined Wang, who won 6-4, 6/7 (2/7), 7-5.

Her defeat came just minutes after Denmark's Wozniacki was knocked out by Tunisia's Jabeur, bringing a tearful end to the former world No 1's final tournament before retiring.

"I had a dream when I was a kid. I wanted to win a Grand Slam. I wanted to be No 1 in the world," said Wozniacki, the Melbourne winner in 2018.

"People thought that I was crazy being from a small country. But I made it happen."

Williams' exit removes a major hurdle for Australia's world No 1 Ashleigh Barty, 23, who had been on course to meet her in the semifinals.

Barty, bidding to become the first Australian champion since 1978, hit form in a 6-3, 6-2 demolition of Elena Rybakina, saying she had played her best tennis so far this year.

Gauff, who trained with Serena Williams in the off-season, had promised she would be less nervous than in her last meeting with Osaka, when she was thrashed in round three of last year's US Open.

And so it proved as the teenager broke once in the first set and twice in the second to floor a rattled Osaka and ramp up a rivalry that could run and run.

In the men's draw, reigning champion Djokovic thrashed Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to reach the round of 16 at a canter.

But Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was also on the receiving end of an upset as he went down in straight sets to Canada's Milos Raonic, the world number 35.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

ENGLAND - FA CUP
01:45 Brentford v Leicester
04:00 Burnley v Norwich City
04:00 Coventry City v Birmingham
04:00 Millwall v Sheffield Utd
04:00 Newcastle v Oxford Utd
04:00 Portsmouth v Barnsley
04:00 Reading v Cardiff City
04:00 Southampton v Tottenham
04:00 West Ham v West Bromw
06:30 Hull City v Chelsea

SPAIN - LALIGA
01:00 Espanyol v Athletic Bilbao
04:00 Valencia v Barcelona
06:30 Deportivo v Villarreal
09:00 Sevilla v Granada

ITALY - SERIE A
03:00 SPAL v Bologna
06:00 Fiorentina v Genoa
08:45 Torino v Atalanta

GERMANY - BUNDESLIGA
03:30 Union Berlin v Augsburg
03:30 M'bach v Mainz 05
03:30 Eintracht v Leipzig
03:30 Freiburg v Paderborn 07
03:30 Wolfsburg v Hertha BSC
06:30 Bayern v Schalke 04

FRANCE - LIGUE 1
05:30 Marseille v Angers
08:00 Monaco v Strasbourg
08:00 Saint-Etienne v Nimes
08:00 Montpellier v Dijon
08:00 Brest v Amiens
08:00 Reims v Metz

SUNDAY MATCHES

NIGERIA - NPFL
04:00 Abia Warriors v Warri Wolves
04:00 Adamawa Utd v Kwara Utd
04:00 Akwa Utd v Heartland
04:00 Dakkada v Jigawa Stars
04:00 Katsina Utd v IfeanyiUbah
04:00 Lobi Stars v Nasarawa Utd
04:00 MFM v Plateau Utd
04:00 Rivers Utd v Wikki Tourist
04:00 Sunshine v Kano Pillars

ENGLAND - FA CUP
02:00 Man City v Fulham
04:00 Tranmere v Man Utd
04:00 Shrewsbury v Liverpool

SPAIN - LALIGA
12:00 Atletico Madrid v Leganes
03:00 Celta Vigo v Eibar
03:00 Getafe v Real Betis
06:30 Real Socieda v Mallorca
09:00 Valladolid v Real Madrid

ITALY - SERIE A
12:30 Inter v Cagliari
03:00 Verona v Lecce
03:00 Parma v Udinese
03:00 Sampdoria v Sassuolo
06:00 Roma v Lazio
09:45 Napoli v Juventus
GERMANY - BUNDESLIGA
03:30 Werder Bremen v Hoffenheim

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Ogba

"It is not a must that he must coach the Nigeria's Super Eagles. I'm one of those who believe that the man has finished his time and has nothing to offer to Nigeria football.
"So for me, it is not the issue of everybody wanting him back but Nigerians are not the managers of the Nigeria Football Federation.

—Chairman Senate Committee on Sport and Youth Development, Senator Obinna Ogba has said that the Super Eagles handler, Gernot Rohr has nothing to offer the Super Eagles anymore and should give way.

"As a young player, when a big club comes for you, the first question you should ask is, am I going to get enough playing time?. Will I be able to cope with higher challenges?. If you are convinced that you can cope, then a move can be made. Personally, I will advise him to consider playing another season in France with Lille where he is enjoying regular football. But it all depends on him. If he feels it is the right time for him to go, fine and good but he should be ready to take anything that would come out of it.
He will be taking a big risk but sometimes, you must gamble to succeed.

— Former Super Eagles utility player, Garba Lawal has warned Lille of France striker, Victor Osimhen to be careful to avoid any hasty decision now that he is being courted by some of the top clubs in Europe.

"It is a team that, yes, I would like to buy someday, but what I keep saying is we have $20 billion worth of projects and that's what I really want to concentrate on.
I'm not buying Arsenal right now, I'm buying Arsenal when I finish all these projects because I'm trying to take the company to the next level.

— Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote insisting on purchase Arsenal.

LEADERSHIP weekend
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Bayern Munich legend and ambassador, Giovane Elber (right) addressing participants at the one-day special training organised by FCT FA in collaboration with Bayern Munich at the Area 3 Mini Stadium, Abuja, on Thursday.

Bayern Munich Legend Grooms 20 Grassroots Coaches In FCT

BY SALIFU USMAN, ABUJA

A total of 20 grassroots coaches drawn from the six area council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have undergone a one-day special coaching training on how to deliver organised, safe and fun football session for young footballers.

The training, funded by the FCT FA Chairman, Abah Muhammed Mouktar and supported by Bundesliga giant, Bayern Munich as part of the partnership entered with the FCT Football Association and the German club, was conducted by Brazilian legend and Bayern Munich ambassador, Giovane Elber.

The coaches comprising 18 males and two female, were drills on how to handle the young talents with available facilities to get best results.

Elber praised the enthusiasm of the coaches, saying Nigeria is a well-known football nations in the world following the country's historic victory at the 1994 Atlanta Olympic Games.

Programme co-ordinator and FCT FA executive committee member, John Wakili, fondly call Coach Waco, extolled the vision of the FCT FA Chairman, saying he has continued to lift football to greater height.

"The coaching clinic was put together in collaboration between FCT FA and Bayern Munich FC through the efforts of our able chairman. We commend the vision of our chairman, Abah Mouktar. He is a man of vision and he has continued to lift football development in the FCT with good initiatives like this clinic.

"The coaches were taught on how to manage players at the grassroots and get the best out of them. Out major challenge is lack of facilities and the coaches were advised on how to make best use of the available facilities and still get best of the players," he said.

the facilitator of the programme and FCT FA Chairman, Abba Muhammed Mouktar, described the one day trained as historic, saying Nigerian players have benefited from the developmental programme.

"It is a historic moment in Nigeria to have former Brazilian international and Bayern Munich ambassador to train our coaches and inspire our young players.

Mouktar revealed that the trained coaches will selected young players who will represent FCT at the 2020 Bayern Munich Youth Cup to be staged in Lagos where final selected team will represent Nigeria at the Bayern World Youth Cup in Germany in May.

Oparanozie Backs Nnadozie To Shine At Paris FC

Nigeria international Desire Oparanozie has backed compatriot Chiamaka Nnadozie to succeed with Paris FC in France.

The 19-year-old goalkeeper completed her first professional move abroad from six-time Nigerian league champions Rivers Angels after signing an 18-month deal with Paris on Wednesday.

She enjoyed a memorable 2019, emerging the youngest goalkeeper to keep a clean sheet at the Women's World Cup as Nigeria broke a 20-year jinx, reaching the Round of 16 in France last year.

Nnadozie also helped Rivers Angels to reclaim the Nigerian Women's Premier League title and inspired the country to win the Wafu Women's Cup of Nations title and the African Games gold in 2019.

Nnadozie

Having ended her three-year stay with the Port Harcourt side, the Guingamp star took to social media to welcome the 2019 African Women's Player of the Year nominee to the European nation.

"Here is officially welcoming you to France, Chiamaka Nnadozie," Oparanozie wrote on her official Twitter account.

It's safe to say I'm proud of who you're becoming, and I await your superb exploits here. Can't wait to play against you. Congratulations once again baby girl. Mama loves you."

Here is officially welcoming you to France. @nnadozie_chiamaka it's safe to say i'm proud of who you're becoming, and i await your superb exploits here. Can't wait to play against you□. Congratulations once again babygirl.

Nnadozie will be made to wait for her debut until February 8 against French giants Dijon as she is expected return in the coming days to Nigeria in a bid to sort out her work permit.

Moses Sets Inter Milan Target

Victor Moses has promised to give his best for Inter Milan and relishes playing for the Serie A side, which he described as one of the biggest clubs in the world.

The former Nigeria international completed a loan move to the San Siro outfit from Premier League side Chelsea with an option to buy on Thursday, after his 18-month loan at Fernabache was cut short.

The 29-year-old is delighted with the move and has taken time to appreciate all those who played a part in the successful transfer while promising to help the Black and Blues excel.

"It is an honour to have signed for one of the biggest clubs in the world and I can't wait to get started at Inter," Moses posted on Instagram.

"The opportunity to join such a prestigious club with such an incredible history was something I felt I had to take and I can't wait to now join my teammates and get started.

"I'd like to thank everyone connected with the club and all of the fans for the amazing welcome you've given me since I arrived in Milan.

"I will give my all for the club and will do everything possible to help achieve success. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Ali Koç and the board, Ersun Yanal and the management team, my teammates and everyone connected with Fenerbahçe.

"A special thank you too to the fans who were always brilliant with me. I loved every moment playing in Istanbul and the club will always have a special place in mine and my family's heart. Good luck for the future.

"Finally I'd like to say a big thank you to my family, friends and management team for all of your help and always being there for me."

Moses, who has now reunited with his former manager Antonio Conte, could make his debut for the San Siro outfit when they take on Cagliari in a league game on Sunday.

Moses

Ighalo

Man Utd Name Ighalo On Transfer List

Premier League giant, Manchester United have registered a shock interest in signing former Super Eagles forward, Odion Ighalo on loan this month.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is keen on bringing in a striker this month on loan following injury to Marcus Rashford. But now according to Sky Sports, United have made shock approaches for the two former Premier League players, Ighalo and Islam Slimani.

Ighalo is currently with Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua and has two years left on his contract while Slimani is on loan at Monaco from Leicester.

Nigeria international Ighalo scored 17 goals in 55 Premier League appearances for the Hornets before securing a move to Chinese League One in 2017. While, Slimani has 13 goals in 46 appearances for his parent club Leicester but has been loaned out to Newcastle, Fenerbahce and Monaco since his arrival at the King Power Stadium in 2016 from Sporting Lisbon.

After their 2-0 defeat to Burnley at Old Trafford in midweek, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer indicated that the club are in need of 'quality' signings, with Paul Pogba as well as Rashford currently sidelined.

Ighalo has been banging in goals left and right in China, so much so that he's been rumoured with a January return to the Premier League as Everton, Newcastle, Southampton, West Ham, Crystal Palace, and even Watford have all been linked to the 30-year-old forward.

"There are always speculations about me, and truly I have offers from the Premier League, but I also have a two-year contract with Shanghai and am happy here," Ighalo told Brila.net recently.

"The Premier League is the best in the world and of course I would love to go back, with Watford or any other team. It could happen, but I have a contract with Shanghai and we'll see how it goes."

In 72 Chinese Super League games with both Changchun Yatai and Shanghai Shenhua, Ighalo has scored 46 goals.

LMC Slams N4.7m On Katsina Utd, Kano Pillars Over Crowd Trouble

BY SALIFU USMAN, ABUJA

The League Management Company has imposed a fine of N3.5m and N1.2m on Katsina United and Kano Pillars respectively for the unruly behaviour of their fans during their matchday15 fixture in the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) played at the Muhammadu Dikko in katsina.

The LMC in statement signed by Salihu Abubakar, the chief operating officer, noted that upon a review of the official reports and investigation into the Matchday 15 fixture including the incidents that occurred thereafter, both clubs were found in breach of its' Rules C23- 26.

The statement added that the investigation determined that during the half-time interval, supporters of Katsina United (the home club) threw objects (including water sachets and plastic water bottles) towards players of Kano Pillars (the visiting team) as they made their way towards the dressing room, which act was done repeatedly and consistently, thereby forcing players and officials of both teams as well as the match officials to remain on the field of play throughout the half-time interval.

the league body said it was also found that in the course of the match, supporters of both clubs engaged in inappropriate and aggressive conduct against each other, which was instigated by supporters of Katsina United, saying the fracas led to damage to some stadium property such as plastic chairs and glass windows.

The LMC said considering the findings and in the exercise of its powers of summary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule C23 - C26, Katsina United were fined a total of N3.5m and an order to play subsequent home matches behind closed doors pending completion of investigation while Kano Pillars were fined N1.2m.

Details of the fines against Katsina United include N1,500,000 for an aggravated breach of Rule B13.18 i.e. pursuant to Rule C19, as the act of throwing objects towards the visiting team was repeated and consistent to the extent that it resulted in both teams and the match officials being forced to remain on the field of play throughout the half-time interval is considered an aggravated breach of Rule B13.18 with a view to imposing a more severe sanction.

Sanctions imposed on Kano Pillars include a fine of N1,000,000 for misconduct by its supporters who left their allotted terrace to engage rival supporters in the course of the match, in breach of Rule C1 and punishable by virtue of Rule B15.17 and a fine of N200,000 for attempting to game the system in breach of article E1.4 of the code of conduct by circulating inaccurate and misleading information after the match as well as failure to provide necessary information to aid the investigation such as identity of the two fans injured, medical reports and for further questioning by the police authorities as to how they got injured.

The LMC also ruled that subsequent Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) matches between the two will be played without fans until both clubs and other stakeholders reach an understanding that will guarantee peaceful behaviour of the fans and respect for public order during the matches.

Dalung To Officiate Fashikun's Novelty Match

BY OLAWALE AYENI, ABUJA

Former Minister of Youth and Sports development, Solomon Dalung will on Monday officiate a novelty match in honour of the memory of the veteran and investigative Journalist, Late Olajide Fashikun.

The match which is being put together by friends and colleagues of the late Journalist will see Friends of Jide squaring up against some selected Journalists.

The statement by organisers said Dalung will be the centre referee for the match slated to kick off by 4pm at the Area 3 playing pitch on Monday.

Jide Fashikun, a former chairman of the Kwara State Chapter of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria; Sports Editor of the Herald newspaper, Managing Editor of Gong News, a senior Sports Correspondent at ThisDay newspapers and a former lecturer at Kwara Polytechnic, died on January 27, 2019 in Abuja after a brief illness.

Until his death, he was the Director General of National Sports Development Fund Incorporated (NSDFI) body whose main objective is to groom and support young athletes to achieve their potential.

NMLWS Kicks Against Hosting Of Futsal Cup Of Nations In El-Aaium

BY SHALOM A. OLUDELE, ABUJA

The Nigerian Movement for the Liberation of Western Sahara has added their voice denounced Confederation of Africa Football (CAF)'s persistence in organising the 2020 Africa Futsal Cup of Nations in the occupied city of El Aaiun.

The body in a statement signed its coordinator, Dr Dipo Fashina, and made available to LEADERSHIP Weekend sports, yesterday, said the deliberate attempt by Morocco, in collaboration with CAF to host the FUTSAL 2020 Cup of Nations in El-Aaiun is a violation of international law and UN resolutions on the settlement of Western Sahara conflict.

The statement reads: "It is a recognised fact globally that Western Sahara is a Non-Self-Governing Territory undergoing decolonization process and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 'the territory of a colony or other Non-Self Governing Territory, has, under the Charter (of United Nations) a status separate and distinct from the territory of the State administering it; and as such separate and distinct status under the Charter shall exist until the people of the colony or Non-Self-Governing Territory have exercised their right of self-determination in accordance with the Charter, and particularly its principles and purposes.

"This position was clearly stated by the African Union in the Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) Assembly held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30-31 January 2015, which condemned the organisation of Crans Montana Forum in the occupied city of Dakhla, Western Sahara, 'As a flagrant violation of the International Law'. In addition, the African Union called upon the AU member states, African Civil Society and all organisations not to participate in the Forum."

NMLWS added that the attempt to host the FUTSAL 2020 Cup of Nations in El-Aaiun translates to the weaponization of sports and desperate acts of bestiality by Morocco.

McIlroy Placed For World No 1 As Woods Fires 69 At Torrey Pines

Rory McIlroy gave himself the ideal platform to build on in his quest to regain world No 1 status as he ended the first day of the Farmers Insurance Open just one shot off the lead.

McIlroy's driving was in particularly good order on the North Course at Torrey Pines, and his holing out was also impressive in a seven-birdie 67, while Tiger Woods opened with a 69 which he described as a "positive" start to the year.

But while golf's two biggest drawcards prospered along with 2017 winner Jon Rahm (68), defending champion Justin Rose was unable to replicate the form he showed in Singapore last week as he struggled to a 75 on the South Course, leaving him with a big task to survive the halfway cut.

The consolation for Rose is that he will be playing the easier North Course on Friday, while McIlroy, Woods and Rahm take momentum to the South as both celebrated encouraging returns to competitive tournament golf.

Former PGA champion and Ryder Cup star Keegan Bradley kept a bogey off his card and made an eagle and four birdies in a 66 which earned him a share of the overnight lead with unheralded Dane Sebastian Cappelen, who defied the notion that the South Course is a tougher layout in his eight-birdie round.

McIlroy is the standout name in a group of eight players tied for third on five under, the reigning FedExCup champion getting his 2020 campaign off the the ideal start with a birdie at the long 10th on the North.

A fluffed chip on the 13th cost him a bogey, but his response was immediate as he birdied the next and, after a nice up-and-down for another gain at 17, he holed from 40 feet from the fringe of the 18th green for a bonus birdie which took him to the turn in 33.

McIlroy

world NEWS

Britain Convenes Emergency Response Meeting On New Coronavirus

Britain convened an emergency response meeting yesterday to discuss measures to contain a virus that has killed 26 people and infected more than 800 in China, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman said.

The so-called Cobra meeting was chaired by Health Secretary Matt Hancock at 1200 GMT, and attended by ministers from other departments including the foreign office and education ministry.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the new coronavirus an emergency for China but stopped short of declaring the epidemic of international concern.

"We remain in close contact with the World Health Organisation and international partners including China and we are ready to take further action if needed," the spokesman said.

FG Lauds UNHCR Humanitarian Services In Nigeria

BLESSING BATURE, Abuja

The Federal Government has commended the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for providing support in the areas of Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Migration, in Nigeria.

The Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajia Sadiya Umar Farouq gave the commendation when she received in audience the outgoing UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Antonio Jose Canhandula and his team, in the Ministry in Abuja.

The Minister said UNHCR under the tenure of Canhandula achieved a lot in addressing humanitarian issues "We worked closely with Canhandula in the past three years at the Refugees Commission and I appreciate his pro-activeness in handling refugees and migration issues especially in the registration of refugees coming into the country".

She said UNHCR supported the Federal Government in the development and implementation of the Tripartite Agreement, Participation of the Global Impact for Refugees and the Conventional Travel Documents that allow refugees move out of the country freely as well as support in the service delivery of IDPs, their basic human rights and technical assistance.

The Minister appreciated the achievements recorded by Canhandula during his tenure and wished him well in his next assignment.

Earlier, the UNHCR Representative, Antonio Jose Canhandula thanked the Federal government for the support given to him during his three years' sojourn in the country.

He said in the past three years, there was an increase of Nigerian employees at the UNHCR from 30 to 96 and the Commission handled humanitarian issues in Cross Rivers State, Benue and is trying to register its presence in Taraba State.

He commended the Federal Government under the leadership of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari on the way refugees are handled in Nigeria unlike other African countries where refugees are isolated and kept in camps.

"In Nigeria, refugees are kept in settlements not camps. There are interactions between the refugees and the local communities, they attend schools and health centres in the communities where they reside and conduct their businesses" he added.

Canhandula stated that from experience refugee situations do not last less than 17 to 20 years and advised that the Federal Government should use its political will to discuss with neighbouring African States to address issues relating to refugees.

He said UNHCH is ready to continue to collaborate with Nigeria on issues relating to IDPs, statelessness and mixed migration.

Norway PM Reshuffles Cabinet After Right-wing Party Exit

Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg yesterday announced her biggest cabinet reshuffle since taking power in 2013, replacing or repositioning two-thirds of ministers in the hope of reviving the Conservative-led coalition's prospects.

Solberg this week lost her majority in parliament following the shock exit from government by the right-wing Progress Party over a decision to bring a woman suspected of Islamic State affiliation home to Norway from Syria.

While Progress vowed to still back Solberg as prime minister, opinion polls point to an overwhelming lead for Norway's center-left opposition parties ahead of a general election in 2021.

The overall size of the cabinet was cut to 20 from 22, and 13 out of the 20 posts would see a new appointee, either from inside or outside the current government lineup, including those of finance, oil and energy, justice and transport.

Iraq Protesters Demand US Military Pullout

Thousands of Iraqis rallied at two central Baghdad intersections yesterday after a prominent cleric called for a "million strong" protest against the American military presence, following the US killing of an Iranian general and an Iraqi militia chief.

The initial march appeared not to gather further steam, however, largely dissipating after several hours. Some protesters headed to join separate anti-government demonstrators at Baghdad's Tahrir Square, and others boarded buses to go home.

The march called by Moqtada al-Sadr aimed to press for a pullout of US troops. Many anti-government protesters feared it could overshadow their separate, months-long demonstrations that have challenged Iran-backed Shi'ite groups' grip on power.

Iraq's top Shi'ite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, later called in his weekly sermon for political groups to form a new government as soon as possible to bring stability to the country and enact reforms to improve Iraqis' lives.

Sadr, who commands a following of millions in vast Baghdad slums, opposes all foreign interference in Iraq but has recently aligned himself more closely with Iran, whose allies have dominated state institutions since a 2003 US -led invasion.

Sadr supported anti-government protests when they began in October, but did not publicly urge his followers to join them.

The demonstrations have since taken aim at all groups and figures that are part of the post-2003 system including Sadr, who although often considered an outsider is part of that system, commanding one of the two largest blocs in parliament.

Some lawmakers and protesters say the new, anti-US element to public unrest distracts from the aim of toppling the corrupt political elite and could fuel more violence.

"We want them all out - America, Israel, and the corrupt politicians in government," said Raed Abu Zahra, a health ministry worker from southern city of Samawa, who arrived by bus at night and stayed in Sadr City, a sprawling district of Baghdad controlled by the cleric's followers.

"We support the protests in Tahrir as well, but understand why Sadr held this protest here so it doesn't take attention from theirs," he added.

Men and women marched waving the red, white and black national colors, and chanted slogans against the United States, which leads a military coalition against the Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

Some were wearing symbolic white robes indicating they're willing to die for their country while others sat looking out over the square from half finished buildings, holding signs reading "No, no, America, no, no, Israel, no, no, colonialists".

Marchers were protected by Sadr's Saraya al-Salam brigades and Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces, an umbrella grouping of Iran-backed Shi'ite militias, witnesses said.

The march looked unlikely as initially feared to end up at the gates of the US Embassy, the seat of US power in Iraq and the scene of violent clashes last month when militia supporters tried to storm the compound.

Sistani, who condemned the killing of Iranian military mastermind General Qassem Soleimani in a US drone strike on Jan. 3, repeated his opposition to foreign interference in Iraq.

"Iraq's sovereignty must be respected ... and citizens should have the right to peaceful protest," he said.

Trump

Rwanda Jails Opposition Figures For 'Conspiracy'

Six Rwandan opposition figures have been jailed for seven to 12 years after being convicted of forming an illegal armed group and conspiring against the government, state radio reported.

The six belonged to the FDU-Inkingi party, formerly led by Victoire Ingabire, an outspoken critic of President Paul Kagame.

Gatera Gashabana, the lawyer for the six, said they would appeal against their conviction and sentences.

Ingabire herself served six years of a 15-year prison term on charges of conspiring to form an armed group to undermine the government, before being released in 2018. She said the charges were politically motivated.

Human rights groups have long criticized the Rwandan government's intolerance of dissent under Kagame and mysterious murders and disappearances of some opposition critics. The government has denied such accusations.

State-run Radio Rwanda, in a report late on Thursday, said the six newly sentenced to prison included Boniface Twagirimana, a vice president in the FDU-Inkingi, who along with one associate received a 10-year term.

Two other co-accused men were given 12 years while a seven-year sentence was handed out to others. The court, based in the south of Rwanda, acquitted four other defendants.

Prosecutors said the men had helped to form a rebel group in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo with the objective of toppling the government in Rwanda.

Over the years, Rwanda has accused various rebel groups operating out of the jungles of eastern Congo of plotting to destabilize it or overthrow Kagame's government.

Ingabire described the latest convictions as politically motivated as well. "The charges in themselves are political," she told Reuters. "The current political party in power in our country doesn't want another strong political party in Rwanda."

The state minister in the foreign ministry, Olivier Nduhungirehe, said Ingabire's comments were "nonsense".

Questions Gbemi Saraki Must Answer

BY ABDUL-RASHID BONJILO

Gbemisola Saraki needs no detailed introduction to those familiar with Kwara politics. For those not familiar with Kwara politics, Gbemi Saraki, was two times Senator and now minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from Kwara central. She is a daughter of late Abubakar Olusola Saraki and younger sister to the immediate past Senate President Bokola Saraki. Although both Gbemi and her brother Bokola share parental background yet according to some section of the media, partisan politics divided them so sharply that they hardly meet eye to eye. According to one account, even the death of their father did not bring them together under one roof. But as things stand today, the demolition, by the state government, of their purported family house has exposed the fallacy about them (Gbemi and Bokola) concerning their so-called frosty relationship. We all can now see the lie behind the Sarakis in Kwara. They both made people to believe that relationship between them was not at all cordial; this not cordial relationship was designed with sole aim of diverting attention from their continued exploitations of collective patrimony of the people of Kwara. On the surface you will see Bokola and Gbemi fighting each other but beneath it, they are in a good and cordial relationship.

This however brings us to the issue of letter which she (Gbemi) wrote and tagged: For immediate release entitled: "those who come to equity must come with clean hands, the demolition of IIe-Arugbo."

However, Gbemi's letter did not come to the good people of Kwara state as something surprising, as good people of Kwara knew quite well that since Bukola has spoken certainly Gbemi must follow suit since they both have one and same game which is continued domination of Kwara people.

In the said letter Gbemi alleged amongst other things that, she always kept quiet on the happenings in Kwara for number of reasons topmost was because she is a loyal member of her party. She added "I don't want to get into any squabble with the governor despite so many provocations."

The question one may be tempted to ask here is: what sort of provocations by the governor is she talking about? What and what did the governor do to provoke her? Was it the exposure by the Abdulrazak led administration of bazaar lootings that went under the watchful eyes of her brother when he held sway as governor or was it the mindless looting carried out by her brother's god-son that constituted provocations to her? Since Abdulrahaman Abdul-razak assumes office in May last year as governor of Kwara state, it is to everybody's knowledge that he has never carried out any programme or pursued any policy that was detrimental to the interest of the people of Kwara state. Or was pursuing good policies and programmes which core intentions are to uplift standard of living of ordinary Kwarans that she considers as provocative? If anything Gbemi Saraki owed it a duty to tell the good people of Kwara what Governor Abdulrazak did to her that was provocative.

Gbemi Saraki as serving minister and loyal party member as she claimed, she indeed, ought not to have uttered a word regarding the demolition of Ile-Arugbo. She knew quite well that their late father did not acquire such land legally; the land belongs to the good people of Kwara State and regardless of all the antics so employed or yet to be employed by the Sarakis, what belongs to the people of Kwara must be return to them.

After all, Gbemi Saraki has no any moral right to talk about the demolition of IIe- Arugbo for the simple fact that what Gov.

Abdul-razak did was aimed at recovering what has been stolen from people. Gbemi Saraki ought to have place public interest over and above personal interest; by her action therefore she has openly placed private interest over and above public interest which was a total and complete negation of the oath she took as Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In a civilized clime, this open abuse of office by Gbemi Saraki could have instantly repudiated by the discerning minds. Resignation as Minister of Federal Republic of Nigeria is the only option left for Gbemi at the moment, or fire out rightly. At a time when President Muhammadu Buhari is fighting corruption and abuse of office by public officers, here we have a person who is a cabinet member in his government who not only demonstrates open disdain to transparency and accountability in governance but shown flagrant abuse of office through words and actions in her home state. President Muhammadu Buhari must do something urgently about this flagrant abuse of public trust by Gbemi at least to serve deterrent to all those who may wish to follow her path in his cabinet. Respect for rule of law, transparency and accountability are the core values of Buhari administration, for Gbemi to come out and challenged these principles in her state of Kwara amounts to total disrespect to the principles of President Buhari and what his government stands for.

–Bonjilo wrote from Offa, Kwara State.

As Dokubo's Team Begins Sanitization Of Amnesty Jobs

BY ONUABUCHI PRINCEMARTIN

Towards the end of 2019, Prof Charles Dokubo inaugurated a monitoring and evaluation team comprising of stakeholders in the Niger Delta Region with the aim of checkmating the lapses encountered in the realisation of the basic aims and objectives of the Amnesty Programme.

Hence, our searchlight has been moved in the direction of the nearly inaugurated team. We have followed their activities closely to see if they live up to expectations. Our team of probists have however noted that the team has began placing heavy parameters as to which contractor wins a contract and which gets paid.

One of the several parameters just put in place and soon to be totally implemented involves the stoppage of payment of mobilization fees to contractors. This is because most contractors have a means of absconding with the mobilization fees without doing the job thereby leaving an array of uncompleted but awarded contracts under the amnesty programme. Following the falsification of completion of contracts by contractors and a history of not doing contracts according to specification, contractors are now mandatorily required to bring completion certificates after the M&E have certified their jobs in other to get paid.

The M&E under Dokubo has also uncovered individuals who use multiple companies to collect the 15 percent mobilization fees and we hear that such companies would be blacklisted and sent to the authorities for investigation.

This move by the Dokubo-led team would help us in the Niger Delta to derive better job completions especially in record time with the highest project turn overs any coordinator has ever had since the inception of the programme.

We expect that the correction of these administrative lapses would reflect in the general development of the Niger Delta region. Because once projects approved are done according to standards, the effects are felt on our environment. We hereby urge the Dokubo-led team to be relentless in their efforts at redeeming the times in the Niger Delta.

–Martin writes from Abuja.

Bagudu: Threading The Path Of Essential Leadership

BY MUHAMMED SANI

Literally, the essence of democracy as a system of government which is vested with all the powers of inclusive decision making on the issues around the people, is to provide good governance and economic empowerment.

No doubt, the electorate and the entire humanity form the cardinal and focal point of concern of every democratic leader's exploits in office for the betterment of the people's living standard and democratic sustainability.

In advanced democracies, the elite and political office holders are very much aware of the dangers associated with wielding their perennial powers wildly and at the expense of the masses. They know that unless they deliver on their campaign promises and except they leave the people happier than they met them, they stand the risk of being crushed at the polls.

In fact, enlightened segment of the electorate know the power they possess and the opposition knows how to utilise aggrieved electorate to unseat an incumbent government. So, every decision of a democratically elected government is made to reflect the needs and aspirations of the people. Policy thrust, policy implementation and project execution are done at the behest of the people with some level of probity and accountability.

Interestingly, the 2015 political revolution that returned some sanity to the process, by relocating the power to decide back to its real location, the people, Nigeria's democracy was heading straight for the rocks. Even at that, Nigerian politicians develop wilful selective amnesia; they tend to forget the source of their power the moment they are elected into office and the poor electorate are left to rue their chances.

Unlike in the past though that every problem of governance was blamed on the president in Abuja, continues advocacy by political commentators has successfully returned the lens of scrutiny to the governors, and this makes sense. After all, governors are the real custodians of the power that directly affects the electorate in their respective states. This development has exposed the folly of many governors who came into office under the grandiose illusion of business as usual, but not the occupants of the Kebbi State government house. Why should they? After all, equity can only be delivered with clean hands and Kebbi state seems to have found the one who is willing to do the needful in the face of adversity and he has since distinguished himself from the ordinary.

In Kebbi state, before the emergence of Governor Bagudu, the state was far from enjoying the proverbial dividend of democracy. Though the people of the state are hardworking, strong and committed to their age-old means of livelihood, agriculture, successive governors of Kebbi state since the return of democracy appear to be deliberately blocking the industry of the people. Anyone who is familiar with the political and social indicators of Kebbi state before the election that brought in the Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu led dispensation knows that the realities are different today. Kebbi has been transformed from the very picture of dereliction that it used to be to a city under construction, and the prospects are heart-warming.

It's quite uncharacteristic that, the government in Kebbi State is delivering on its campaign promises and the people of Kebbi are for the first time knowing what it feels like to be in a democracy. No one would have taken Governor Bagudu seriously when he declared during his inauguration that his government is all about the people. But any doubt about that statement would have been laid to rest with his array of people-oriented policies that are implemented swiftly with all the vigour and commitment that the people deserve.

Even the opposition in the state has testified that, with Governor Bagudu at the helms of affairs in the state, democracy is working. And that has been what endeared many of them to join Bagudu in moving Kebbi state forward. That has also been the single reason of giving Bagudu the second mandate in the 2019 general election to consolidate on the good work he has started.

On agriculture, without wasting time lamenting as many governors were doing about the dire straits of their states, Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu swung into action. He rolled out his 'Agricultural Empowerment' policy and this dispelled any fear that the governor may toe the path of his predecessors whose lack of initiative meant he inherited a derelict state devoid of any IGR potential. His bold and audacious plan hinges on the state's natural and human resources and one gets a feeling the man knows exactly what he was doing.

"We shall create incentives for our young men and women to undertake activities that they can choose, from agriculture, processing, mining to skills that are required elsewhere so that they would be able to find jobs that will satisfy their skills endowment and position our state for greatness," he submitted. It didn't take long before the hens came home to roost because, in one fluid movement, the governor struck a partnership deal with Bank of Industry, Central Bank of Nigeria and Lagos state to harness the human and natural resource potential of the state, especially rice production.

He recently distributed agricultural equipment to thousands of youth in the state. Kebbi state under the astute leadership of Governor Bagudu has become a beehive of transformations in all aspects of the economy. Indeed, the state is witnessing the change agenda.

–Sani writes from Yawuri, Kebbi State.

ANNIE
I, formerly known as **ANNIE AWUESE GBERIKON** now wish to be known and addressed as **ANNIE AWUESE BAKARE.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

MARYAM
I, formerly known as **MARYAM ALHAJI ISAH** now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM ISA LADU.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

RUKAIYA
I, formerly known as **RUKAYYATU ALHAJI ISA** now wish to be known and addressed as **RUKAIYA ALHAJI GARBA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

MARYAM
I, formerly known as **MARYAM ALIYU MUHAMMAD** now wish to be known and addressed as **MARYAM ALIYU.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

AKAYI
I, formerly known as **AKAYI ADAMU** now wish to be known and addressed as **AKAYI MOSES.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAMES
This is to confirm that **NSA ETIM OKON** and **VICTOR ETIM OKON** refer to one and the same person,now wish to be known and addressed as **NSA ETIM OKON**. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

MAMA
I, formerly known as **MAMA BALA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MAMA BALA DANEJI.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

RABI'A
I, formerly known as **RABI'A AMINU HUSSAIN** now wish to be known and addressed as **RABI'A ALIYU AMINU.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

UKEKI
I, formerly known as **STEPHEN AYEMERE IBHALUONANE, IBHALUONANE LARRY MIKE S., IBHALUONANE MIKE S.L & IBHALUONANE LARRY MIKE** now wish to be known and addressed as **UKEKI LARRY STEPHEN AYEMERE.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

MARY
I, formerly known as **MARY MAKCIT WALLA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MARY MAKCIT JAMES.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

NENLUK
I, formerly known as **DAKUP NENLUK** now wish to be known and addressed as **NENLUK JENNIFER DANLADI.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

COLLINS
I, formerly known as **COLLINS EKPUEZE** now wish to be known and addressed as **COLLINS EKPUZE BESTMAN.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

OKUNGBOWA
I **OKUNGBOWA, PEACE EMEM**, Female, Christian of 12 Boniface Street off Asipa Ayobo, Lagos formerly known as **PEACE CHUKS**, wish to be known and address as **MRS. OKUNGBOWA, PEACE EMEM**. The general public should take note.

AKINTOYE
I, formerly known as **ABIOLA ARINOLA DAMILOLA** now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINTOYE ARINOLA DAMILOLA.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

MUSA
I, formerly known as **MUSA SANUSI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MUSA SANUSI MUHAMMAD.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

OMOTAYO
I, formerly known as **OMOTAYO OLUWOLE REUBEN** now wish to be known and addressed as **OMOTAYO OLUWOLE DANIEL.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

OMOTAYO
I, formerly known as **OMOTAYO OLASUNKANMI** now wish to be known and addressed as **OMOTAYO OLASUNKANMI FOLASADE.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAME
This is to confirm that **JALON NDAKAM** refers to one and the same person now wish to be known and addressed as **JALON NDAKAM AMASU**. All former documents remain valid. Nipost. GTB, Adamawa STATE UNIVERSITY MUBI and General public take note.

ESE
I, formerly known as **UTOR GEOFFREY** now wish to be known and addressed as **ESE BENJAMIN T..** All former documents remain valid. Authorities Concerned and General public take note.

CHIA
I, formerly known as **BUR HELEN ERDOO** now wish to be known and addressed as **CHIA ERDOO HELEN.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ILIYASU
I, formerly known as **SANI MUHAMMED ILIYASU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ILIYASU MUHAMMED.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

STELLAR
I, formerly known as **STELLAR UCHENNA NWANKWO** now wish to be known and addressed as **STELLAR UCHENNA OKEREKE.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ZAINAB
I, formerly known as **ZAINAB AMINU ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZAINAB A. AHMED.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

UKAH
I, formerly known as **OKORO AKUNNA GRACE** now wish to be known and addressed as **UKAH HENRY AKUNNA GRACE.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

GABRIEL
I, formerly known as **GABRIEL QUEEN** now wish to be known and addressed as **GABRIEL QUEEN INIKPI, MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 23/12/1998 NOT 23/12/1993.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

TUMBA
I, formerly known as **JOSHUA KWADA** now wish to be known and addressed as **TUMBA KWADA, MY CORRECT DATE OF BARHT 6 DECEMBER 1999.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

AYUBA
I, formerly known as **AYUBA KWAJI VANDI** now wish to be known and addressed as **AYUBA VANDI.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ABDULLAHI
I, formerly known as **ABDULLAHI ALIYU** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULLAHI AMINU.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AMINA
I, formerly known as **AMINA ADUNNI ISIAKA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS AMINA ISIAKA BELLO.** All former documents remain valid.Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) and the general public to take note

VICTORIA
I, formerly known as **VICTORIA KEMI TALABI** now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTORIA OLUWAKEMI TALABI.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

OMALE
I, formerly known as **AKOR AGBOGO CECILIA** now wish to be known and addressed as **OMALE AGBOGO CECILIA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ODOBA
I, formerly known as **ENENCHE ADAH** now wish to be known and addressed as **ODOBA ADAH ENENCHE.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

BAWA
I, formerly known as **WAZIRI MARIA BAWA** now wish to be known and addressed as **BAWA MARIA LARABA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

PRAISE
I, formerly known as **JULIET BECHIE BUKIE** now wish to be known and addressed as **PRAISE JULIET BECHIE.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ONONIWU
I, formerly known as **ASIMOLE UGOCHI LINDA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ONONIWU UGOCHI LINDA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

IDRIS
I, formerly known as **UMAR YUNISA** now wish to be known and addressed as **IDRIS HARUNA.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ISAH
I, formerly known as **YAHAYA AMINA KANDI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ISAH AMINA KANDI.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

JUDAH
I, formerly known as **JUDAH ELAYOR** now wish to be known and addressed as **JUDAH ELISHA OSETOLEHA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAMES
This is to confirm that **ABUBAKAR YAHAYA, ABAKARH GOYA YAHYA & ABUBAKR ABAKARH YAHYA** refers to one and the same person now wish to be known and addressed as **ABU-BAKR ABAKARH-GOYA YAHYA.** All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME
I FORMALLY KNOWN AS **UMEZULUORAH CHIAMAKA.**now want to add **THANKGOD** to my name. that I now wish to be known and adderssd as **UMEZULUORAH CHIAMAKA THANKGOD**. All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ELUKA
I, formerly known as **FRANCIS NDUBUISI** now wish to be known and addressed as **ELUKA FRANCIS NDUBUISI.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ODIJIE
I, formerly known as **ASUELIMEN ESTHER** now wish to be known and addressed as **ODIJIE ESTHER.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ECHEZONA
I, formerly known as **ECHEZONA NZEJIOGOR** now wish to be known and addressed as **ECHEZONA LUKE NZEJIOFOR.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

EZIEKE
I, formerly known as **OKAFOR CHINENYE HELEN OKAFOR** now wish to be known and addressed as **EZIEKE CHINENYE HELEN OKAFOR AND MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 15TH AUGUST 1977 NOT 15TH AUGUST 1997.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ELIZABETH
I, formerly known as **ELIZABETH ISHAYA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ELIZABETH MA'AJI.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

DAVID
I, formerly known as **DAVID WASA WASSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **DAVID GABRIEL WASSA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

CELESTINE
I, formerly known as **CELESTINE LOKOMON** now wish to be known and addressed as **CELESTINE ATENI.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TEJUMOLA
I, formerly known as **MISS TEJUMOLA JULIET PEDRO** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS TEJUMOLA JULIET AKANMU.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OLAGODO
I, formerly known as **FAUGA KEVWE KEMI** now wish to be known and addressed as **OLAGODO OLUWAKEMI.** All former documents remain valid. First bank, GT bank, UBA bank, Diamond bank and General public take note.

SAFIYYA
I, formerly known as **SAFIYYA IBRAHIM JAMO** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. SAFIYYA SA'AD SULEIMAN.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

LAYUM
I, formerly known as **TARIZA EMMANUEL** now wish to be known and addressed as **LAYUM NUHU. AND MY DATE OF BIRTH IS 22/2/1991.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

CIROMA
I, formerly known as **IBRAHIM MUNI LAFIYA** now wish to be known and addressed as **CIROMA MUNI JIBRIN.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

HAUWAU
I, formerly known as **HAUWA ABDULAZIZ** now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWAU UMAR ABDULLAHI AND MY DATE OF BIRTHDAY IS 30/8/1995.** All former documents remain valid.all authority concern and the general public should please take note.

LAWAL
I, formerly known as **LAWAL IBRAHIM JABBO** now wish to be known and addressed as **LAWAL IBRAHIM.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

DAUDA
I, formerly known as **DAUDA TSAMMANI** now wish to be known and addressed as **DAUDA IBRAHIM KEHINDE.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

AKOR
I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED AKOR BABA** now wish to be known and addressed as **AKOR MOHAMMED.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ESTHER
I, formerly known as **JAMILA DAUDA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ESTHER TALITHA DAVID.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ABDULFATAI
I, formerly known as **ABDULFATAI MONDAY TEMITOPE** now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULFATAI ABDULWASIU TEMITOPE.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

MAYAKI
I, formerly known as **AISHA MAYAKI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MAYAKI, AISHA MUHAMMAD.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

OGENYI
I, formerly known as **OGENYI SAMUEL** now wish to be known and addressed as **OGENYI UBAH SAMUEL.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

CONFIRMATION OF NAMES
This is to inform the general public the name **MOHAMMED SHETTIMA, MUHAMMAD SHETIMAH, MUHAMMAD SHETTIMA MAINA, MOH'D SHETTIMA MAINA & MUHAMMAD SHATTIMA MAINA** refers to one and the same person now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED SHETTIMA MAINA.**All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.

SAMUEL
I, formerly known as **SAMUEL Y. SAMBO** now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMUEL YOKSA SAMBO.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ZEPHANIAH
I, formerly known as **RHODA SHEKWO** now wish to be known and addressed as **ZEPHANIAH RHODA.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

ASUAMA
I, formerly known as **ASUAMA OWOEDINYENE ASUAMA** now wish to be known and addressed as **ASUAMA NNAMSENKAN ASUAMA.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

BLESSING
I, formerly known as **MISS BLESSING OGUCHE ELE-OJO, MRS BLESSING ONMONYA AND MRS BLESSING ONMONYA ADA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. BLESSING EJEMOGO.** All former documents remain valid.General public take note.

SPACE FOR SALE

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

This is to notify the general public that there will be a public Auction sales of unserviceable vehicles and obsolete items at Ministry of Environment, Zonal Forestry Office, Sokoto State.

Date: 27/01/2020
Time: 10am prompt

For more information please contact the Auctioneer: **ALKAMMU ALUMINUM STEEL AND RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED** ON **08065910278**.

SIGNED: **AUCTIONEER.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI TEACHING HOSPITAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (ADSWA)

This is to inform the General Public that the Above Name Has Applied to the CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) For Registration Under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:
1. Hajia Inna Abubakar (Chairman)
2. Sahabo Aliyu Buba (Secretary)
3. Mohammed Naza (P.R.O)
4. Sabiu Umar (Auditor)
5. Mohammed Idris (Financial Secretary)
6. Bubar Boribe (Treasurer)
7. Asura Iliya (Member)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
1. To strengthen the cordial relationship between staff of the department.
2. To live the brand of excellence.
3. To imbibe the spirit of professionalism
4. Investment of available fund in bond, shares, farming and trading.

Any objection in this Registration should be forwarded to the Register General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street , P.M.B 198. Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication .

SIGNED: **SECRETARY**

AMMASCO CHARITY FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
1. ALH. MUSTAPHA ADO MOHAMMED..... CHAIRMAN
2. MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM ADO..... SECRETARY
3. MUSTAPHA HASSANA ADO
4. MUSTAPHA AHMAD ADO
6. MUSTAPHA SAFIYA ADO
7. MUSTAPHA BINTA ADO
8. MUSTAPHA RUKKAIYYA ADO
9. MUSTAPHA SHUAIBU ADO

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:
1. To assist in the fight against child malnutrition in Nigeria, Africa and the world.
2. To give charity support to indigents in the society cutting across religion and tribal differences.
3. To assist the educational sector by building public schools and providing other educational materials.
4. To collaborate with international communities in providing assistance to the health sector in curbing the menance of killer diseases in Nigeria and Africa
5. To collaborate with other international donors in providing charity support to disaster ravaged areas.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission plot 420, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

My Secret Life

Fear Of Failure Spurs Me To Achieve More– Bello

BACKGROUND

My name is Oyiza Bello. I was born into the family of S A Bello on 24th November, 1989 at Oboroke Ihima and I am the youngest of five children. I am from Okehi local government area of Kogi State and Igbira by tribe. I started my educational career at Government Girls Unity Secondary School, Oboroke where I began and completed the junior secondary school. When my mother relocated to Lokoja, I changed school to Bishop Belisle College where I completed my secondary school education. I stayed home for some time before gaining admission into NTA Television College, Jos, Plateau State where I bagged a bachelor's degree in television journalism.

GROWING UP AND FAMILY LIFE

I grew up as the only female child amongst my siblings, I was surrounded by parents and siblings that showed me love, care and were always there to protect me. Limits were set in terms of movement and I couldn't have many friends, the ones I made were known faces to the family. I got married November 2015 to my long-time friend and we are blessed with a daughter, for now.

THE BUSINESS

As a child, my mother exposed me to business and it goes as far back as primary school, she would give me sweets, soaps, and a cocoa tea they used to make in those days to sell, and because I was the only female child, I was made to stay close to her at all times to learn the trade.

After my transfer to Lokoja for secondary education, she introduced me to the sale of veils. Whenever she was opportune to travel, she would bring some for me to resell. My mother was also into tie and dye. While I was waiting for admission, my mother felt it was wrong for me to just be at home, sleeping, eating without doing anything. So, I began the sale of recharge cards and making of calls alongside. I did this till I got admitted into school, and when I settled down in school, my husband who was then my boyfriend decided I should go into Ankara business, and he helped me set up the business. From there I began travelling to Kano and Lagos to buy Ankara and shoes, this was in the year 2010/2011 and since then, I've not looked backed.

While I was doing the one-year mandatory service, I felt the need to learn something new, and so I went into cakes and confectioneries. It went a long way in helping me out financially throughout my service year. I was lucky to secure a job few months after my youth service and that in a way, slowed down the business, because I knew I needed more time to invest in my chosen profession. But I did not stop the business. Today, I'm into not just retail but wholesale. I also no longer need to travel to buy my wares, I can stay where I am and place an order. I currently purchase clothes for adults and children, shoes, bags directly from manufacturers in China and sell them to wholesalers and retailers. I am also into the sale of palm oil and so far, business is good.

> *I've been able to groom young women among whom are working-class. I give them reasons why they don't need to depend on their monthly salaries*

WHAT GIVES YOU AN EDGE OVER COMPETITORS?

I think every business owner must be considerate, have empathy as well as good manners. There are businessmen and women who speak to customers like they are doing them a favour by the patronage, when in the real sense, we are assisting each other.

So, whatever tactics I can devise to get a customer bring out his money, I will do so. I get to hear people who say they can't sell on credit, but I sell on credit to people I know will pay back and I usually make payment flexible by telling them to pay twice. People appreciate that I give them ample time to pay back, and this keeps bringing them back to me.

I have bad debtors, but the percentage is not much. Customer relations is also key for one to gain and retain customers, as it promotes buyer/seller relationship.

DRIVING FORCE

Success has spurred me this far because I'm too scared to fail. Whenever I sit down and think of failure, I have no option than to push forward for a brighter goal. I want a bright future for me and my family. I want them to attain heights I was unable to reach. I'm always thirsty for success.

MENTOR(S)

My number one mentor is my mother. She was a teacher who knew she needed to go the extra-mile to earn more. She is a great woman and was never lazy. My husband is not into business, but his encouragement, advice on what to do and how to achieve a better result makes him admirable.

HOBBIES

I love staying in the kitchen cooking and no matter how angry I am, when it is time to bake, there's this joy that comes to me. Time out with family is always great.

DREADS

I'm scared of the business folding up. In business, we take lots of risks, interact with people we never met and entrust your money with people you've never seen. I always pray to God to shield me from bankruptcy. I spoke earlier about empathy towards customers, but I have also come to realise that sometimes, I need to be a bit strict so customers do not exceed their boundaries because when they do, it is the beginning of failure as they end up tying down one's capital, thereby crippling the business.

CHALLENGES

There are times in business when one is growing, you start having big dreams, unfortunately financial constrains has always been a barrier. I have a big dream that scares me, but the fund is not available.

ACHIEVEMENTS

I don't beg for food and this is a huge success (she laughs). I hate being broke and everyone that knows me knows this truth about me. I can't imagine being broke and business has helped me overcome that stage of life. Seeing money makes me happy and thanks to business I can't be broke, even though there are some bad days in business, but something must come in no matter how little. I've been able to groom young women among whom are working- class. I give them reasons why they don't need to depend on their monthly salaries. I started something recently, where I tell people to create a group to avoid buying goods at a high price, by putting their funds together and making lots of money instead of being extorted.

FUTURE PROJECTION

I see Rosey Empire grow to become a one-stop shop for all, with various locations within and outside the country.

BALANCING BUSINESS, PROFESSION WITH FAMILY LIFE?

It is challenging but I have an understanding spouse and a considerate boss at work that makes everything easy. My boss understands that I have a responsibility to my child and home-front and at the same time be a professional at work.

ADVICE TO WOMEN

You have a potential to unleash your potential rather than being a liability. Support your spouse. People are afraid to start a business because they think it require huge capital, but this is not true. I started my recharge card business with N3200 but before admission to school I was buying from N80,000 to N100,000. One can even start with nothing, all thanks to social media platforms. It is important you do something to earn extra income.

LIFE IN BRIEF

Oyiza Bello was born into the family of S A Bello on 24th November, 1989 at Oboroke Ihima in Kogi State. She is an Igbira woman from Okehi local government area of Kogi State and the last child of her parents. She began her educational career at Oboroke and proceeded to Lokoja to complete her secondary education. She is a graduate of television journalism from NTA Television College, Jos, Plateau State. She owns the brand name Rosey Empire and has been in business professionally for nine years.

BY JULIET KUYET BULUS

PHOTO BY OYIZA BELLO

AMUSEMENT PARK

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SPACE FOR SALE

Saturday Column

SIMON REEF MUSA

simonreef927@gmail.com 08022248460 (sms only)

Terror-induced Silence

Why should there be a silence of the grave in a democracy facing a myriad of problems plaguing the Nigerian state? Both the political class and critical stakeholders have embraced deafening muteness, with some of our citizens too fearful to oppose fireworks of criminals walking freely in the land. Our democracy that should be the platform for national development and unity has given rise to bloodshed and turned our besieged communities into human barbeques, with the United Nations warning the Nigerian government to wake up and contain forces committed to the destruction of the country, our leaders are still sleepwalking in their denials.

The silence of Nigerian critical stakeholders as the country burns was the focus of the Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar III, when he spoke on Wednesday in Abuja. Speaking through the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi II, the leader of Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), described the ongoing silence by traditional and religious leaders as hinged on fear and intimidation.

Speaking during the 3rdGeneral Assembly of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP), the Sultan who is a patron of the group with President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), His Eminence, Dr Samson Ayokunle, noted that both religious and traditional leaders have been coerced into silence in the face of evils haranguing the country.

In his words, "The traditional and religious leaders that are supposed to hold political leaders to account for the people are being muscled into silence. If you are an emir and you talk too much, you get removed. If you are an Imam or a Bishop, you need money for charity, but be ready to do business with the devil so that you can do charity."

It is incontrovertible that our nation is gradually heading towards the path of self-destruction. Against the backdrop of violence and unmitigated security challenges that have set our country on edge, democracy is now proving a wobbling nightmare in addressing issues that threaten our corporate existence. Despite assurances from the Nigerian military that Boko Haram has been "technically defeated," the insurgent group is still dreaded and leaving footprints of bloodshed and unparalleled destructions. Even those who had earlier heaved a sigh of relief that at last our country has been delivered from these bloodthirsty elements, the spate of insecurity and horrifying killings of Nigerians have become something of grave concerns to not only citizens but also the global community.

The recent gruesome killing of the CAN Chairman of Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Rev Lawan Andimi, by the militant sect has sent shivers down the spines of Nigerians. The heartless murder of the Christian leader was soon followed by yet another gruesome killing of an undergraduate traveling to Maiduguri. These two killings may have proved a turning point for a nation that has lost its conscience and almost given up its citizens as shooting targets for criminals. There is no basis to deny the fact that demons of death have taken a permanent abodes in our state as the military is being overwhelmed by the superior firepower of these felons.

Even the military has not been spared the horror of terrorism, as the Islamic West African Province (ISWAP) on Tuesday this week attacked a village in Kaga Local Government Area of Borno state and killed no fewer than eight soldiers. In Kaduna state, no fewer than 38 have been killed by bike-riding vicious bandits who abducted 48 people, including a breast-feeding mother with her six-month old baby. Nearly three weeks after their abductions, their whereabouts are still unknown. The last thing heard about them was the N100 million ransom demand from their abductors.

Sa'ad

As the nation cringes under the fear of these killers and abductors mushrooming all over the country, the silence of the political class in addressing insurgence is self-indicting. As representatives of the people, lawmakers at both state and federal level have remained accomplices in the sustained acts of terrorism unleashed on Nigerians. Without a clear-cut vision in ending the interminable siege, the political class has become an open shame in ending the nightmare.

The government's response has always been the regurgitation of earlier statements on previous killings: Commiseration and promises to deal with the terrorists. After few days, all is forgotten. At the occurrence of yet another attack, government media minders simply recall previous statements and change names and venues of fresh attacks.

The National Assembly has not been creative enough to task the executive arm on ending these slaughters. Lawmakers whose constituencies have come under attacks simply embark on a Nicodemus visits under heavy security presence. Thereafter, the usual normal sympathy messages are given and miserable sums of money presented to alleviate the anguish of the displaced. This is done in the night to avoid attracting the wrath of those whose duty is to foist national silence on the people.

In keeping silence in the face of these attacks, the world is denied the knowledge of firsthand information from people who are elected to defend the people. When voices of elected representatives are absent, the space is opened for civil society groups and activists whom government often describe as trouble makers. These 'trouble makers' are now the illuminators of the dark truth confronting Nigeria.

The present fight against insurgence is not only a fight for democracy, but also a fight to defend the unity of Nigeria. As it is now, our country is gradually being divided along ethno-religious fault lines. With the political class unwilling to combat our common woes, the citizens are left at the mercies of these butchers. As long as politicians' families are far away from the murderous path of these slaughterers, the country can burn ceaselessly. To them, our country is worth being a nation only when they serve their selfish interests.

Apart from few political officer holders that are committed to the service of their people, Nigerian politicians have become the greatest threat to democracy. Not a few Nigerians, including yours sincerely, are increasingly becoming weary of the capacity of our democracy to resolve the many problems troubling our nation. When politicians see politics as a milk house, democracy soon becomes atrophied for a nation that has become a cynosure of human barbarities.

Amidst the denials that Nigeria is not heading for the worst, happenings around us clearly portray we have a long way to pull 'Africa's giant' from the smokes of frightening spectre of disintegration. For a democracy that has failed to ensure protection of citizens from terror of insurgents, banning states and regional groups from evolving security outfits to complement the police amounts to criminalizing the right to the defence of life.

Miracles do sometimes come from unexpected quarters. It is soul warming that the federal government and the South-west have struck a consensus over the Operation Amotekun. This could serve as a prologue to similar outfits in defence of lives and property. If that eventually pulls through, it could serve as an opener for realising the restructuring of the Nigerian Federation.

The demons of destruction have long flapped their wings in the Northern skies. When blood shall be mixed with flames, the inhabitants of the former Northern Region will be forced to drink the waters of endless afflictions. We do not need anyone to inform us that Nigeria is set for a turmoil if the present glitches that confront us a nation are not quickly addressed with a sense of urgency. The Sultan is hereby called upon to rally traditional and religious leaders to save Nigeria from the hell politicians are plotting to throw the country into.

GHANA MUST GO

I won't negotiate with bandits

— *Kogi governor*

Shi ke nan!

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