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ANYIM IN LAGOS...
 From left: Former Director-General of Nigerian Maritime Administration Agency, NIMASA, Ferdinand Agu, Afenifere Leader, Pa Ayo Adebajo and PDP presidential aspirant, Sen Anyim Pius Anyim, when Anyim visited Adebajo's Lagos home, at the weekend

NIGER KILLINGS:
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ALL HAIL DAN AMANAR DAURA...
 Emir of Daura, Alhaji Umar Farouk Umar, turbaning the Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Amaechi, as the Dan Amanar of Daura (Trusted Son of Daura), in Daura, yesterday. More photos on page 5.

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SARGE
 THE OFFICER YOU SEEK HAS NOT REPORTED FOR DUTY FOR A LONG TIME. BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THE MATTER?
 I'M HIS BABY MAMA. HE HASN'T GIVEN ME MONEY FOR HIS SON'S UPKEEP FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. WHENEVER I ASK HIM, HE'D SAY THE DAYS OF ILLEGAL ROADBLOCKS ARE OVER!
 dadadekola@yahoo.com
 08052201913

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HONOUR TO A PATRIOT



**Rt. Hon Chibuike
Rotimi Amaechi, CON**
Minister for Transportation

Amaechi AMINTACHE !!!

- **The preferred,**
- **The trustworthy**
- **The face of our nation's future**

Signed:

**HASSAN BELLO
GREG OGBEIFUN
MARGRET ORAKWUSI
AMINU UMAR**

NEWS



From left: Chairman, Board of Governor, Igbobi College Yaba, Mr. Foluso Phillips, Speaker, House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, President, Igbobi College Old Boys' Association (ICOPA), Mr. Olumuyiwa Kinosh, Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo and Co-Chairman, 90th Anniversary Planning Committee, ICOPA, Mr. Femi Olubanwo (all alumni of the College), at the fundraising gala organised to mark the 90th anniversary of their alma mater, at the Eko Hotels and Suites, Lagos. Photo: Akeem Salau

YORUBA DESCEND ON BENIN REPUBLIC:

They padlocked Igboho for seven months

• Ask Ooni, Alaafin, Awujale, Owa Obokun, Alake, Deji, Ewi, other monarchs to intervene

By Yinka Ajayi

Some Yoruba people under the aegis of Yoruba Global Alliance have launched attack on Benin Republic, saying the continued incarceration of Chief Sunday Adeyemo, alias Sunday Igboho, by the country's authorities, allegedly with the connivance of their Nigerian counterparts, "has become a huge embarrassment not only to those who padlocked him but also to all people of conscience all over the world".

They called for Igboho's immediate release

In a position paper titled 'Release Igboho now', and signed by Dr Amos Arogundade Akingba, Yoruba Global Alliance National President, and Chief Tola Adeniyi, Chairman of Council, the group described Igboho as a successful businessman and philanthropist.

"He got drawn into activism in response to the nefarious activities of terrorists who were tormenting his ancestral community", it said.

It continued, "He also felt concerned about the second-class citizen position his Yoruba people were reduced to in their land and thought he could do something to redress the humiliating situation especially when his people ran to him for help. That was the genesis of Igboho's fray into populism and the iron-fist response of those who believed Nigeria was their property to bedraggle and plunder.

"Adeyemo, accompanied by unprecedented mammoth crowds of supporters, admirers and the ordinary people, went round the nooks and crannies of Yoruba kingdoms in peaceful processions.

"This must have provoked the displeasure of the powers-that-be which, in Gestapo style, brutishly invaded his residence in the deadness

of night to kill him and wipe out the entire families resident there".

Saying it was a miracle Igboho survived the onslaught, Yoruba Global Alliance said two unarmed people were murdered while all the buildings and vehicular properties and other valuable items were destroyed beyond repair.

"About 17 days after the carnage of July 1, Igboho, in keeping with the UN charter, fled the country that was after his life and was about to escape to Germany when Nigerian authorities, suspected to be led by General Buratai recently planted in Benin, ambushed him in the neighbouring Republic", the group narrated.

Yoruba leaders

While calling on Yoruba leaders to summon up courage and deploy all the political machineries at their disposal to get Igboho out of prison to reunite with his family, the group said: "Our traditional rulers especially the Oonirisa, the Alaafin, Orisa-Ijebu the Awujale, the Owa Obokun Adimula, the Olubadan,

the Alake, the Deji, the Ewi, the Osemawe, the Soun, the Akarigbo, the Olofa, Oba Jebba, the Obaro Kabba, the Oba of Benin, the Olu of Warri, the Alaketu and other Obas, not listed in any particular order, should call or visit President Buhari and appeal to his conscience to release your son to you.

"All the governors of the Yoruba speaking states should without further delay hold an emergency meeting and march to Abuja and Cotonou to plead for Igboho's release.

"Yoruba Obas should not forget that the relative peace in their kingdoms today is due in part to Igboho's awareness campaigns and but for him, maybe, today, we would be talking of Sultan of Ife and Emir of Ijebuland!"

Detention

By February 18, Igboho would have spent seven months in detention since his arrest on July 19, 2021, at the Cadjehoun Airport in Cotonou.

Also, the Cour De'appal De Cotonou, since the arraignment of Igboho on July 27, 2021, has not sat, fuelling speculations that the detention of Igboho is

laced with political undertones.

The Buhari administration had, in 2021, turned the heat on activist who agitated for the South-West to pull out of Nigeria over perceived injustice and insecurity.

On July 1, 2021, the Department of State Service (DSS) invaded his Ibadan residence, killing two of his associates and arresting 12 others.

The DSS subsequently declared him wanted for allegedly stockpiling arms to destabilise Nigeria under the pretext of secessionist agitation, something he denied.

After about three weeks underground, Igboho, 49, found his way to Cotonou and planned to escape to Germany but the trip was aborted as Interpol arrested him and his German-citizen wife, Ropo, at the behest of the Nigerian government.

The Beninese government subsequently arraigned the agitator before the Cour De'appal De Cotonou on migration-related offences and for gunrunning but the court on July 27, 2021, ordered that Ropo be released while Igboho be remanded in prison.

ONDO SOUTH: Group backs Oyerinmade for Senate

The People's Conscience Mandate Group has declared support for Mr. Matthew Oye Oyerinmade's senatorial ambition in Ondo South. The group disclosed this in a press release signed by its Coordinator, Mr. Adeniyi Oke.

According to Oke, it's high time the people of Ondo come to the realization that 2023 is not just another opportunity for the

people to elect a new leader but also a time to elect a candidate who has the credentials to advance the cause of the senatorial district.

He explained that Oyerinmade is a credible and trusted candidate who the people can bank on to deliver quality representation at the Red Chamber.

His words, "Oyerinmade is no push over, he anchors

his motive which has propelled him to join the race on his passion to fight and implement meaningful programmes that will adequately address the people's welfare."

The Coordinator stated that it found it important to support Oyerinmade's candidacy as well as ensure that the people are well mobilized to support his senatorial bid.

Toni Kan Joins Glo As Head, Public Relations

Multiple award-winning writer, journalist and PR practitioner, Anthony Kanayo Onwordi, popularly known as Toni Kan, has joined Glo as Head, Public Relations.

The English graduate of the University of Jos, with a master's from the University of Lagos, resumed at the Lagos headquarters of the leading telecommunications company on Tuesday, Febru-

ary 1, 2022.

Prior to joining the company owned by Dr. Mike Adenuga, Jnr, one of Nigeria's richest men, TK, like some friends prefer to address him, had risen to the position of Editor, Hints magazine. He was also at some point with Bank PHB, Zenith Bank, Visafone and Ntel.

Among his critically acclaimed books are Nights of the Creaking Bed and The Carnivorous City.



• Toni Kan

NSITF takes Occupational Safety and Health to South-South

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru, Abuja

The Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) has taken its Occupational Safety and Health Enlightenment Programme to the South-South.

The campaign is geared towards prevention of accidents in workplaces in the country.

The programme, held under the theme, 'Enhancing Productivity through the Prevention of Workplace Accidents and Promotion of Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry,' held in Asaba, Delta State and Benin, Edo State on Wednesday and Friday respectively.

Participants at the campaign included employers registered on the Employees Compensation Scheme, ECS, and the general public.

Making a presentation at the programme organised by the NSITF in conjunction with Ampresh Services Limited, the General Manager, Health, Safety and Environment, Dr Kelly Nwagha said the fund strives to avert employees getting injured in the workplaces by providing occupational health and safety preventive services.

Nwagha, who gave an overview of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the Employee Compensation Act (2010), explained that where preventive services fail, NSITF provides rehabilitation for any injured employee in event of disability and incapacitation.

"We provide compensation services at an approved rate.

BLACKOUT: How fire wiped out 630MW from national grid

By Chris Ochayi

The Transmission Company of Nigeria, TCN, has explained that the ongoing load shedding in Lagos axis was as a result of fire that gutted Egbin power station on Wednesday.

The General Manager, Public Affairs at TCN, Mrs. Ndidi Mbah, who gave the explanation via a statement in Abuja, said the fire incident necessitated the shutdown of all the power generating units in the power station.

She said with the shutdown of the units, a total of 630MW was removed from the grid.

"The Transmission Company of Nigeria, TCN, hereby inform the general public that the ongoing load shedding in the Lagos axis is as a result of the fire incident which occurred in Egbin Power station on Wednesday this week, which necessitated the shut-

We implore all employers to enroll all their employees in the Employee Compensation Scheme, as doing so will improve the morale of the workers and increase their productivity, thus giving a boost to the revenue earnings of the employers," he said.

"With more revenue, an employer could expand its facilities in order to employ more people, thus reducing insecurity and social vices in the society."

Also speaking, one of the facilitators, Mrs. Ifeoma Nwankwo, expressed optimism that the Occupational Safety Health Awareness presentation would provide businesses with strategies, tactics and tools to gain a competitive advantage by implementing a culture of safety and health that would address these issues and keep them ahead

Another facilitator, Mrs. Susan Osulor of the Health, Safety and Employment (HSE) Department, while reaffirming NSITF's belief that safe workplaces guarantees high productivity, lamented that despite the clarity of the law and mandate of the fund, most stakeholders are still not aware of the accruable benefits of the ECA, 2010 to employers, employees, their dependants, the society and the Government.

Delivering a paper on 'Behavioural Safety in the Construction Industry,' Oleka Ikechukwu, also of HSE Department, maintained that acceptable behaviours must be positively reinforced to establish a safe work environment.

down of all the power generating units in the power station. With the shutdown of the units, a total of 630MW was removed from the grid", the statement said.

"The removal of 630MW from the grid at the same time means that TCN had to strive to ensure that it achieves generation load balance to maintain the stability of the grid.

This it did by reducing bulk electricity to Lagos, to avoid overloading the 330kV lines within the state, while the third unit at the Shiroro Station was tied. These were necessary to avoid the collapse of the nation's grid.

"Meanwhile, Egbin Power Station is working assiduously to ensure a full restoration of its generating units to the grid and until this happens, TCN will continue to do all it can to keep the grid stable.

"TCN will continue the evacuation of generated power from Egbin Power Station as soon as the station resumes power generation".

Buhari at AU: Nigeria 'll continue to stand, fight for justice

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

President Muhammadu Buhari, yesterday, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said Nigeria will continue to pursue peace and progress in Africa, and other parts of the world, by consistently pushing for justice, fairness and inclusiveness in global affairs.

In a sideline meeting with the Prime Minister of Palestine, Mohammad Shtayyeh, at the ongoing African Union meetings, President Buhari said the country remains unwavering in supporting democracy, development and good governance, particularly in ensuring the rights of individuals and institutions.

A statement issued by the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity

Chief Femi Adesina, quoted Buhari as saying, "As a country we are doing our best, and we will continue doing our best to ensure justice and fairness."

The President assured the Palestinian leader that Nigeria will be "consistent" in pushing for peace and progress, while upholding the tenets of justice.

In his remarks, the Palestinian leader noted that the situation in the Middle East, particularly relations with Israel, had deteriorated over the years, adding that the world needs to know the facts. Shtayyeh thanked President Buhari for his leadership role in the continent.

"Your Excellency, we thank you for your wisdom. We need it more now.

"Please continue to stay well and healthy, because we need your wisdom," he said.



•From left: Mrs Valerie Ekperigin, member of Social Welfare Integrated Program Initiative (SWIP), Dr Kolawole Ajayi, Chairman, SWIP; Mrs Ijeoma Ejiolor, Secretary, SWIP and Mrs Amen Zamba, member, during a press briefing on SWIP inauguration, held at Mariot Hotel, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos. PHOTO: Kehinde Gbadamosi



•The wedding between former Miss Fatimo Rasaki, daughter of Alhaji Abdul Rasaki, and Mr. Kabiru Rabi, son of Alhaji Jimoh Idowu (Alhaji Agba), was held at Opeta Street, Alakuko, Lagos. From left: Alhaji Jimoh Idowu, new couple, Kabiru and Fatimo, and Mrs Oyenike, representing groom's mother, at the occasion. PHOTO: Joe Akintola, Photo Editor

DELTA 2023: Anxiety over 3 top contenders

By Emma Amaize, Regional Editor, South-South

•DC-23 appeals for calm

DELTA Central, DC-23, the Urhobo ethnic nationality for 2023 governor lobby group in Delta State, has pleaded for understanding of governorship aspirants unlikely to make its list of three top governorship aspirants, saying only one person will be governor of the state at a time.

The group, led by Deputy National Organizing Secretary, Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Senator Ighoyota Amori, had, in the last quarter of 2021, pruned Urhobo PDP aspirants from 12 to five.

Chairman of DC-23 Governorship 13-man Screening Committee, Prof Nyerhevwo Tonukari, and his members were given up to January ending to reduce the five shortlisted aspirants to three.

The committee was expected to further cut the selected three to one before the PDP governorship primary.

It was not confirmed if the names of the selected three aspirants have been submitted to the Chairman, DC-23, but there was reported frenzy among Urhobo governorship aspirants, weekend, indicating the committee may have concluded its assignment.

Assistant National Publicity Secretary, DC-23, Rt. Hon. Chief Sunday Apah, in a state-

ment, yesterday, said leaders of the state, including Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, ex-Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan and former Minister of Agriculture, Chief Chris Agbobu, counseled the group during its advocacy visits to prune Urhobo governorship candidates to one, hence the exercise.

Apah said: "The committee was saddled with the responsibilities to carefully examine all the aspirants from Central, who included Chief Abel Esievo, Olorogun Kenneth Gbagi, Olorogun David Edevbie, Chief Ejaife Odebala, Chief James Augoye, Senator Emmanuel Aguariavwodo, Chief

Kenneth Okpara, Chief Fred Majemite, Hon. Efe Ofobruku, Chief Bright Edeje-whro, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oboreworri and Rt. Hon. Festus Ovie Agas, with a view to pruning them down to five at the first time, later three and finally one before the primary election.

"The terms of reference of the committee were to identify the aspirants and others that may express interest within the period of screening, look at the PDP guidelines and the Nigeria constitution for qualification of the person for the office of the governor of the state, interact with such aspirant(s)

and carefully examine each of them if he had what it took to be governor of the state.

"So, in synopsis, the committee carried out the duties assigned to them accordingly and they submitted their report with Senator Emmanuel Aguariavwodo, Chief James Augoye, Chief David Edevbie, Chief Kenneth Gbagi and Rt. Hon. Chief Sheriff Oboreworri making the list of five.

"It is on this note that the DC-23 plead with those who did not make the list of five and those that may not make it to three to accept the committee's report and recommendation in good faith, as only one person will be governor of the state at a time."

ATTACKS: Army chief Yahaya storms Niger, asks commanders to confront bandits

By Kingsley Omonobi, Abuja

FOLLOWING repeated attacks, killings and kidnappings in Niger State, the Chief of the Army Staff, Lt. Gen Faruk Yahaya, yesterday, commenced an operational visit to Army bases in the state.

Yahaya charged his Commanders to take bold steps to tackle terrorism, banditry and kidnapping in the state.

A statement by Brig Gen Onyema Nwachukwu, Director, Army Public Relations said, "The Chief of the Army Staff, Lt Gen Faruk Yahaya, in the early hours of Saturday, 5 February 2022, embarked on an operational tour of 31 Brigade Area of Responsibility in Minna, Niger State.

"The tour is in continuation of ongoing evaluation and review of troops' operations in the fight against terrorism, banditry and other

sundry crimes in the country.

"Addressing Operational Commanders in Minna, the COAS charged them to take appropriate tactical measures and bold steps to tackle the menace of banditry and kidnapping in their areas of responsibility.

"He added that they (Commanders) must be thorough and circumspect in order to expunge all operational lapses in the ongoing anti banditry campaign"

I saw the disastrous effect of oil spill in Ogoniland and wept —Emeka Obasi

By Elizabeth Osayande

THE founder of non-governmental organization, NGO, 'Our Tomorrow: A Pollution and Climate Initiative, Mr. Emeka Obasi, has lamented over the disastrous impact of oil spillage in Ogoniland.

Obasi, who raised concern over the clean-up exercise in the area by relevant authorities, explained that government needed to create an alternative means of livelihood for the Ogoni people as their farming and fishing occupations are ravaged by oil spillage.

"When I was in Ogoniland, Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State, I saw the disastrous effect of oil spill and how it has affected the local communities and wept", he said.

"People there were complaining bitterly that their sources of livelihood have been totally destroyed and

government isn't taking enough action to address their situation. "Their means of livelihood, which revolved around fishing and farming, has been destroyed by the environmental degradation caused by oil spill.

"While government needs to speed up the clean-up process in the area, they also need to empower the locals there".

Gov Emmanuel not running for Senate —A'lbom PDP elders

By Harris Emanuel

AKWA Ibom elders in A'Eketa Senatorial District have lauded Governor Udom Emmanuel for what they described as opting out of the senatorial race and supporting the decision to zone the ticket to Ikot Abasi Federal Constituency.

Speaking at the event, a former Minister of Land and Housing, Chief Ndue-so Essien, said the governor told them he is not interest-

ed in going to the Senate.

His words: "During a meeting with Governor Udom Emmanuel last week, he told us that he was not interested in the Senate in 2023. That is why, among other issues, we are meeting today to also take a decision that will continue to foster unity and peace in our Senatorial District."

He further commended the governor for "toeing the path of honour by not

showing interest in contesting for the senate seat"

Secretary to the State government, SSG, Mr Emmanuel Ekuwem, a former Attorney General of the State, Ekpenyong Ntekim, Obong Chris Abasi Eyo, Barr Assam Assam, SAN, Obong Obot Etukafia, Elder Benjamin Udobia, Barr Akpadiaha Ebitu and host of others in their remarks stressed the need for zoning in the state.

By Haruna Aliyu, Birnin Kebbi

THE spokesperson for Kebbi State factional All Progressives Congress, APC, Alhaji Sani Dododo, has said his faction has approached the court to seek redress over what he described as injustice done to their camp by the section loyal to the state governor.

Sani, who spoke in Birnin Kebbi claimed that Governor Atiku Bagudu reneged on an earlier agreement reached before the congresses were held. He said: "To our uttermost dismay the party replaced exco

Residents groan as vandals throw P/Harcourt into darkness

By Eguife Yafugborhi

THE Port Harcourt Electricity Distribution (PHED) Plc has suffered another vandalism on its 300KVA, 11/415V transformer at the Choba substation, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, throwing customers into an indefinite blackout.

John Anonyai, Head, Corporate Communications, PHED, who reported the latest incident yesterday, told Sunday Vanguard that the vandals were caught the previous night with the armoured cables from the substation after doing damage, have been handed over to the

Factional Kebbi APC laments 'injustice'

loyal to Senator Aliero including the state chairman who was illegally removed hence our reason to open a factional party office to accommodate our people pending court judgement on our suit".

On the forthcoming local government election, he said a list of chairmanship candidates and councillors has been submitted.

police by the Choba vigilante. Anonyai stated: "The matter has been documented at the Choba Police station. PHED is assuring its esteemed customers that urgent steps are being taken to fix the vandalised substation and power will be restored to the area soon.

"PHED thanks Choba community for the show of support and courage in taming vandalism. We encourage them and other residents to continue with this effort in helping to protect the company's facilities in their areas so they can enjoy the investments and efforts to serve them better."

KWARA HIJAB CRISIS: 48 hrs after student killing, police foot-dragging on arrest — MURIC

By Esther Onyegbula

DIRECTOR of Muslim Rights Concern, MURIC, Professor Ishaq Akintola, has accused the police of foot-dragging on the alleged killing of a student, Habeeb Idris, of Baptist High School, Ijagbo, in Oyun Local Government Area of Kwara State.

The deceased was said to have been shot dead on Thursday, during a protest over hijab. Four other students were said to have

sustained varying degrees of injuries in the incident.

Akintola said this in a statement made available to Sunday Vanguard.

According to him, "one of the four students who were injured during the protest over the use of hijab at the Baptist High School, Ijagbo in Oyun Local Government of Kwara State, has died. The 20-year-old Muslim student, Habeeb Idris, was fatally shot on February 3, 2022.

"Three other students sustained varying degrees of injuries as a result of a brutal attack launched by hoodlums who insisted that no Muslim girl would be allowed to use hijab in the school.

"But efforts to get the Kwara State Police Command to arrest the attackers proved abortive. Although students who sustained injuries were at the command yesterday to lodge complaints and identify their attackers, the police showed no readiness to follow them.

"We are greatly disappointed at the lackadaisical attitude exhibited by the police in Kwara State. Why are the police developing cold feet in this case?"

NEWS



Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi (right) receiving staff of office from Emir of Daura, HRH Umar Farouk Umar, beside Amaechi is businessman, Alhaji Nasiru Danu, who was also turbaned as the Tafuda Babba Daura.

From right: Minister of Transportation, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Emir of Daura, HRH Umar Farouk Umar, and Governor Aminu Bello Masari of Katsina State, after Amaechi's turbaning as the Dan Amanar of Daura, yesterday.

Amaechi for President banners flood Daura

...Emir prays for higher office for Minister

By Ogalah Ibrahim, Daura

The Emir of Daura, HRH Faruk Umar Faruk, yesterday, in Daura, Katsina State prayed for the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, whom he described as a goal getter, to attain a higher office.

The revered Emir prayed the prayer while honoring Amaechi with the title of 'Dan Amanar Daura', meaning the trusted son of Daura.

The occasion was attended by eminent people from across Nigeria and those

campaigning for the Minister as President ahead of the 2023 polls who flooded the town with Amaechi for President banners.

The Emir said: "We are gathered here to reciprocate the kind gesture done to us by the Hon Minister of Transportation, Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, for his whole hearted love and support for us. Therefore, it is binding on the Daura traditional emirate to acknowledge the kind gesture. My prayer is for God to give you a higher office."

Faruk said the Daura Emir-

ate conferred the title on Amaechi also in recognition of his contributions to the socio-economic development of the country, especially for ensuring that a Transportation University is sited in Daura as well as ensuring that the Kano-Maradi Standard Gauge Railway line passes through Daura.

"We don't give title because you have money. We give you considering your sacrifices and impact on people's lives, and impact on community and the nation at large," the monarch said.

Also turbaned by Faruk is

a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Nasiru Haladu Danu, who got the title of 'Tafida Baba'.

Among the groups which thronged the occasion to mobilise support for Amaechi for President in 2023 are Frontier for Peace and Unity (FPU), Amaechi Vanguard, Amaechi 2023 Agenda and Northern Grassroots Mobilization.

The turbaning was witnessed by Governor Aminu Masari of Katsina State, Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, Alhaji Muhammadu Nuhu Sanusi (Emir of Dutse), Erin Edet Ekong (Chairman of Cross Rivers State Traditional Rulers Council), Abdullahi Lamido Sunusi (Magajin Garin Kano), Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba (Minister of State for Education), Minister of State for Health (Olorunnimbe Mamora),

Okechukwu Enelamah (Minister of State for Trade and Investment), Alhaji Yusuf Tukur Buratai, Mallam Isa Yuguda (former Bauchi Governor), Alhaji Musa Haro (District Head Dumurkol), Alhaji Yusuf Buhari (District Head of Kwasarawa), Alhaji Bashir Jamo (DG NIMASA) and Alhaji Muhammadu Koko, among others.

OIL TERMINAL EXPLOSION: 10 crew members still missing - Shebah Exploration Company

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

The Management of Shebah Exploration & Production Company Ltd, SEPCOL, in RECEIVERSHIP, yesterday, has said it is still searching for the whereabouts, safety, and security of 10 crew members who were onboard of Floating Oil Production and Storage Vessel, FPSO, Trinity Spirit, which exploded off the coast of Nigeria.

It also said there has not been any reported fatalities yet on the explosion and subsequent fire that engulfed the vessel at the Ukpokiti Terminal last Wednesday.

A statement by the Chief Executive Officer, Shebah Exploration and Production Company Ltd, in RECEIVERSHIP, Ikemefuna Okafor, said

Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) has been scheduled for yesterday.

The statement reads in part: "We have been working with the relevant authorities and stakeholders to contain the situation and an investigation has been launched to establish the cause of the explosion.

"We can confirm that the fire burnt out completely as of Thursday afternoon, 3rd Feb. 2022 and this has enabled closer inspection of the vessel. With this development, a Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) has been scheduled for Saturday, 5th February 2022 with the relevant authorities, stakeholders, and expert organisations.

"Currently, there are still no reported fatalities, and we continue prioritising investigations with respect to establishing the whereabouts, safety, and security

of the ten crew members who were on board the vessel prior to the incident.

"We appreciate the assistance provided to us by the Clean Nigeria Associates, the Chevron team, NOS-DRA, NUPRC, SPDC and people in the community, particularly the fishermen, who have been of im-

mense assistance since the incident occurred.

"Members of the public should continue to keep away from the area while our Crisis Management Team monitors developments in the investigations and update all stakeholders with new information accordingly."

ZAMFARA IMPEACHMENT CHAOS: PDP warns Matawalle against removing deputy

By Dirisu Yakubu

The Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has warned Governor Bello Matawalle against what it called moves to manipulate Zamfara State Assembly to commence impeachment proceedings against deputy governor Mahdi Gusau.

In a statement by spokesman, Debo Ologunagba, the PDP noted that the "illegal process of impeachment, despite an order of the Federal High Court, Abuja in suit number FHC/ABJ/CS/ 650/ 2021, portends grave implication for peace and security not only in Zamfara state but the entire North-West region

as well as the continued sustenance of democracy in our country."

The statement read: "It is clear that this panic move by Governor Matawalle is induced by his realization that the mandate of the PDP which he stole away into the All Progressives Congress, APC, is on the verge of being recovered through the legal processes of the court and restored to the deputy governor; he (Matawalle), having violated the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) in recklessly moving to the APC when there is no division in the PDP.

"Governor Matawalle

should note that the people of Zamfara are solidly with the deputy governor, who enjoys large political following in the state as the custodian of the PDP mandate after Matawalle's infamous defection to the APC. As such, any action against the deputy governor amounts to a direct assault on the Will of the people which they will firmly resist.

"Any attempt therefore to strip the deputy governor of the mandate of the people on the grounds of baseless and unfounded allegations is a recipe for serious crisis that can result in the complete breakdown of law and order in the State".

Ekiti 2022: Segun Oni finally dumps PDP, heads to APGA

By Rotimi Ojomoyela

After weeks of speculation, former Governor Segun Oni of Ekiti State, yesterday, defected from the People's Democratic Party.

It was gathered that the former governor, who lost the PDP ticket to contest June governorship election in Ekiti, left the party with a large number of party members.

This latest defection is the second time Oni would be leaving the PDP, the first one was in 2014, shortly before

the governorship election. That time, he headed to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Oni is yet to indicate the party he would be pitching tent with this time, but speculation is rife that he may join All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) to contest the 2022 governorship poll.

In a telephone chat with *Sunday Vanguard* in Ado-Ekiti, a spokesperson, Mr Jackson, stated that the decision of Oni and thousands of supporters to leave PDP was

taken at a stakeholders' meeting held at Oni's residence in Ifaki-Ekiti, Ido/ Osu Local Government Area of the state.

He stated that Oni yielded to pressure from the overwhelming majority of Ekiti people who are desirous of returning him to Government House under any political party.

Jackson, a former PDP State Publicity Secretary, hinted that the former governor's resignation from the PDP was with immediate effect.

2023: Anyim takes consultations to South-West

... meets Ayo Adebajo, Bode George, Gani Adams

As the race for the 2023 presidential election gathers momentum, former President of the Senate and presidential aspirant on the platform of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Anyim Pius Anyim, on Friday, took his consultations to the South-West region of the country.

Anyim kicked off his consultations with the leader of the Odua Peoples Congress, OPC, and the Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yoruba, Gani Adams, before visiting Chief Olabode George, former PDP Deputy National Chairman (South) and Chief Ayo Adebajo, leader of the Yoruba socio-cultural group, Afenifere.

The visit to the three leaders marks the commencement of his wider consultations with South-West leaders.

The former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, who was described as a leader with the requisite character and competence to lead the country, told hosts that he had come to consult with them on his aspiration to succeed President Muhammadu Buhari.

Anyim who said he has the experience, competence and understanding of the country, what the challenges are and what it would take to fix Nigeria, said the problem the country is facing was due to failure of leadership.

He said: "We can rebuild

and refocus this nation and advance the cause of democracy. The country must move forward as a united entity but on the three building blocks of equity, fairness and justice.

"I have come not for partnership, but for you to show me the way, to carry me on your back across the bridge".

Responding, George said urged his visitor to always preach peace on his campaign tours.

He said: "You are a highly responsible person. You were the Senate President, the country's number three citizen and a Secretary to the Government of the Federation. So you have gathered the requisite experience, capacity, character and knowledge and the right values to lead this country. I have no doubt in my mind that you will be a good leader.

"As you go around the country canvassing for support, preach peace. We all want peace. Nobody wants trouble. Our party, the PDP stands on the tripod of justice, equity and fairness. I know the party well, when the time comes, we will meet and sort things out."

George also lent his support to zoning saying, "our brothers from the South-East must come together and have a direction. There must be no spoilers. By whatever parameter, what is good for the goose, must also be good for the gander."

OBASEKI VS LAWMAKERS-ELECT: 14 Edo House members-designate run to Ayu for help

... nearly three years after

By Dirisu Yakubu

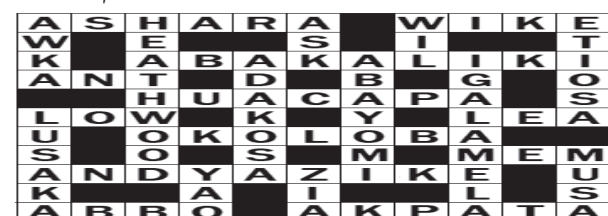
The 14 Edo House of Assembly members-elect, excluded from inauguration by Governor Godwin Obaseki two years and eight months ago, have written to the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Senator Iyorchia Ayu, to cause the governor and his deputy, Mr. Philip Shaibu, to come to their aid.

Their 10 other colleagues had been inaugurated on June 17, 2019.

In a petition, dated February 4, 2022 and signed by Rt. Hon. Victor Sabor Edoror, on behalf of the 14 All Progressives Congress, APC, members titled, 'Re unlawful exclu-

sion of 14 elected APC members of Edo State House of Assembly from parliamentary duty' asked Ayu to use his good office to prevail on Obaseki and Shaibu to bring about their integration into Edo State House of Assembly.

The petition read in part: "Our resort to legal redress has also not yielded fruit, as the Edo State High Court has failed to hear the case till date for the third year running due to the influence of the the government (Governor Godwin Obaseki and Deputy Governor Philip Shaibu) through the then Solicitor General now Attorney General, Mr. Wole Iyamu. Infact, the eighth judge is presently handling the matter without hearing yet.





Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State (right) receiving a plaque from the newly elected President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo United Kingdom (UK)/Ireland, Chief Mrs. Aqueen Ibeto (Adabuzo), when a delegation from the apex Igbo socio-cultural organization visited the governor at the Government House, Enugu, yesterday.



From right: National Chairman, Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, presenting the party's Constitution to a delegation from the Communist Party of China, CPC, led by Messrs Wu Baocai (left) and Li Inejjian, at the Wadata Plaza Office of the PDP Chairman, in Abuja, yesterday.

2023 PRESIDENCY: Decision of South will shake Nigeria — Wike

By Davies Iheamachor

Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State says Nigeria will shake when southern leaders declare their decision on the 2023 presidency.

Wike also said the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, will not give its presidential ticket to any candidate who will serve only the interest of the wealthy few in Nigeria, adding that desperate politicians who will not serve the interest of many, rather the interest of few, are already scheming to be candidate.

The governor spoke at a grand reception organised in his honour by the people of Kalabari at the Abalama School field in Asari Toru Local Government Area, yesterday, according to a statement by his Special Assistant on Media, Kelvin Ebiri.

He was honoured as Se-Ibidokubo of Kalabari land (He who does good things for Kalabari people). The conferment was performed by the Amayanabo of Abonnema, King Gboko Desreal Bobmanuel.

Wike stressed that southern Nigeria stakeholders will soon make a declarative statement concerning 2023 presidential election.

Wike said: "The day the

South will speak, Nigeria will shake. We believe in the unity of this country, but nobody can threaten us. Nobody should threaten us. We believe in the unity of Nigeria and unity of Nigeria must continue."

The governor said no amount of gang-up will make the PDP compromise its stand on integrity.

His words: "No amount of gang-up can make PDP to give somebody who will want to run election for the interest of some big men, and not for all Nigerians."

"Anybody who wants to be candidate of PDP must be candidate for the interest of Nigerians."

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Rivers State Elders Forum, Chief Ferdinand Anabraba, said the grand reception was significant for two reasons: critical importance to them as a people and also because of the unity of purpose engendered among them under Wike administration.

He said it was that kind of reception organised for prominent sons and friends who have impacted the Kalabari people.



Participants at a screening and sensitization session organised by NISA PREMIER HOSPITAL to mark 2022 WORLD CANCER DAY in Abuja.

Ugwuanyi has demystified governance, says Ohanaeze Ndigbo in Diaspora

The leadership of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, United Kingdom (UK)/Ireland has applauded Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi for his sacrifices and immeasurable contributions towards the progress of Enugu State and the entire South-East, stressing that the governor has demystified governance to the admiration of many, through his exemplary leadership and new narratives.

The UK/Ireland Chapter of the apex Igbo socio-cultural organization made the commendation when the newly elected President of the chapter, Chief (Mrs). Aqueen Ibeto, led a delegation to the Government House, Enugu, on a courtesy visit to Gov. Ugwuanyi.

Ibeto, who noted that the visit was "a unanimous decision of our executive council" to discuss other areas of common interest to the service of the Igbo Nation, thanked the governor for granting them audience in spite of his busy schedule.

Accompanied by the President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Enugu State Chapter, Prof. Fred Eze, the National Publicity Secretary of the Organization, Chief Alex Ogonnia, among others, the new UK/Ireland President described Ugwuanyi as a humble and visionary leader, adding that Igbos in the Diaspora are pleased with what the governor has been doing in Enugu State.

"His Excellency, I still give you the most appreciation than anyone ever can think of, because I have seen what you have done in Enugu State. I know you to be a very quiet and calm leader with a big heart", she said.

Ibeto, who is an indigene of Enugu State by birth, sought the chapter's collaboration with the state government to enable it to contribute and showcase its plans

"to make sure that Enugu State remains on top". Presenting the UK/Ireland President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo to Ugwuanyi earlier, the President of Enugu State Chapter of the organization, Prof. Eze, described her emergence as "a big achievement for Enugu State".

In his remarks, the National Publicity Secretary of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Chief Ogonnia, commended Ugwuanyi for "the kind of peace we witness in Enugu State", adding: "I say this because everything is best rated by comparison".

Speaking on the governor's unprecedented feat in rural

development, Ogonnia added: "This is the best Enugu State has had. By the time you go to some places and see road infrastructural revolution, you would agree to this fact. And that is why the day he was sworn in, he made it clear that he would look into the rural areas".

Responding, Ugwuanyi congratulated Ibeto on her emergence as the first female President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, pointing out that he was not surprised at her new feat considering the pedigree of her Royal family being the daughter of late Igwe Okobo from Obinagu in Udi LGA of Enugu State.

'PSC didn't indict Kyari'

By Nnamdi Ojiego

A lawyer, Mr. Joseph Donald, has said that the Police Service Commission, PSC, didn't indict suspended Deputy Commissioner of Police, Abba Kyari, stressing that any reports to that effect should be disregarded by the public.

In a statement made available to Sunday Vanguard, Donald said everything in the media was contents of Hushpuppy's mobile phone and not Kyari's.

The statement reads: "Police Service commission letter says, from all the investigations done and facts that have emerged, Abba Kyari has not been found to have committed any criminal offence that will warrant court trial hence they still needed more evidence and more investigations from the police

in the next 2 weeks to prove their case or else their criminal case against Kyari cannot hold.

"Thorough investigations Three kidnapped Warri lawyers, driver regain freedom

By Jimitota Onoyume

Three lawyers of the Warri branch of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, and a driver kidnapped on Wednesday, on the Auchi - Benin road, have regained their freedom.

A statement by the Chairman of the NBA, Warri, Chief Emmanuel Uti, said the victims were released in the early hours of yesterday, adding that they had returned to their families.

The statement which was silent on the matters of ransom called on the Edo State government and the security agencies to take adequate steps to improve security on the Benin-Auchi road.

were conducted. All bank accounts were checked and no dime was linked to him directly or indirectly".

"We are pleased to announce the release of three of our colleagues and their driver who were kidnapped along Benin-Auchi road, on February 2, 2022. They were released today February 5th, 2022, at about 1.05 am and have been reunited with their families. "This kidnap incident has brought to fore, the need for the Edo State government to take steps to clear the forest from the Ogbemudia Farms axis along the Benin-Auchi road up to Ekpoma and also the need for every Police Area Commands in Edo and Delta states to be equipped with phone tracking devices to help in curbing this menace that the nation is grappling with", the statement added.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Judgment of the High Court of Enugu State, presided over By Honourable Justice H.O. Eya in Suit No. E/227/2016 – MR. ZAPHANUS AZIKE V. CHIEF JERRY UGWU & OTHERS, wherein the claim of the Plaintiff for a declaration of title in respect of Plot Nos. 819, 821 and 823 at GREEN LAKE (KPOROKO) LAYOUT, situate at NOKPA NIKE COMMUNITY IN ENUGU EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE, was dismissed by the court, the members of the public who erroneously acquired any interest or any land relating to the afore-stated parcels of land are advised to get in touch with the 1st Defendant in the suit, CHIEF JERRY UGWU on 08033419878, within FOURTEEN DAYS, from the date of this PUBLIC NOTICE, for further briefing.

SIGNED: CHIEF JERRY UGWU 08033419878

BUSINESS ON SUNDAY

Data Protection Bill is a fundamental right of Nigerians, Adeseyoju tells NASS

By Tunde Oso

Nigeria joined the rest of the world in observing Data Privacy Day on Friday, January 28. **Ademikun Adeseyoju**, Team Lead, Data Protection & Privacy Compliance Department of DataPro Limited spoke with *Vanguard* on the significance of the day. She also said quick passage of Data Protection Bill by the National Assembly will provide a more robust and efficient regulatory framework for the protection of personal data, regulate the processing of information relating to data subjects, and safeguard their fundamental rights and freedoms as Nigerians. Excerpts:



•Adeseyoju

Data protection & privacy requirements for businesses in Nigeria

The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) 2019 was issued in January 2019 by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the regulatory agency charged with driving Data Protection compliance in Nigeria. The issuance provided an array of obligations for Data Controller and Processors in Nigeria. Data Controllers and Processors are obligated to appoint a Data Protection Officer for the purpose of ensuring company-wide adherence to the regulation. Additionally, they are required to develop a Data Protection and Privacy policy which should set the tone of Data Protection and Privacy practices in the organisation; conduct training and awareness on Data Protection and Privacy for all staff; conduct Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA); and implement adequate security measures to protect data. Similarly, Data Controllers and Processors who process the personal data of more than 2000 data subjects in a period of 12 months are required to conduct annual Data Protection Audit and file the report with NITDA. This is to showcase their level of compliance with the provisions of the NDPR.

Recorded successes of the regime so far

The reception to the regime has continued to improve resulting in significant compliance by entities. Between 2020 and 2021, NITDA received audit filings from 1230 entities. This is a 94% growth from 2019/2020 filings. The list of all Audit-Compliant Organisations is available on the agency's website. Similarly, in its commitment to the creation of job opportunities, 42 additional entities were granted Data Protection Compliance Organisation (DPCO) license in 2021, bringing the total number of DPCOs to 102, of which DataPro is one. The

Agency also has not reneged on the performance of its oversight function. This is evident in its effort to hold entities accountable. In particular, a private entity was fined the sum of N10,000,000.00 naira for privacy invasion. This is the highest fine meted out by the agency.

NITDA role

All of the above point to the fact that NITDA is steadfast in its quest to ensuring that Nigeria continues to improve on its standing as relating to data protection and privacy. We are aware that a Data Protection Bill is currently in the works.

Expected new Data Protection Bill

The Bill will provide a more robust and efficient regulatory framework for the protection of personal data, to regulate the processing of information relating to data subjects, and to safeguard their fundamental rights and freedoms as Nigerians. The Data Protection Bill will be passed into law by the National Assembly. It also touches on the establishment of a Data Pro-

tection Commission. This new commission will be charged with the responsibility of protection of personal data, rights of data subjects, regulation of the processing of personal data and for related matters. The Bill is expected to be passed into Law soon.

Rights of Nigerians under the NDPR

The NDPR dictates several rights for Data subjects. The rights include: "The right of access - Data subjects have the right to access their personal data being processed by a Data Controller or Processor.

"The right to rectification - Data subjects have the right to request for the correction of inaccurate personal data and to have incomplete personal data updated without delay.

"The right to erasure - Data subjects have the right to request the erasure of their personal data from a Data Controller and Processor system.

"The right to restrict processing - Data subjects have the right to request Data Controllers and Processors restrict the processing of their personal data under certain circumstances.

"The right to data portability - Data subjects have the right to request a transfer of their personal data from one Data Controller or Processor to another.

"The rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling - Data subjects have the right to object to a decision solely based on automated profiling or decision making, which significantly affects them.

It is important that Nigerians exercise any of these rights, they must contact the Data Controller or Processor managing their personal data.

Chi Farms expands partnership with Hendrix Genetics

By Prince Okafor

Agribusiness company in Nigeria, Chi Farms Limited has announced its partnership expansion with Hendrix Genetics, which will increase the production of layer day-old chicks in Nigeria.

According to the Managing Director - Chi Farms, Dr Tunji Olaitan, "Our strategic expansion program will respond to demand forecasts in the short, mid and long term by providing both breeder chicks and commercial layer chicks in response to market demands. "We are also committed to developing our pen houses and hatchery capacities. Upgrades on the existing infrastructure in line with continuous technical improvements are being carried out for world-class poultry management".

On his part, Area Manager Africa - Hendrix Genetics, Peter

Arts, stated that, "We are excited to expand the scope of our partnership with Chi Farms to continue to improve breed quality, increase production volume to meet market demands, and provide technical training through our breeding programs."

Chi Farms and Hendrix Genetics have also stated that they will jointly invest in a special poultry training centre for local farmers in Nigeria. Martin Middernacht, Executive Director - Chi Farms, commented on the commitments towards capacity building.

"The special poultry training centre is currently under construction. It will consist of demonstration pen houses, equipment and classrooms to provide technical training for the customers and partners of Chi Farms and other interested parties", he said.

RIDA deepens social impact, attracts endorsements

By Tunde Oso

NIGERIANS have continued to laud the awesome benefits they are deriving from the use of RIDA Herbal Bitters after the Green Mondays, a network of people, committed to ensuring a healthier and wealthier society, carried out its Social Impact Project in some states that saw about 16,000 beneficiaries nationwide receiving RIDA Herbal Bitters for personal use.

Managing Director, Marvel Natural Products, producers of RIDA Bitters, Mrs. Temitope Akinyemi noted that the excitement was palpable as everyone involved who shared how they felt when given the premium herbal product also took advantage of basic medical checks and free counseling. While reeling out unique contents that stand the prod-

uct out, Akinyemi said "RIDA is a perfect blend of carefully selected Herb and Root Extracts to help people live healthy daily. RIDA Bitters does the key work of eliminating Oxidative Stress.

"RIDA Bitters contain properties that are effective for general wellbeing and detoxification. It is also very effective in relieving stress and body pains, as well as prevention of malaria and typhoid, high blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis and more.

"RIDA has gone through different levels of testing to ensure that it is made of the highest quality thereby ensuring safety, efficacy, and quick acting. It is NAFDAC approved, US FDA approved, ISO Certified, HALAL Certified, has gone through Pre-Clinical Trials, and most recently, Clinical Trials. To this end, it is listed in the Cochrane Database

for Systematic Reviews in South Africa".

She added that RIDA Herbal Bitters helps to increase the body's levels of antioxidants and decrease the formation of free radicals, and so helps the body begin to recover and repair whatever damage was earlier done to it, keeping the body healthy, fit and full of life.

According to her, from Lagos to Osogbo through Akure, Sokoto and Port Harcourt, it was fun filled with excitement as people thronged the centres and took advantage of the programme.

Mrs Temitope Balogun and Mr Olaoluwa Akanji Davies from Lagos, could not contain their joy as they shared their testimonies. Balogun, who spoke in Yoruba language, revealed that she suffered from severe chest ache. But upon using RIDA Herbal Bitters, the chest ache disappeared after one week of use.

NEWS

ANIOMA UNION: Those behind it are coup plotters — Edozien

By Festus Ahon, ASABA

CHAIRMAN of Delta North Traditional Rulers Forum, Obi (Prof) Chike Edozien, Friday, described those behind the formation of Anioma Progressives Union to displace Anioma Congress as coup plotters.

Edozien who spoke to newsmen after a meeting of the Forum held in his Palace, which was attended by over 25 Traditional Rulers, said: "We know that any people who cannot live together cannot make progress. Getting together, planning, articulating, moving forward.

"We the Anioma people have

set up over the years, organisations for us to survive and progress. The traditional rulers who have been ruling the people have their own meetings that is the Anioma Traditional Rulers' Forum, but jointly we have the Anioma Congress.

"The common people, the political class all our intelligent people meet together to deal with political and other issues. And they meet under the auspices of the Anioma Congress under the leadership of Chief Benjamin Elue. "When necessary, the whole body - the traditional rulers and the congress meet together, and that constitute the Anioma People's Forum. So these have been in existence and still in existence, there is no vacuum. Saying that the

Anioma Congress does not exist is trying to carry out coup, and there is no room for that".

On 2023 gubernatorial election in the State, the Monarch said: "First we called a meeting to address the issues because ethnic groups are coming out to say they want to contest for the governor and they want support.

And so we called the meeting to address the issues. As the general in our midst, give us time to deliberate and make up our mind. Even in the meantime,

"When they come, we will call a meeting to address them. For now, we are open to aspirants for consultation but we will see how things develop, and then we will know what to do. We supported Okowa on the ground of rotation.

New executive officers inaugurated for Ibada-Amukpe

New executive officers have been inaugurated at Ibada-Amukpe in Sapele local government area of Delta State to run the affairs of that community for the next two years.

Those who ascribed to their oath of office are, Mr Felix Edefiadyeke Chairman, Mr Kelly Erute, Vice chairman, Mr Felix Akpereyi, Secretary, Mr Victor Enakpare Asagba Assistant secretary, Mr Samuel Onoghosa Speaker and Mr Dickson Ayovonaduo Financial Secretary,

Others are, Mr Sunday Umukoro, Treasurer, Mr Peter Osioh, Public relations officer, Mr Frederick Ebeje Financial Secretary, Mr Felix Akpojaiwo, Land and survey Mr Efe Umukoro, Second Land and survey, Mr Matthew Ovwigho, Third Land and Survey.

Those who were sworn in as youths executive officers include, Mr Osioh Oberhiri, Chairman, Mr wisdom Ovwigho, Vice Chairman, Mr Ogaga Umukoro, Secretary Mr Obule Ozika,

Assistant Secretary, Mr Nelson Eni, Speaker, Mr Venture Ofomala, Financial Secretary, and Mr Shedrack Idamayi Treasurer.

Mr Sheriff Ikoje, Public Relations officer, Mr Akpovwene Okoligbe Assistant Speaker, Mr Efe Ebataise, Chief whip Mr Precious Ubigho Assistant Public Relations officer, Mr Rukevwu Ubidoeye Welfare Officer, and Mr Godwin Ekoroga, Organizing Secretary were equally sworn in to move their community forward to the next level.



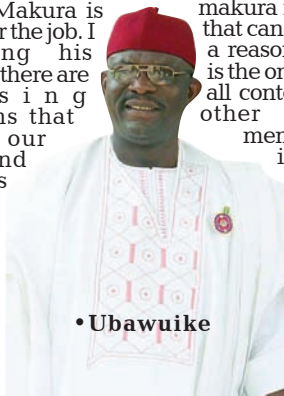
•From left: Mrs Olumuyiwa Ajayi-Ade, Deputy Director, Industrial Development Dept, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment; Princess Layo Bakare-Okeowo, Chairperson, Printing, Publishing and Allied Group, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Asiwaju Michael Olawale-Cole, President, LCCI; Dr Chinyere Almona, DG, LCCI; Professor Abiodun Oluwadare, Dept of Forest Production and Products, University of Ibadan and Mr Eric Wang, MD, Nixin Paper Mill at a seminar themed: "Challenges, Prospects, Raw Materials Demand in the Printing, Packaging and Publishing Industry" by LCCI in conjunction with Raw Material, Research and Development Council held in Lagos on Thursday.

APC Chairmanship: Why I'm supporting Al-makura — Ubawuike

By Sunday Nwafor

Chief Chibunna Ubawuike is a chieftain of All Progressives Congress, APC. In this interview, he states why Senator Tanko Al-Makura is the best person to take over as the National Chairman of the party.

For me, Al-Makura is the best man for the job. I am promoting his candidacy and there are increasing manifestations that most of our members and stakeholders are



•Ubawuike

Ahead of the national convention of APC, who do you prefer as the party's next chairman?

The person I am supporting is Senator Al-makura. He is one of our political leaders in the party. I have been following him since he was a governor. I developed an interest in him. He is the best man for the job. He will promote internal democracy in APC. Internal democracy is lacking in our party. He was a governor and understands leadership.

Does that mean that Momodu Sheriff and others do not stand a chance?

They are all qualified but Al-makura towers above all of them. If you go by what he did while he was a governor and what he has been doing as a senator, you will know that he is the most qualified. He is a very fearless man who has no godfather.

On the same page with me in this campaign.

I don't want to discuss Sheriff. I will only talk about my candidate. Sheriff is a member of the party and he is qualified to be chairman of the party but Senator Al-makura is ahead of Sheriff. Al-makura is the best man for the party. Al-makura is from the North-Central zone while Sheriff is from the North-East. We believe the party is indebted to the North-Central.

If your candidate wins, what will he do differently?

He will unify our party. The internal problems we have in many states will no longer be there because he is a man of peace. He believes in one Nigeria. He will make sure

there is peace at all levels of the party. Are you saying Al-makura is the only person that can take your party to a reasonable height? He is the only person, among all contenders and every other well-meaning member of our party is backing him.

Is there any case against your candidate?

There is no case. It is a petition.

In politics, the greatest weapon is propaganda.

And propaganda can be in the form of writing and verbal expression. He has no case to answer and that is why he has not been taken to court. If he had a skeleton in his cupboard, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, would have taken him to court.

Where do you see APC in the next four years if Al-makura emerges?

In the next four years, our party will become the largest party in Africa. It would be a party that will ensure prosperity in Nigeria and Africa at large. It is a party that would ensure there is unity and progress.



KIDDIES



08052201992

Focus is key to unlock your potential

Hi stars out there!

I called you stars because I know that is who God has made you! Stars glitters anytime it appears in the sky and it's always a beauty to behold. So, tell yourself, 'I am a beauty to behold'. Good! As stars, everything you need to fulfil destiny is created with you and it's in you! You have potential to be the best you should be.

Unfortunately, in this earth space; planet, so many things are confesting against it because of the world

system filled with distractions. Distractions in terms of television, phones, games just to mention a few. All these gadgets have their own benefits but children are not always guarded to maximize the benefits by your parents or guardian. What you need is focus. Focus is the key needed to unlock the potential God has put inside of you.

Do you know that when it comes to achievement in your academics, your ability to focus on your studies determines your results at the end of the term or session? What are your goals in this new term as you are back in

school? To be the best in your class? To leave game time to during holiday? To avoid any form of distractions from your friends? Whatever goal you have set for yourself is possible if you stay focused to make it happen.

Your future success depends on it. Focus on building a new you. Each day is a new opportunity for something great to happen. Forget about regret where you didn't do well in your last result, just focus.

Focus on today's goals you have set for yourself. Focus on what you can do better to be a best of you in the new term.

Enjoy your week but stay focused.

Aunty Funmi

SHORT STORY

Dream Big

Lily is a little girl, who is shy and reserved. But she enjoys playing soccer. Her friends and classmates ridicule Lily for her interest in soccer. Nonetheless, she is determined to pursue her passion and become a successful soccer player.

Every day, after returning from school, Lily quickly finishes her homework and practices soccer. Her mother understands the love Lily has for the sport and supports her in every way.

When the interschool competitions are announced at the school, Lily decides to participate. She takes part in the selection trials, and her classmates mock her once again. But they are

Boarding School: A stitch in time saves nine

PARENTING

Boarding schools have existed and its as old as foundation of schools itself. Many parents and those in power today attended one boarding school or the other in their school days. As popular it was, some parents did not buy the idea of boarding school too. So, it was a matter of choice and it is still the same today.

shocked when Lily performs well and the judges select her to represent the school. Lily's commitment and hard work mute every person who mocked her.

M O R A L S :
Determination, strong will, and focus can help you achieve even the toughest of goals

Culled from: best online inspirational stories for your child

Bullying also has existed long time enough that it has become a norm to many that hear about it, except in exception where it resulted to death like that of Sylvester Oromoni, a 12 year old student of Downen College in Lagos. Though it has now become a norm in schools especially in boarding schools, doesn't mean it's normal.

Bullying starts from home among siblings, bullying at schools from seniors to juniors which most times happens in an attempt for seniors to want to exert themselves of their position, to bullying teachers by students with backings from their rich and influential parents. Heads of schools especially private schools shielding bullies in schools against their teachers in order to protect their interest; school fees. No matter where it happened or how it happened, bullying is harmful and has a long lasting consequences on children. Besides the physical effects of bullying on teachers



or children, many experience emotional and mental health problems, including depression and anxiety that can lead to substance abuse and decreased performance in school.

For parents whose children are in boarding schools, do not see it as place to dump your children, take responsibility over them. Communicate through their house mistress or masters. Insist to talk to them to ask how they are coping. Do

not miss once a month open day for parents and children. It is a time to ask questions about the welfare of your child. Unfortunately, many parents just buy enough provisions and send money to their children without creating time to check on them.

Always ask about your child's health status and ask questions. That is why it is important to build communication with your child to the extent that they

cannot hide anything from you.

Be proactive anytime there is a strange report from your child. Do not stay back a moment whether public or private school. If a child could open up that something was wrong, then, know the child needed help. Some parents may say, 'the child just wants me around'. Yes, so it is. Wanting you around is for a purpose. Do not leave any gap.

My daughter while in boarding school just called me she had constipation and when I asked questions, she opened up she had not use the toilet for one week just because she was irritated about the environment of the toilet. I rushed to the school and took exert for her and took her to the hospital. Alas! She couldn't have poo by herself because it has become so hard. The doctor said if she was left for more days, it could have contaminated her system.

A stitch in time, saves nine. Parents, be warned.

NIGER ATTACKS: Villagers act as informants to bandits, Senator Musa raises the alarm

By Wole Mosadomi, Minna

SENATOR Sani Musa, representing Niger East that is currently under bandits invasion, has called for collaborative efforts between villagers and youths to identify and flush bandits out of Niger State.

He also called on security agencies to apply modern techniques to confront bandits just as he appealed to the Federal Government to establish permanent military camps in the communities under attack.

The senator, in a telephone interview with our correspon-

dent, yesterday, noted that unfolding events in the state had shown that some villagers are deeply involved and acting as informants to bandits thereby making it difficult for security agencies to overrun them.

Musa said this is not the period to start playing politics with the crisis at hand but time for all stakeholders to form a common front towards waging a total war against the common enemy.

"Recent developments have shown that some villagers are acting as informants to the bandits thereby paving way for easy penetration to overrun their targeted communities", the senator said.

"I appeal to youths especially in the affected areas to fish out these informants and report to the appropriate quarters for action to be taken."

"The Federal Government should also take more proactive measures by establishing permanent instead of temporary military camps in the communities affected by banditry while the military should also apply modern techniques to confront and win the war against criminals".

There had been war of words between youths in affected areas and government over attacks by bandits in the state in the past few days.

US-based foundation donates property to The Candlelight Foundation

A US-based non-profit organization, Liberty Family Foundation, LFF, has donated \$31,700 USD to The Candlelight Foundation to secure a five-year lease on a property in Surulere area of Lagos State.

The property is meant for The Candlelight Foundation's soup kitchen, where meals are shared freely to the poor people in the community.

The LFF is a private family NGO founded in the US. The foundation believes in giving back to communities locally, nationally, and throughout

the world.

The founder, and technology mogul, Mr. Michael Liberty made the donation through the LFF in honour of his late mother, Mary "Mae" McCarthy Liberty.

He described Mae, as she was fondly called by her admirers, as a generous and cheerful soul who always helped those in need.

According to Mr. Liberty, the mission of the LFF is to help those in need and inspire other civic leaders and individuals to do the same, thereby, improving the quality of life for all.

As a multi-faceted entrepreneur, who has built his fortune and success through his remarkable vision and diversified approach towards creating cutting-edge niches in numerous industries, Mr. Liberty has delved into real estate, textile, retail, and technology over the course of three decades.



OML 13: NOSL Christmas Gifts for Eastern Obolo, Onna, Mkpat Enin, Ibeno, Ikot Abasi

• *Host communities' welfare is our priority - Group Capt Etete Ekpo (rtd)*

"We shall constantly take the welfare of the residents of our host communities as foremost in the scheme of things in the course of our operations here at OML13."

This assurance was given by the Base Manager, NOSL, Group Capt Etete Ekpo (rtd), while delivering a consignment of rice and wine to the Eastern Obolo communities through members of their Oil and Gas Committee.

The Committee was represented by Honorable (Elder) Uro Bill Nango who took possession of the Christmas gifts.

In a brief handover ceremony at the NOSL office headquarters in Eket, Ekpo expressed the goodwill of his company to the communities.

He recalled efforts of the past to make life better for

the host communities including provision of employment opportunities for youths and provision of social amenities like roads.

His words, "We are just starting as a journey of 100 miles starts with a step".

The NOSL Base Manager praised the communities for the cooperation enjoyed by the company which, according to him, has translated to smooth operation and enjoined them to continue in that regard.

Nango, in his speech, thanked the company for extending the gesture to the communities.

According to the communities' representative, this will go a long way to help the people especially at a time they were feeling the brunt of economic hardship.

He recalled the various items donated to the com-

munities in past Christmas celebrations. Mango assured the communities of continued support to NOSL

to make the area conducive for their operations.

He reminded the company to continue its gesture to



• *Group Captain Ekpo (rtd) handing over donated items to Hon Nango while others watch.*

the people in other areas to enhance them in terms of vocational training and social amenities.

Representative of the NPDC, Mr Bassey Richard,

told the gathering that the partnership between NNPC and NOSL has come to impact positively on the communities and will be sustained. David Eshiet, Youth President of Iko community, praised the company for the kind gesture.

He, however, pleaded that the company should do more in areas of provision of community projects like town halls, vocation for youths, and scholarship for their students in higher institutions.

Earlier, other local government areas under OML13 had taken their shares of the items. These are Onna, Mkpat Enin, Ibeno and Ikot Abasi.

Those present at the occasion include Mr Fabian Ebrri, Base Manager, NOSL Iko Base, Mr Isaacs Nelly, NPDC SCO, and Mrs Emem Thomas, CSR (Women Affairs) NOSL.



By Vera Anyagafu and Florence Amagiaya

Adetoun Tade is an engineer turned movie producer. The first elected President of the International Visitor Leadership Program Alumni Association of the United States Consulate (IVLP), in this chat, talks about the mentoring programs she started in 2018, victims of rape and the ones suffering in silence and many more. Excerpts...

What are you passionate about; what drives you as a person?

I am passionate about people. I love impacting people's lives, no matter how small or big, and that gives me joy every day I have such privilege.

Can you share a little of the challenges you have encountered giving a helping hand?

Challenges faced by women are multifaceted. It takes a woman to double or triple her efforts to be heard and taken seriously.

What inspired 'Achieving a Rape, Child Molestation and Domestic Violence Free Community' project?

One of the major programs the United States Consulate supports us to do is the mentorship program for senior secondary students in public schools where we mentor them on leadership, social skills, decision-making processes, circle of influence and lots more. It is in the course of this program that we realized that child molestation, rape and domestic violence has eaten deep into the fabric of our society than we imagined. And most of the victims, especially children, are afraid to go to the police. Some are of the opinion that the police will mock them. We also realized that most of these children and parents/caregivers don't know where to get help to deal with the trauma. This is why we organized sensitization programs across local governments/LCDAs in Lagos and also offer help to those affected in terms of justice and psychology.

In all of these, knowing that funds and ethnic issues may become hindrances to your work, how do you get help?

We have to thank the United States Consulate, Cece Yara Foundation and Dr. Maymunar Kadiri of Pinnacle Medical Service. We also thank Chairmen of local governments/LCDAs who opened their communities to us without reservation.

From your experience, which age group is mostly affected by rape?

Rape is not a function of age. Some have been raped as early as seven years of age while some were raped as teenagers. We met women who were raped in their 20s and elderly woman who were raped in their 60s. It's not a function of age. We've also heard about babies who have been

Raped girls suffering in silence

—Adetoun Tade



•Adetoun Tade

raped.

Is there any correlation between domestic violence, child molestation and polygamy?

Not necessarily. There are lots of people who don't have this combination and they are still victims.

Does our culture of having house girl/house boy/nanny contribute to child molestation?

I wouldn't say outright YES but we've seen cases involving house helps. In fact, one of our facilitators was repeatedly molested by their house help when he was about 14. It took him years of therapy to reset the way he sees women. Today, he is an advocate for mental health and work place wellness.

Is there ethnic or cultural predisposition in all of these?

We have a culture of silence, a culture of covering up because we tag rape as shameful and that is why many victims are agonizing in silence which worsens the situation.

Do you think lack of education is mostly responsible for this culture of silence?

Not necessarily. Both educated and illiterates are perpetrators and victims.

How often do victims come out to communicate and what percentage of victims speak out and what is Nigeria's legal position concerning this? Is there government support for those affected?

There has been an increase in Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) cases across the country since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the high incidences of SGBV in Nigeria and the impact on victims, victims have low reportage and help-seeking behaviour. Only 32 percent of women

who have been victims of violence sought help, and help was mainly sought from victims' own families. This is a result of prevailing cultural norms that discourage reportage of SGBV, poor awareness of the framework for reportage of crime, and shortcomings in the justice framework. Also, informal means of seeking help (through family and community heads) dampens the SGBV response outlook in Nigeria.

How do you treat the situation in cases where the parents themselves are the molesters, the perpetrators?

There is need for improved collaboration among key government and non-governmental organizations towards ending violence against women and girls in Nigeria. A study commissioned by the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) Nigeria with support from the Norwegian government found out that 28% of Nigerian women aged 25-29 have experienced some form of physical violence since age 15. The study also reports that 15% of women experienced physical violence within 12 months preceding the survey. Further, the level of exposure to the risk of violence varied based on marital status, and that 44% of divorced, separated or widowed women reported experiencing violence since age 15, while 25% of married women or those living with their spouses have experienced violence.

As a parent or care giver, what major risk factor predisposes an individual to rape, child molestation and domestic violence?

Risk factors may or may not be direct causes. A combination of individual, relational, community and societal factors contribute to the risk of child abuse and neglect. Although children are not responsible for the harm inflicted upon them, certain factors have been found to increase their risk of being abused or neglected.

What exactly are these abuses hindering in the long run when nothing is done about it by the authorities?

Gender-Based Violence is hindering national productivity as it is occurring amongst people in the productive age group, having to deal with the negative physical and psychological consequences of the vice. There should be continuous review of the existing policies and laws on GBV in order to accommodate best practices of GBV strategies in stopping the vice.

What should be done when a child is continuously molested?

Emergency rescue is expected to relocate the child from the offending environment to a non-offending environment. The case will be documented at the nearest police station after the social workers of the station have conducted a verification, risk and safety assessment of the child. Then child advocates will support the police in their investigation and engage the state Ministry of Youths and Social Development for the placement of the child in a shelter or with an alternative non-offending family member. Alternatively, the Office of the Public Defender will be notified to institute the case in court for the procurement of a court order to rescue the child from the perpetrators. This will be followed by medical, therapeutic and forensic interview and legal interventions for the child to ascertain cogent facts about the case to access justice and other interventions for the child. Cece Yara Foundation is our major help in this regard.

What is the ten-year goal plan of your organisation?

Our ten-year goal is to bring back the consciousness that our humanity is valuable and to let people value humanity above ethnicity, religion and political affiliation.

We have a culture of silence, a culture of covering up because we tag rape as shameful



POTPOURRI WITH AYO ONIKOYI

81 full years of living

Taiwo Ajai-Lycett celebrates

Legendary actress, television presenter and matron of the arts, Taiwo Ajai-Lycett appears to be waxing stronger even as she turned 81 years old a few days ago. Although neither a Muslim nor a Christian, the veteran actress of global acclaim was effusive in her gratitude to God for the gift of life as she stated on her Instagram page.

Hear her, "Today, on my 81st birthday, I say a lovely prayer for myself; that my life be joyful, exciting and that I reap the full benefits of my labour. I pray that the remainder of my life will be the finest of my life and that I will have no regrets for the rest of my life. My remaining years would be jam-packed with activities, impacting others, loving myself and loving the people around me."

"I'm so thankful for all of you, thank you for showing me love, thank you for being a source of joy and happiness in my life."

"I'm full of gratitude because I'm privileged to see this day," she concluded.

In a past interview the consummate thespian had explained why she doesn't believe in religion, adding that her belief is in the universal intelligence of life.

"I'm against organized religion, the kind of religion that is lobotomizing people; that is creating fear in their

minds. They are making everybody become religious, they can't think straight. Everybody else is going to mars and the moon and everything, we are crying 'Jesus Jesus.' It's bankrupt. Rubbish. That's idleness. All the things we've said, have you not seen the hand of God in my life?"

However, the actress said she believes there is a universal force behind creation not because she was told about it but because she had experienced the universal intelligence that turned her life around.

•Taiwo Ajai-Lycett

•Onyeka Onwenu

Marriage would have killed me —Onyeka Onwenu

Music legend, Onyeka Onwenu has opened up on the many difficulties she dealt with in her failed marriage.

In an interview with media personality, Kikelomo Atanda-Owo on "Real Talk with Kike", the 70-year-old actress spoke about how she tried so hard to ensure her marriage didn't fail until she realised she could die if she remained in it.

Onwenu said: "I went through it. It was difficult because I really didn't want my marriage to end but I could not take it anymore. It would have killed me. I always say it and that is the truth."

"And it was not good for the children to live in that

kind of environment where the mother is depressed, the mother is carrying the weight of the whole family."

She also revealed she raised her children from kindergarten to Masters Degree.

"My husband didn't pay school fees for one day, didn't buy clothes, didn't pay for holidays, didn't give me housekeeping money, hard to believe."

The iconic musician and actress said men will have to answer to God if they neglect their families, adding that she needed to open up because of many women who are keeping quiet and dying in silence.

"I decided to write about it because women, we keep quiet for too long. We take so much and you're dying. And once I opened up, I felt this relief that a lot of women who read it would say, thank you for talking about this. 'We know now that we ought to free ourselves,' she said.

I built my Instagram page by shaking my butt —Janemena

By Sylvester Kwentua

Famous social media influencer and Instagram model, Janemena, has revealed that she built her strong online presence by shaking her butt. In a series of Instagram posts recently, the twerk mistress explained that she was not ready to stop doing what she loves doing on Instagram, even if she was swimming in billions.

"I never built my page by being on people's blogs every second. I built my page with my *nyansh*. Lol not yours and I will shake it even if I'm swimming in billions forever and it's nobody's business" Janemena posted.

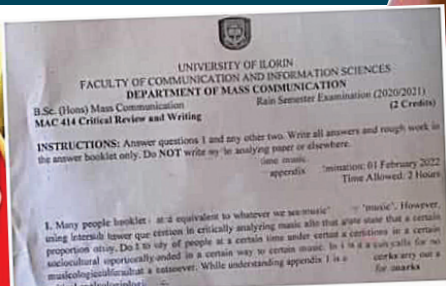
It will be recalled just some months back, the Instagram dancer was rocked by a serious marital scandal that nearly ended her marriage.

Janemena, real name Usiwo Orezinena, is a famous Nigerian social media influencer and Instagram model who is recognized for posting dance, twerking, and fashion photos/videos to her eponymous account. She has amassed over 1.4 million followers on Instagram.

•Janemena



•Potable



Potable's Zazoo's lyrics features as compulsory exam question in university

By Joy Mazoje

Habeeb Okikiola popularly known by his stage name as Potable, was featured in a recent examination held by the University of Ilorin. The exam question which focused on the singer's Zazu lyrics was made a compulsory question for students of the department of mass communication to attempt 24 marks.

The question paper which has now gone viral came with an appendix that contained the full text of the singer's lyrics for the song.

Students were instructed to do an analysis of the pop song for 24 marks which was guided by a lengthy appendix.

The singer who came to the limelight with his hit song Zazoo

Zeh was the centre focus for the number one question of an exam taken by students of the department of business management, Ekiti State University.

A photo of the examination question which emerged on social media showed that Potable's question was made compulsory for examiners to attempt.

An international dancer and a co-artist in the hit song, Poco Lee, was featured alongside Potable in that particular question one.

"Use appendix 1 (the song's) lyrics to critically analyze or prove a point about music being socio-cultural and needing little to no expertise of the singer to be produced"

Zee One celebrates 'St Valentine's Day' with romantic series on StarTimes

Zee One, a sister channel of Zee World, has dedicated an entire month to celebrate the most romantic day of the year, Valentine's Day, with Bollywood fans to watch thematic movies and drama series.

"With romantic dramas, romantic series and romantic comedies, we will be speaking the

language of love fluently this February! If your love language is quality time, then there is no better time and place to plan a date night right in front of your screen with Zee One any day this month," Ejiro Okene, CEO, DeepVision, the media buying representatives of Zee One in Nigeria said.

A picnic basket filled with programming to whet audience appetite this February includes *Happy Bhaag Jayegi* which will air on 5 February; *Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na* on 6 February; *Love Express* on 14 February; *Baaghi* on 19 February; *Do Laizon Ki Kahani* on 20 February; *Kedarnath* on 21 February; and *Behen Hogi Teri* on 27 February.

"So, whether you want to go from 'bud' to bae or rekindle the romance, Zee One will be your personal cupid. Catch all these movies at 3pm daily on Zee One channel on StarTimes," Ejiro said.

Also new on Zee One this month is a drama series titled *Sacred Ties* which replaces *Reach for The Stars* at 6pm.

Zee One, a sister channel of Zee World, is on an affordable pay-TV platform, StarTimes.



POTPPOURRI WITH O ONIKOYI



•Aramide Ottun

•Adenike Hamzat

•Omotola Odunsi

•Opeyemi Ademeso

•Adebanke Adeyeye

5 look-alike Yoruba actresses on the rise

•What makes them tick

They are chic, beautiful, sophisticated, carved like models, talented and on top of their games. And they have one thing in common – their looks. They carningly look alike but there is no blood ties among them whatsoever and there is no evidence they are even friends.

The quintet of Aramide Ottun, Omotola Odunsi, Opeyemi Ademeso, Adebanke Adeyeye and Adenike Hamzat strut their stuff in the Yoruba movie enclave and have been able to carve their own oasis in the desert of the Nigerian movie world. In various interviews they have revealed their selling points and what makes them tick.

My dedication, passion, my selling point

—Aramide Ottun

Aramide Damilola Ottun is a budding Yoruba actress blessed with both brains and beauty. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of Lagos. She's a producer of two films, namely; Public Toilet and 1 O'Clock. She has also featured in many films, among which are Legal Wife, Igbese Kan, Corpers' Lodge, Bangles and many others.

On her selling point, Aramide stated in an interview with Potpourri, "My dedication, passion and determination are my selling points. Understanding scripts, interpreting them so well and respecting people are parts of my selling points and so far so good it has brought me this far. They will tell you

"Aramide Ottun is dedicated, loyal, respectful, gives you 100% attention on set and yes, she interprets her scripts so well".

I add verve, originality to my style of interpreting roles

—Adenike Hamzat

Adenike Hamzat, has continued to carve a niche for herself in the industry with her tenacity coupled with her brand and talent. She is regarded as Odunlade Adekola's girl because she

grew under the tutelage of the veteran actor.

She is unique in her own way. "I have a unique way of adding verve and originality to my style of interpreting roles, which has been my unique selling point and garnering more roles from directors and producers. I am not in competition with anyone whatsoever. I have my personal brand and it is different from anyone. I am not relenting on my game because I still have a long way to go," she says.

I love modesty

—Omotola Odunsi

Budding Yoruba actress, Omotola Odunsi has declared that her passion is acting and meeting people. She's a protege of the popular actor, Odunlade Adekola, who according to her, set her on the right path and has since been the wind beneath her sails. Omotola read Microbiology at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye and has starred in a lot of movies including Ajanaku, Darkness, Ogo Oluwa, Dagogo, Ariran, Atunsh, Doctor Adunni, Folagbade, President Kuti, Jamal among so many others.

What makes her tick? "I love modesty, but sometime last year I almost fell into the act of flaunting my sexuality and I had to adjust because I understood that doing so would not help me, rather it would only attract

people who want to take advantage of my sexuality. The sooner we realise that it is only our talents and efforts that would take us far, the better," Motola says.

Women should flaunt their endowments in a modest way

—Opeyemi Ademeso

Opeyemi Ademeso, born Opeyemi Ademola and known in the industry as 'Slay Queen' is a mass communications graduate of Adekunle Ajasin University. She has produced one movie, titled 'Slay Queen' featuring fantastic actors like Fathia Balogun, King Patto, Tokunbo Awoga, Adeniyi Johnson, Sevi Edun, and other amazing actors.

Beautiful Opeyemi feels women should flaunt their beauty in a decent way, adding that a woman can be decently sexy.

"I feel being sexy is a way of expressing one's inner and outer beauty which is natural but at the same time a woman can be decently sexy. Women should flaunt their endowments in a modest way with confidence then get treated with respect because men love 'covered food' not naked one that has been exposed to the sun," she says.

I want to be one of the greatest storytellers

—Adebanke Adeyeye

Enterprising Yoruba actress, Adebanke Adeyeye who studied Mass Communications at Polytechnic, Ibadan has won the hearts of many movie lovers in films like Addiction, Elesan, Nkan Egbin, Deep Silence, Dark Room, Time and many more.

Her mission in the industry is simple: "My mission is to become a great person in the industry. I came as a storyteller and I want to be one of the greatest storytellers in the movie industry."

US-based Nollywood actress, Christiana Boluwade, to premiere new movie 'Alantakun'

US-based filmmaker and actress, Christiana Boluwade is set to premiere her latest movie 'Alantakun' (Spider). The movie according to the actress will premiere on Friday, February 11, 2022.

The actress who has been in the make-believe industry for over two decades with groundbreaking productions and a lot more accolades is showing no signs of stopping as she is ready to storm Nollywood with another blockbuster.

Boluwade has produced flicks like 'Taloloko', 'The Fight', 'Okun-ebi', 'Retribution the series' amongst others. She is known for producing impeccable movies. 'Alantakun', shot in New York, is a story about a husband and wife who connive to defraud rich people for their greed and laziness.

The movie 'Alantakun' features actors like Christiana Boluwade, Allwell Ademola, Damola Olatunji, Bayo Alawiye, Tosin Salami and Idowu Akinsade and written by

Christiana Boluwade herself. Asked why she delved into film-making, the revered filmmaker said: "I produce movies to teach and instruct people. I use film-making as a medium to communicate wisdom about life's issues. 'Alantakun' is not any different. The movie is a must watch for every home and parents. Anyone who watches the movie will definitely be educated."

"Growing up, I was fascinated by movie stars on TV and I decided to nurture that dream. I am a Christian so my movies are bound to teach lessons that will positively impact the lives of my viewers"



•Christiana Boluwade

•Sky D

Sky D unveils new project 'The Eye Sounds Worldwide'

With a long term goal of pushing Afrobeats to the world, singer, songwriter and producer, Elisha Okwuchukwu Paul better known as Sky D is making drastic moves in that direction.

With two EPs: From Insults To Results and Poisonous Addiction, Paul has just unveiled his latest project; "The Eye Sounds Worldwide" which birthed January 2022.

On why he named the project "The Eye Sounds Worldwide", the music label boss explains, "At some point, it was beyond just singing and writing songs. Music is more than I thought so I had to bring in words that can better tell my style of music (see beyond just music)."

Born in Lagos State, the indigene of Anambra State talks how the journey began for him. Paul hinted that plans for the label this year will include a visual of one of his songs as a surprise for his fans which would follow others yet to be announced. He also plans to sign artistes who are confident in their songs, open minded and willing to grow and improve their craft in addition to having zeal and commitment.

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Buharitocracy versus Banditocracy

"There are two forces in the world; the sword and the pen. In the end, the pen will overcome the sword" - Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769-1821.

That was true, and is still a fact, of the civilised world. But, this is Africa, the Dark Continent; and this is Nigeria, the biggest of all dark races on Earth. Here, in 2022, the contest is not between the Armed Forces of Nigeria and pen pushers as such. Today, it is a straight forward contest between two novel forms of government. One, for lack of another title, might be called Buharitocracy. Historians and political scientists of the future might want to conduct research into the origins of this method of governance, how it emerged and how it eventually gave birth to its rival – Banditocracy. That is also a Nigerian innovation; which should be studied side by side with its parent – Buharitocracy.

DEFINITIONS

Every school boy or girl knows that democracy is often described as "the government of the people, by the people and for the people". The best definitions that we can have for Buharitocracy is "government of a small group of people, especially northerners, Katsina and Daura people, by the same group of people and for the

same group of people". Anybody else benefiting from the activities of the Federal Government from 2015 till now is only lucky. They really don't count.

Banditocracy is a "government of northern hoodlums, by hoodlums and strictly for hoodlums. The hoodlums include Boko Haram, herdsmen, gunmen of all categories and kidnapers.

Under democracy, every citizen counts, has equal rights and governments serve at the pleasure of the people. Under Buharitocracy, a government elected by majority of eligible voters has been turned into one in which all Nigerians are equal, but some are more equal than others. Examples will follow.

Under Banditocracy, a gang of hoodlums, mostly northern Muslims, heavily armed and totally savage, establish their own fiefdom – an area which they rule by force and without the consent of voters. Buharitocracy gave birth to Banditocracy because the latter was unheard of in Nigeria until after May 29, 2015 when a new government was elected. And, with only 16 months left of Buharitocracy, the rule of hoodlums over wide areas of Nigeria might be one of the lasting legacies of the eight years the country has wasted – while going rapidly

Demonstrable and deliberate unequal treatment of Nigerians, under Buharitocracy, is one of its distinguishing attributes

backwards.

ELEMENTS OF THEIR GOVERNANCE

"All animals are equal; some are more equal than others" - George Orwell, 1903-1950, in ANIMAL FARM.

Demonstrable and deliberate unequal treatment of Nigerians, under Buharitocracy, is one of its distinguishing attributes. When Shakespeare, 1564-1616, asked, "what's in a name?" Buharitocracy never existed. For that matter, Nigeria was unknown. In Nigeria today, perhaps over 250,000 different names exist on our record books. Yet, two names dominate among top Federal Government officials – Mohammed/Muhammadu and Abubakar. From the Presidency to the MDAs, the most common names of appointees are those two. The rest of us have little chance if we are competing against any of the favoured ones. It is not an accident. It is the manifestation of a mind that is totally bent on nepotism and does not give a damn how the rest of us feel about it.

Herdsmen, who, until May 29, 2015, were docile, now roam around all the states of

Nigeria destroying crops, killing farmers, raping women and abducting people at the point of AK-47s. They are never arrested. But, let a farmer deal machete blow on a herdsman and the wounded invader goes to report at a police station; an arrest will surely follow. Under Buharitocracy, the immunity of herdsmen has become more important than the rights of other Nigerians.

A Muslim cleric has been visiting bandits in their dens. He has also started advocating for the FG to grant the hoodlums amnesty. He has made several trips to the bush and he remains a free man. Is it possible that an Igbo Christian clergyman can go into the bush just once, have discussions with armed IPOB members, come back, ask for amnesty for the IPOB fighters and live to go a second time? Honest readers know the answer to the question.

Obviously, security units – Army, Police, DSS – have been instructed to allow the Fulani Muslim cleric immunity which no non-Fulani Christian cleric will ever enjoy under Buharitocracy.

There is no need to list seriatim the number of ways Buharitocracy deviates from standard democracy which rests on treating all citizens as equal before the law. Even Lai Mohammed will find it difficult to deny that herdsmen, bandits and Fulani Muslim clerics visiting them have enjoyed extra-ordinary privileges which are denied to the rest of us. But, trust Lai; he will try.

WHERE THE TWO MEET – TAXATION OF PEOPLE

"Taxation and representation are inseparable" - Charles Pratt, 1714-1794.

Pratt, English jurist, lived at a time the Nigerian versions of governance have not emerged. Today, the vast majority of Nigerians are taxed one way or another (income tax, Value Added Tax,

Land Use etc) by the Executive branch of government – Presidents and Governors – but their representatives in the parliaments don't represent them. Instead, they conspire with the Executive to rob the people. Corruption did not become an issue for no reason. Voters observe how dirty, poor individuals reach office and, without any visible means of revenue, amass stupendous wealth. Citizens are taxed and revenue collected and there has been relatively little service delivery or progress. In most states, North and South, water, sanitation services, security, education, health and power are provided by the people. Governments provide very little. Yet, they collect taxes.

For a long time, the masses in the North lagged behind their southern counterparts with respect to voicing resentments against governments for the neglect of their social responsibilities – after imposing various taxes, levies, tenement rates etc. Suddenly, the almajiris woke up first to the injustices in the system. Then, they woke up everybody else.

Few Nigerians believed me in April 2019 when the article warning Nigerians was published. Our self-deluded leaders in Aso Rock and their apologists in the All Progressives Congress, APC, and Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, like ostriches with head stuck in the sand, had hoped that the revolt was a passing phase. Now, everybody can see how prophetic that article was. Here is the article partly recalled:

"FROM BEGGING TO BANDITRY: REVOLT OF THE ALMAJIRIS

"No revolution is the fault of the people but the fault of the government" - Johann Goethe, 1749-1832, VANGUARD BOOK OF QUOTATIONS, VBQ.

A revolution is underway in northern states of Nigeria. The

downtrodden constituting 99.9 per cent of the population, hitherto docile beggars, saying rankinde to the privileged 0.1 per cent, are sick and tired of begging. They are now demanding their own share of "the national cake" to be delivered to them – at gun or cutlass points. Nigeria will never be the same again. The North is now gradually sliding into the dictatorship of the beggars or almajiris".

"N24m tax demand by bandits: We dare not disobey – Zamfara communities lament" (News Report, January 29, 2022).

Rural communities in Kaduna, Katsina, Niger and Zamfara know who rules them. They may refuse to pay levies imposed by Buhari and Governors. A Senator, who, despite almost twenty-five years occupying different high-profile public positions, had not paid up to one million Naira in taxes all his life, paid bandits in his state N25 million within a week when his mother and daughter were snatched by bandits. They dared not fail to pay the rulers of Banditocracy. That is their government NOW!

WAS THIS HOW OSUN WAS GOVERNED?

"Nobody knew most things that happened in Aregbesola's admin until Oyetola emerged as gov – Akere, ex-Osun Information Commissioner" (Published interview, February 1, 2022).

Thank God, it was not April 1; otherwise, the statement credited to Mr Akere would have been considered April Fool's joke. The man even shamelessly declared: "There are some things people like us don't want to talk about because of the implication for the party." Akere might not realise it, but he said enough to paint the picture of an administration run like a secret cult under Aregbesola. Commissioners did not even know how the state incurred N200bn debt!!!

Fumi Komolafe

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Fear God, not man

Brethren, let's continue to thank the Lord all the time. Giving thanks to God can never be described as excess.

He is worthy of our praise all the time. As Christians, we have been taught that in all situations, we should give thanks to God.

1st Chronicles 16 vs. 8 KJV: "Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people".

Brethren, the truth is that we know very little of what God has been doing for us. Indeed, we do not know the plans of the LORD for us.

The year is like a pregnant woman; only God knows what it carries.

As human beings we have resolutions about what to do or what we desire to have but not many of us resolve to fear God yet the blessings that we receive when we fear of God is beyond our imagination.

Are you a wife, waiting on the Lord for children? I say to you, fear God.

You may be intimidated by in-laws that have written you off, continue to thank God for

life. The Lord that has kept you alive is able to give you children.

Delays are sometimes, the path to great miracles.

How do we fear God? The answer is simple. Obey his commandments. Shun any activity that is contrary to the word of God.

Stay away from relationships that may lead you to act against the word of God and his commandments.

Lets have a look at the life of Manoah's wife in the Holy Bible. Our authority is found in Judges 13 vs. 2-4 (KJV): "And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and she bare not.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, bear a son.

Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing".

Note the word "Beware". A

simple dictionary meaning of Beware is "be on one's guard; cautious or wary about; be alert to".

Why did the angel warn against strong drink? It is simple. When people get intoxicated, they tend to misbehave. Alcohol controls them rather than they control alcohol. Strong drinks often leads to sinful behavior.

Why should a man or a woman, go and lie with a person you are not married to in a desperate bid to have children?

Adultery remains a sin. God has not changed his position on adultery. The Bible does not recommend adultery as a means of having children.

What about the warning about eating unclean things? It's simply about eating those items that are offensive to the Lord. Strong drink is not recommended for children of God.

Noah got drunk and we know what happened to him. Genesis 9 vs. 20-22: Drunkenness brings shame.

Brethren, Beware. Be cautious with the steps you take in life. Control your self, stay away from sins. In simple words, serve the Lord diligently and as the Holy Bible tells us obey his commandments.

May be for now, your situation is like that of Manoah's wife. Though, the Bible was silent on her character and even her name, she definitely must have been a woman who feared God and lived her life in the ways of the Lord.

You need to prepare your body and spirit to receive from the Lord and this cannot be done if you live a carefree life

Carry out a self-assessment. Do you fear God? If you do, be confident that it is a matter of time, your testimony will arrive.

After the angel's words of no-go areas for Manoah's wife, the angel told her what would follow her obedience.

Judges 13 vs. 5: "For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

When we obey, we are likely to be favoured by God and our days of sorrowful tears would come to an end.

However, there are times that we feel depressed because of a particular challenge. That is human nature.

The Psalmist had a similar experience when he wrote in a Psalm 42 vs. 5: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance".

The same is repeated in

verse 11 of Psalm 42: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God".

A lesson for us here is that we should never lose hope in the Lord. The Psalmist simply tells us that those who trust in the Lord are the hopeful. They are those who will praise the Lord.

Brothers and Sisters, when the job you have been waiting for comes your way, you will praise the Lord.

When the womb opens and you conceive, you will praise the Lord but your praises of the Lord would be louder when the baby arrives.

Even as we go through one challenge or the other, we should still fear God. The fear of God is one of the ways to a testimony. Hannah had faith, she believed God and was hopeful. You may say, I have faith, I believe God but are you hopeful?

Some people pray and they are not hopeful. You may pray along with the Pastor but are you hopeful?

We need to pray with expectations. Manoah's wife did not doubt the angel.

Perhaps your situation is like that of Manoah's wife. You have no child yet, so people call your all sorts of names.

It doesn't matter what they call you now, live your life according to the will of God, as the Lord lives, and they will soon call you a mother of twins.

You need to prepare your

body and spirit to receive from the Lord and this cannot be done if you live a carefree life.

Though the Bible does not give us a description of how Manoah and his wife lived, it was clear that they were both God-fearing and had faith in the Lord.

The evidence of this is seen in the prayer of Manoah after his wife narrated to him her encounter with the angel.

Judges 13 vs. 8: "Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born".

Verse 9 tells us how God responded. "And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her".

If you read the full chapter, you will see that the woman called her husband and the angel met both of them.

Another lesson from this story is that Manoah's wife was truthful to her husband. She told him

Everything and they both believed the Lord.

If they were not God fearing, the Lord would not have chosen them for a miracle.

Your husband may not be a Believer; you just keep on praying and be hopeful.

Fear, God, beware of evil and your testimony is sure.

February is your month of grace in Jesus name.

The Peace of the Lord be with us all in Jesus name.

Inside NIGER DELTA

Delta royal father seized, whisked away to Abuja ...as monarch, ex-Ohanaeze chief fight

• I'm not a land opportunist - HRM Ogbolu
• I've no hands in Ugoani's arrest; he is usurping land - Ebigwei

By Emma Amaize,
Regional Editor, South-South

OKPANAM Kingdom in Oshimili North Local Government Area, Delta State has not known peace for some years now following intra-communal headship and land disagreements, but the matter came to a head when some gun toting police officers from Abuja stormed the community, December 19, last year, seized and whisked the Ugoani (traditional ruler), HRM Mbanefo Michael Ogbolu, to Abuja.

The obnoxious chapter in the homeland of Nigerian military and revolutionary officer, who played a leading role in the 1966 coup, the late Major General Chukwma Kaduna Nzeogwu, was sacrilegious and like the height of infamy.

The audacity of it was that the police operatives from the Special Tactics and Weapons Division, Force Criminal Investigation Department, FCID, Abuja, rushed the monarch in a Gestapo style on his way back from an early morning service at the Saint Michael's Catholic Church in the town, and drove him in a bus to Abuja, negating his plea to be allowed to pick his medications from home.

As expected, the kingdom was thrown into disarray, as villagers smelt a rat over the treatment of their monarch. Secretary to Delta State Government, SSG, who is the Akatakpo Enyi of Okpanam Kingdom, Chief Patrick Ukah, did all he could to stop the policemen, who appeared inflexible in their mission, from proceeding with the monarch by road, opting for a flight from Asaba to Abuja, but his mediation proved abortive.

However, the monarch was released on December 19, 2021 by the police in Abuja after obtaining his statement.

Two parallel blocs

Sunday Vanguard gathered that there are two blocs involved in the Okpanam debacle. One is led by Ogbolu and the other steered by the Iyase of Obodogba, Okpanam, Dr. Sylvanus Ebigwei.

While the traditional ruler knocked Ebigwei, a former Vice-President General, Ohaneze Ndigbo Worldwide, consultant and dental surgeon, and alleged trespassers on Obodogba family land for the sad turn of events in the kingdom, the Iyase slammed the monarch for alleged land-grabbing which spewed the mess.

Ebigwei is the architect — Ogbolu

Ogbolu contended that Ebigwei masterminded the allegations of land speculation against him to the police in Abuja, but, in a sharp reaction, the Iyase controverted the Ugoani, saying the monarch should deal with the termites he attracted to his house with woods.

The monarch, who spoke to Sunday Vanguard at his palace, said trouble started in Okpanam soon after the presentation of staff of office to him, as some community

leaders dragged him to the High Court, Akwukwu-Igbo, over the status of Ugoani and Ugoani-in-council and adornment of red cap by chiefs in the kingdom, which they lost, but had gone further to the Court of Appeal.

He explained that the issue of land in Okpanam was a simple matter in which, as the monarch, he suggested that the right thing be done by expanding the membership of the Audit Committee on Lands to include representatives of the quarters that constitute Obodogba but Ebigwei refused.

The monarch, in a letter to the state Commissioner of Police, dated December 28, 2021, accused the Iyase of shunning the community's tradition during the burial of a Diokpa-Isi by "introducing bulldozer into Obodogba land."

Obodogba scowls

In a resolution adopted at Obodogba general meeting, May 27, 2021, the community, while thanking Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for de-acquiring part of its land earlier acquired by the state government, accused Ebigwei of selling the access road and part of the land housing Ogwugwu-Akpu and Ani Uzo shrines and imposed a fine of N500, 000 on him.

The community resolution was signed by Chairman, Obodogba community, Dr. P.O. C Nwayalani, and Secretary, Ezeogu Patrick.

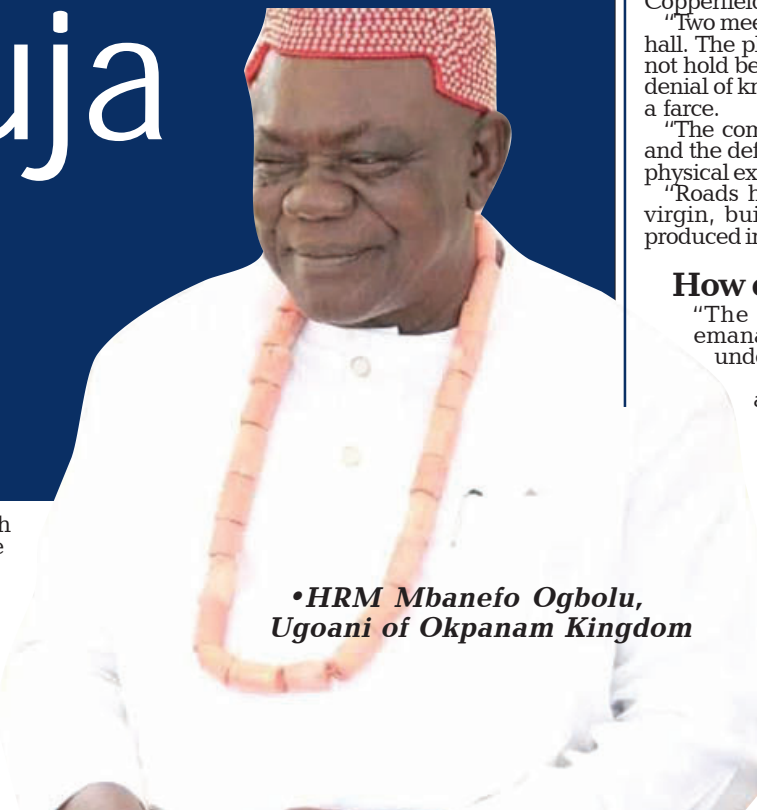
In another communique issued at the end of Obodogba General Assembly held at the residence of Diokpa-Isi of Obodogba village and Okpanam Kingdom on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, signed by Diokpa Isi of Obodogba, Ogbueshi Fredrick Ugbene, Diokpa of Umuosme, Ogbueshi Ben Dunkwu, and Diokpa of Umuomahe, Gabriel Okoaze, made available to Sunday Vanguard: "The meeting agreed to increase the number of representation from each quarter of Obodogba from seven to ten and consequently adopted the names of persons as presented by each quarter.

"But to the chagrin of majority of members, Dr. Sylvanus stood up to announce that item three of the communique shall join his already existing Obodogba Land Audit Committee, which statement, was expressly turned down and condemned by the general assembly, as the house insisted that there no other land audit committee except the one established by the general assembly held on Tuesday, November, 2021".

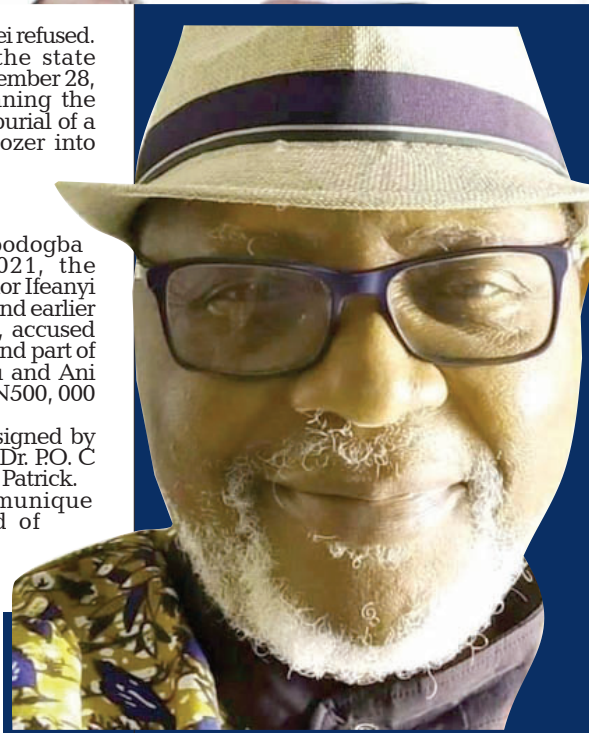
My hands are clean — Ebigwei

Speaking to Sunday Vanguard, Ebigwei said: "When some indigenes of the community came to ask for land to build, they told them there was no available land.

"But we said no and went to court, which



•HRM Mbanefo Ogbolu,
Ugoani of Okpanam Kingdom



•Dr. Sylvanus Ebigwei, Iyase
of Obodogba, Okpanam (1)

ordered audit of our land.

"The audit was to start, according to court order, but they are stopping it because of their vested interest on the land they had appropriated."

On the allegation that he broke into the community land, he said some people illegally interfered with the land duly given to him and he went to fence off the portion and filed an action in court to challenge the intruders.

Ebigwei swore that he had no ulterior motive and only wanted the monarch and his group to hands off the community land, allow proper, not manipulated stocktaking of community land and proper allotment to bonafide indigenes that require land to build.

OCDM alleges deceitful sale of land

Another Obodogba cluster, Obodogba Community Development Union, OCDM, Okpanam, responding to the claims of the monarch in a communique, November 17, 2021, said: "Due to the fraudulent sale of land, the community, championed by the Lagos

branch of Obodogba Community Development Union, went to Akwukwu Igbo High Court and obtained a court order, AKU/57/2013, for the audit of Obodogba land."

The union, in a letter by the Chairman, CWC, Comrade Joseph Onochie, and Secretary, Mr. Christopher Ebigwei, said: "The court ordered the complainants and defendants to team up and carry out the audit.

"The total number of complainants representing the community was five while the defendants were 31 until Chief Peter Ndukwu and Chief Stephen Okonta appealed to the court to join the defendants in 2019, bringing the total number of the audit team to 39 members.

"The audit team, led by six lawyers, has been meeting at Excel Suites, Asaba, later to Copperfield Hotel, Asaba.

Two meetings were held in Ugoani palace hall. The planned third meeting there could not hold because he locked them out. So his denial of knowledge of existing audit team is a farce.

"The combined team of the complainants and the defendants has been involved in the physical exercise as ordered by the court.

"Roads have been created and charts of virgin, built-up and fenced plots of land produced in the ongoing exercise.

How crisis started

"The seemingly community crisis emanated from the anti-audit group under the umbrella of Ugoani.

"They do not want to hear the word audit. On two occasions, they chased the contractors and the court-recognized audit team out of the audit site using security agents.

"Both Ugoni Ogbolu and Dr. Ebigwei, MON, held two private meetings leading to certain agreement, one of which was that the audit team should be beefed up so that new members will be married to the existing audit team.

"Both of them agreed to hold a general meeting of the family of the 16th of November, 2021.

"The meeting was peacefully conducted. A list of 30 members of the family was selected to join the existing court approved audit team.

"However, crisis started when the meeting was at the point of appointing a three-man committee to draft a communique.

"To the surprise of all, the Ugoani extracted from his pocket a note and started reading a purported communiqué..."

They're all land speculators — Obiemenyeho

Publisher of Zion Nationale newspaper, an indigene of the community, Chris Obiemenyeho, told Sunday Vanguard: "The issue why the Ugoani was arrested was because of land matter, alleged illegal acquisition of community and people's lands and alleged illegal sale of same."

On the alleged involvement of Ebigwei, he said: "Yes, the Iyase of Obodogba, Dr. Sylvanus Ebigwei, and his group are believed to be behind it.

"Ebigwei's faction and Ugoani's faction have been at war over land matters.

"They have been to court and police. The outcomes were in favour of Ebigwei's group." Obiemenyeho said the police were investigating the alleged land sales.

Petitioners absent

The allegations leveled against the monarch and eight other sons of Obodogba were criminal conspiracy, unlawful possession of firearms, malicious damage, forgery and conduct likely to cause breach of public peace.

Back to Abuja, January 10, 2022, when the Ugoani and eight others returned to the police on invitation for the other side to substantiate its allegations, the petitioners were reportedly absent.

Ugoani-in-council probes affair

Deliberating on the matter, Friday, January 21, the Ugoani-in-council inaugurated a seven-man ad-hoc committee, comprising Chief Dominic Anyasi (Chairman), Patrick Okenyi (Secretary), Chief Nduka Ogwuda, Ogbueshi Abua Ntoka, Ogbueshi Clement Ukah, Ogbueshi P.O. C Nwayalani and Chief (Mrs.) Maria Mordi to probe Ebigwei.

The council also charged the committee to liaise with the Diokpa of Umumale community, P.C.E Dunkwu, "to work out the mechanism for the restoration of our historical antecedents at Afor Market, Okpanam."

Passing a vote of confidence on the monarch, the council commended the people of Okpanam for the unity of purpose they exhibited in searching for the king "after his abduction on Sunday, 19th December, 2021 and the tumultuous reception that heralded his return to Okpanam on Tuesday, 21st December, 2021."

ENCOUNTER ON SUNDAY

How advertising can help Nigeria attain national ideals —Prof Aliede

By Kennedy Mbele

Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria, APCON, recently, conferred fellowship on 63 members at Radisson Blu Hotel, GRA, Ikeja Lagos. An inductee, Professor Jonathan E. Aliede, of the Department of Mass Communication, National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja, in this interview conducted on the sideline of the event, describes advertising as a major tool that can be used to reposition Nigeria and her economy. Aliede, a public relations and advertising (PRAD) expert, calls on stakeholders to come together to revitalize the country. Excerpts:

Can you share with us your journey so far with APCON?

As we may all know, APCON is an umbrella organization that regulates advertising practice in Nigeria. I have been with them for long. To be more precise, I became their full member in 1995 and since then, I have been using it as a platform to make my modest but strategic contributions to the growth and development of the advertising profession and industry in the country. This was made possible because I am in the academia and have worked with many universities and other higher institutions both on full time and part time basis, including the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki and now, the National Open University of Nigeria, NOUN, among others. It has been an interesting journey and I am happy it enabled me make my modest contributions to the growth of the profession.

Can you mention some of such contributions?

I have been canvassing for membership of APCON since I became a member. This is very important because a lot of people do not know how to join or what qualifies one to join and because of that, there are many quacks, charlatans and gate crashers, who go about violating the body's rules and regulations guiding advertising practice. That is efforts towards ensuring that we catch members at their formative stages. For instance, I use my position as a lecturer to canvas and get students to register and when they graduate, it becomes easy for them to become other categories of members. By doing so I am already ensuring people practice advertising professionally.

Again, I was consulting for the Council by ensuring that those already practicing register and become members of APCON and also pay their dues regularly, among others.

Now that honour has been given to whom honour is due, how do you feel and what do we expect?

I am elated for the privilege. Reaching the apex of a chosen field is an honour and privilege. Indeed, it is a call for service, it is a propelling factor for me to do more for the industry and our country, Nigeria. If I have contributed to the growth and development of the county before,

through my membership of APCON, now that I have been given the highest position in the field, it is a call for service because I have been further equipped and energized to do more.

If you were to draw up an agenda for the Council, what will it look like?

First, I will advocate that we put advertising in a more strategic position for attainment of national ideals. This is a country that was so rosy in the 70s, when it was so rich that somebody said that the problem of the country was not money but what to do with money. Today, it is in a quagmire and crossroad with high level of poverty, illiteracy, diseases, battered economy and image, among others, to a level that many are no longer proud to be identified as Nigerians. But, the good news is that it is possible to change the entire scenario, using advertising as one of the instruments to reposition it in such a way that once more, it becomes a darling of Nigerians. The county would bounce back to be economically rejuvenated, if the problem of insecurity is resolved and governance made more inclusive. If a country is secure, its citizens will go about their businesses, life and property will be worth what they are, unlike the current situation where even life has lost its sanctity and value. The media are awash with reports of killings, butchering, banditry, kidnapping, cultism, terrorism, vandalism, among others. It shouldn't be so.

The time advertising made the greatest impact in this country was during the oil boom

As a major player in the advertising industry, what do you consider as major challenges in the sector and how can they be surmounted?

The greatest challenge facing the industry is the current status of our economy. The time advertising made the greatest impact in this country was during the oil boom, because there was enough money for investment in the industry and businesses across the country. The current downturn of the economy is a terrible situation for the advertising industry.

Again, there is the problem of high levels of illiteracy. A well educated citizenry is a must for advertising to thrive in any environment. Furthermore, the business sector does not care to patronize advertising because of quick-profit orientation; as such they usually do not want to invest in advertising. Others are poor road networks, epileptic internet services and the nefarious activities of quacks. All these are major threats undermining smooth and effective advertising practice in the country.

What about the Covid 19 pandemic, sir?

Covid 19 has dealt a serious blow to the advertising industry, just as it has done to other sectors where factories had to shut down; people had to stay at home and so on. This is a minus to every sector, including the advertising sector. In fact, it will take some time for the affected



•Professor Aliede

bodies should come out with decisive blueprints that will guarantee effective regulatory enforcement in their professions. This can be done by insisting that nobody practices without registering with the appropriate regulating agencies after acquiring the requisite qualifications. You cannot enforce ethical codes on independent practitioners; people are better controlled as members. When a field is for all comers, every Dick and Harry is practicing unchallenged, unethical issues continue to arise. Only members of professional bodies can be successfully compelled to adhere to the ethics of their professions. Therefore, there is a need for membership registration. Such would also enhance training and retraining of practitioners. Look at regulating bodies in fields of Medicine, Engineering and Legal professions, they don't allow anybody to do whatever they like. Members who fail or refuse to conform to their rules and regulations are not only shown the way out. but also sanctioned accordingly. This should apply to all sectors.

You are a major stakeholder in the education sector. Can you provide some of the missing links in the sector and how they can be addressed to enhance qualitative education in the country?

A major problem facing the education sector in Nigeria is funding. Ironically, more universities are being established at the federal level even as the existing ones are not adequately funded. So, there is no way one can compare their output with what is obtainable in other climes where education is adequately funded. It is the inadequacy of funding that makes us often hear about ASUU going on strike. And, these strikes have completely impaired our academic calendar. If our universities are well funded and the welfare of staff, who are already doing their best are taken care of, education and its output will improve significantly.

What about corruption in the sector, sir? Are there no cases...?

(Cuts inn) Of course, one can't say there is no corruption in the sector. There is corruption among both academic and non-academic staff, but the good thing is that it can be checked through effective policies by the university management, using instruments already provided by the National Universities Commission, NUC. Such policies should be improved upon and implemented in such a manner that those unwilling to comply are shown the way out, because university is a place where our future leaders are groomed. We can't afford to compromise on the level of integrity expected of any actor in that sector.

What advice do you have for those practicing advertising in the country?

I advise that they should always adhere to our codes of conduct which are based on honesty, objectivity, truthfulness, credibility and legality. They should always ensure that all the information they give out about goods and services they are advertising are not falsehood or propaganda so that consumers will get values commensurate with the money they spend.

What other information would you like to share with us?

Well, I would like to add that advertising has the potential for revitalizing and placing Nigeria at a proper position. This role advertising should not shirk. Thus, as practitioners, we have stakes in building this nation, hence, I urge all professionals in the advertising industry to re-energize themselves and ensure their individual and collective contributions towards the effective and functional repositioning of Nigeria at where she is supposed to be among the comity of nations.

sectors, including industry, to fully bounce back.

The issue of quacks in the advertising industry seems to have abated. What was the magic?

Certain strategic measures had to be taken by APCON. The body for some time had no substantive Registrar. Even now, it has no Council. So, advertising practice was not regulated for over a decade. But, for about a year now, with the appointment of a Registrar who is very effective in advertising regulatory enforcement, taking advantage of other sectoral bodies, things are changing for the better. That's why it has abated, as you rightly observed. The appointment of the Registrar and this investiture of new Fellows will further help in ensuring that the industry is well positioned because they will work together towards achieving this and other objectives of APCON.

Many still view advertising as waste of funds, arguing that good products advertise themselves. What is your take?

That is why I earlier talked about the demerits of high levels of illiteracy in a country. Only an illiterate can make such a judgment, which you can see is based on ignorance. The issue is that advertising brings down the cost of production. For instance, if Dangote has been producing 100 tons of cement weekly and now increased the quantity to 1000 tons with the same inputs, the cost of production has reduced and the expectation and tendency is that the company will bring down the price of the product. In reality, advertising lowers the cost of goods and services.

Do you belong to other professional bodies apart from APCON? If yes, can you share with us some of such bodies?

Yes, apart from APCON, I am a member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) where I served up to the level of membership of their Governing Council. I am also a member of the Africa Council for Communication Education, an umbrella body for communication professionals, including practitioners and the academia in Africa. I was their National Treasurer, among other professional groups that work for communication synergy and collaboration.

From your experiences, what do you think can be done to increase the efficiency of professional bodies in the country?

I think the executives of professional

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Geoffrey Onyeama: APC's 'dark horse'?

What is in a name? Well, Justice Charles Daddy Onyeama – distinguished jurist and the first Nigerian to be appointed to the World Court of Justice at the Hague – is said to have named his son, Geoffrey, in honour of his best friend and Government College Umuahia classmate, another distinguished Nigerian, Godfrey Amakiri, who became Solicitor-General of Nigeria, and later Under-Secretary General of the United Nations. Even their initials -GKJ – was made to echo. Geoffrey Kwusike Jidefo Onyeama comes from very solid stock. The child eventually became the man – his own man – following in the footsteps of his father and his godfather, to public service, and international diplomacy. Until 2015, he was in the quiet shadows of public life. Then, on the recommendation of his bosom friend, the now late Alhaji Abba Kyari, he was made Foreign Minister by the newly elected Muhammadu Buhari. These trans-ethnic entanglements and friendships are quite many in Nigeria, and we have not celebrated them enough. We focus mostly on the real and sometimes exaggerated and possibly engineered tensions between the ethnic groups in Nigeria. Just that political

and economic interests, particularly shared, have never stopped deep personal partnerships and friendships particularly at the level of class across ethnic lines. Few people today, perhaps know for instance, that Mallam Nasir El-Rufai's appointment to head the Bureau of Privatization under President Obasanjo was made possible by the powerful advocacy of his friend, the now late Amah Iwuagwu, who recommended him very highly and persistently to Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, who was then in charge of the process, and was searching for a head of the Bureau. El-Rufai's political stars have been in ascent since then, thanks to Ama Iwuagwu. These trans-ethnic friendships have consequences. The Kyari-Onyeama friendship led to the appointment of Geoffrey Kwusike Onyeama as Nigeria's powerful Foreign Minister; a position from which he has enjoyed the trust of President Buhari, and given all the domestic scandals of this administration, GKJ Onyeama's profile and network in the international system has kept the international wolves at bay from Buhari. He is the man the many foreign governments listen to, and relate with, and he has provided solid and

uncommon coverage to the president in ways that are rare; with the quiet, efficient, and very effective force of his intellect and professionalism. He has been an effective foreign minister. No question about it. Now, the point is that Geoffrey Onyeama is Buhari's trump card. There are quiet hints that a movement is forming around Onyeama and building within consequential circles of the APC to press him to run for the Presidency. In line with the pressures building within the party, the APC will be forced to look South for its presidential candidate. The profiles of the candidates currently declaring interests from the South East in the APC, many feel are not up to a scratch. These folks are actually the butt of jokes. They are lightweight. Colourful dilettantes, but lightweight. There is the possible exception of Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, brilliant Chemical Engineer and scientist; former university lecturer; former governor of Abia State; former presidential nominee for the defunct ANPP who ceded his place graciously in the coalition with the AD that gave the presidential ticket to Olu Falae in 1999. Dr. Onu is the two-time minister of Science and Technology in the current administration. His solid repertoire of accomplished scholarship, public service and party leadership does certainly put Dr. Onu in good standing. He is also reputed for his high principles and consistency, evident in his remaining with the ANPP through thick and thin, while many, including Muhammadu Buhari, its one-time presidential candidate proved to be "fair-weather" party men and politicians

The winds seem to favour the South-East in this dispensation, given the national mood, and the imperative of powershift

jumping like whores from one bed to another in search of power. Dr. Onu stuck it out, and led the ANPP, and was a central factor in his party's critical role in building the coalition that formed the current APC. The problem for Onu however might be that he is too weather-beaten, and might be a tad too old, to pursue the presidency. Besides he has not demonstrated any serious public interest yet. Perhaps he is adopting the "Nwaebule Ako tactics." From the Southwest, two political gladiators seem already primed to do bruising battle: the current Vice-President, Mr. Yemi Osinbajo and the former governor of Lagos and party financier, Mr. Bola Tinubu, from that zone present a different set of challenges. On balance, there is no context, since power has its complex leverages. But to discount Tinubu would be foolhardy. Yet, there are too many indications that his star is already burnt out. Age, ill-health, scandal far too numerous to enumerate, including the scandal of corruption, with an EFCC trial hanging around him like the sword of Damocles, Tinubu has no chance of getting the APC presidential ticket. He may have some hold on Lagos politics which he

seems to control with Chicago-style political firewalls, but he is nationally unelectable. The Southwest caucus of the APC – made up ironically of some of his once very close associates – know this, and have burnt him, and literally put him out in the cold. Tinubu's ambition is up in the air at this point by all calculations, and Osinbajo's declaration of interest in the presidency is a very deadly body blow to his "life-long ambition," for which he clearly seemed to have sold his soul. If truth be told, Mr. Yemi Osinbajo is the one likely, solid challenge to Geoffrey Onyeama's possible presidential contest. As Vice-President, Osinbajo has a number of things going for him: he has solid education; a good network within the party; and respectable professional background in Law. He has been a very dedicated – some might even say far too subservient – Vice-president to Buhari. But two things are likely to work against him. First is his image as vice-president. He is a very close "insider" in a regime with which Nigerians feel a need to make a clean break. The image of the Vice-President going from place to place handing out "Trader-Moni," is still gut-wrenching. It has this "eewness" of a child happening accidentally on his parents grunting from sex! The second is geography: the winds seem to favour the South-East in this dispensation, given the national mood, and the imperative of powershift. Not discounting some of the solid attributes that Mr. Osinbajo, an ordained minister of religion and former Law professor, might bring to the table, but placed side-by-side, on the same pedestal with Mr.

Geoffrey Onyeama, he pales substantially. A son of one of Nigeria's iconic judges of the 20th century, Charles Daddy Onyeama, Geoffrey was headed to the Government College Umuahia, where his father and his elder brother Warwick had attended before him. However, the troubles in Nigeria starting from 1966 had "trapped" him in Europe where he was sent to boarding school. He to a different school, while his younger brother, the novelist and publisher, Dilibe, was sent to Eton. He first earned a BA in politics from the ivy-league Columbia University in New York in 1977, where he was on the Dean's list, and followed it with another BA in Law from Cambridge, and the LL.M of the London School Economics (LSE), as well as a Masters in Politics also from St. John's College, Cambridge. He was called to the English Bar at the Grays Inn in 1981. He returned to Nigeria in the height of the politics of the 2nd republic, went to Law School, worked as Research officer at the Nigerian Law Reform Commission, and practiced Law with the firm of Mogbo & Co in Enugu from 1983-1984. He left private legal practice early in 1985 to join the international system as a Program Officer at World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO, and rose steadily, until he retired as Deputy DG of WIPO. Onyeama is a man subtly prepared, in a most sophisticated way, for power and governance. He does come across as mild and gentle. But folks who know him closely swear that behind that calm, comely exterior, is a shrewd, and tough-as-a-nail operator. **Continues on** www.vanguardngr.com

5G spectrum auction good start, but ... — Oniya

By Udo Ibuot

Adetutu Oniya, CEO of Softcity Group and Chartered Information Technology Professional, is a member of the Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria, and the Institute of Information Management (Africa). In this interview, Oniya spoke on the keenly contested 3.5GHz Spectrum Auction for 5G deployments in the country and other issues. Excerpts.

With the recent emergence of MTN and MAFAB Communications Ltd as winners of the keenly contested 3.5GHz spectrum auction for 5G deployments in the country, do you think Nigeria is set to achieve digital transformation in 2022?

The transformative power of digitalisation is not an event that just happens, it is a process-driven programme that is not only technical, but also socio-economical. The fact that Nigeria has auctioned a 5G spectrum to

MTN and MAFAB does not guarantee digital transformation; it is only a step towards the direction of digital transformation.

Digitisation in simple terms is the moving away from analogue processing to digital formats – which is where we basically emphasise on the electronic infrastructure that can move Nigeria away completely from analogue to digital systems. Digitalisation (which is a product of digitisation) is actually integrating digital technologies into existing processes – so when we start aiming for digital transformation, we should ask ourselves how far we have come with digitisation and digitalisation of what we currently have.

To say that MTN and MAFAB or any other '5G Telco' in the future are conclusively a guarantor of digital transformation will be ridiculous, because the realisation of digital transformation require a fusion of technical infrastructure and socio-



• Oniya

economic programmes, which I do not see happening now.

The auction of the 5G spectrum is a good start in exploring the potentials of digitalisation, but I do not see this as improving our Digital Quality of Life Index (DQLI) in Nigeria, because we are still in denial of how the 5G infrastructure will affect internet affordability and electronic security which are part of the essential components used in measuring DQLI. I do not see us achieving anything close to digital transformation in 2022, but I am certain we will

move from where we are to a better position in our drive towards digitalisation.

Do you think the government is doing enough to sanitise the ICT sector?

You do not need much scientific thinking to know that the disparate approach to promoting, monitoring and regulating this sector is not the best way to guarantee a long-lasting or cohesive ecosystem. The Nigerian ICT sector has the same components obtainable anywhere in the world; we have the educational, the innovational, the infrastructural, the human capital, services and the governmental; but I do not know how to interpret the word 'enough' with regards the ICT sector and actions of the government.

We can continue to celebrate the scaling of innovation and infrastructure today, but by the time the ripple effect of neglecting the harmonisation of other components of the ICT sector come back at us in Nigeria, the sector will realise that technology is not a medal, but a tool in the hands of people.

How do you see the ICT sector in 2022?

Year 2022 is that of ICT exploits, when innovation will be soaked in misuse and all sorts of abuses. Fake news will be used to slander electoral opponents, social media will be used to deceive and sway emotional voters, instant messengers will be used to compose and disseminate data with zero integrity, and copyrights of digital intellectual properties will be trampled upon. Digital advertisers will make huge money from paid campaigns, broadcast media will be saddled with a huge volume of data to filter for positive and negative sentiments, print media will have their professionalism tested with 'big pocket' advertorials, the privacy of Nigerians will be infringed upon with politically motivated spam messages.

In the long run, depending on the level of professionalism and ICT specialty, the sector stands to gain a lot of patronage from this exploit, but our beautiful Nigeria might end up paying

the price.

How would you rate the digitalisation plan of the government?

I will do this rating based on the people driving digitalisation in Nigeria, the policies driving it, and the results achieved so far. For the people, the rating is eight of 10 because they are demonstrating a passion to drive a digitalised Nigeria. For the policies, it will be four of 10 because the policy makers seem to think that the global race for technology adoption is about winning a medal.

I will recommend they join the right race that can reward our socio-economic uniqueness, instead of sprinting alongside economies that knows what they are going with the evolving technology race. For results, it is one of 10 because I don't see how digitalisation can be carried out without a total change in mindset, culture and capacity of the people. Even if we install one million super computers and implement 5G solutions across the breath and length of Nigeria, it is still people like you and I that will have to ride on these technologies to bring meaningful change to our country.

Why we dragged IGP, Police Service Commission to Court — Imo retired Police officers ... Say Contributory Pension Scheme fraudulent

By Chinonso Alozie

Retired Police Officers Forum, Imo State chapter has dragged the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Police Service Commission among others to industrial court in Owerri over alleged failure to pay them their pension under the contributory Pension Scheme,

years after they had retired from active service.

The Counsel to the Imo Retired Police Officers Forum, Lawrence Nwakaeti, stated this to newsmen in Owerri, Friday after the court adjourned the matter to 23, March 2022.

He added: "Those who are party to this matter include the

Police Service Commission, the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Nigeria Police, these are the bodies that manage the police Force. The matter has been adjourned to 23 March 2022. We came to court for the matter to be set out for hearing."

Adding their voice, the Chairman Retired Police Officers Forum, Imo State

Chapter, S. P Nwaikwue Prince Amanze Rtd, Vice Chairman, Ezetannadi Benjamin Nkemakolam, Secretary, ASP Iwuji Julius, Rtd, Supol Remijus Osuji Rtd among others in their statement highlighted their reliefs saying: "That the NPF pensions limited should pay to us 50 per cent of the money

remaining in our account balance. That the interest that accrued to us from our account balance after 25 per cent was paid to us after retirement be paid to us. That the money accrued to us from the time of our enlistment into Nigeria police Force till 2004 when the contributory pension was introduced be paid to us.

"That we need a total pullout from contributory pension scheme which is a fraudulent organisation. That we are retired police officers who have served before the enactment of the pension reform act 2004. Based on the act which is supposed to be prospective and not retrospective, we pray that the honourable court exempts us from the Contributory Pension Scheme, CPS, to define a benefit scheme to, DBS, where we belong."

interview ON SUNDAY

By Nnamdi Ojiego

The rate at which human organs are being harvested has become a source of worry to relevant government bodies, non-governmental organizations and well meaning individuals across the globe. In this interview, the Director General of the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, Dr. Fatima Waziri-Azi, discloses that there's a huge global market for human and organs trafficking because it yields high profits with little risks. According to her, the situation has reached a crisis stage and, as such, requires concerted efforts to stop. She also exposes the modus operandi traffickers employ to hoodwink and lure unsuspecting persons into their nets. Waziri, who assumed office as the 7th DG of NAPTIP on September 2021, lists her achievements as well as the challenges facing the agency. She adds that NAPTIP, as a law enforcement agency, has all the powers of the police to carry out its functions and has convicted over 490 traffickers since inception. Excerpts:

What is the core mandate of NAPTIP, why was the agency established?

NAPTIP was established in 2003 under the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003 as amended and re-enacted as the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act of 2015, to respond to the scourge of trafficking in persons in Nigeria. So, we are a specialized anti-trafficking law enforcement agency mandated to investigate and prosecute all cases of trafficking in persons. So, when we talk about different forms of trafficking in persons, they include forced labour, child labour, forced prostitution, and other forms of exploitation, slavery and slavery-like activities, removal of organs, illegal smuggling of migrants, sale and purchasing of persons, etc. So, what that means is that we have all the powers of the police in carrying out our mandate. This is an area that most people don't remember, they don't remember that NAPTIP is a law enforcement agency and, since 2015, NAPTIP is also mandated to implement the Violence Against Persons Provision Act of 2015, which prohibits, among others, rape, female genital mutilation, forceful ejection from home, economic abuse, false accusations and separation from family and friends, emotional and verbal abuse, harmful widowhood and traditional practices.



•Fatima Waziri-Azi, NAPTIP boss

Strategy

Basically, we carry out our work using five strategies which are policy, prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership. In terms of policy, we develop different standards and procedures. We also develop referrals, mechanisms and we are currently working on the national action plan on trafficking in persons in Nigeria that will guide our interventions for the next five years. On prevention, we use strategic tools such as workshops, mass media campaigns, grassroots sensitization, capacity building and research. In terms of protection, we provide sheltering, psycho-social support, family tracing, family reunion, empowerment, rehabilitation and reintegration programs for victims of trafficking and violence against persons. In terms of prosecution, we prosecute all cases of trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and violence against persons. And for partnership, we collaborate with local, regional and international stakeholders to ensure the elimination and prevention of the root causes of human trafficking.

Media Presence

We are consistently engaging in campaigns and sensitization across the country but I also recognize the fact that we need to do more which is why since I came on board, we have

been consistently exploring different ways to enhance the visibility of our work. So we are engaging schools, and are reviving the 'NAPTIP on the Move'. 'NAPTIP on the Move' is a weekly half-hour montage TV program that is targeted at educating the public on the acts and trends of human trafficking, different methods devised by traffickers to lure unsuspecting persons and also to encourage people to report any incidence of human trafficking and violence against persons. The first episode of the TV programme aired on Friday, January 14 on NTA at 7 30 pm. This is one of the avenues that NAPTIP is using to sensitize the public. We all know the importance of awareness creation and sensitization which is in addition to reviving 'NAPTIP on the Move'; we also share information on our work via traditional and online media channels including the use of all our social media handles.

Online Competition

We have social media handles. We have presence on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. We also have a YouTube channel. Last year, during the 16 days of activism which ran from November 25 to December 10, we had an online competition for young people where we encouraged them to upload a 90-second creative video talking about sexual and gender-based violence and we got a lot of responses and we were able to choose our top three winners. The first prize winner went home with a sum of N100, 000 and a smart phone while the second prize and third prize winners got N75,000 and N50,000 along with smart

And this issue of organ harvesting is a growing trend because there is a global shortage of organs to be used for ethical transplants



ORGAN HARVESTERS:

How human traffickers lure Nigerians to remove their kidneys

by Fatima Waziri-Azi, NAPTIP boss

- 'Sting operation toppled Mama Bobb, a human trafficking kingpin, taking young girls to Spain'
- Says agency needs funds to fight back

phones respectively. So, we are using social media a lot, considering that our target audience who are mostly young people also use social media. We also have a short code: 627 and a toll-free number 07030000203 that people can reach us on. We have email as well: info@naptip.gov.ng. Most of the reports we get are through our short code, toll-free numbers and email. People drop messages via our social media handles as well and we receive hard copy letters as well.

Assistance

We give victims different forms of assistance. Let me give you an example: we shelter victims. We have ten shelters across the country with a total bed capacity of about 350 and it was designed in a way that we could shelter people for up to six weeks but then we found out that because of other circumstances, we shelter people for up to two years because we shelter victims for as long as they need to be sheltered. We also assist in tracking and reuniting them with their families and provide counseling and psychosocial support for as long as they need such support. We also empower them through various skill-based training based on their own choice. So, we don't just foist things on them but we support them based on what they want

to do and what they are interested in doing. We also improve their employability by sponsoring them to school. Since the inception of NAPTIP, we have sponsored 15 victims of trafficking to the university level. Two graduated last year. Out of the 15, NAPTIP has employed three and also looking forward to employing more of them to work with the agency.

Based on your experience over the years, what would you say are the reasons people indulge in human trafficking?

Trafficking exists because the crime is the one that currently has an opportunity for high profit with very little risk. So, traffickers profit over and over trafficking for years without being caught. Again, the poor economic situation of victims makes it easy for people to be manipulated or forced by traffickers into an exploitative situation. Human trafficking is a crime in which potential victims are completely ignorant about the dangers that await them over their choices. It is also portrayed by the traffickers as the best choice to end the circle of poverty in the family because you get to hear over and over again victims saying they were promised jobs or schooling but these are the lies the traffickers tell and victims fall for it. Lack of economic opportunities for young people especially in poor rural and urban communities also fuels the menace. Other drivers are inaccessibility of

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ffickers s abroad, kidneys, APTIP boss y, alleged notorious for prostitution' rons



headquarters are few compared to the enormity of issues of human trafficking and the vast mandate of the agency. We need budgetary provisions for the implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act of 2015, which is an added responsibility. Part of the reason we always have full capacity at the shelters is because we shelter victims of trafficking in persons as well as survivors of violence against persons.

Trapped Victims

Furthermore, we need funds for the evacuation of trapped victims stranded everywhere especially in the West African region. Over the years, the International Organization For Migration, IOM, has been assisting Nigeria in the repatriation of victims from Mali, Niger, and Libya but because we don't have our funds, we constantly have to rely on them. Most of these victims, once rescued, need to be repatriated immediately. We also need funds for the rehabilitation of victims. And when I talk about rehabilitation of victims, I mean evidence-based and sustainable return and reintegration programmes, something that is long term and sustainable because we need to support these victims as long as they need to be supported. So, it's not just enough to teach somebody a trade, buy equipment and send them on their way. What about long term sustainability in terms of mentoring, seeds grants, and things like that? So, we need funding to attend to all these issues.

Raising Funds

You know, we are not a revenue-generating agency, so we depend on budgetary allocations and the goodwill of the international community and partners to support us financially and through technical support. We rely on the support of sister agencies to carry out our work in terms of joint operations, investigations and capacity building. We also rely on NGOs that work in the same line as NAPTIP, sometimes, when we are at full capacity and don't have any bed space, we refer some of the victims to other NGOs that also have shelters. Since I came into office in September 2021, I have been making my rounds, meeting with existing NAPTIP partners to strengthen the partnership and also forge new ones. I have met with military chiefs, DSS, National Assembly members, private organizations and individuals because the issue of trafficking in persons is not just a NAPTIP problem. It's a societal problem.

We have well-meaning Nigerians who are willing to support but they do not understand the enormity of what we do except we make them understand. That's why I have been going out talking to people, soliciting for funds and we have been getting a lot of support. I met with some key National Assembly legislators last year both at the Senate and the House of Representatives to garner support and share the work we do. So, what we are trying to do is to correct the misconception out there that the trafficking in persons is just a problem. I want to let everybody know that trafficking in persons is not a problem but a crisis. And we all know that to tackle a crisis, all hands must be on deck. So, yes, we have been going out there to talk to people, to solicit for funds and see how we can get additional funding from different sources.

You made mention of organ harvesting. How bad is the situation in Nigeria?

Organ harvesting is something that has, in the past five years, come to light but, for now, I cannot share much details with you because we have not done enough research in that area. So, we don't have enough empirical evidence to throw around. However, we have had issues of people being trafficked for the purpose of organ removal. We had a case, I think last year, of somebody who was trafficked, and she was promised a job at her destination but when she got there, obviously, it wasn't a job that was waiting for her. She was trafficked for the sole purpose of her organs to be harvested.

Growing Trend

And this issue of organ harvesting is a growing trend because there is a global shortage of organs to be used for ethical transplants. So, there's a market for it. We have two categories of people - those who are trafficked for their organs to be removed and

those who willingly want to go sell their organs because of misinformation and disinformation. Traffickers tell them that as a human being, you need only one organ to survive or as a human being and that, if you donate your kidney, it will regenerate, that means, your kidney will grow back. So, people actually believe this and I know people are offered as much as £3,000 to donate an organ. So, somebody who is wallowing in poverty and probably doesn't know what the next day will bring will be willing to sell an organ based on the fact that the trafficker has told him that you only need one organ to survive or that if you donate your organ, it will grow back.

Modus Operandi

Someone once told me that his uncle called him to say that he wanted to go to India to donate his organ because somebody had reached out to him and this is an adult. So, for adults, you can only sensitize them, educate and let them know that these are all lies, that the traffickers are lying to them and tricking them to embark on such a journey. Most times, you might, on paper, agree to sell your kidney but when you go there, what will be harvested will be more than your kidney. But then, we have unfortunate victims who get trafficked for the purpose of removing their organs. So, they are two different things but it's an area that we need to do more research on. It is one of the areas that NAPTIP is focusing on because a little research will show that the modus operandi for organ removal is different from being trafficked for other reasons like prostitution. Again, trafficking routes are equally different. This is an area that we are looking to collaborate with an organization called Stop the Traffic in the UK and Lawyers Without Borders to do more research on. I believe that if we are able to have empirical evidence, it will influence policies and decisions. I don't like flying blind; I like to work with data and statistics. I like to work with evidence-based research.

Greatest Achievements

Since I assumed office in September last year, we have done close to 300 arrests but in terms of convictions, the agency, since inception, has recorded a total of 490 convictions while only six convictions were recorded from when I took over. We got two convictions each in Kano, Sokoto and Edo but, from January to December 2021, we had a total of 20 convictions. My greatest achievement is the six convictions I have recorded during this period I have been in charge, that is, from September to December last year. We are currently prosecuting a Spain based Nigerian called Patricia Igbinovia and also known as Mama Bobby. She's allegedly very notorious for trafficking Nigerian young girls to Spain. Two of her suspected gang members are currently in detention in Spain. The agency, through the support of the UK

government, has been on her trail for a long time. She was recently arrested in a sting operation in Lagos when she sneaked into the country and she was arraigned before a Federal High Court in Lagos. She is currently being remanded in the custody of the Nigeria Correctional Service. This is the first time that NAPTIP is using evidence that was gotten from another country through mutual legal assistance, that is, through the Federal Ministry of Justice. So, we got the evidence and we were able to track the suspect, arrest her and file the case in court. This is the first time it's happening and, for me, it is huge.

Strategic Priority

I have four strategic priorities which are also keyed into overarching priorities of the agency. My number one strategic priority is to enhance the investigation, prosecution and conviction of high profile traffickers and cases of violence against persons. The second is an evidence-based and sustainable rehabilitation, reintegration and empowerment of survivors. My third is to enhance awareness creation and sensitization and lastly, to strengthen the visibility of the work of the agency and its partners. So, my focus is to further implement these four strategic priorities. We are also finalizing the national action plan of trafficking in persons in Nigeria. This action plan will guide our collective interventions and priorities in the next five years. So, these are some of the things we are working on, while scaling our strategic priorities.

Have you witnessed a situation where top government officials were interfering and asking the agency to drop a case?

Well, it has not happened to me personally, nobody has interfered with my work so far but I knew it has happened in the past but not to me. So, no, I have not witnessed such.

how... number one... is funding. We need a special intervention fund to address many of the challenges facing the agency right now. As you may be aware, the agency has its headquarters here in FCT, Abuja and nine zonal commands across the country. We have four state commands, 12 liaison offices and ten shelters. We have a total capacity of 985 personnel across the country. Now, most of our offices are dilapidated because since they were bought, they have never had any major renovation. For almost 20 years that the agency has been in existence, some of our offices are rented though we own a few properties like the shelter and the headquarters in Abuja, our offices and shelters in Lagos, Benin and

Sokoto. In fact, our Sokoto office and shelter got burnt and razed to the ground last year November. We lost everything and not even a file was saved from the fire but the Sokoto State government has provided a shelter for us and they are willing to rent a place for us and pay for two years before we get back on our feet. The support from the Sokoto State government is amazing.

Intelligence Gathering

We also need additional shelters because our shelters are always overcrowded. As I said, we have ten shelters across the country and a total bed capacity of about 350. Abuja alone has a total bed capacity of 34 but, in December, we had to shelter 53 victims, almost twice the capacity. So, we need additional shelters. We also need funding to be able to conduct extensive intelligence gatherings such as surveillance, investigation and all these cost money. When we are talking about prosecuting trafficking in persons' cases, these things are long term. We have to follow the trail, follow the money, track individuals as this is the only way we can get to the very top because, it's not about arresting the middle people involved in this crime. We have to go to the very top by targeting the high profile traffickers. This is only thing that will send a strong message to these criminal elements. Again, we need operational vehicles. The number of vehicles we have across our zonal offices and our

educational opportunities, ignorance on the part of the families and children of the risks involved in trafficking. There are red flags but people don't do their homework, they don't recognize these red flags. Of course, we have greed and lack of contentment, when you want more at all costs and by all means, you make it easy to be lured by traffickers.

Who are to blame for this anomaly; parents, school or government?

I don't think it will be fair for us to blame one particular group because the issue of trafficking in persons is a societal one and it is the responsibility of everyone to tackle it. We cannot say it's a family, school or government's problem. We all have to play our role and where there is a weak link; that in itself, is an opportunity for the problem to fester. So, this is an issue that must concern everybody, every community, every business and every nation. To arrest the ugly situation, parents should instill the right values in their children while schools should infuse the trafficking in persons' module in their curriculum, encourage the establishment of trafficking in persons clubs and also encourage students to use their voice to speak against human trafficking. So, it's a collective thing, we all need to pool together our human resources.

Since you assumed office, what would you say are the major challenges faced by NAPTIP?

The agency has a number of challenges facing it,

Tonie Iredia

NIGERIA TODAY



Nigeria desires pragmatic legislative oversight

Whereas Nigerians agreed that their nation is in dire need of several projects to arrive at some considerable level of development, there are by far too many views and counter views as well as actions blocking the way forward. For now, almost every topic has an opposite perspective that can confuse leadership. This includes even serious security issues bordering on terrorism and banditry. A few days ago, former Imo Governor, Rochas Okorocha argued that although he has never supported the activities of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) he did not agree with the appellation of terrorists given to them. Instead, he says "I see them as children who have not been properly educated on the happenings" they are reacting to. On his part, Islamic scholar, Ahmad Gumi had insisted that banditry was essentially a business because the "big weapons bandits were using could not have crossed the borders into the country if money was not exchanging hands." Unfortunately, arguments such as these which appeal to the emotions and sentiments of some people cannot help the nation.

A more substantive issue different from the allegation of money changing hands, is

the other point made by Gumi that our military troops were colluding with the bandits. Perhaps because the military refuted the claim little was done about it. In other climes, the media would have on the basis of their mandate of holding those in authority accountable to the people followed up the subject. But in Nigeria, that is almost impossible because our media professionals are greatly hindered by several handicaps among them official policies, ownership control and poor media financing. How can the media hold government accountable in Nigeria when her leaders are enacting laws which in all respects have the same provisions as those of the obsolete law of sedition which imperialist agents used against activists during the colonial era? These days, every media report that is not exactly favourable to government is classified as hate speech capable of destabilizing the country or state as the case may be. Before the reporter can defend himself especially in states such as Ebonyi, he has already been traumatized by law enforcement agencies who are relying on some local laws on fake news.

Thus, with government leaders using their offices to stop the media from holding those in authority accountable to the people, what other

options are available to the nation? Why for example couldn't the relevant committees of the legislature take up the allegations raised by Gumi and indeed any other allegation? We are encouraged to raise this poser following the report a few days back that the House of Representatives had resolved to investigate the on-going recruitment exercises into the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) and other agencies under the Ministry of Labour and Productivity. The House allegedly found that only people from a particular part of the country were being recruited in breach of the federal character principle. The resolution of the House includes an appropriate sanction for anyone found culpable of undue favouritism in the exercise. The probe is to last four weeks.

Any well-meaning Nigerian ought to commend the decision of the House of Representatives. However, how come it is only the Ministry of Labour and its agencies that are so selected for investigation? Is anyone suggesting that the House is unaware that the allegation which is the sing-song in today's public service affects virtually all Ministries, Parastatals and Agencies (MDA)? When will the exercise be extended to such other bodies? Our point must not be misunderstood; we depart entirely from critics who oppose the checking of wrong doing at one location simply because all other culprits are spared the agony. We call on all committees to investigate MDAs in their spheres of oversight with respect to the same exercise

We cannot continue to operate a federal character principle when the body set up to ensure its observance is itself in breach

which is to hold at the Ministry of labour shortly. We recommend that the terms of reference of the committees should include the identification of powerful citizens in government behind the trend of favouritism in personnel recruitment in Nigeria. I will be shocked if many legislators will not be indicted.

It is our hope that the investigations would not take the pattern of previous exercises that were fitful and whose results were never made public. It will be recalled that in November last year, the Senate had raised an alarm that some officials of the federal civil service had engaged in secret recruitment while wrongly claiming that there was an official embargo on employment. Having discovered that some Nigerians who graduated some 15 years ago were yet to be employed we had thought the Senate would follow the subject through and reduce the tension of unemployment in the land. Painfully, we are yet to see any positive development. We hope the alarm raised by the Senate was not just a ploy to get spaces for their relations in some agencies and that this

investigation into the Ministry of Labour and its agencies would be more transparently handled in the public interest.

Indeed, the issue of adhering to the federal character principle should not be toyed with because it is high among the items creating disaffection in the land. It would do more harm if our top office holders continue to pay lip service to it. When the police announced recently that many applications were not received from some states in the South, many people expressed surprise. With the revelation two days ago by Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State that the police recruitment template was skewed, those in charge must return to the drawing table. As argued by Diri, "equitable recruitment into federal agencies can only be achieved if the process was in tandem with the federal character principle as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution." It is in truth a different ball game if the template used was based on number of local government areas in a state which is unjustifiable and lacks merit.

The point Governor Diri is making is that there is a need for consistency in our understanding of the federal character principle. We cannot, as many politicians are doing now, pick and choose when to or not to adhere to it. Some presidential aspirants and other leaders have of recent made a strong case for merit which on its own has many advantages. But we cannot be seen to be describing rotational presidency as obsolete and unmeritorious while still hanging-on to our quota system and federal

character principle which offer selective gains. If Nigeria has developed enough to have its president come from anywhere, our entire structure should be devoid of those lower and unimaginative prescriptive criteria. In fact, we cannot continue to operate a federal character principle when the body set up to ensure its observance is itself in breach. Among all agencies, the federal character commission cannot but have a federal character.

Last year, two allegations were made against the commission. The first was that its tradition which from inception has been to ensure a chairman and a secretary are periodically sourced from North and South was breached as both offices are now held by appointees from same region. The second was that 20 out of the 37 commissioners had drawn attention in vain to the fact that the chairman had been engaged in secret recruitments in which 50% of those employed were sourced from her kinsmen. Nothing appears to have been done to these allegations. If, however, anything was done, it probably did not attract same publicity as the breach of the federal principle making it difficult for many people to know about it. But if nothing has been done since then, efforts must now be made to handle it simultaneously with that of NSITF so as to send the correct message that we are set to rebuild our nation without fear or favour. We must put our legislature into better use, rather than engaging them in bogus impeachment exercises such as the wind blowing currently in Zamfara state.

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PERSPECTIVES

PhD, Dept of Philosophy, University of Lagos



Giving credit to whom it is due, and other matters (3)

The founding fathers of the University of Lagos deserve posthumous commendation and respect for their vision in establishing the citadel of learning. Moving forward to the living, I am grateful to the humble, compassionate and hardworking Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe. Over the years even before he got to the pinnacle of university administration, Prof. Ogundipe has always been nice to me and I appreciate it. Now, it must be placed on record that of all the Vice-Chancellors of the university that I met both as a student and staff, Prof. Ogundipe is the most hardworking, beside the late tireless administrator, Prof. Jelili Adebisi Omotola. An *omoluabi* to the core, Prof. Ogundipe embodies some of the fine qualities that characterise a refined human being. But he works too hard - and that is where I do not see eye to eye with him. I believe in working, not in *working too hard*. Anyway, I hereby express my unalloyed support for him despite the mistakes he has made as Vice-Chancellor, and sincerely wish that all the laudable projects together with the programmes he has been implementing will stand the test of time. I also appreciate Profs. Lucien Obinna Chukwu, (Deputy

Vice-Chancellor Management Services); Oluwole FAMILONI (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academics & Research); and Ayodele Atsenuwa, (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Development Services). In various ways and at different occasions they treated me in a very friendly manner *despite my spontaneous rascality*. Coming to the Department of Philosophy proper where I am Professor of Logic and Philosophy of Science and also Head of Department (HOD), I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to colleagues and the non-academic staff that assisted me in many ways to carry out my duties fairly successfully. But before I do that, it is pertinent to note that I dislike the quotidian bureaucracy of administration because, among other things, it does not suit my personality type. Moreover, it provides an opportunity for Obi, Ada, and Bola to have silly opinions about one's actions even when one is trying his best to make things work under very challenging circumstances. Unfortunately, the system at the University of Lagos requires that academic seniority should be followed by the Vice-Chancellor in appointing a HOD which, in my opinion, should be an elective office so that those who really want the position

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to colleagues and the non-academic staff that assisted me in many ways to carry out my duties fairly successfully

can contest for it. That said, Dr. Chris Osegenwune, an Associate Professor in the department, has been a good friend who acts on my behalf most times when I am not around. My sincere gratitude goes to him. Other colleagues that have been of assistance to me include Profs. Muiyiwa Falaiye and Ben Okoro; Drs. Fatai Asodun, Tony Okeregebe, Modestus Onyeaghalaji, Debo Gbadebo, Kazeem Fayemi, Peter Osimiri. Surajudeen Owosho, and Peter Oni; Mr. Stanley Ebe and Miss Jumoke Ibidapo-Obe. I appreciate the various roles these lady and gentlemen play in moving things forward notwithstanding the fact that some folks in the department seem to derive some kind of bizarre pleasure from pointless criticism and in making mountains out of molehills. I hope that I also made a positive impact on all of you one way or another in 2021. My administrative staff, namely, Bukky Ogunade, Oluwaseyi Tytler, Cordelia Okwumabua, Abigail and Rufus performed their duties satisfactorily - my sincere appreciation for their efforts. I must appreciate the following: Drs. Isaac Nwogwugwu, Henry

Ogunjewe, Tunde Oduwobi, Robert Obioha, Olutayo James and the incumbent Acting Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Musa Obalola; Prof. C. C. Anunobi, Andrew Ugboru, Wasiu Adeyemo, David Aworawo, Tunde Opeibi-Davies, Ndubisi Nwokoma, Ademola Adeleke, Iyoola Oni, Chimdi Maduagwu, Iwu Ikwubuzo, Victor Ariole, Hope Eghagha, Oko Okoro, Osita Ezenwanebe, Peji Layiwola, Timothy Nubi, Olukayode S. Oyediran, Adeyemi Daramola, J.N. Mojekwu, Chris Obisi, Chukwuemeka Isambor, and all members of the University of Lagos Provost, Deans and HODs platform. Thank you so much for your friendliness and kindness. Lugardo, De Tony, Drs. Charles Ibeziakor and Dave Ekwoaba, Peter Iheanacho, Ajoke, Mrs. Meshioye, Rita, Simon, Peter Iheanacho, Lapenza, Rex Osagiede, John Osagie, Anselm, Barrister UcheUbochi, Alhaji Saidu, Debbie, and the entire ADLEA Class of 2021; Mikolo, Matthew, Chief Raphael Obiduba, Bashorun Innocent Egwim, Genetic Criminal, Bede, Bishop, King Emily, Edwin Eja, Pastor Jude, Jude Nwankwo, Rev. Jenfa; Profs. Chris Agulanna, Isaac Ukpokolo, and O. Oyeshile added value to my life and I am grateful for that. Sincere gratitude to Lekan, Segun Rewire, Shaba and Daewoo AC for ensuring that my vehicles worked all year round without giving me serious problems. Eko-For-Show, the very professional manner you paint my vehicles is hereby acknowledged. Adejuwon Adetola and Tunde Sulaimon the cobbler, - thanks a lot for your expertise in maintaining my air-conditioners both at home and in the office and my shoes respectively. Madam Lilian and her husband supplied affordable good quality electronic gadgets to my house

for which I am grateful. My co-residents on campus deserve my warm acknowledgment; they include DejiMedubi, Mrs. Titi Solanke, Profs. Nwabueze, Nwadinigwe, Badru, Hassan, Iyiegbunigwe, Hastrup and others. Thank you Ben and Alex for being helpful to me and my family. I hereby celebrate avid readers of my column who call me once in a while to discuss issues of vital concern, especially Prof. Fidelis Ogah, Dr. Isu, and a certain lady from Owerri (I have forgotten her name). Of course, I cannot ignore readers who sent text messages either in support or criticism of my views (never mind that most of the criticism is misplaced), as well as those that just read and decide not to respond. The anticipation that you will read "Sunday Perspectives" is one of the major reasons why I have been writing for *Sunday Vanguard* continuously for over two decades. My sister, Justice Grace Chukwunyerere and her husband, De Sam, have been pillars of support for me over the years and my sincerest appreciation goes to them. Ugochukwu, my brother-in-law, deserves my gratitude for the gifts he sent to me from Denmark. Equally appreciated are the editor of *Sunday Vanguard*, Wale Akinola, and his team for their help in ensuring that my essays are published every Sunday.

My wife, Ijeoma, and our two beautiful daughters, Nwanyioma and Nwadiuto, are the closest human beings to my heart, the best reason why I try to live an examined life as recommended by the Greek philosopher, Socrates. We share the same house, eat the same food, and practically see one another daily as we truly are, notably the combination of the good, the not-so-good, and everything in-between. Like all humans we are imperfect. But in spite of challenges last year we still kept it together. Without my

wife and daughters, I would have been, to paraphrase Thomas Hardy, a fraction without its integer. I hope that 2022 will be better for us, our relatives, friends and neighbours so that together our lives shall be enriched further through being one another's keeper. For those who feel that their names ought to be included here but did not make it, two major reasons are responsible. One, it could be due to the frailty of human memory for which I apologise. Two, being acquainted with someone is not just enough for his or her name to be celebrated here. I must feel an emotional connection and positive impact from that person before celebrating him or her. Consequently, if you belong to the second group, there is no need for any apology since you do not deserve to be mentioned in the first place.

On a final note, Nigeria is increasingly looking like a test-run or experiment regarding what the imaginary hell of religion feels like. The pigs in that animal farm and their useful idiots can deceive the gullible that things are working. But never in my life since attaining the age of reason has Nigeria degenerated to the level we are in right now. In my opinion, the only way out is that either the major ethnic nationalities and their immediate neighbours with whom they share strong historical, linguistic and cultural affinities evolve into a Confederal Republic of Nigeria or they become independent sovereign nations. Nigeria as presently constituted and governed is a replication of the myth of Sisyphus. QED.

Concluded.

STORY OF THE WEEK

POWER SHIFT:

North bows

- We won't oppose southern presidential candidate — ACF
- ...blasts Wike, cautions against anti-Arewa statements
- Why parties won't take position soon

By Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo,
Demola Akinyemi, David Odama, &
Haruna Aliyu

If the position of some critical northern leaders is anything to go by, the tension over power shift to southern Nigeria may soon be a thing of the past.

The matter, which has overheated the polity, saw the country's two major political parties, All Progressives Congress, APC, and Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, leaving Nigerians guessing on where the next President would come from.

In a political environment where geopolitics plays a major role in leadership emergence, key electioneering issues have literally been eclipsed by the debate over the zone to produce President Muhammadu Buhari's successor.

The PDP and APC are yet to take a stand on the matter, leaving the issue to speculations and conjectures.

Less than one year to 2023 general elections, political actors in both parties are sharply divided on the issue.

For instance, Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike, last week, while speaking to PDP stakeholders at the Government House, Port Harcourt, had warned against undermining the interest of the South in choosing the party's presidential standard-bearer.

"Nigerians will know that we are not joking. People take the South for granted, saying that they are not together. No problems. If we didn't know yesterday, today, we know", Wike had said in apparent response to the tense zoning debate.

"We are assets. We are not a liability. When we say we are going to support the party, we support the party with everything we have. We are not in America where you do television campaigns.

"When we come out, we will choke them. They know it. So, everybody should relax, let the South do their homework and then they will make a proper statement".

However, analysts believe that if not properly handled, power shift controversy may have grave consequences for an already divided nation.

Multiple sources in the leadership of both parties told Sunday Vanguard that APC and PDP are bidding their time to avoid likely implosion that could result from their final decision on rotation.

Forces

They said Nigerians shouldn't expect any categorical statement on the matter any time soon, saying the outcome may not favour any of them if an early decision is made on zoning.

"The parties are just being careful. The forces at play are not every day political forces", one of the sources said.

"Times are different because of what has happened in the last eight years.

"Any party that takes a position on zoning now would experience an implosion that could lead to a third force.

"Nigerians should focus on having the right candidates instead of getting drowned in the zoning debate".

Meanwhile, northern leaders, in separate chats with Sunday Vanguard, said they were not opposed to power shift to the South, but insisted that emphasis should be on having the best man for the job.

According to the National Publicity Secretary of Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, Emmanuel Yawe, the North would not oppose the emergence of a southern presidential candidate.

He said: "The North has no such plans to deny the South presidential ticket.

"The issue of sponsorship of candidates at elections has been resolved by the 1999 Constitution which makes it the exclusive responsibility of political parties.



"The ACF is not a political party and will wish to be kept out of this.

"On the other hand, Mr. Wike should say how many times his party, the PDP, has chosen a northerner as its presidential candidate since 1999, compared to how many times it has chosen a southerner and tell Nigerians who is denying who a presidential ticket."

Tension

Elder statesman and former Head of Service in Kebbi State, Alhaji Abubakar Udu Idris, said the North is not afraid of a President of southern extraction but the noise being made by them and verbal attacks on not only northern leaders, but the entire North itself is creating tensions between the two regions.

He said: "In a democratic setting, there is no 'must,' but since Nigeria is not such a united entity, we have to allow power shift.

"What we need is a leader who will be just and equitable, no matter where he comes from. "The PDP and APC should know that we made them and we can unmake them.

"If they don't put their acts together, they will be surprised.

"The country needs a third force and not the two so-called major parties who do not even read their manifestos.

"As far as I am concerned, Peoples Redemption Party, PRP, is the only political party in the country because they have ideology and principles. "Others use their parties as vehicles to clinch power without an idea of how to govern.

"Nobody is looking up to APC or PDP to provide leadership because both of them have not lived up to the expectations of Nigerians.

"We are more concerned with a third force to displace them.

"It is only those I call political novices that are waiting for the so-called major political parties to zone presidential tickets.

"As a principled man, I know power shift is undemocratic, but for fairness, we should allow southerners to rule because they are Nigerians too. But they must watch their statements against the north in order not raise tensions."

The North has no such plans to deny the South presidential ticket

INEC

President of Arewa Youth Consultative Forum, AYCF, Alhaji Shettima Yerima, on his part, said: "The issue of keeping Nigerians guessing on where the next presidential candidate should come from is purely a problem created by the two dominant political parties, APC and PDP.

"It is because they are not being challenged by other parties. There is no reason this should be the case.

"The confusion created by the two dominant political parties is a deliberate ploy.

"I said this because leaders of the parties are supposed to be thinking ahead of elections.

"The Independent Electoral Commission, INEC, announced the dates for elections about two years ago.

"INEC National Chairman, Mammoud Yakubu, already told the whole world the dates for the elections. He made it known ahead of time in 2021.

Wike

"Why should it take the political parties more than one year to end these annoying speculations about their presidential candidates?"

"I don't think Nigerian political parties would start searching for presidential candidates after INEC announcement of dates.

"I expect them to do so at least two or three years ahead of time.

"I read the position of Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike, where he said he was in support of a northern presidential candidate after meeting Bauchi State governor, Bala Mohammed. "I later saw comments credited to him, that the North shouldn't deny a southerner the presidency.

"I wonder what Wike actually stands for. He seems to be talking from both sides of his mouth.

"It was ridiculous that a democratically-elected governor would be the one saying a certain region has the exclusive right to contest the presidency.

"If Wike wants to advocate a return to the days of regional governments, he should be specific please."

On his part, Brig-Gen Idris Bello, rtd, said: "The presidency should be zoned to the South in APC.

"It is their turn and they will now decide which part of the South to produce their candidate.

"As for PDP, their last President was from the

South. This time, their candidate has to come from the North."

Predicament

Vice Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, Northern states and Abuja, Rev. John Joseph Hayab, said: "The choice of a flag bearer is a party decision.

"Our only concern is for every political party to present a credible candidate irrespective of faith, region, and any identity.

"We need a candidate that can deliver good governance and take Nigeria and Nigerians out of our present predicament.

"It is also expected that the chosen candidate would take into consideration, the Federal Character Principle in forming his team.

"We need each other to build a great and prosperous Nigeria."

Spokesperson for the Coalition of Northern Groups, CNG, Suleiman Abdulaziz, said: "We actually cannot see the wisdom in Governor Wike's outburst that the South cannot be denied the right to seek the presidency because nobody doubts the right of anyone from whatever region or section of Nigeria to vie for the presidency of Nigeria.

"The northern position is that any competent person can contest the race on equal and fair grounds but the North will not accept to be intimidated or blackmailed into giving up its right to same.

"We have always been consistent in our position that until that time when Nigerians can reach across and speak to each other with erving respect, the country will continue to be torn wider apart by regionalists with dubious political aims.

"People like Chief Edwin Clark who should otherwise be seen to play honest statesmanship are unfortunately the ones exploiting cleavages of ethnic and sectional nature to push a wedge against the unity of the country.

"In the process, they resort to undemocratic tactics that involve threats and intimidation at the slightest pretexts, including one of imposing a regional President on the rest of Nigerians.

"Rather than these people working to reclaim their statesmanship by joining in the new thinking for a generational movement of power, they insist on the over-flogged agitation for the shift of power across sections and regions, which has never worked for the entire 62 years of Nigeria's existence.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the North would never allow itself to be intimidated, harassed, or blackmailed into agreeing to undemocratic methods of leadership selection while it does not deny anybody from whatever section the right to contest, present his credentials and prove his worth to the Nigerian voter.

Regional leaders

"What should rather concern the nation and particularly those who pose as regional leaders and agitators are the search for a competent, strong, informed, credible and reliable Nigerian President accepted by Nigerians to deal fairly and justly among all components of Nigeria.

"The North will continue to share its vision of a nation that has room for everyone.

"However, the region shall never accept to be intimidated or blackmailed out of its right to present candidates for the presidency now or in the future.

"Our faith in the prospects for a strong and united Nigeria is still solid. We hear and understand the clamour to re-visit the philosophy, structures and operations of the Nigerian state, and we join in support of any inquiry and change in the manner we live that will improve our security and the quality of our lives.

"The North has nothing to fear from any democratic process, provided we are involved as partners who have a stake in a Nigeria that works for all of us.

"The North has many issues with the operations of the Nigerian state, but it does not routinely insult, blame, harass, or blackmail elite from other regions for them.

"On the contrary, we will welcome an opportunity to engage all parts of Nigeria in honest and open-ended discussions on constitutional and electoral reforms, the operations of our federal structure and national economy, and all issues which represent major sources of grievance."

Rotation

President of Arewa Youth Forum, AYF, Alhaji Gambo Gungu, also speaking on the matter, said: "Our concern ahead of 2023 is not the geographical zone of a candidate.

"For instance, if someone from any part of the country will do justice and further unite us, bring an end to insecurity in the country, our position is that such a person should be encouraged and supported to emerge as our President. "Religion, tribe, or gender should not matter here.

"Rotation, power shift and related concepts should be considered archaic and replaced with competence, national acceptability and the ability to offer leadership."

Meanwhile, a PDP chieftain in Kwara State, Isiaka Mogaji, told Sunday Vanguard that he wanted his party to zone the presidency to the North.

Mogaji said: "Based on equity, fairness and justice, the presidency should be zoned to the North this time. We cannot compare ourselves with APC."

STORY OF THE WEEK

ZONING:

South closes ranks as southern, northern PDP govts clash

By Dirisu Yakubu

For months, the argument was premised on the permutation that if the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, picked its presidential candidate from the South for the 2023 general elections, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, would head in the opposite direction to pick its flag bearer.

As a result, it wasn't unexpected when the early birds for the coveted ticket in the PDP were politicians of northern extraction like former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State, his Bauchi state counterpart, Mallam Bala Mohammed, and former Senate President Bukola Saraki among others.

Pundits, who argued that the emergence of Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, a northerner, as National Chairman of the party at the 2021 elective convention meant that the PDP would go down South to pick its presidential candidate, were simply counseled not to be too optimistic.

The party, a school of thought reasoned, could pick a northerner, still provided the APC goes South to pick its candidate.

Events of the past few weeks have, however, shown the commitment of southern leaders of the party to close ranks to ensure that the zone does not yield the ticket to the North in 2023 like it did in 2019.

Governors Nyesom Wike of Rivers State; his Akwa Ibom counterpart, Mr Udom Emmanuel; former Senate President Pius Anyim; former President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Mr Sam Oluwabunwa, and veteran journalist, Dele Momodu, all have their eyes on the PDP presidential ticket.

In a move interpreted as a strategy against Atiku, the governors are believed to be pushing for a younger candidate given the manner Bala Mohammed asked the former Vice President to take a back seat and rest from his decades of involvement in politics on account of age.

The South is home to eight PDP governors, made of up of Wike, Emmanuel, Duoye Diri (Bayelsa), Godwin Obaseki (Edo) and Ifeanyi Okowa (Delta). Others are Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia), Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi (Enugu) and Seyi Makinde (Oyo).

These governors, who call the shots in their respective states, Sunday Vanguard gathered, are rooting for a presidential candidate from the South and are calling on their northern counterparts to support the call.

Given the intensity of the opposition of southern governors to his aspiration, Atiku, having met with them at different times, has promised to do a single term if elected, preparatory to yielding the ground to a southerner in 2027.

But this has not swayed the determination of the southern leaders who insist that the former Vice President and his fellow northerners should accord the South respect.

The southern governors are said to be insistent on their position on the 2023 presidency, arguing that after eight years in the saddle by President Muhammadu Buhari, it

would be unjust for the PDP to field another northerner.

This seemingly conundrum has left the Iyorchia Ayu-led National Working Committee (NWC) of the PDP unable to take a definite stand on which zone should be given the opportunity to produce the presidential candidate.

It would be recalled that the Bala Mohammed Committee empanelled to review the performance of the PDP in the 2019 presidential election and recommend the way forward in 2023, advised the party to throw the race open to both the South and the North. Southern leaders are, however, not prepared to listen to any argument that would see it settle for the second fiddle.

It remains to be seen how the party handles this even as presidential hopeful from both South and North continue to press on for the highest office ahead of the polls.

Closing ranks

Meanwhile, analysts told Sunday Vanguard, at the weekend, that southern leaders were closing ranks on the issue of the two major political parties in the country (APC and PDP) zoning the 2023 presidency to the South after leaders/organizations from the region separately insisted that the top office should not remain in the North after Buhari's eight-year tenure.

"Recent developments show that leaders from the South are unyielding in their quest to have the 2023 presidency zoned to the area. In fact, I have no doubt in my mind that the leaders are closing ranks", an analyst told Sunday Vanguard.

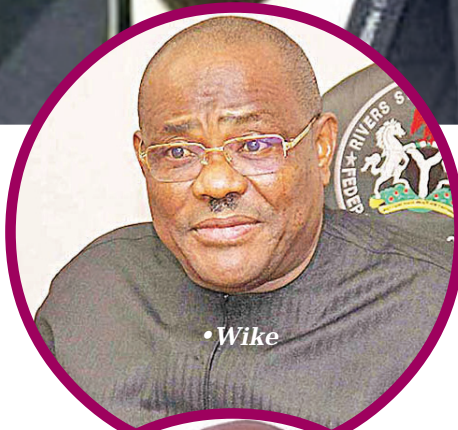
"I want to believe that it is in recognition of the fact that the South would not give up on the decision that a southern should succeed President Buhari in 2023 that no one in the APC from the North has shown interest in the presidential race".

South-South leader,

The communique also justified the need for the rotation of the presidency, arguing that due to the complexity of Nigeria, it was only fair to share power



•Iyorchia Ayu



•Wike



•Udom



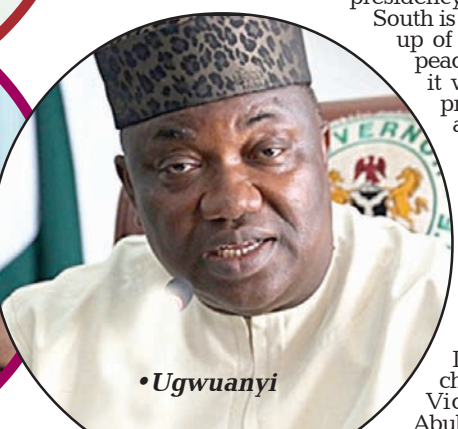
•Obaseki



•Diri



•Okowa



•Ugwuanyi

Senate, Dr Bukola Saraki, Rt. Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, Governor of Sokoto State, and other PDP aspirants from the North, that, in the interest of maintaining the unity of this country to which they have contributed so much, re-consider their desire of wanting to contest for the presidential election in 2023, because both by the PDP Constitution and by convention, it is now the turn of Southern Nigeria to produce the President of Nigeria, in 2023, after President Muhammadu Buhari's 8 years.

"To do otherwise is to invite chaos, which will lead to the disintegration of our dear country."

"One of the reasons the North opposed Chief Anthony Enahoro's motion for independence in 1953 was that they felt they were not equal to the South in education; that they were not in a position to produce proportional candidates who will run an independent government with the South because, at that time, they had only about four graduates.

"They subsequently walked out of the Parliament, went back to the North, and swore never to return to Lagos.

"That was what led to the Constitutional Conferences held both at the Lancaster House in London and at Ibadan, Nigeria, purposely to keep Nigeria one. The impression was that no one group or section of the country should dominate the government of Nigeria at the expense of other parts of the country".

On his part, leader of the pan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, Pa Ayo Adebajo, said any attempt to deny the South-East the presidency in 2023 would amount to a gang-up against the region dominated by Igbo.

Adebajo, in a chat with Sunday Vanguard, said those opposed to Igbo President are discriminatory against the region.

His words: "If there is anything like power shift in Nigeria, it should go to the South-East. There is doubt about that, any other thing is just gang-up."

"There should not be any argument about that because the South-West has gotten it, the North has gotten, South-South has gotten it. You want the Igbo to remain in Nigeria but you want to discriminate against them.

"There should be no argument about where power should shift to, it should go to the South-East. Any other thing is gang-up."

Also pushing ahead with the South-East presidential bid, apex Igbo socio-cultural organisation, Ohanaeze Ndigbo, late last week, set up a committee to lobby critical stakeholders across the country to support the zone to produce the President in 2023.

The Political Action Committee is chaired by the Ohanaeze Ndigbo President-General, Amb George Obiozor, while the Secretary-General, Amba Okey Emuchay, would serve as Secretary.

Obiozor, who disclosed this in Enugu, said the job of the committee was to recognize all the critical stakeholders in the election and persuade them to support the South-East to produce the President for equity, justice and fairness.

He said, "This committee is a persuasion team. They will recognize those that are critical in the election from different parts of Nigeria and within our own group (South-East) because there may be those who are critical here but they don't want to participate for one reason or the other.

"So we'll encourage, persuade them and then among our people running for election, you advise those who want to be advised and those who don't want to be advised you still try to advise them. But we are non-partisan, non-political."

Of the six regions in the country, only the South-East has not produced the President.

Before the latest developments, leaders of thought from the southern and Middle Belt regions had taken a position on the 2023 presidency, saying it should be produced by the South.

Though the elders did not micro-zone, they warned that any political party that does not zone its presidential ticket to the South should not expect support from the four regions.

The decision was contained in a communique issued at the end of a recent meeting of the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum (SMBLF) and chaired by Clark.

The communique also justified the need for the rotation of the presidency, arguing that due to the complexity of Nigeria, it was only fair to share power.

The communique read in part: "The meeting extensively discussed various issues on the state of affairs in the country, particularly; security situation, restructuring, preparations for the 2023 general elections and zoning. The extant constitution and structures of Nigeria which are grossly flawed and lopsided. Accordingly, Forum restates its demand for the fundamental restructuring of the country by enacting a new constitution that would enthrone equity, fairness and justice. It must be one nation, one system.

"Cites that the northern part of the country would have fully enjoyed the Office of the Presidency of the country for the full statutory period of 8 years by 2023, hence, the presidency should rotate to the South. Therefore, unequivocally, and in full resolve, call on all political parties in the country to find their presidential ticket to the south. Advices that any political party that does not zone its presidential ticket to the South should not expect support from the four regions."

Chief Edwin Clark, had issued a statement, last week, to ask Atiku, Saraki, Tambuwal and other northerners nursing presidential ambition ahead of 2023 to step down their bid in the interest of justice.

Clark, who warned that zoning the presidency between the North and the South is the best antidote to the break-up of Nigeria and the requisite for peace and unity in the country, said it was the turn of the South to produce the President in 2023 and not the North.

According to the elder statesman, zoning has been practised in the policy even before independence when Tafawa Balewa, in 1954, was Prime Minister and Nnamdi Azikiwe Governor-General.

Clark said, "Firstly, I wish to use this medium to advise my most respected Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftains in the persons of former Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, former President of the

Bunmi Sofola

YOURS SINCERELY



Scientists have confirmed that women are cleverer than men!

YOUR feelings are hurt and you want your other half to know it, you stamp around the house, slamming doors, tossing your head and sighing heavily. But he seems oblivious. You move on to the silent treatment and he still carries on as normal. It's only when you cry with frustration that he actually comes over and puts his arm around you. A female friend would have noticed your distress the second she sets eyes on you. But it's taken your so-called soul-mate half an hour and a torrent of tears to realise that you're upset. Is there something wrong with your relationship? This is one of the posers in Dr. Louann Brizendine's findings published in a book. You don't need marital guidance or couple counselling. According to her, it is a very typical domestic scene. The problem lies not with your partner but with the difference between the way men and women think. She believes all brains start out the same way but slowly change while we are in the womb.

If a baby is going to be a boy, there's a huge surge in the level of the sex hormone, testosterone, beginning in the eighth week. This kills off some cells in the communication centres and grows more in the sex and aggression centres. Thus, the brain becomes 'male'. If the baby is going to be a girl, there will be testosterone surge.

The female brain continues to grow – sprouting more connections in the communication, gathers more per cent neurons than men in the brain centres for laughing and hearing. "She's always rabbiting on"; She claims that women use about

20,000 words a day while men only around 7,000. The act of talking fills the female brain with chemicals that give women a high, connecting through talking activates the pleasure centres in a girl's brain. This is a huge amount of pleasure, the fattest neurological reward you can get outside of orgasm... "All he thinks about is sex." Sexual thoughts float through a man's brain several times every day on the average and through a woman only once a day, or perhaps three or four times on her sexiest days. Men have two and a half times the brain space devoted to sexual drive. "When we argue, she rakes up fights I can't even remember."

Women may remember the smallest details of their first dates and their biggest fights, while their husbands barely remember that these things happened. Brizendine's findings, which she discusses in her book: *The Female Brain*, are

based on her own clinical work and analysis of more than 1,000 scientific studies. "I believe that women actually perceive the world differently from men," she says. "I know it's not politically correct to say this, but I've been torn for years between my politics and what science is telling me. Although women have smaller brains than men, they have the same number of brain cells and are just as clever as their male counterparts. Males and females have the same average intelligence.

She also believes that: "Women have been wrongly labelled as being less capable in certain areas such as mathematics and science. The reality is that women



naturally seek out interaction with others. Often, maths and science simply don't fit the bill in that respect. When girls and boys hit their teens, there's no difference in their capacity for these subjects.

As oestrogen floods the female brain, the female starts to focus intensely on their emotions and on communication – talking on the phone and connecting with their friends down the shopping centre. Girls start to lose interest in pursuits that require more solitary work and fewer interactions with others.

"Women should be proud of their considerable mental attributes. The female brain has tremendous unique aptitudes – outstanding verbal agility, the ability to connect deeply in friendships, a nearly psychic capacity to read faces and tone of voice for emotions and states of mind, and the ability to defuse conflict. These are the talents women are born with that many men, frankly, are not. It's my hope that the female brain will be seen and understood as the finely tuned

and talented instrument that it actually is."

New Prostate Treatment Gives Sufferers Two More Years

MEN with incurable prostate cancer live two years longer if given chemotherapy at the same time as the standard hormone treatment, according to a major trial. Presently, chemotherapy is only offered to men if the hormone treatment isn't slowing the cancer's spread and many choose not to have it at all due to the side-effects. But researchers say their findings are so strong that a form of chemotherapy called docetaxel should be routinely given to men as soon as they are diagnosed with aggressive prostate cancer.

There are 41,000 new cases of prostate cancer in the UK each year and the disease is responsible for a fifth of all types of cancer in men. This includes 10 to 15 per cent which are classified as aggressive tumours and are very difficult to treat as they spread so quickly. The study

by researchers at Cardiff and Warwick University is ongoing and involves 6,500 British men with advanced prostate cancer. On average, these men live for between four and five years after being diagnosed with advanced 'metastatic' prostate cancer, which means it has spread to the bones of other organs. But early findings from the trial presented a few

months ago showed that men lived for an extra 22 months on average if given chemotherapy at the same time as the standard hormone therapy. Professor Malcolm Mason of Cardiff University said: "The 22 months is a lot of extra time for these men with an incurable disease.

In prostate cancer, chemotherapy has been used at a much more advanced stage of the illness for some years – now we know that this chemotherapy should be added earlier, in fact as soon as hormone therapy starts.' The early results also show that men with aggressive tumours which haven't yet spread also survive longer if given chemotherapy. Many are still alive and the researchers believe this treatment could enable them to live at least an extra five to six years, if not longer. Docetaxel is cheap compared to most cancer treatments.

Dr. Iain Frame, director of research at Prostate Cancer UK, said: "The findings of this trial are potentially game-changing – we can't wait to see the full results. Chemotherapy is currently one of the last resort treatments for advanced prostate cancer. If it is shown to have a much greater impact on survival when prescribed earlier and alongside hormone therapy,

that's incredibly exciting.' Professor Peter Johnson, Cancer Research UK's chief clinician, said: "Chemotherapy isn't suitable for everyone, but all men (with prostate cancer) who are well enough should be offered this treatment combination."

The Virgin Trap! (Humour)

A young woman goes to see the doctor to ask his advice on a very sensitive matter. "I'm getting married on Saturday," the distraught young lady cries, "and my husband is convinced I'm a virgin. What he doesn't know is that I lost my virginity years ago. Is there any way I can convince him that I am still a chaste?" "Medically no," the doctor replies.

"But I do have a suggestion which may help. On your wedding night, when you're getting ready for bed, slide an elastic band around your thigh.

When your husband enters you, simply twang the band with your fingers and tell your husband the sound is your hymen snapping."

On the big day, the newly weds go up to their honeymoon suite. The bride goes into the bathroom and slips the elastic band around her thigh.

The couple then get down to some serious married sex. Just as her husband enters her, the bride snaps the band and moans with what she thinks is a mixture of ecstasy and pain. "What the hell was that?" her husband cries. "Oooh," the woman moans. "That must have been my virginity snapping, honey." "Well," shouts her husband, "snap it back again. It's caught round my tackler!"

Utazi wages war against killer diseases

By Ephraim Oseji

The Senate Committee Chairman on Primary Healthcare and Communicable Diseases, Senator Chukwuka Utazi is waging a tough battle against killer diseases ravaging society. Health experts said the passing of the National Health Emergency Bill, sponsored by the lawmaker; by the National Assembly was a political masterstroke that would redefine the nation's response in the strategic war against pandemic and other emerging global health hazards.

If signed into law, the new legislation named, Bill for an Act to Provide for an effective national framework for the control of outbreaks of infectious diseases and other events endangering public health and requiring public health emergency measures and for other related matters (SB. 413) would provide for an effective and efficient legal and administrative machinery to address the challenges posed by public health emergencies as defined under this Act. It will also ensure a timely response, control, and management of public health emergencies.

Presenting the Committee Report, Senator Utazi said the bill would channel available national human and other resources during periods of public health emergencies

towards the mitigation or eradication of infectious diseases and public health events. According to him, it would also streamline all existing rules and regulations for the control of public health during periods of public emergencies for their early

containment.

He said part of the objectives of the bill was to maintain the appropriate balance between health measures required to be taken by appropriate authorities under any declaration of public health emergency and

Mujakperuo 'll strengthen Delta traditional institution --Amitaye

District Head of Ughorhen District in Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State, Chief Okakuro Amitaye, has said the appointment of Orodje of Okpe, Major General Felix Mujakperuo, retd, as the Chairman Board of Delta State Traditional Rulers Council would strengthen traditional institution in the state.

He described the development as good, saying ever since the monarch ascended the throne, he has ensured that justice and peace prevailed in the kingdom.

Amitaye in a statement added that the royal father has so far contributed to the dignity of the traditional institution in the state and the entire country.

He said: "Everyone with the DNA of Okpe in him or her cannot easily forget the friendly benignity with which the Okpe monarch acts as a father to all. It is a unique



•HRH Mujakperuo

attribute that cannot be taken from him. We commend him for making the Okpe people proud with his leadership.

Our monarch can bring positive impacts to the body of royal fathers. This will usher in peace, progress and prosperity in Delta State.

"I am optimistic that Orodje of Okpe in his capacity as Chairman of Delta State Traditional Council will continue to ensure that the traditional institution is used as veritable organs of government to drive away all criminal elements in the state.

the constitutionally guaranteed rights of citizens and the general public in the overriding national public health interest. It would also ensure proper coordination in the administration and management of public health during periods of public health emergencies with necessary checks and balances, accountability, and control.

"Umogu, irrespective of your intimidating Curriculum Vitae, you have remained humble and empathic to the plight of your people and mankind in general. I am particularly in love with your principled and focused leadership style.

"Your enviable achievements since the ascension to the throne have been remarkable. And they have brought honour to Okpe.

"Based on your record in the service of our fatherland, I have no iota of doubt that you will bring your experience and candour to bear in your present assignment as the Chairman of Delta State Traditional Rulers Council. On behalf of my immediate family and the entire people of Ughorhen District, in Sapele Local Government Area, which is part of the great Okpe kingdom, I sincerely felicitate with you on this auspicious honour. God will give you good health to serve meritoriously."

Passion for real estate birthed Gemini Luxury Homes – Actress, Nikky Ufodu

By Ephraim Oseji

Having made a name for herself in the Nollywood circle with her exceptional role interpretation in blockbuster movies, 'Excess Luggage' and 'Banana Island Ghost', Nigerian actress, producer, Nikky Ufodu decided to test the real estate waters with the establishment of Gemini Luxury Homes. Since then, multi-business woman has stopped at nothing in adding laudable feathers to her cap.

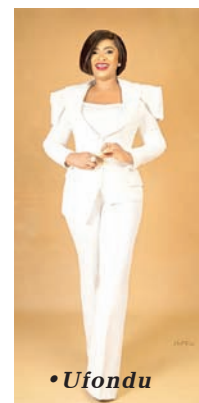
Speaking on her foray into the real estate enterprise while still in the make-belief craft, she said; "It all started when I was working on a talk show titled '24/7 with the stars', it only survived a few episodes. I had a lot of challenges and was ready to quit filming the show when I met Saheed Apampa, a Nollywood director. He spoke to me about making movies and my Nollywood journey began. I made my first movie, 'What if' in 2015 and then my journey as a movie producer and actor began. I acted in quite a few productions before I executively produced 'Excess

Luggage' in 2017, then made a couple of movies like, 'Lurk', 'Shower Games', 'All For The Money' and others. While at it, I thought of a side hustle, then the real estate idea kicked in, but I wanted to learn the business properly, so I started first as an agent."

She added; "Seeing that the returns from movie making takes a while I wanted multiple streams of income and giving that I have always had a passion for real estate, I said to myself, go into the business, learn all about it and the rest like they say is history."

Asked which is more lucrative of movie production and real estate business, she was quick to note that the real estate business pays off more. "Every business has its ups and downs, but in Real Estate its more like a win-win, because your investments tend to appreciate, though its capital intensive, you can never go wrong."

However, she corrected the impression that she had quit acting or movie production. "You sound like I left one industry for another. I'm still very involved in both industries.



•Ufodu

POLMAG

ON SUNDAY



2023 Presidency:

The many likely faces

By Bilesanmi Olalekan

AHEAD of next year's general elections, particularly the presidential election, quite a number of names are emerging as contenders on the platform of the two major political parties - the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and leading opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

While most of them are known names in the polity and have indeed contested or indicated interest in the past, especially in the PDP, events of the last years have made the infusion of fresh, young blood in the country's highest political office relevant this time around almost inevitable.

North or South

But the issue of where the next President should come from, whether North again or South, remains contentious, remains as each part adduces reasons to suit their interest even if at the expense of national interest.

APC (North)

THERE are many aspirants in the APC from the North, even though many believe there should be power rotation to the South after North's eight years of President Muhammadu Buhari by 2023.

Yahaya Bello

Those who believe the young generation of politicians should occupy the driver's seat have found a choice in Kogi State Governor Yahaya Bello.

Regarded as a beneficiary of the not-too-young-to-run agitation, Bello has emerged from the first runners-up in the party's 2014 governorship primary in Kogi to become a force to reckon with, not just in the state's affairs but also in national politics.

APC (SOUTH) Tinubu

WHAT had gone on for long as rumour was finally put to rest some weeks ago when former Lagos State governor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, formally, declared interest in the presidency after informing Buhari of his ambition during his Aso Rock visit.

Tinubu's eyes have always been on the presidency since 2015 following his failed

attempt to become Buhari's running mate. With APC candidate likely to come from the South, Tinubu is in pole position for the race to Aso Rock Villa.

With vast experience and large followership in his kitty, the chicken has finally come home to roost.

Yemi Osinbajo

FROM being a professor of law at University of Lagos to becoming the Commissioner for Justice under Tinubu's governorship in Lagos, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has attained the zenith in his chosen endeavors except in one - politics. And this he seems determined to conquer as he had done in other areas.

As a lawyer, he reached the peak of the profession by becoming a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). He is a pastor, the highest ordination in the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG). Now, he wants to conquer the political turf by taking over from his boss as President.

South-East Orji Uzor Kalu

CHIEF Orji Uzor Kalu had eyed the presidency before, and many associates look forward to the Abia State senator and two-time governor to match his words with actions and go beyond the condition of joining the race only if his party zones the position to his South-East.

Dave Umahi

EBONYI State Governor Dave Umahi had, since the beginning of his second term in office, had an eye on the presidency. And he gave enough indication of that when he defected from the PDP to the APC, citing the

former's reluctance to zone the position to the South-East as his main reason.

He appears to have taken the bold step towards realisation of that dream, zoning or not, by publicly declaring interest to succeed Buhari.

South-South Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi

MINISTER of Transportation, Hon. Rotimi Amaechi, is also rumoured to be having his eyes on the top job.

Though the former Rivers State governor is yet to make his ambition formally known, some of his supporters are already wetting the ground for him and urging him on, and his turbaning by the Emir of Dura, Buhari's hometown, has further fueled speculation that he indeed might be the President's joker.

PDP (North)

AS for the PDP, there are more aspirants for presidency.

Atiku Abubakar

INDEED, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has contested virtually every presidential election since 2007 as an aspirant or a candidate and on the platforms of at least two political parties.

Now, the Turakin Adamawa has been working underground towards realising his life-long ambition.

Bukola Saraki

FROM being a medical doctor to a banker, governor and later Senate President, Bukola Saraki has shown that he is a 'can do' personality.

But for the 'O to go' revolution in Kwara State during the 2015 general elections, Saraki would still have been holding sway

like a colossus.

Aminu Tambuwal

GOVERNOR of Sokoto State, Aminu Tambuwal, is one of those being touted as a possible candidate from the North.

His name has not left the political slate since he emerged, unexpectedly and against his party's wish, as Speaker of the House of Representatives under the Jonathan administration.

He was a strong contender and indeed the first runners-up in the PDP's last presidential primary in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, and was seen as possible winner until Atiku outsmarted his camp.

Bala Mohammed

ANOTHER name being mentioned is Bala Mohammed, governor of Bauchi State.

If anything, the former senator and Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has been a loyal party man since joining the PDP and one of those who stood to be counted when it mattered during the stalemate brought about by the ill-health and eventual death of then-President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

Rabiu Kwankwaso

WHEN it comes to experience and grassroots mobilisation, Dr. Rabiu Kwankwaso, a former governor of Kano State, has them in abundance.

His Kwakwansiyya movement is a strong force to reckon with in the politics of Kano and a major vote winner.

Kwakwanso has since voiced his opposition to the zoning of the office out of the North.

South-East Anyim

IN the last few months, former Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim has been touring the country to canvass support for his ambition to become the next President.

Relying on the need to zone the position to the South-East, which has not had a shot at it since the return to democracy in 1999, the Ebonyi State-born politician has since declared his interest publicly and received endorsement from sundry groups and individuals.

Vice President Slot

A LOT of names have been touted as possible running mate to the aspirants.

PDP

Nyesom Wike

MANY believe Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike is poised to run with Tambuwal if the North retains the presidency and the former clinches the party's ticket. But he has also said he is qualified to be President, meaning that he could give it a shot.

Ifeanyi Okowa

GIVEN his recent appearances at the national level, political analysts believe the Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta State, may be positioning as possible running-mate to anyone that emerges from the North, though the former senator from Delta North is known to be eyeing a return to the National Assembly.

Steve Azaiki

SOMETIMES, the unexpected happens in politics and even some little-known names come to reckoning at the national level.

One name in this mold is Professor Steve Azaiki. A former Commissioner and Secretary to State Government (SSG) in Bayelsa State, Azaiki currently represents Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.

He has been Chairman and Pro-Chancellor of the Niger Delta University, Amassoma. At the national level, he was a Director at the National Directorate of Employment (NDE); Special Advisor at the federal ministries of Special Duties; FCT; Police Affairs and Youth Development.

In his native Bayelsa State, he has been a power broker and a humanist, who cherishes education and using all means available to him to uplift his people.

The 'Yenagoa Boy,' who bagged the Community Service Award at the London Political Summit in October, last year, was recently elected Vice Chairman of Parliamentary Network on World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) by its Global Board.

With these feats, it is not certain if Azaiki would be available for the position as he may be aiming for other positions at the international scene.

APC

Ben Ayade/Godswill Akpabio

ON the APC platform, eyes are on Cross River State Governor Ben Ayade, and Minister of Niger Delta Affairs and former governor of Akwa Ibom State, Senator Godswill Akpabio.

2023: My development plan for Delta South —Onoyona, Senatorial aspirant

Dr. Sylvester Onoyona, real estate practitioner, who is a PhD holder in Organisational Leadership from the North Central University, United States of America, is vying for the Delta South Senatorial District, in the National Assembly. In this interview with Tunde Oso, the chieftain of the All Progressives Congress, APC unveils his plans for quality and purposeful representation by way of economic empowerment, poverty alleviation of his constituents. Excerpts:

DO you believe in the Nigerian project?

I believe in the Nigeria project with the view that there is a need for a new generation of political leaders to take the country to a state of Eldorado where the people are provided the basic things of life in shelter, clothing and food. The old political class have failed to embrace modern economic policies and thus slowed development and this factor has been militating against our national growth and development. The youths with visionary leadership mindset should be the change agents. I believe in one equitable Nigeria where justice and fairness is a common denominator. Our common wealth should be managed properly for the benefit of all.

What motivated you to join politics?

I am motivated to join politics by the poor leadership of the political class who have failed

our people in their poor representation. I have the zeal to take my constituents out of the woods of human and mental poverty occasioned by the dearth of leadership. The challenges of our people in all areas of life, with special interest in economic development and security. I am a progressive.

Rate your chances in the political terrain you are jumping into

I have an NGO called Delta Youths of Today Association that I have used effectively to reach out to the people in the areas of youth empowerment, community development and education. I am a philanthropist with no boundaries. I am the new face of Isoko and Delta politics. I have major strength in the areas of humility, courage and likability. Isoko and Delta South are looking forward to new leadership. The Delta South Senatorial seat has been dominated by one man for close to 20 years now with nothing to show for it. My project is the people's project and Isoko Development Union (IDU) has made a statement that Delta South Senate is a must for Isoko come 2023. Additionally, Isoko people have supported an Ijaw candidate throughout his sojourn in the Upper Chamber and the time has come to pay back their solidarity and support given to that man who has achieved nothing since being in the Senate. Then narratives must change this time around. The people want new visionary leadership with



•Onoyona

proper representation at the red chamber that is what I stand for. I have the overwhelming support of the leaders, women and youths.

What are those things in Delta State socio-political and economic development that you think would bring total change?

Bad and inept leadership and mismanagement of government resources if corrected would trigger change. The good people of Delta state deserve good governance that will provide economic development, attract investors to the state, create jobs and provide basic amenities and security.

How do you see Senatorial representation

in the state?

The duo of Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege and Senator Peter Nwaoboshi, have taken Senatorial representation to a new height. They have made the people know that quality representation is possible with enormous value added. Senator whom I prefer to describe as a weird personality has dwarfed his predecessor in the hallowed chamber. Through him, the people of Delta North are more united than ever before, he has pioneered development in Aniomma just like the DSP is doing with clinical efficiency in the central and beyond. He's a big value added to representation at that level.

As a realtor, what's your disposition to mass housing projects?

It is a good idea but management of such housing projects is always a problem. I prefer low income and affordable housing for all.

Do you think your party is strong enough in the state to earn you victory?

APC is getting stronger in Delta State with Senator Omo Agege as Deputy Senate president and his all-inclusive leadership role in the state. He has taken representation beyond his primary constituency for the time in the political socio-economic life of Delta state. APC has dominated Delta Central by having the senator, members of House of Representatives, minister and other appointments, which is a good thing.

APC CHAIRMANSHIP: Senator Musa's vision

AMONG the clutter of National Chairmanship aspirants in the All Progressives Congress (APC), arguably, only Senator Sani Musa, Niger East, has demonstrated single-mindedness in the pursuit of his objective which he openly began ahead of many.

At great pains to frequently explain why he wants to exit the Senate to head the party's National Secretariat, Musa is trudging on despite the challenges posed by this self-assigned political enterprise. Determined to run the race to the end, he is encouraged by the increasing prospect of his victory at the party convention.

In many strategic locations in Abuja, huge signage advertising Musa's political aspiration are in your face everywhere you turn. The aggressive marketing of his interest in the APC National Chairmanship has its own gains for a man whose popularity was previously measured with his contribution to his state and to national discourse on the floor of the Nation-



•Musa

al Assembly. He knew that a more searching probe will be carried out on his personality. On a level playing field, Musa is confident that even his most ardent opponent in the race for national chairmanship of the All Progressives Congress acknowledges that he is a bet-

ter candidate.

Before he was elected a Senator, Musa worked in the public and private sector. Since 2014, he has been one of the leaders of the APC and served as a member of the National Executive Committee (NEC) from 2019 to date. A studious look at his antecedents reveals one who is consistent. As a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, representing the good people of Niger East Senatorial District and Chairman Committee on Senate Services, he said he has had an amazing experience serving as a first term Senator.

"My interest in the chairmanship of our great party, the APC is another call to national service just like my current position as a Senator of the Federal Republic. You must bear in mind that as a Chairman of the APC I can leverage on my experience here in the Senate to push the manifesto of the party to the National Assembly more efficiently. It will also give me vantage position to deliver reconcil-

iatory leadership which the party needs now to navigate out of its present challenges," said Musa who is committed to use his leadership of the party to reinforce and keep the towering legacy of President Muhammadu Buhari.

Musa believe Mr. President has given the APC party an ideology and presence in the international community, his democratic ideals and work within the sub-region and Africa, fight against corruption and his efforts at providing security are ideals that should form the bedrock of the party's moral philosophy. Therefore, there is a need to have a leader that will continue to give full support and attention to such progressive efforts. And this is why he feels strongly about becoming the head of APC's administrative machinery. All of his efforts, he promised will be directed to support the deepening of democracy in Nigeria.

Driven by a clear vision of the direction to which he is taking the party, Musa has been canvassing the broad themes of his manifesto, which is encapsulated in the three Rs. Reconciliation, Reorganisation and Redirection.

Amaechi never betrayed Jonathan — Kebbi

By Chancel Bomadi

Comrade Douye Kebbi is an Ijaw youth leader. He is the President, Niger Delta Peace Movement, NDPM. In this interview, he speaks on the political voyage of Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, among other issues.

CAN you tell us how well you know Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi?

Rotimi Amaechi is a progressive in the politics of the nation. As a symbol of democracy, he has always displayed total commitment to the wellbeing of the masses.

Amaechi, who has held various political offices from the grassroots to national politics, no doubt, has left an indelible footprint in Rivers State, Niger Delta and the nation at large.

He is a man who speaks truth to power. He is fearless, bold and hates deception.

Can you tell us some of his achievements

as governor of Rivers State?

Amaechi performed well as Rivers State governor. When he was elected governor of the state in 2007, his administration invested massively in infrastructure. This Ubima-born politician from Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state brought transformation to the state through urban renewal and urbanization policies. He constructed roads, bridges and flyovers in the state capital, Port-Harcourt. He actualized his vision of connecting all parts of the state by road. His administration also began the construction of the monorail project to provide mass transportation in the capital city.

More so, power projects such as Afam, Trans Amadi and Onne were built to improve power supply in the state. A lot of primary and secondary health facilities were built to cater to the health needs of Rivers people. In the education sector, Amaechi employed over 13,000 teachers to ensure Rivers children were



•Kebbi

given proper and adequate education.

Rivers indigenes were granted scholarships under Amaechi. There is no governor in Niger Delta that can beat Amaechi's feat in the area of development. He is indeed a worthy son of Niger Delta who deserves accolades and more opportunities to serve the people.

What is your opinion on the political controversy that erupted between Amaechi and former President Goodluck Jonathan?

For the records, Amaechi never betrayed Jonathan. It is a wrong impression.

He was forced by the forces under Jonathan to defect to All Progressives Congress, APC. It was the only available option at the time. Even before he defected, he made concerted efforts to meet with President Jonathan but he was blocked by the same forces. He openly requested to see Mr. President but he was denied the opportunity.

More so, his love for the Ijaw ethnic group in Rivers State is not debatable. He went the extra mile to ensure an Ijaw person succeeded him as governor of Rivers State, but both that well-intentioned plan was frustrated by the same forces. If anybody says Amaechi betrayed Jonathan or Niger Delta, I would say such a person is either saying it out of ignorance or hatred. Politics is a game of strategies and interests and Amaechi has displayed his potentialities and strategies.

Omimi Daniel Esquire is a chieftain of Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in Delta State. He is a political adviser to Governor Ifeanyi Okowa. In this interview, he expresses confidence that his party would defeat the All Progressives Congress, APC, in all elections in the state.

WHAT gives you the confidence that APC will be defeated in the presidential election?

The handwriting is on the wall that APC which people thought will rescue the country has failed woefully. Both the blind and the lame have seen that President Muhammadu Buhari and his apostles of change have plunged the country deeper into misfortune, hardship and pandemic failure. What we need now is the restructuring of the econ-

2023: APC wasting its time in Delta — Omimi

omy to put Nigeria, known as the giant of Africa back to reckoning. We need radical change to put things in the right perspective.

The insecurity in the country is alarming as Nigerians are no longer safe. Most people cannot sleep with their two eyes closed. What is the solution?

Well, you have just said it all that the insecurity pervading the country is alarming. It is a sad thing that nobody is safe again even those in key positions ruling the country are panic-stricken over the increasing rate of killings of innocent and defenceless persons. However, the solution is not far-fetched. For God's sake, Nigeria needs a PDP government to rule the country. It is high

time we stop pretending. The only solution we need now is the PDP government that can right the wrong, restructure the mess put in place by the fading APC. Nigerians should come together and vote out the APC government both at the state and federal levels. Honestly, that party (APC) has failed us completely and Nigeria will be sitting on a keg of gunpowder if APC continues to rule us.

Besides insecurity, Nigerians are bleeding to death in almost all areas such as hunger, joblessness among our youths and all forms of ills presently plaguing the country. Let's come back home.

How prepared is PDP in all the elections, especially the gubernatorial ex-

ercise?

Delta is the home of the PDP and there is no vacancy in Government House, Asaba. I wish to tell whoever cares to listen that PDP is stronger and will continue to wax stronger. We don't know of any other party in Delta State besides the PDP.

You are talking confidently, what about other political parties in the state?

APC is not relevant in the state because it has no structure. It is not even known. That party can best be described as a lame duck that has nothing to offer. Remember that it is disjointed because it is a factionalized party.

From the onset, Chief James Onanefe Ibori laid a good foundation of good



•Omimi

governance. The same could be said of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa and Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan. Okowa's performance will speak for the party.

CANDIDA DIARY OF CITY GIRL

Would you confess to your friend you slept with his wife?

I'VE often warned against tempting fate. When you have a relationship and are getting on fairly comfortably with your partner, it's almost fatal to the relationship to bring in a third party to live with you under any guise. That is why, no matter how repulsive we find it, male domestics continue to dip into the same pots as their masters and male partners throw caution to the wind and pant after the maids! When Musibau came back from the US years back, the first person he got in touch with was Gboye, his friend of several years. I'd known them together even before they travelled abroad and when Musibau called that Gboye was throwing a welcome party for him, I gladly attended. Gboye's wife, Rita, and the mother of their three children, was the perfect hostess, she seemed to get on with Musibau, who she hadn't met until his return.

When I asked Musibau what his plans were and where he was staying, Gboye cut in: "The silly man went to stay in the family home until his wife joins him with their children. I've told him it was a silly thing to do. The place is a bit dilapidated and crowded. First thing tomorrow, I'm moving him into the guest room. It would be a temporary arrangement. His wife is expected in a couple of months, and, until she arrives, he has a home with us," Rita beamed her approval and, when I cornered Musibau later on and asked him of the rationale behind his moving in with a married couple, he saw no problems at all. "You

don't understand," he tried to assure me, "Gboye is not only my best mate, he's like a blood brother. We went back a long way and we'd shared a lot of things in the past. We even lived together once with our girlfriends. No problem at all," I shrugged. Who was I to put a spanner in any works? Musibau eventually moved in, and I'd seen him with his hosts at parties and they seemed to get on well.

Too well, if you'd asked me. When next I saw Musibau, it was at one of these fancy malls on the Island and he looked as if he was dying for a chat.

"Why did you warn me against living with Gboye at my welcome party?" he asked.

Well, why did he want to know now? "I think Rita has the hots for me!" he said, not at all bragging. "My friend has turned into a home body but Rita is the swinging type. Whenever Gboye refuses to go on an outing with her, she suggests taking me and Gboye instantly agrees. A couple of weeks ago, I was watching TV late in the night when she joined me on the sofa. She couldn't sleep, she said, and when the film got really steamy, she placed her hand on my thigh. 'Do you like me at all?' she asked. 'Gboye is my best friend', I reminded her. She simply got up, said good night with a full kiss on my lips! I gulped but she'd disappeared to the bedroom. From then on, she gave me knowing looks, even when her husband was around. I became nervous.



Rita is an extremely pretty woman but I have my pick of female friends. Only I dare not bring them home because of my friend - he's a married man after all. I can't wait for my wife to come back in a month's time - she'll save me from making a fool of myself. I shook my head sadly. Trying to stop a scheming woman. I warned, was like trying to stop a charging vehicle with one hand. My warning came too late. I'd heard Musibau's wife was back and I heaved a sigh of relief. At least, now, Rita would check her randy libido. "She'd already seduced me by the time my wife arrived", Musibau told me sadly weeks later when he came visiting. "You're the only one I can confide in."

"My Waterloo came the day Gboye had to travel to Abuja officially for a couple of weeks. As soon as he left, Rita virtually lunged at me. That night, she kissed me full on the lips again and I responded. She'd sent too much signal for me to remember any friendship that

existed between Gboye and I. Soon we were at it, brushing the sheets off their bed. She felt really triumphant and for the next two weeks, she couldn't keep her hands off me. I felt guilty, of course.

"Luckily, when Gboye came back, we acted normal and he didn't suspect a thing. Having gotten away with it, we grew more adventurous. We'd even had sex up against the sitting room door while Gboye slept. That way, if he tried to come in, we'd know about it first.

"But my wife smelt a rat as soon as she came back with our son. She hated Rita on sight and pointed to the fact that she was too familiar with me. She immediately arranged for us to move in with her parents. I'd earlier turned up my nose at living with my in-laws, but she threatened to tell Gboye if I refused to come with her. To be frank, I was enjoying the attention of two women but I love my wife too much to jeopardize my marriage. So, we left our hosts and I had

some peace of mind. When we eventually found a four-bedroom flat and had a house-warming, Rita brought bowls of food that my wife wanted to dump in the bin. I had to plead with her not to because of Musibau, the innocent one out of the nightmare. I thought I'd seen the end of my affair with Rita until the day she called and I told her my wife was with her parents because her aunt died.

"I was shocked to discover her at my door minutes after her phone call. When I let her in, puzzled, she started clawing at me, wanting sex. That was when I told her enough was enough. That I couldn't make love to her in my own home with photos of my family staring at me from all corners of the room. She did not understand at all. If I could make love to her in her matrimonial home, why couldn't we do the same in mine? I told her to beat it. She was so furious I was apprehensive she might do something rash.

"A few days later, I was relaxing with a bottle of beer in front of the TV when my mobile beeped a message: 'Is it true you're sleeping with Rita?' It was from Gboye. I was still deciding on what to say when he drove up - we live a few minute's drive from each other. He looked really ragged as he came in. 'How could you?', he howled, 'my best friend?' after all I did for you?"

"He plunked himself on the nearest chair, his head in his hand and he was sobbing. I'd never seen him this unhappy before. Of course, I denied everything. Who did he think I was to sleep with a friend who'd meant so much to me? Did he realize that even my wife suspected the same thing and insisted we should all stop being

so friendly. Where did he hear of such nonsense? He then showed me a message on his mobile. I went cold as I read it: "If your wife hasn't told you she's sleeping with your best friend, then you ought to know," the sender had no name. A mischief maker? My wife Relieved that it wasn't Rita that went confessing to her husband, I told him to forget the message. Had he confronted Rita? I asked him.

He said he had. That Rita was so indignant she insisted he came to me for reassurance. She even wanted to come with her husband to show how innocent she was but Gboye declined.

"Phew! To be let off the hook that easily. Gboye told me he loved his wife and children and wouldn't want his home to break. I assured him I would be the last person to do so. Didn't I also have a family I cared so much about? That sort of convinced him and I offered him a drink. I was hoping he would refuse. The state he was in, I didn't want my wife to meet him in the house. But, he took up my offer. When my wife came in, she went to the kitchen and I pleaded with Gboye not to complicate things by telling her, that we must salvage what was left of the friendship we shared, and, to my relief, he agreed.

"If only I'd listened to you when you warned me I shouldn't stay with Gboye. You know, even now when we run into each other, Rita still smirks? That girl is shameless. All I know now is that she's a nymphomaniac. If it wasn't me. It would be the next man. Only heavens know who she's currently luring into her loins..."



LOVE ZONE

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Festus 61, resides in Benin, needs a lady who can love him, for a relationship.08160279955 Kingsley 31, 5ft tall, chocolate in complexion, fun to be with, and resides

in Asaba, Delta State, needs a lady, aged 30-38, that will assist him financially for a serious relationship, only serious and matured minded lady. 09123281625

Jim 30, handsome, educated, employed and into business, needs a good looking, sexy and lovely lady, aged 18-28, for a serious romantic relationship.08102523931

Kelvin 32, needs a lady for a serious relationship

that will lead to marriage, aged 25-30.09039662303

Bethrand 33, very handsome, smart and from Anambra State, needs a very beautiful, humble God fearing lady, who is a graduate or a nurse, aged 18-29, from Enugu or Anambra State, for a relationship. 07016439402,08139568799

Jovee needs a decent employed lady, who resides in Benin City, for a relationship that will lead to marriage.08060561844

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From left: Chief Bunmi Ugo, Amuludun of Shomolu Mrs Husna Shabi-Chapman, Community Leader, Abule Oja CDA; Otunba Adebayo Adekunle, CDC Chairman Odi-Olowo; Mrs Morenike Ajose, CDA Chairperson, Abule-Oja; Mr Kola Adesina, Board Chairman, Ikeja Electric; Mrs Folake Soetan, CEO, Ikeja Electric and Engr. Hafeez Momoh, Director of Power, Lagos State Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, during the unveiling of new Ultra-Modern Shomolu Business Unit in Lagos.

UNIBEN Department of Accountancy celebrates 40th anniversary

The Department of Accountancy, University of Benin, UNIBEN, will on February 11, 2022 celebrate its 40th year anniversary.

According to a statement by the Chairman, Planning Committee of the event, Prof. Peter Ibadin and his counterpart in the Alumni Organizing Committee, (LOC), Tajudeen Akande, the event which holds at the institution's main campus located in the Edo State capital, Benin City, is expected to provide opportunities for re-uniting past and present students of the department and enable them celebrate founders of the school alongside the institution's contributions to

the community, it's environs and the country at large.

The statement explains that highpoint of event shall be the launching of alumni projects given as construction of five

lecture halls, construction of 20 Offices for professors, provision of a bus as well as conferring of Award of Excellence on deserving stakeholders.

Elder Michael Jongbo for burial

Elder Michael 'Bereola' Jongbo is dead, aged 97. Service of songs hold at St Andrews African Church, 188/190, Iju Waterworks Road, Iju Station, Lonlo Bus Stop on Wednesday, February, 9, 2022 by 5:00pm.

Wake keep and lying in state holds on Thursday, February 10 at St. Andrew's African Church, Iju Station, Lonlo Bus Stop by 5:00pm, while funeral and thanksgiving services will hold at the same church by 10:00am on Friday, February 11.

Entertainment of guests is at St. Peter African Church, Blue Roof, Ibido Street, Off Agunbiade St. Agege.



•Elder Michael Jongbo



Femi Aribisala

ARTICLE OF FAITH

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY

with Sam Eyoboka
worshiponsunday@vanguardngr.com

The blessing of forgiveness

God made a promise to Abraham: "I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2).

What exactly was the blessing the Lord promised Abraham? Was it that he would be rich in cattle and in lands and houses? If that was God's intention, what would happen to the lands and houses after Abraham died? Abraham would have to relinquish them so they would stop being blessings to him.

What difference would it make if God made Abraham's name great after he died if Abraham does not have eternal life? What does it matter if Lagos is named after you, or if you are known as the father of the Nigerian nation, if you end up in hell? Jesus asks: "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 8:36).

Blessing of forgiveness

There has to be a more fundamental blessing that God had in mind for Abraham than silver, gold, cattle, lands, or property. What is that blessing? The blessing the Lord had in mind for Abraham was to make him sinless by forgiving him his sins. Peter reveals this to the Jews after the Pentecost:

"You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up his servant Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities." (Acts 3:25-26).

God said to Abraham, in effect, the greatest

The greatest thing God has ever done for us is to forgive us our sins

way I can bless you is by delivering you from your sins. The best way I can bless you is by breaking the power of sin over your life. The best way I can bless you is by making you sinless. Thus: "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before me and be blameless.'" (Genesis 17:1).

Salvation from sin

Many of the Old Testament Jews had their own concept of blessing. They were convinced the Messiah would come to establish an opulent society on earth. They believed when the Messiah comes, he would shower them with wealth, prosperity, and unending happiness. They thought he would give them all the world's resources and positions of power. Many Christians are also schooled in these misconceptions.

However, Jesus confounded all vain expectations. As far as God is concerned, the greatest blessing he can give man is deliverance from the grip of sin through the ministry of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the angel said to Joseph: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son,

and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21).

So let me repeat my earlier submission here. What is the greatest thing God has ever done and will ever do for man? The greatest thing God has ever done for us is to forgive us our sins.

God's greatest work

God spoke creation into existence. Within seven days, he created the heavens, the earth, and all living beings. But salvation was entirely different. Salvation could not be established by merely saying: "Let there be salvation."

God had to wait for over four thousand years. And then he had to come down to earth personally in human form through the womb of a woman. Then he had to be crucified, to die and then be raised from the dead. Without a doubt, salvation is the greatest and most complex work of God known to man.

Therefore, David does not say "blessed is the man who is made the king of Israel." He says: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit." (Psalm 32:1-2).

Let me be even more categorical here. There is only one way by which God truly blesses a man: by forgiving him his sins. Without the forgiveness of sins, all other so-called blessings are baseless and practically useless.

You want to see a man who is blessed, don't ask what kind of house he has. Don't ask for his wife and children. Don't ask him what kind of job he has. Don't ask him how much he has in his bank account. Don't even ask him about his health. Ask him if his sins are forgiven. If his sins are not forgiven, every other thing is a waste of time.

Key of the kingdom

It is the forgiveness of sins that ushers a man into the things of God. It is the forgiveness of sins that brings the precious Holy Spirit. It is the forgiveness of sins that reconciles man back

to God. It is the forgiveness of sins that makes it possible for man to inherit eternal life.

If a man has all the wealth in the world but his sins are not forgiven, he is a poor man indeed. All his wealth is going to end with his death, and then he faces an afterlife of poverty, pain, and anguish.

Every blessing has its foundation in the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, everything a believer does should have its mainspring in the fact that his sins are forgiven. It must be the basis and foundation of all action in the life of a believer. It is tragic that this truth is little understood even among Christians.

The Bible reveals that God is love. But what does this mean in practical terms? For God so loved that he gave. (John 3:16). The first thing he gave was Jesus. The second thing he gave was forgiveness. The third thing he gave was eternal life.

Forgive to live

If the greatest thing God does for us is to forgive us our sins through Christ Jesus, then the greatest thing we can do for others is to forgive them their sins. It is more difficult to forgive than to give. It is so much easier to give money than to forgive others. We can give under duress. We can give even though we don't want to. But we cannot forgive by force. We can only forgive from the heart. And we cannot truly give unless we forgive.

Jesus says the extent of our love of God is a function of our appreciation of the forgiveness of our sins. Indeed, the extent of our understanding of the Christian faith is determined by our understanding of the centrality of the forgiveness of sins. Simon, the Pharisee did not understand this, therefore he despised the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with precious ointment and washed his feet with her hair.

Jesus said to him: "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:47-48).

2022 divine visitation for Nigeria positive turn-around prologue

We are rounding up our serials on divine visitation today with a special focus on Nigeria. The antecedent of Nigeria as a country; goes beyond the capacity of actors at the centre-page from one government to another. Successive governments since the country's independence in October 1960 have tried to tackle the problems of Nigeria.

They came to power, they say, they diagnosed but failed in their antidotes! Yes, they interpreted Nigeria's problems in various ways but left them unresolved. No palatable restructuring can take place, if God is not involved. Hope will continue to remain elusive, and the rising tension in every sector will be unabated until we acknowledge that Nigeria is God's project, and that God is Sovereign over all our situations and circumstances. God must visit us as a nation at this point in time for a positive turn-around. GIANT OF AFRICA INDEED? Nigeria! The giant of Africa.

The most populous black nation in the world; blessed with abundant human and natural resources. The exploits of Nigerians in various fields of endeavours are clear indicators of the richness of our nation. Unfortunately, the rate of unemployment, underdevelopment and loss of employment is alarming. Social infrastructures, education, health care and security is deplorable.

It is no surprise that Nigeria was described as the poverty capital of the world. The rate of insecurity, kidnapping, terrorism and other violent crimes is on the increase. How did we find ourselves in this mess? In spite of all these, there is a prophetic projection that Nigeria shall emerge out of her crisis unto a great nation. For this to happen; God must arise and all His



Pastor Akinola

enemies be scattered. Present day challenges to our nationhood Nigeria is a state of many nations with many diversities.

The drive to maintain a common identity and speak with one voice as the most populous country among the black race, has kept the country together, but is nevertheless beset with daunting challenges. Succeeding Governments had tried unsuccessfully to create an equilibrium amidst the crises of nationhood such crisis of identity, ethnicity, participation, distribution, religion tolerance and promotion of acceptance cultural values. However, the greatest challenge at the moment is the threat to Nigeria internal security and how to maintain peace within her diverse entities.

If other factors mentioned in the crises of Nation-Building are sometimes divisive, war against all aggressors and maintaining peace within and without is a potent unifying factor for continuity as a country. Only a resounding victory in the realm of the spirit can manifest in the physical combat operations of the Nigerian Armed Forces.

OUR POTENTIAL FOR DIVINE VISITATION

Nigeria is a nation blessed by God in several respects. With abundant natural, hu-

man and mineral resources; arguably, Nigeria is a country to beat, even by the developed world. Strong prophetic words have gone out on Nigeria since the early seventies on how the Lord is going to use Nigeria in His last days gospel mission work.

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From left: Pastor Olumide Oshunkeye; Prophet E.A. Folaranmi; Lady Evangelist Abosede Adeola Adegoke; and Pastor Sunday Ilori, at the just concluded crusade for peaceful 2023 general elections, peace and progress in Nigeria, organized by Jerusalem Nations Intercessors.

The life of the wicked after death!

AFTER death, there is life, hereafter, either in heaven or in hell. The wicked, and all the nations that forget/for-sake Jesus, the image of the invisible God, by whom all things in heaven and on earth were created, shall be turned into hell, prepared for the devil and his angels. (Colosians 1:15-16; Psalm 9:17; Matthew 25:41). Jesus says He is the way, the truth and the life, and that no man cometh unto the Father but by Him, that is, by the truth. (John 14:6). That is why all believers in Christ must come to the knowledge of the truth, if their salvation must be perfect. (1 Timothy 2:4.)

The wicked will not seek after Jesus and Jesus is not in their thoughts. (Psalm

10:4.) The wicked profess to know Jesus but in their works they deny Him. (Titus 1:16.) Sinners and the wicked are the children of the devil and the lusts of their father, the devil, they will do, and there is no truth in them, as there is no truth in their father. (1 John 3:8a; John 8:44.)

Amongst the people of God, are found workers of iniquity. (Matthew 7:23.) They say they know Jesus, and have done many wonderful works in His name, but they are liars because they do not keep His commandment. (1 John 2:4.) All these liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the sec-

ond death. (Revelation 21:8.)

Among the people of God are also found adulterers/adulteresses and idolater. (James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 10:7.)

Hell has enlarged herself to receive them, as written in Isaiah 5:12-14: 'And the harp, and the viol, the tabret and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of His hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore, hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.'

The rich man, in Luke 16:10, found himself in hell after death because of his world-

ly lifestyle of banqueting, revelling, surfeiting, and abominable idolatries, which is the lifestyle of the Gentiles. (1 Peter 4:3.)

May the Lord God, give repentance to the wicked, to acknowledge the truth about their spiritual condition, that they may recover themselves from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive at his will. (2 Timothy 2:25-26.)

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Preparation for enduring joy

Beloved, God is unveiling another opportunity for us to experience His extraordinary blessings. This time He is visiting us again with abundant of provision that will bring complete joy in our lives this year. By this visitation the traces of sorrow that have dominated our mind in this present day will become a story of the past. God is visiting to turn our sorrow to joy and through the visitation yokes shall be broken; diseases shall be cured, sicknesses shall be healed and the afflicted shall be delivered. And God shall release the dew of unspeakable blessing upon us and by extension the entire country.

Mt 4: 23- 24 says, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them"

We must understand that from the Bible days till date the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ has been a blessing. Wherever the presence of God goes, there are always testimonies to that effect just as it happened when He visited Galilee as stated in the above context. So, it is a thing of joy to state that, comes this weekend, as He pays us a visit our Sorrow shall be turned to joy. The divine visitation will bring about abundant of joy that is enduring. I am assuring you that He will turn your

sorrow to joy. Thus I urge everyone to be in attention in order to receive God's blessing comes this program titled From Sorrow to Joy. There is no doubt that after that day our lives shall never be the same again. The dumb shall speak; lame shall walk, blind shall see and the afflicted delivered.

It is no longer in doubt what our God can do. This is because testimonies are everywhere to attest to what He has done from the time of the Bible till date.

Mk 7:37 says, "And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak"

After perfectly healing the deaf and dumb, the audience that witnessed the sudden perfection declared He had done all things well. Truly from the emergence of Christ till date no one has been ascribed as doing all things well. Our Lord heals perfectly, delivers perfectly, grants perfect salvation and above all, gives perfect grace. As we honour His invitation to attend the program, He will perfect everything that concerns us in Jesus name.

The Lord will give you in this His coming, not the expectations of your fears, but the expectations of your faith. The various packages of blessing He is coming to deliver to us will not depend upon our merits, but upon His own mercy, and kind thoughts and purposes He has for His Chosen people.

So, for us to be among those He is coming to turn their sorrow to joy we must prepare to be holy. If you desire to benefit from this visitation, you must be holy. If your case is disappointment and lack of pro-

If you have been praying and have not gotten answers to your prayers, this programme is for you because God who specialises in answering prayers will answer you in Jesus name

motion, and you want to experience favour, you must prepare to be holy in order to be allowed in His presence. If you are a pertinacious sinner and are looking for mercy, He will grant your heart desire of mercy. If you are barren, prepare to be fruitful. He has given us promises to encourage us to prepare, we must therefore prepare to meet Him. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11: 28). Those who will remain in their state after His visit will have themselves to blame.

Christ is talking to you, so take advantage of this visitation and do the will of God and prosper. I am sure that comes that day



The ageless legend of the Voice of the Cross, Bro. Lazarus and his son, edifying the congregation with melody, during the last Lagos Experience.

all that constituted joy shall be your portion.

Ge. 24: 1 says, "And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things"

During the program heaven will open its gate and there shall be showers of blessing that makes rich in all things. So if you are sorrowful and have been looking for joy, this program is for you. If you are confused of where to start this year or what to do this program is for you because God will give you divine direction that will lead you to an enduring joy. If you have been praying and have not gotten answers to your prayers, this program is for you because God who specialises in answering prayers will answer you in Jesus name. God who blessed Abraham in all things shall meet you at the point of your need. You will never go the same you came. It is a known fact that all who attended the program in the past have one good thing or another to share with friends and next of kin. There are numerous testimonies that have reverberated of which the recipients are ever eager to let others hear what the Lord has done.

I don't know what the cause of your sorrow was, neither do I know how long you have been in that sorrowful condition nor the person behind your sorrow. But what I can promise you is after the program that your sorrow shall be turned to joy and you shall have no trace of it again.

God will by the pro-

gram wrought wonders in the life of people sufficient to evince that it is the Almighty God that owns the program. Greater wonders shall be wrought on men's souls because by His word and Spirit those that are physically or spiritually blind will see or be enlightened, those that are deaf to the calls of God, will be made to hear. Those that are impotent to everything that is good will by divine grace be made powerful, those also who are dumb, and know not how to speak, shall have their tongues opened to show forth His praise.

Isaiah 35: 5- 6 says, "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert"

Nobody will attend the crusade and go home the same without having his need met. The mark of sorrow that has dominated the mind of the people all the while shall end after the crusade. People's joy shall be rekindled in the area of their business, health, education, etc and the entire nation shall experience joy and peace.

So if there is any area in your life you have presented to God before and have not received an answer to it, and as a result you have lost hope even in the ability of God to do it, I want to assure you that comes this special program, you shall have victory over it. If there is

request you have made to God concerning your loved ones and have not seen the physical manifestation of the answer. Or you have been praying that God should bless you or your loved ones in a particular area and have not gotten your desired blessing, then I want to assure you that same God who brought this program, who have been blessing others in the past through this program shall give you joy in abundance in Jesus name. It does not matter how bad your situation is now, or how powerful the enemy that have hindered you from having joy may be, the fact is that this time He has assured us of joy unspeakable and He will never disappoint us.

You may have been in pain for one reason or the other and thinking that God has abandoned you because your situation looks hopeless, a new hope is coming your way. It may be the pain of stroke, it may be the pain of poverty, barrenness, lack of promotion, it may also be pain of sicknesses such as HIV, diabetes, cancer, Arthritis, etc, and you have been praying and fasting for solution but there has been no answer to your prayer. I want to assure you that this time around, my God even the God of Chosen who brought you into this world and who has seen your predicament and heard your cry and is determined to let you have the touch of His blessing now. Come and be blessed for Jesus is Lord.



Few of the US contingents giving account of the ongoing revival championed by The Lord's Chosen in America, during the Lagos Experience.



Contingents from Mali ministering to the congregation during the Lagos Experience.



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The irony of wealth

Text: 1John 2:16,17 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust thereof; but he who does the will of God abides forever".

Often times, when we have opportunities of visiting big cities and see 'big- big houses' and high rising buildings, we tend to feel the owners are some sort of special people different from the rest. But all men are equal before God though, the measure of one's blessing may be different from the other. Wealth is good and

can make one happy, and at times, answers to so many needs and wants. But the irony in wealth acquisition is that, people who have it are never satisfied with it; the more they seek and have it, the more they need it. Ask Solomon who in spite of all his wealth concluded -'All is vanity'. Pursuing wealth is like pursuing certain things that never satisfy (Prov. 30:15,16).

Three things are very important: when, how and why you make your wealth. For instance, when we say "the land belongs to the king", is that not oppression? Wealth, if care is not taken, connects

the owner to ingenuine people and unholy places. As believers and Ministers of the gospel, hope God's blessings upon you has not turned you to another thing; dining with the devil? Today's youth and preachers want to 'belong', with big titles not found, both in Jesus' days and those of Apostles. Imagine what a man had sleepless night to acquire are being spent by those who slept well? Do you know that no matter the riches, if it is ill-gotten, can fly away overnight, and the possessor may be back to square one?

In this wise, believers must be contented, looking only for how to satisfy needs and not wants. Jesus taught us to ask for our daily bread (Matt. 6:11). Let us learn to lay up our treasures in heaven where nothing can destroy it (Matt. 6:19 - 20). That is when we are truly wealthy. "We lose whatever on ourselves we spend; but have as treasure without end what ever to the Lord we spend".

RCCG visits prisons with Adeboye's birthday cake

By Sam Eyoboka

THE Redeemed Christian Church of God, RCCG, has taken time off the nationwide crusade to garner souls for Christ in preparation for the General Overseer's 80th birthday celebration in March 2022 tagged Reach4Christ to visit several prisons with birthday cake for prisoners.

The ultimate desire of the nationwide crusade which started in Ifewara in Osun State and have visited Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and several states has taken a new

dimension visiting Correctional houses with birthday cakes and other vital food items for inmates.

The team is, however, winning souls for Christ therefrom. "By the grace of God we will be visiting Ogwashi Uku Correctional Center in Delta State where prisoners are getting a copy of Daddy GO'S birthday cake.

Another team visited another correctional centre in Sapele also in Delta State. "Glory to God. Another correctional facility visited today in Sapele township.

Also to Abeokuta the capi-

tal of Ogun State maximum security prison was visited with food stuff.

#Till the entire world is reached for Jesus Christ! Another train was happy to announce the success of project kedesh to Ogun state borstal. BORSTAL HOME, ABEOKUTA VISITATION where GOD GAVE them 121 souls.

At Ibara Correctional Centre a total of 42 converts were added. "We thank God for the success of Reach4Christ Visitation to Sagamu Correctional Centre as well. God gave us 43 Souls."



The Redeemed Christian Church of God's visit to Ijebu Ode Prison. Forty three souls won for Christ.

TWOREM holds 'BOJUWOMI' tomorrow

By Sam Eyoboka

THE Way of Reconciliation Evangelistic Ministries (TWOREM) a.k.a Prophetic & Solution Chapel, Ibadan will hold the first edition in 2022 of the quarterly Holy Ghost inspired programme of Prophetic Prayer, word, Prophetic Impartations, tagged: "BOJUWOMI" (Where the Lord looks down from His throne to bless believers) tomorrow from 8:00am - 3:00pm.

Event holds at Sekunderin Miracle Prayer Mountain, Adebayi-Olode, New Ife Road, Ibadan.

To minister is the Chief Host, Rev/Prophet Oladipupo Funmilade Joel (Baba Sekunderin) and other speakers and to be supported by Music Evangelists, like Toyin Ilori (Akoko mi to), among

others.

Baba Sekunderin assured that by the absolute faith in Christ, those that attend the

Lord Chosen holds Sorrow to joy crusade

By Sam Eyoboka

THE Lord Chosen Charismatic Revival Ministries had concluded plans to hold this year's annual two-day international crusade entitled, From sorrow to joy, on Saturday and Sunday, February 12 and 13, 2022 at the Chosen Revival Ground, Along Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, by Ijesha, Lagos at 8.00 am daily

The programme which is interdenominational is inspired by the Holy Spirit to address the challenges of humanity and turn every sorrow to joy. Through this programme all the mark of sor-

row prevailing in the lives of the citizenry shall be wiped out. Subsequently, God Almighty shall cause the establishment of unspeakable joy in the heart of the participants and by extension the country. Many, who have not experienced joy, will experience it in this crusade.

By the operation of the Holy Spirit Nigerians shall be delivered of sorrow. "So if there is any area in your life that has a trace of sorrow and you have presented it to God but yet have not received answer, I want to assure you that comes this special program, you shall have joy.

2023: Your plan to destabilise our party, won't work, Lagos PDP tells APC

By Dapo Akinrefon

The Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in Lagos State, has accused the All Progressives Congress, APC, of alleged plans to destabilise the PDP ahead of the 2023 general elections saying their old ways of partnering with PDP stalwarts to thwart the party's chances at the polls is no longer fashionable.

The Publicity Secretary of the Lagos PDP Caretaker Committee, Ademola Oyede said: "We read with dismay, a press statement credited to Lagos APC spokesperson, Seye Oladejo, wherein he reacted to an interview by former publicity secretary of PDP, Gani Taofik, calling on Governor Sanwo-Olu to join

the PDP.

"One would wonder what partnership exist between the Lagos APC and the former Publicity Secretary of the Lagos PDP, Mr. Gani Taofik, who no longer speaks for the party, as it has recently become a trend for Lagos APC to consider personal opinion of an individual to mean the position of the Party.

"It's important to reiterate here that PDP is a structured political party and not a property of an individual like the Lagos APC.

"We make bold to say that we have uncovered plans by the Lagos APC and their cohorts within the PDP to push their Governor in the next election, thinking we are going to jump on him being a

sitting governor.

"Currently, Lagos PDP parades young and vibrant aspirants whose popularities have consumed that of their Governor and his godfather put together.

"We are very sure in the know of all attempts by Lagos APC to keep destabilizing the PDP as usual, but this time, their game is up.

"For the record, Gani Taofik is no longer the spokesperson of Lagos PDP, and whatever he might have said during his interview should be considered his personal opinion.

"Many would see the response of the APC spokesperson as a reflection of a party that's totally in disarray, if not who takes an opinion of a mere party member as that of the party."

Tani Series unveils "I am a Nigerian in..." book collection

By Adesina Wahab

To celebrate the strides of Nigerians in education, music, science, business and other sectors, Tani Series has released the first two books in the "I am a Nigerian in" collection written by Foluke Oyeleye.

"I am a Nigerian In..." showcases the dedication, passion, and achievement of notable Nigerians to inspire generations of Nigerian children and expand their ideas of what and who they can be.

The first two books released are "I am a Nigerian In Music" and "I am a Nigerian In Literary."

Aside from the easy-to-understand stories told with viv-

id imagery and accompanied by beautiful illustrations, the books contain additional information about places, history, and other things relating to the Nigerian culture.

Speaking about why she embarked on this project, Foluke Oyeleye said, "The seed for Tani Series was sown in my heart while I was a student at Harvard Business School. Researching and writing about Chief Timothy Odutola and his impact on the Nigerian manufacturing sector for one of my projects made me realise that I could tell the stories I want the world to read.

"I began researching and writing about the many amazing Nigerians who have

contributed to making this world a better place. As I worked on the series, I discovered more strides made by each of these amazing people than I had previously known or imagined and I wanted to tell their stories in a rich and creative way," she added.

By sharing representative stories of success and excellence, the "I am a Nigerian in..." collection will open the minds of children to a world of diverse possibilities.

Foluke Oyeleye is a creative, encourager, business and bridge-builder with a passion for serving others. She loves and believes in Nigeria, and her life goal is to channel energies to making it better.

Delta guber: Monarchs give conditions to support Ijaw candidate

By Nnamdi Ojiego

As agitation by the Ijaw ethnic nationality to produce the next governor of Delta State gathers steam, the Delta North Traditional Rulers Forum has told their counterparts from Ijaw that they would only support their aspiration if they could present a candidate who has the character and quality of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa.

The monarchs gave this condition when they played host to their colleagues from the Ijaw, under the aegis of Delta State Ijaw Traditional Rulers Forum, at the palace of the Obi of Owa, in Owa

Oyibu, Ika North East Local Government Area of the state.

Speaking on behalf of the Delta North monarchs, the Obi of Owa, Dr. E O Efeizomor, who served as Chairman of the Delta State Traditional Rulers Forum, told the visitors that their demands were legitimate but cautioned against working for politicians who do not have respect for royal fathers and traditional institutions.

He called for greater synergy and cooperation among traditional rulers to strengthen bonds of unity amongst them.

"We want a governor who will respect and support traditional rulers and the institution. So, if we find a politi-

cian who is like Governor Okowa and credible in Ijaw, we will look in that direction", Efeizomor stated.

Earlier in his speech on behalf of the Ijaw monarchs, the Chairman, Capt. Joseph Timiyan (Rtd) of Ogulagha, said the consultation visit was to seek the support of the Delta North Senatorial district and other ethnic groups to produce the next governor of the state in 2023.

He noted that despite making huge sacrifices, contributing to the socio-economic development of the state and supporting other ethnic nationalities over the years, the Izons had not been allowed to produce a governor of the state.

Only quality education can solve Nigerian's problems

— Oladipupo, Afrileam CEO

By Nnamdi Ojiego

The Co-founder/CEO, Afrileam, a technology startup, Mr. Isaac Oladipupo, has stressed that without quality education and opportunities, Nigerians would not rise beyond prejudices.

According to him, this was the reason why Afrileam made its educational mobile application freely accessible to primary and secondary school students across Nigeria and beyond.

The app, according to Oladipupo, was designed to empower teachers, schools and parents to effectively accelerate learning outcomes while allowing students to study at their own pace in and outside the classroom, via any device.

He pointed out that it was

unfair to expect a changed Nigeria without first educating Nigerians.

"Without quality education and opportunities, our citizens can't rise beyond prejudices. Sadly, our brick-and-mortar system of education is neither affordable nor sustainable. Having witnessed this firsthand in our formative years, Gabriel and I left our lucrative jobs in 2018 to solve this problem, leveraging technology.

"Our innovative e-Learning platform offers richly animated and curriculum-based video lessons, class notes, practice exercises, live classes, a personalised learning dashboard, and many more learning resources", the techpreneur explained.

Also, the Co-founder/Head of Content at Afrileam, Mr.

Gabriel Olatunji-Legend, added that "beyond helping students fill learning gaps with trusted content by expert tutors, with its several cutting-edge features, Afrileam also empowers teachers, schools and parents to effectively accelerate learning outcomes."

Founded in 2019, Afrileam empowers children ages 6 to 18 with free, fun, and world-class education for best grades in school and competitive examinations like the West African Senior School Certificate Examination, WASSCE, etc.

A statement by the company said the education streaming startup has organically reached over 486,032 learners, with more than 50,000 gamified quizzes, 5,000 curriculum-specific class notes, and over 3,000 video lessons.

Viewpoint

By Usama Dandare

The Minister of Transportation, Chief Rotimi Chibuke Amaechi, was crowned as the Dan Amanar Daura, the Trusted Laureate of Daura, yesterday, amid encomiums.

All roads led to the ancient city, the birthplace of President Muhammadu Buhari in Katsina State.

Nigeria's cream-de la-cream of politicians, socialites, academia, administrators, traditional rulers and of course ordinary Nigerians converged at the palace of the revered Emir of Daura, HRH Faruk Umar Faruk, for this auspicious epic as the Minister was lauded in traditional regalia as the first Dan Amanar of Daura.

The event dominated the airwaves, the print horizon as well as overtaken the cyberspace of the country and beyond.

AMAECHE: Dan Amanar Daura steps in

Many analysts have x-rayed the coming event and have attributed it to many elements vis-a-vis the political climate in the country

Amaechi is proving to be the colossus that he is and he is leaving no one in doubt.

Evidently, the conferment of royal titles as a mark of honour and reward for outstanding services by the aristocrats and other citizens in present day Hausa societies is one such praxis

that have held fast through the blue moon. In other words, it has become part and parcel of the Hausa Tradition to honour citizens who have shown reliability of purpose and virtuous skills in various fields of human endeavor, and Amaechi perfectly fits the match.

The loyalty of Amaechi to his Principal has never been in doubt, his penchant for the infrastructural development of the country remains unquestionable and his pan Nigerian posture is sealed and delivered by this coronation.

He is a bold, courageous and forthright leader who can take the bull by the horns and ensure the right thing is done always, a result-oriented leader with a proven track record and one among the key players that contributed tremendously to the gains recorded by the current

administration, especially in the area of infrastructural developments. He is also a strong link between the older and younger generations.

Many analysts have x-rayed the coming event and have attributed it to many elements vis-a-vis the political climate in the country. Could it be the appreciation of the people of Daura Emirate through the Emir for Amaechi's dogged effort in sitting the only University of Transportation in Nigeria on the turf of Daura or his inclusion of Daura in the nations trans international railway line that passes through Daura to Maradi in the Republic of Niger, crossing Abuja, Kaduna and Kano? Or knowing that the Emir might not have in one way or another decided on the appointment without consulting the

President being a son of the soil, is it also signaling where the pendulum may eventually swing to in who succeeds him? The university will no doubt provide employment opportunities for the people of the area and other Nigerians and is already changing the city's infrastructural and architectural looks as the landscape is fast changing positively. The president has so far maturely remained non-comitant as to endorsing anybody amongst the lot of people who have shown interest in the plum Job and Chief Amaechi has not uttered a word on whether he is interested or not albeit calls from several quarters of the country. But whatever the case may turn out to be, who the cap fits, let them wear it.

• **Usama Dandare writes from Sokoto.**

By Biyi Adebisi

LAGOS: Why Hakeem Muri-Okunola has to wait for his time

The purported move by the All Progressive Congress (APC) to replace Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu with Alhaji Hakeem Muri Okunola, current Head of Service in Lagos State, thereby restricting Sanwo-Olu's administration to just one term is, by all definition, a dangerous and unwise political move by the leadership of the party.

Although the purported move has now been dismissed by the state chapter of the APC, the step, if ever contemplated, is a patently perilous presumption that Lagos is safe for the party.

For a fact, the political stranglehold of APC on Lagos is fast loosening up, giving way to random defections of stalwarts and allies. The Lagos-4-Lagos movement is an obvious example.

Statistically, Lagos APC must be down to close to 55% of its former political strength.

Of this low following, there are those

who, on the surface, are in but who, definitely, do not wish the party well.

It is no news that leaders like former Governors Babatunde Fashola and Akinwumi Ambode as well as Dr Muiz Banire are not completely in sync with the party.

Also the division that the presidential aspiration of the National Leader of the APC, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, may throw up is difficult to calculate.

The obvious summation from all of the above is that Lagos APC is not sitting comfortably as far as victory in the 2023 governorship election in the state is concerned. Therefore any attempt to upturn the apple cart may cause the opposition in Lagos to snatch victory from the party.

True, no man is indispensable, but, unless extraordinary situations emerge, it is unreasonable to

It is politically incorrect to disrupt the administration of Sanwo-Olu who has become the poster boy of the APC administration

dismiss a winning team.

Muri Okunola is politically a neophyte.

It is politically incorrect to disrupt the administration of Sanwo-Olu who has become the poster boy of the APC administration not just in Lagos but also nationally.

The argument may be made that this same infamous act of the leadership of APC in Lagos was used

to cut short Ambode's tenure and replaced with Sanwo-Olu's. Yes, this is true. But, in fact, it was wrong then and it is wrong still. If a political party prides itself in applying wrongful and unjust practices in selecting its principal officers, at one point, that same act will become a painfully regrettable one.

Besides the very act itself is essentially a gamble. Like in all gambling, sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.

Can the Lagos APC afford to gamble and lose in this season?

If for any reason Tinubu loses out in the presidential race and Lagos is also lost to the opposition, then it is game over for this generation of APC leaders and followers.

A word is enough for the wise: Lagos APC should allow a sleeping dog lie.

The dangerous suggestion that this unnecessary proposed change is for

religious reasons should never be allowed to disrupt the unique and enviable unity and peaceful religious accord that has existed in the state and the entire South-West from time immemorial. We must, in the interest of all, perish this thought and focus on issues that can never divide us.

The unassailable fact is that Sanwo-Olu remains the best governor in the whole country even across party lines.

He has made Lagos second to none in terms of projects execution and administrative performance.

Lagos deserves the best of the best and God has divinely provided this in the person of this humble, unassuming and yet avidly assiduous man, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Lagosians should come together to support this governor to do more.

• **Adebisi is a public affairs analyst.**

By Dennis Akpotu

DELTA: Ogboru's last chance

As the year 2023 draws closer, many governorship aspirants in Delta State in the two major political parties, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and the All Progressives Congress, APC, are clandestinely working behind the clock to actualise their dreams to Government House, Asaba.

2023 is not going to be business as usual. I make bold to say that a surprise candidate may spring up. Voters in Delta have come of age, maturing with time, and they can identify the fakes from real contenders irrespective of the political parties or moneybags.

The PDP has held sway since the advent of the Fourth Republic without commensurate structures on ground compared to the huge sums of money allocated to the state.

It is high time the APC took control of the state and let's check out the difference. It will surprise the people what the outcome will be.

Despite the fact that Chief Great Ogboru had contested many times and lost, will it not be enough reason for him not to go in for the 'kill' in 2023. This might be his last chance and just probably he will get it right this time.

Ogboru is a man who never gives up on his dreams so easily. He is a dogged fighter to the core. One of the reasons he lost in the past has to do with the internal squabbles within APC in Delta which never forged a unified force to give him the necessary support. It is, therefore, no gainsaying that "a house divided against itself will fall". It is our fervent prayer that this anomaly will be rectified in 2023.

The popularity of Ogboru within Delta and beyond cannot be questioned. He has been a successful business mogul for

I respectively say that Ogboru's candidacy in 2023 is a win-win situation for the APC and Delta in general

decades. He is kind, compassionate and has sympathy for the downtrodden. With the little God has blessed him with, he touches lives. Such a personality is a huge asset to Delta. Ogboru's huge followership and popularity must be harnessed and given total support by the APC to make manifest his candidature of the party. It would be a great

miscarriage of justice if they write him off at this stage and go for a fresh candidate, who is simply going to start the process all over again.

Ogboru has a strong belief that all Deltans can shape and guide their lives according to their highest ideals, no matter how insignificant and powerless they might feel themselves to be.

He has a workable manifesto for the three senatorial districts that make up Delta. He understands the yearnings, cries and needs of the people these sundry years. More so, he is not the type that discriminates because he is deeply rooted in cultural and religious heritage while utterly opposed to all forms of social, ethnic or religious intolerance.

The force that propels him all this while is that he strongly believes Delta should not be where it presently is. It should be the "Eldorado" of Nigeria. Something is definitely not right. There is so much rot going on

beneath the bridge.

Ogboru's main goal is freeing Deltans from the shackles of poverty and deprivation.

It is not a lamentation, but a call for change.

There is no other time than in 2023 when incidentally the PDP is zoning their governorship candidate to Delta Central. Nothing stops the APC from taking advantage of this. And, too, nothing stops the APC from fielding Ogboru as its flag bearer, if only for the last time. It would definitely work out. Ogboru's wife is from Delta South while his mother is from Delta North. He definitely stands on a tripod, which should be maximally harnessed to the fullest.

I respectively say that Ogboru's candidacy in 2023 is a win-win situation for the APC and Delta in general.

• **Akpotu lives in Asaba, Delta State**

By Olusegun O. Adebayo

Amid insecurity challenges, NAF waxes stronger

Amid insecurity in Nigeria, particularly in the Northern region, the military offensive against terrorists, bandits and other criminals by the Nigerian Air Force, NAF, has increased.

The Chief of the Air Staff, CAF, is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that he repositions NAF for greater performance in the last one year of his tenure in office. Upon assumption of office, Air Marshal Amao immediately approved the implementation of the NAF paperless process automation solution. This initiative, currently at an advanced stage and the first of its kind in the entire Armed Forces of Nigeria, became necessary having observed NAF's overdependence on paper in its daily correspondences, which has negative environmental impact.

Realising that the availability of key infrastructures such as accommodation, roads and water in NAF Bases nationwide enhances morale of troops which have positive implications on NAF operational output, the CAS has given approval for the construction of Concrete Platforms for Aircraft Arrestor System for the newly

inducted JF-17 Aircraft at NAF Base Makurdi and the expansion of Military Apron and resurfacing of part of old runway and taxiway at 105 Composite G Maiduguri. The CAS also approved the construction of aircraft shelter and concrete pavement at NAF Base Bauchi and helipad at Forward Operating Base, Ogoja. These efforts are aside the over 100 blocks of different types of living accommodation at various levels of completion in NAF Bases nationwide.

The NAF, in the last one year, has invested substantially in R&D to develop unprecedented capacity to surmount current and emerging security challenges while also enhancing its operational viability. These breakthroughs were realized through the Air Force Research and Development Centre. Some of the R and D breakthroughs recorded include the refurbishment of unserviceable rocket launchers and BMGs back loaded from operations,

test firing of locally produced 18-tube rocket launchers for A-jet aircraft and the production and deployment of 30.1mm rocket to 271 NAF Det Biminingwari for operational usage. There were breakthroughs in the installation of generating system on Tsaigumi UAV, repair of quantity 2 x C-130H nose Radomes and production of a PGM prototype. These innovations have no doubt enhanced NAF's operations and reduced, to a large extent, NAF's overdependence on foreign assistance thereby enabling the country make savings on foreign exchange.

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19), NAF has airlifted several government officials, equipment, and medical supplies in response to the outbreak. The Service also ensured that its Liquefied Oxygen (LOX) plant is on 24 hours operation to ensure uninterrupted production and supply to Isolation Centers across the country. In 2021, NAF airlifted COVID-19 medical relief materials donated by the Economic Community of West African

The NAF, in the last one year, has invested substantially in R&D to develop unprecedented capacity

States (ECOWAS) and other donor partners like Team Europe, the German Government, United Nations Development Programme & Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The relief materials were airlifted from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport to 14-member nations of ECOWAS. Additionally, in line with Mr President's mandate to contribute towards winning the peace in troubled areas in the Country, the NAF has emplaced

programmes aimed at alleviating the sufferings of IDPs as well as win the hearts and minds of those affected by the activities of BHTs and other criminal activities.

In keeping with one of his key drivers which harps on purposeful training and human capacity development, the Aircraft Engineering Branch made concerted efforts to secure some foreign training slots for NAF engineers which were approved by the CAS. Other achievements include the conduct of Master Technician Course at Flight Safety International Wichita, USA, Advance Maintenance training on Mi-35P helicopter by Ukrainian Technical Team at 115 SOG, Conduct of Avionics Components Repair Course at CAOCC and NAFTRAC training of 453 aircraft engineering personnel on 13 aircraft types in the NAF Major feats were also recorded in the sustenance of platforms and equipment serviceability through innovative maintenance methods and logistics support systems.

• **Adebayo is resident in Abuja**

Continues online: www.vanguardngr.com

Viewpoint

By Raheem Akingbolu

If you ask the average cinema buff about American movie star, Channing Tatum's filmography, they will most likely tell you about his critically acclaimed and box office hits like *White House Down*, *Magic Mike*, *21 Jump Street*, *G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra*, or *The Hateful Eight*.

Many will leave out his star making role in *Step up* even though the romantic dance movie directed by Anne Fletcher was the movie that introduced him to a wide audience long before *Magic Mike* made him a household name.

Another contemporary actor who found fame and critical acclaim from starring in a dance movie would be Julia Stiles, the actress better known for her turns as Jason Bourne's love interest in the Bourne series and for starring in *Mona Lisa Smile* and *Dexter*. Many forget that she had her breakout and award winning role in the 2001 MTV produced *Save The Last Dance*.

Why are dance movies such good vehicles for achieving stardom? The answer could lie in the cocktail that it presents; dance, romance, drama and what millennials would call vibes.

Usually populated with a cast of good looking characters with a fast paced story line that helps propel the dramatic elements of the plot, the movies are usually about love and aspiration with the main protagonist and antagonist often battling either for a girl or

Globacom ...using dance to fulfill brand promise



rhythmic ascendancy. Cue contemporary sounds and thumping beats and you have yourself a heady cocktail that young people are always drawn to.

This is what Globacom, the telecommunications powerhouse is hoping to achieve with its sponsorship of the reality TV show, *Battle of the Year Nigeria*, a dance contest featuring young Nigerians hoping to battle each other as they dance their way to mega millions while having fun and keeping out of trouble.

The company has described the reality tv show as "a fast paced, action packed show where the best dance crews and individuals in the country go head to head and battle each other to see who will represent Nigeria in the international Battle of the Year competition."

While the "Battle of the Year" dance competition has been running for over

10 years on the global stage with Nigerian dancers and crews attending, this is the first time a reputable and proudly Nigerian company like Globacom is putting its weight behind the competition and bringing it to the mainstream.

The company's participation is in no way tokenistic because Globacom has consistently been recognized as a foremost promoter of entertainment in Nigeria based on its support for entertainment projects including *Glo Naija Sings*, *Dance with Peter*, *Glo X-factor* as well as flagship shows like *GloLaftafest*, *Glo Campus Storm* and *Glo Music Fiesta*.

In a press statement announcing the premiere, Globacom said it was sponsoring the competition to help young talented Nigerians unleash their potentials. "The array of Nigerian talents we have seen has been nothing short of exceptional and we are excited to show the world the quality of dance talents and entertainment Nigeria has. We are confident that with the unlimited talents on display, the viewing audience will be in for an exhilarating experience. We urge them to get the GloTV app on myglotv.com and watch the talents dance their way to mega millions."

While many would argue that dance is age agnostic the fact still remains that the young are better suited to rigorous dancing like break dancing, krumping or locking which feature in the competition. Imagine your Uncle

Kunle doing a head spin or a flare? You get the picture.

Launched on October 13, 2021 and with auditions concluded in Kaduna, Abuja, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Benin and Lagos, the *Glo Battle of the Year Nigeria* reality tv show premiered yesterday Saturday February 5, 2022 on GloTV, the company's mobile streaming app and will run over 13 episodes.

With Award-winning On-Air Personality (OAP) and actor, Do2tun as host, the *Glo Battle of the Year Nigeria* will chronicle the journey of young and able bodied Nigerians leveraging Globacom's unlimited brand promise to unleash their potentials and achieve their dreams of wealth, stardom and global domination.

The first 11 episodes including the premiere episode capture the thrills, drama, back stories, dance floor theatrics as well as the joy of qualification and pain of disqualification as the dancers battle through to the regional qualifiers. Episode 12 and 13 would be live episodes featuring the semi-final and final events in Lagos as the judges observe and pick a winner in each battle category. The ultimate winner will go on to represent Nigeria at the international Battle of the Year competition in Japan.

As the competition progresses, the participating dancers will receive support and mentorship from seasoned

and award winning dancers like Poco Lee, Pinky Debbie, Izzy Odigie, Big Flo, Maxbuck, Dunamis, Franc Okwara, JC Jedor, Poxo (Cameroon), Gidnasty (USA), Menno (Netherlands), and Manuela (Germany)

Whoever emerges winner of the *Glo Battle of the Year Nigeria* competition will be walking in the footsteps of legends. This may not seem immediately obvious but Nigeria has produced world beaters in the world of dancing.

Google the names, Charles Hopst or Isaac Chinagorom and you will begin to understand the importance of Globacom putting its weight behind this competition and helping mint new stars of dance. Hopst (died in 2015) and Chinagorom gained fame and national prominence as winners of the defunct John Player Gold Leaf Dance Champion. Chinagorom represented Nigeria at the 1984 World Disco Competition in London before parlaying his new found fame into a successful music career.

In a recent interview with *The Nigerian Voice*, Isaac Chinagorom spoke about the evolution of dance in Nigeria. According to him, "when I was dancing, there was no money. I danced all over Europe and America but I was broke..."

With Globacom promising mega millions for the winners of the *Glo Battle of the Year Nigeria* this is one complaint they will not be making.

**Akingbolu lives in Lagos.*

By Uzoalu Odili

THINGS are getting in place towards determining who succeeds Dr Ifeanyi Okowa as Governor of Delta State come 2023. First, with the rotation gone full circle, the pendulum is swinging steadier to Delta Central.

Secondly, in line with Governor Okowa's advice, the DC-23 has pruned down aspirants from the zone from 12 to five and hoping to further scale down to three.

The job has however been made easier by the statewide acclaim of David Edegbie within the PDP, outside the PDP, among youths, women folks, public servants, students and local folks, as simply the best. The excitement over Edegbie ranges from his sound education, experience, proven capacity with track records, candour and charisma as a politician cum technocrat.

A graduate of economics from University of Lagos with MBA from Cardiff School of Business, University of Wales, and further learning in Investment and Development Finance at the world renowned Harvard Business School, he cut his teeth at the globally reputed Barclays Bank, London, and grew to top Investment Executive at Hill Samuel Bank from where he was snatched by the Commonwealth Development Corporation as Investment Officer for Asia and the Pacific, a position by which he

DAVID EDEGBIE: Simply the best to succeed Okowa

contributed to the economic and social development of such nations as Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong and the rest of the Asian Tiger countries.

It was in recognition of these qualities

He has left no one in doubt about his preparedness to usher in the modernisation of the state

that Governor James Ibori appointed him Commissioner of Finance in 1999 through 2007, to help establish the foundations of Delta State's development journey. It was in same recognition of capacity, professionalism and invaluable contributions that Okowa chose him as Commissioner for Finance in his first term and Chief of Staff in his second term.

While he has contributed immensely in managing the development of the state and the agenda of the various administrations, the assignments accorded him the opportunity to better

understand the development potentials, prospects and challenges of the State.

More than any of the aspirants, he knows best where Delta is coming from, where Delta presently is and where Delta is aspiring to in economic and infrastructural development, social services, the yearnings of various communities across the state, funding requirements and the means to achieve them.

His experience in public service is not limited to Delta State. He was the Director of Finance and Strategy for Late President Umaru Yar'adua's election and as a result of the excellent discharge of his duties, the President chose him as his Principal Secretary to replace his Chief of Staff and thus, to supervise and co-ordinate the policies, projects and programmes of his administration.

Edegbie worked assiduously at the Presidency to achieve the creation of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, the activation of the Amnesty Programme which has ushered relative peace in the Niger Delta, and the invigoration of the Niger Delta Development Commission. He was also the frontrunner for the actualisation of the 13% derivation, a commitment for which all Niger Delta States remain grateful to him.

Okowa's words, "He is one of the most hardworking, charismatic and

disciplined political office holders in the country.

"David Edegbie has continued to offer genuine leadership at various levels of governance...By dint of hard work and discipline, you have continued to carve a niche for yourself by maintaining a charismatic and untainted leadership style that has endeared you to many Deltans and Nigerians. Your commitment to doing things differently as it is done in developed climes are some of the worthy and commendable traits that have exemplified your service over the years," Governor Okowa said of him.

No other aspirant matches that description nor the educational credentials, professional experience and national and international experience and contacts in corporate and public service which Edegbie brings.

It is unimaginable, indeed impossible, that Okowa with his passion for the development of the state and the leadership of the PDP for the pride and glory of the party, would ever contemplate substituting such hybrid to offer Deltans less.

The people are already in agreement that, at this point, Edegbie is best positioned to carry on with the development agenda of the state as set out by Governor Ibori, accentuated by

Governor Uduaghan with his Delta Beyond Oil initiatives and deepened by Governor Okowa through his SMART agenda.

He has left no one in doubt about his preparedness to usher in the modernisation of the state into the realities of the 21st century and the expectations of the millennials.

In politics however, there must be naysayers who feel they can only benefit by mortgaging the overall interest of the people for their selfish ends, notwithstanding their insignificance.

Among such is those who accuse Edegbie for contesting against Okowa in the 2014 primaries for a tenure seen as the turn of Delta North.

Suffice to say that Okowa has pointed out that rotation was at best an unwritten agreement. This underpinned his entry into the contest as did others from the three Senatorial Districts in the 2006 primaries.

For Edegbie, people contest for different reasons including to announce their name, test their popularity or to negotiate for appointments but, no matter the contestants, the PDP leadership has always resolved in favour of rotation to the deserving zone, to maintain equity, justice and peace.

**Odili, Aboh born entrepreneur, is resident in Ogwashi-Uku*

*Continues on:
www.vanguardngr.com*

By Chijioke Nwachukwu

HON. Rotimi Amaechi, Minister of Transportation, was turbaned as the Dan Amanar Daura, yesterday, at the palace of Daura by Alhaji Faruk Umar Faruk, the 60th Emir of Daura.

The turbaning ceremony was earlier scheduled to hold on Saturday, February 27.

The event is significant in many respects. First, it is in recognition of the contributions of Amaechi to the socioeconomic development of Nigeria and, in particular, the emirate of Daura in his capacity as Minister of Transport. The establishment of the University of Transport in the ancient city by Amaechi was a strategic step in itself.

Daura has not got its fair share of federal presence when compared to similar cities in the North.

The choice of Daura for the first specialised university for transport in Nigeria and indeed Africa is a good turn that surely deserves another.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), the contractor in charge of the project, has already begun construction works

DAN AMANAR DAURA TITLE: An emirate's audacious political statement

on the 413 hectares of land in the city, near the Niger border. The construction giant has also pledged to bear the \$50million cost of the project as part of its corporate social responsibility. It is expectedly delighting for the people of Daura that the work scheduled to be completed within 18 months would also be commissioned by this administration in record time.

Apart from the job opportunities it offers the people of Daura and environs and indeed the nation at large, the university is expected to produce managers and technicians for Nigeria's rapidly growing rail and road networks. Without doubt, Katsina and indeed the northwest, is reckoned as a catchment area in such venture. The conferment of the title on the Minister could therefore be seen as a gesture of appreciation.

But then, observers may argue, and rightly so, that the conferment of the 'Dan Amanar of Daura' title on Amaechi, a Nigerian of South-South origin at a time like this goes beyond a mere gesture of a returned gratitude. It borders on the knotty issue of Buhari

The construction giant has also pledged to bear the \$50million cost of the project

successor in 2023.

Remarkably, political gladiators have since been forming alliances in their quest to position themselves for the plum job of Nigeria's President. Notably, All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwarts like Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and Amaechi are believed to be eyeing the job. Indeed, Tinubu has made his intention known. There are also former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State and former Senate President Anyim Pius Anyim, all of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who have shown interest.

But the turbaning of Amaechi as Dan Amanar Daura has raised a critical issue of trust in leadership. For some watchers of political events, it is an audacious statement on where the sons and daughters of Daura, including President Muhammadu Buhari stand on the 2023 presidential election. In his recent interview on Channels TV, Buhari had been pointedly asked to give an insight into his successor. One of the interviewers sought to know the President's preferred candidate for the 2023 presidential election. The question clearly caught the President off guard. The event of February 5 in Daura may have inadvertently revealed what Buhari was trying to conceal when he said: "I don't have any favourite for 2023 and if I do, I won't reveal his identity because if I do, he may be eliminated before the election. I better keep it secret". The title Dan Amanar Daura gives a clue.

With the coronation of Amaechi, only a few would now be left in doubt as to where the President stands on the matter of his successor.

The turbaning is an endorsement - a

loud and eloquent statement on where the current ruling northern establishment stands as far as the 2023 presidential election is concerned. Like in all democracies, it is logical to assume that there are dissenting voices based on individual, group or class interest. The North, with its huge and diverse population, has divergent positions which are expected in a multi-party democracy, but, as often demonstrated, the interest of the ruling northern elites always finds convergence on how and who could best protect the interest of the North based on trust.

Recent developments within the APC vis-a-vis the revised amendment on the Electoral Act, among other political moves, suggest that Buhari holds the yam and the knife on matters relating to the party's presidential candidate for 2023. His choice is likely to weigh heavily on the side of trust.

**Nwachukwu lives in Owerri, Imo State*

*Continues on:
www.vanguardngr.com*

CAF president visits families of victims of Olembe stadium crush

CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe has visited the homes of the families of the victims of the tragic stampede at the Olembe Stadium which occurred during the Africa Cup of Nations match between hosts Cameroon and Comoros on Monday 24 January.

Dr Motsepe, who was accompanied by Cameroon Minister of Sports and President of COCAN, Professor Narcisse Mouelle Kombi, visited several homes in Olembe, Nkolbisson, Simbock and Biyem-Assi where he met and engaged with the bereaved families.

During his visits, the CAF President told the families:

"We cannot feel the same pain as you but we have come to offer you the condolences and solidarity of the entire African football family and CAF. In our Bantu tradition, which is part of the tradition of many African countries, we are going with the government to see how we can stand by you in this difficult ordeal because you must not be alone."

Dr Motsepe was also joined by CAF Vice-Presidents Ahmed Yahya, Seidou Mbombo Njoya, Kanizat Ibrahim, as well as Secretary General Véron Mosengo-Omba.

A day after the tragedy, the Secretary General and then President Motsepe visited the injured in hospitals of Yaounde.



*Motsepe

TSG scores AFCON high

Members of the CAF Technical Study Group (TSG) hosted a press conference last Friday at Ahmadou Ahidjou stadium in Yaounde to share their opinion on the technical level of the ongoing 33rd edition of the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations, Cameroon 2021.

For Jamal Fathi, this AFCON was of a good level. "We have seen some very good matches, especially with the participation of some minnows, even if now there are no more small teams in Africa, due to the experience acquired by their players either in the various local championships or even of their Europe-based players" indicated the former coach of Morocco's Raja. "We noticed teams like Comoros or Gambia who knew how to emerge during this TotalEnergies AFCON," he added.

"I can tell you that AFCON competes with other international competitions like Euro, Asian Cup or other tournaments. The African teams are now of an international level," concluded Fathi.

Asked about high level of goalkeepers during the tournament, former Senegal star Khalilou Fadiga explained "the goalkeepers have been

highlighted since the start of the tournament. Currently, they are an integral part of their teams, and they must be put forward when they deserve it. For this reason, we have elected several goalkeepers as TotalEnergies Man of The Match in many matches".

Abraham Mebratu, former Ethiopia and Yemen coach echoed Fadiga and said goalkeepers are now part of every coach's tactical scheme. "The goalkeepers have become complete players now. We can count them as the last defender and the first attacker."

When it comes to the new tactical themes used by coaches, TSG members highlighted there are no more old-fashioned playmakers in modern football. "During the tournament, we noticed a change in the tactical plans of different teams, particularly the absence of the traditional No.10," explained Edgar.

The former Ugandan midfielder added "coaches are currently choosing to set the midfield to play in the form of offensive or defensive blocks. The new trend is to have more realism offensively and defensively with a balance between the different compartments."

KTM Foundation inaugurates committees for maiden Kwara State schools track cycling championship

Cycling is set to take a new leap in Kwara State as the Director General of Khadijah Toyin Musah (KTM) Foundation, Dr. Khadijah Toyin Musah on Friday inaugurated the sub-committees for the maiden edition of the Kwara State Schools Track Cycling Championship.

The inauguration ceremony which held at the conference room of the Kwara State Sports Commission heralded the championship aimed at raising formidable cycling talents across the nooks and crannies of the Harmony State.

Speaking at the event, the Director General of KTM, Dr. Khadijah Toyin Musah stated that the initiative is a by-product of her organisation's resolve towards engaging the youth productively while also discovering the talents that abound in the State.

Dr. Musah, who is also a Board member at the Cycling Federation of Nigeria (CFN) noted that "this

championship which will feature all the public and private schools across the State, will further enhance the development of cycling as a sports and help young cyclists maximise their potentials".

While appreciating the willingness of the Heads of sub-committees which was inaugurated to work for the success of the ground breaking initiative, she expressed her optimism in their qualitative and professional services towards delivering a championship of repute.

In his own remarks, the Executive Chairman of the Kwara State Sports Commission, Coach Bola Magaji who was represented by the Facility Manager at the Kwara State Stadium Complex, Wale Obalola commended the organisers of the programme and assured them of his support.

The championship has been scheduled to hold on February 25-26, 2022 in Ilorin.

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Coach: Lesson from Senegal

In about 14 hours time, the grand finale of the 2021 AFCON will commence. And the battle for the coveted trophy is between two strong forces in African football, the Pharaohs of Egypt and the Teranga Lions of Senegal.

Incidentally, both teams parade two of the best players Africa has gifted to Europe and the English Premier League, particularly Liverpool FC, Mohammed Salah for Egypt and Sadio Mane for Senegal.

Ironically the manager of Liverpool FC, Jurgen Klopp, apparently unhappy that he would be losing two of his most reliable players to the AFCON in Cameroon, described the competition as being of little importance. He has however, denied belittling the competition after he received a barrage of attacks from Africans who labelled him a racist for the comment.

While Egypt have a better pedigree in the competition, haven't won it more than any other country on the continent, seven times, Senegal are yet to register their name on the trophy even though they have reached the final thrice. Egypt have not been too impressive in the competition of late. In fact they were knocked out at the round of 16 at the last edition which they hosted in 2019.

Senegal were close to winning their first trophy in Egypt but lost to Algeria in the final. Will they allow the trophy slip through their fingers a second consecutive time?

Both sides were not too impressive at the group stage of this tournament but somehow improved with every game.

Judging by statistics, Senegal look more lethal in front of goalkeepers, with nine goals to their credit against four for Egypt. Both sides have compact defence. Senegal have conceded two goals while Egypt conceded only one at regulation time.

Apart from the strength of the players, the tactical approach and the technical depth of the coaches may make the difference today. Unfortunately for Egypt, their coach, Carlos Queiroz who was sent of the bench during the semi-finals against Cameroon will not be available to guide them.

Majority of Nigerians I have listened to are rooting for Senegal to beat Egypt. Not for any reason other than they want a new winner outside the traditional 13 former champions.

However, two major lessons from the Egyptian and Senegalese sides for our football administrators could be drawn from the two coaches of the sides.

Since those in-charge of our football have love for foreign coaches, they should look for ones that are tactically and technically sound like Egypt's Queiroz and not the ones whose approach to games is capable of causing hypertension to fans.

They could also learn from Senegal to believe in our local coaches. The Senegalese FA believes and trust Alou Cisse and have left him in the saddle for close to seven years. Though they supported him with a foreign hand, they kept him in-charge as the head coach.

That is why the NFF who, are being rumoured, want to bring Emmanuel Amuneke to support Austin Eguavoen, should leave Eguavoen, with Amuneke as back up, to handle the two legged World Cup play offs against Ghana.

Thereafter they may decide to stick with the local crew or seek a foreign coach they think can make the Super Eagles a better brand. Never should the NFF impose on our national team a coach with Gernot Rohr's pedigree.

Man United's Elanga suffers racial abuse after penalty miss

Manchester United forward Anthony Elanga was racially abused on social media after his penalty shoot-out miss against Middlesbrough on Friday night.

Elanga struck his spot-kick over the bar to seal an 8-7 shoot-out success for the Sky Bet Championship side in the FA Cup fourth round clash at Old Trafford.

Aberdeen striker Jay Emmanuel-Thomas was among those to highlight the abuse suffered by Elanga on Instagram in the aftermath of the defeat.

The teenager received a number of racist comments on his latest post on the social media platform. The PA news agency has contacted Kick It Out and Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, for a response.

Elanga, 19, has made nine appearances for United this season and scored one goal.

United team-mate Marcus Rashford, who was subjected to online racist abuse after missing a penalty in England's Euro 2020 final defeat to Italy last summer, offered his support to Elanga, who was consoled by team-mates on the pitch after the match.



*Elanga

Predicting AFCON's final is a hard call — Fawaz

Mimi Fawaz is a sports journalist who is covering the Africa Cup of Nations for BBC Focus on Africa and BBC Sport. She has been in Cameroon since the commencement of the 33rd Africa Cup of Nations, AFCON 2021. In the course of her assignment, she has traversed the entire country, moving from one host city to another and has been stunned by the high level of competition witnessed in this edition of AFCON.

"It's been very enjoyable," she said, when asked about her impression, so far. "The tournament has been full of surprises, suspense, and very unpredictable. And that makes it exciting. Underdogs made a very strong statement here."

Fawaz said while debutants, The Gambia and Comoros Island were having a wonderful tournament, pulling fantastic but unexpected results, erstwhile defending champions, Algeria were anonymous. "Algeria as defending champions were tipped as one of the favourites. They came to Cameroon as Arab Cup champions, with the longest winning streak of 35 matches but had the worst tournament," she recalled.

Of all the teams tipped as favourites, only Senegal and, to some extent, Egypt stood the test of time. Incidentally, the two countries have the best two African players today in Sadio Mane and Mohammed Salah. While Mane and his Lions of Teranga will be seeking their first continen-

tal title, Salah and the Pharaohs will be seeking a record-extending 8th title.

"It's a difficult one to call." Fawaz said, when asked to predict the outcome of today's final between Senegal and Egypt. "Previous predictions have turned out to be useless. This is an encounter involving two of the biggest names in football and they are teammates at club level. Senegal will be seeking their first title, in their second consecutive final (three overall).

If they win it, they will be worthy champions. Egypt are trying to extend their record. But for Salah, it will be more than that. If he wins it, he would have sealed his status as an all time great in Egyptian football folklore."

Generally, she said AFCON has been an unforgettable experience for her as she has made friends with colleagues from other countries, football fans and locals. "It's been a wonderful experience," she enthused.



*Fawaz

Remembering

Aminasoari Kala Dikibo

My Leader,

Evil minds plotted and executed you in cold blood on your way to Asaba on this day 18 years ago. The welfare of the people of Niger Delta was the reason for your mission. Our people lost a champion; Nigeria lost a courageous politician.

The assassins think they have covered their tracks. No, they can't hide the truth for too long because the eyes of the Almighty God are everywhere and time does not run out on Him.

Dede Uku, your life continues to inspire us to seek a better world for our people. Your memory and legacies will never die.

Your vision endures.

May you continue to rest in the Bosom of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

James Onanefe Ibori
Governor, Delta State 1999 - 2007



Aminasoari Kala Dikibo
(of Okirika War Canoe House, Seminabo 1st of Okirika)

SUNDAY

SPORTS



TODAY'S MATCHES

AFCON		
Senegal	v	Egypt 8pm
Ligue 1		
Lorient	v	Lens 1pm
Nice	v	Clermont 3pm
Reims	v	Bordeaux 3pm
Strasbourg	v	Nantes 3pm
Troyes	v	Metz 3pm
Rennes	v	Brest 5pm
Lille	v	PSG 8.45pm
Bundesliga		
Dortmund	v	Leverkusen 3.30pm
Wolfsburg	v	Greuther F. 5.30pm
Serie A		
Atalanta	v	Cagliari 12.30pm
Bologna	v	Empoli 3pm
Samdoria	v	Sassuolo 3pm
Venezia	v	Napoli 3pm
Udinese	v	Torino 6pm
Juventus	v	Verona 8.45pm
LaLiga		
Valencia	v	R/Sociedad 2pm
Barcelona	v	Atle. Madrid 4.15pm
R/Betis	v	Villarreal 6.30pm
Real Madrid	v	Granada 9pm
CAF Confed Cup		
Kabylie	v	Leopards 6pm
NPFL		
4pm Kick-off		
Kwara Utd	v	Lobi Stars
MFM	v	Akwa Utd
Tornadoes	v	Katsina Utd
Plateau	v	Rivers Utd
Remo Stars	v	Shooting
Sunshine	v	Enyimba
Wikki	v	Rangers

AFCON 2021: Senegal v Egypt: Fireworks in Yaounde as Mane, Salah seek Nations Cup glory

It's time for the big finale! Senegal takes on Egypt this evening at the Olembe Stadium, Yaounde for the biggest prize in African football, the AFCON trophy. There will be a lot of fireworks as Liverpool superstars Sadio Mané and Mo Salah square up on the pitch for the final showdown of the 33rd

Africa Cup of Nations, here in Yaounde, Cameroon. Following a shootout win against Cameroon in the semi-finals, Egypt have sailed through to the

final for yet another year. They'll be locking horns with Senegal, who will be looking to make up for their defeat in the 2019 final by finally bagging their first Afcon trophy. Head-to-Head Senegal and Egypt have met twelve times across all competitions. The Pharaohs have won a total of six wins from twelve games as opposed to Senegal's four, while two matches ended in a draw. Egypt also have the upper hand when it comes to the Afcon tournament, having lifted the trophy a record seven times. Mo Salah and team will be aiming for yet another win, although they'll have to make do without their coach Carlos Queiroz following his suspension in last Thursday's semifinal match against Cameroon. Senegal on the other hand have yet to win the Afcon Cup, coming close in the last edition but losing 1-0 to Algeria. They'll be looking to make up for the loss with a win against the strongest team in Afcon history. Throughout the Afcon 2021 tournament, the Lions of Teranga have shown an amazing display of football, dominating their group stage and knockout round, blazing all the way to the final. They're currently in top form and boast an outstanding defence as well as offence game. Egypt on the other hand have failed to live up to expectations and will need immense teamwork to defeat a tough opponent this year.



RESULTS

AFCON			
Burkina Faso	3	Cameroon	3
Penalty	4		5
EPL			
Burnley	0	Watford	0
Ligue 1			
St. Etienne	3	Montpellier	1
Bundesliga			
Arminia	1	Mo'gladbach	1
Aursburg	2	Union Berlin	0
FC Koln	1	Freiburg	0
Mainz	2	Hoffenheim	0
Stuttgart	2	E/Frankfurt	3
Bayern	3	RB Leipzig	2
Serie A			
AS Roma	0	Genoa	0
Inter	1	AC Milan	2
LaLiga			
Elche	3	Alaves	1
Mallorca	2	Cadiz	1
Celta	2	Vallecano	0
NPFL			
Abia Warriors	1	Nasarawa	1
Dakkada	1	Kano Pillars	0

Man United's Elanga suffers racial abuse after penalty miss

CAF president visits families of victims of Olembe stadium crush



FA Cup: Chelsea survive Plymouth scare, win 2-1

Plymouth's Ryan Hardie missed a penalty late in extra time as Chelsea survived a huge scare to beat the League One side in the FA Cup fourth round. Macaulay Gillesphey's early header from Jordan Houghton's cross sent the 6,000 travelling Argyle fans into delirium. Chelsea deservedly restored parity through Cesar Azpilicueta's delightful flick late in the first half. Marcos Alonso put the Blues ahead in extra time before Kepa Arrizabalaga saved Hardie's tame spot-kick. After registering 41 shots and 20 corners, Chelsea were worthy victors but were pushed all the way by a resilient, hard-working and courageous Plymouth outfit. Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel was missing from the dugout after testing positive for Covid-19 on Friday, with assistant Arno Michels taking charge at Stamford Bridge.

... As Klopp says either of them'll be sad today

Liverpool manager, Jurgen Klopp has told Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mané that one of them will experience sadness at full-time as Egypt face Senegal in the 2021 AFCON final today in Cameroon. Klopp said this at his pre-match news conference prior to Liverpool's FA Cup fourth-round encounter against Cardiff City on Sunday. "Great achievement for both [Salah and Mané] getting through to the [AFCON] final," Klopp said. "It won't be easy because one will be really happy afterward and one less so. It's a chance to achieve something really big." On whether Salah and Mané will be available for Liverpool's Premier League fixture against Leicester on Thursday, Klopp added: "I think they will be available, but we will see."

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12				13
	14			
				15
17		18	19	
20			21	

ACROSS	DOWN
1) Vice Chairman, Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area in Lagos State, Mrs. Maureen Chika_(6)	1) Anambra State Capital(4)
4) Rivers State Governor, Mr. Nyesom_(4)	2) Australian Suburb(9)
6) Ebonyi State Capital(9)	3) Enquire(3)
10) Insect(3)	4) Swiss City, Municipality and District Capital(3)
11) Mexican River(7)	5) Local Government Area in Lagos State(3,3)
12) Former German National Coach, Joachim_(3)	7) Country Manager, AS Roma Football Academy, Mr. Robinson_(7)
13) English River(3)	8) Head of Public Affairs, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Mr. Kayode_(7)
14) Autonomous Community in Delta State(7)	9) Local Government Area in Kogi State(9)
15) Hebrew Alphabet(3)	12) Zambian capital City(6)
17) Former Head of Communications and Branding, Pensions Fund Operators Association of Nigeria (PenOp), Mrs. Amaka_(4,5)	16) Super Eagles Striker, Ahmed_(4)
20) Senator representing Adamawa North Federal Constituency, Senator Elisha_(4)	18) Ethnic Group in China(3)
21) President, Nigerian Bar Association of Nigeria (NBA), Mr. Olumide_(6)	19) Former Bangladesh Prime Minister, Mrs. Khaleda_(3)

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