

# Injunctive orders against Obaigbena, GHL, others stay — FBN COUNSEL



SIX of the injunctive orders made by Justice Dipeolu J on December 30 last year

against General Hydrocarbons Limited (GHL), publisher of This day, Mr Nduka Obaigbena and other directors of

the company, were not discharged yesterday by the judge, contrary to claims by GHL. What the court discharged,

according to counsel to First Bank, are two of the eight injunctive orders. Both are Mareva orders.

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•Olusegun Alebiosu, CEO

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# Vanguard

...towards a better life for the people

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

N250

## How FG botched trial of 888 terror suspects — BABADOKO, DPPF

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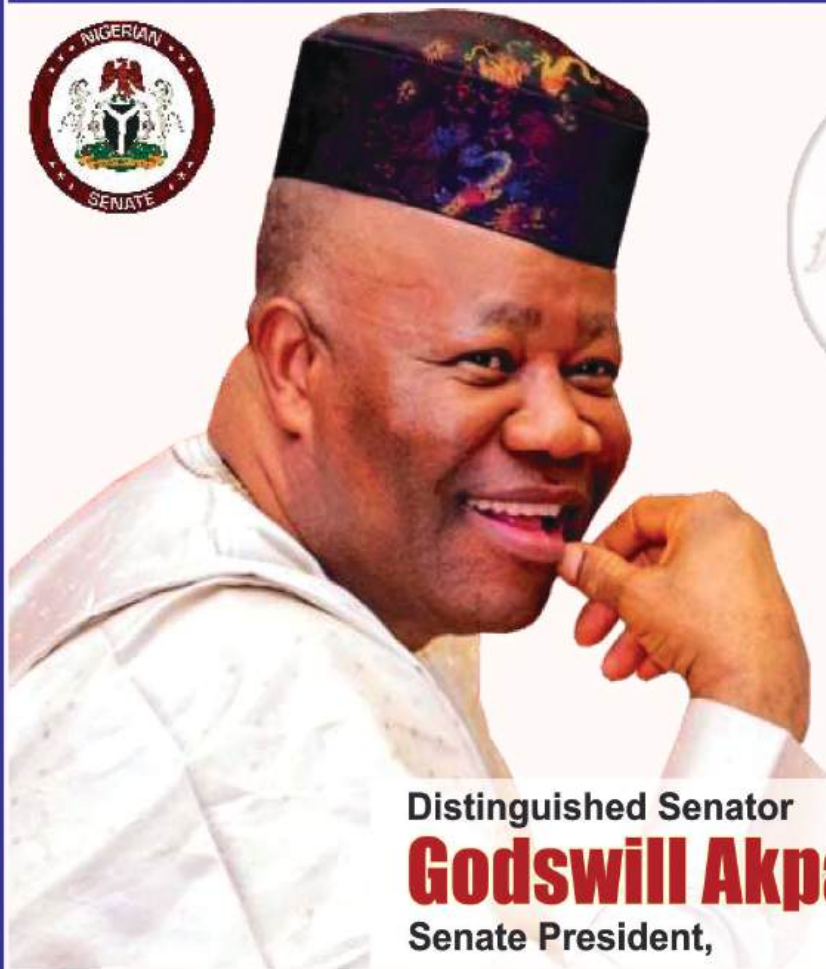
## GHL floors First Bank in court

31

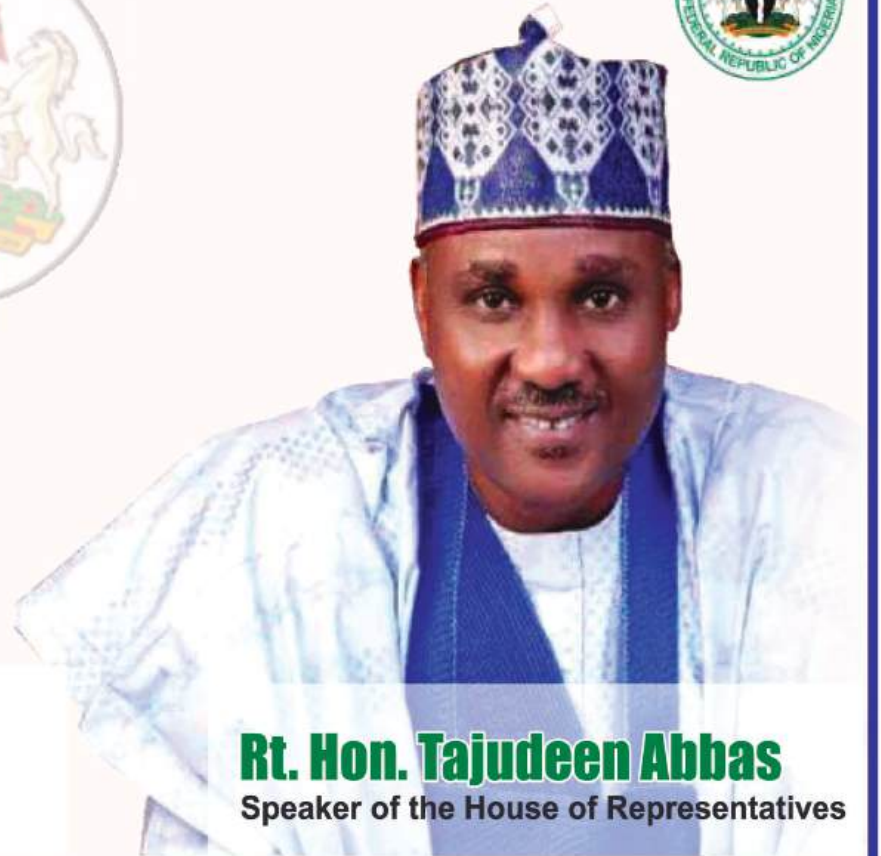
•Justice Dipeolu sets aside freezing orders against GHL •Judge says First Bank suppressed relevant facts to secure order

OPEN LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE SMOOTH PASSAGE OF THE BILL 2025 ESTABLISHING THE ACT OF THE NIGERIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY (NMU), OKERENKOKO, WARRI SOUTH WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF DELTA STATE

ATTENTION: DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE 10TH ASSEMBLY, PAST LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE SOUTH/SOUTH AND DELTA STATE



Distinguished Senator **Godswill Akpabio** Senate President,



**Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas** Speaker of the House of Representatives

As I reflect on the remarkable journey that has led to the passage of the Bill establishing the Nigeria Maritime University (NMU), Okerenkoko, Delta State, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and admiration. This historic achievement is a testament to your collective efforts, perseverance, and dedication to the development of the Niger Delta Region. Consequently, your selfless commitment to the welfare of the region has earned you a special place in the hearts of our people and we are indeed eternally grateful. We therefore wish the members of the 10th Assembly, particularly and non-sitting members from previous dispensations, more grease to their elbows as they worked in complete dedication to their oaths of allegiance to the people and our constitution.

On behalf of the amiable people of the Niger Delta, especially His Majesty Pere Oboro-Gbaraun II, Agadagba, the Council of Chiefs and appreciative citizens of Gbaramatu Kingdom, Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, I convey appreciation to the leadership of both chambers, particularly the Senate President, Distinguished Senator Godswill Akpabio, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, for their tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth passage of the Bill. Your exemplary leadership has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Principal Officers and members of the 10th Assembly, former members of the National Assembly, especially those from the relevant committees to the Bill of the University and South/South zone, and Delta State in particular. Your commitment to the passage of the Bill has not gone unnoticed, and we are grateful for your support. The passage of the Bill was a significant milestone in the history of the Niger Delta region.

We are deeply touched by the National Assembly's commitment to our development. As the saying goes, "the goose that lays the golden egg should not be made to starve nor suffer." We believe that the South-South region, which has contributed significantly to the economic well-being of Nigeria, deserves to be carried along in national affairs and appreciated for its contributions. With the establishment of the Nigeria Maritime University, we are confident that the region will witness intellectual buoyance, and maritime technical innovations, and significant economic growth and development. We, therefore, urge the National Assembly to continue to pay the needed attention to issues concerning the Niger Delta region and to assuage for the neglect of the past.

Once again, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the National Assembly for this remarkable feat.

Thank you!

Yours sincerely,  
**HIGH CHIEF (DR.) GOVERNMENT OWEIZIDE EKPEMUPOLO (ALIAS TOMPOLO)**  
IBE-EBIDOUWEI OF IJAW NATION & CHAIRMAN,  
TANTITA SECURITY SERVICES NIGERIA LIMITED (TSSNL).



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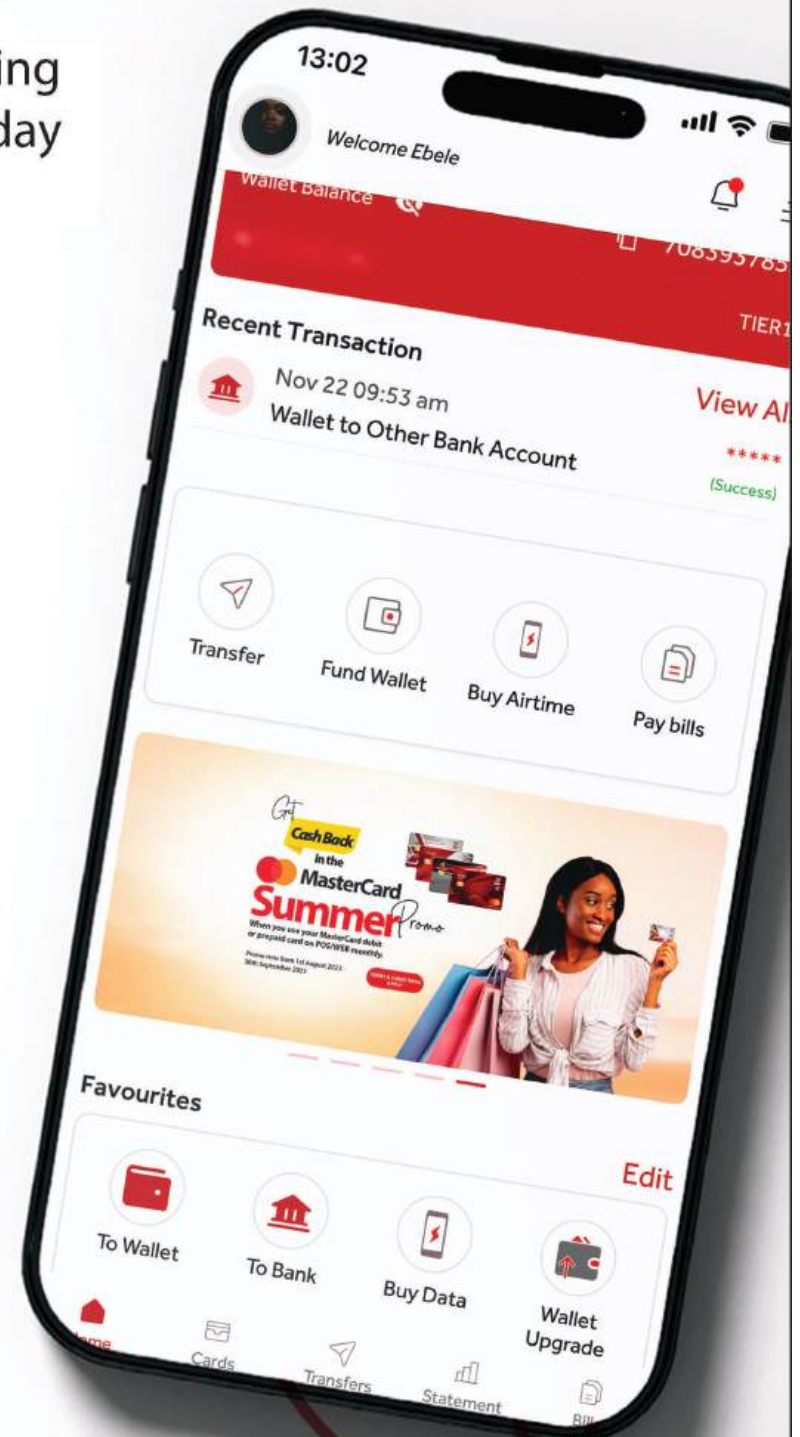
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# Vanguard

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## How FG botched prosecution of 888 terror suspects — BABADOKO, DPPF

●Poor investigation, evidence collection, witness intimidation, secret trial hampering conviction ●Limited forensic, technological capabilities, an obstacle ●As lawyers raise concerns over trial, conviction ●We did our job; courts decide who's convicted or acquitted — AGF's Office

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From right: President Bola Tinubu; Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila; Minister of State Defence, Bello Matawalle and National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu during the President arrival from African Energy Summit in Tanzania held in Abuja on Tuesday.

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FIFA 2026 WORLD CUP: **Toro sure Super Eagles'll qualify**  
•It'll be a big blow if Nigeria fails to qualify —Nwosu



**Mr & Mrs**

ANGELICA, WHY MUST I DO ALL THE THINGS YOU WANT? WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'RE THAT GOOD?

WELL, HE WHO FINDS A WIFE FINDS A GOOD THING!

[dadadekola@yahoo.com](mailto:dadadekola@yahoo.com)  
08052201913

C  
M  
Y  
K



# *This Cap Fits Well*

Dear Leader,

I wholeheartedly congratulate you on your elevation to the rank of **Life Benchers** by the prestigious **Body of Benchers**, the body of legal practitioners of the highest distinction.

This latest recognition attests to your utmost dedication to best practice as a lawyer of over three decades. It is also a testament to your commitment to remarkable reforms that the justice sector witnessed during the 9th Senate when you served as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters.

As the Leader of the 10th Senate, you have been a steady source of inspiration and support to all your colleagues regardless where they come from. I am personally indebted to you for the role you played in the enactment of the Nigeria Maritime University Bill and in securing the assent of the President for the Bill.

As you look to the future for greater exploits, I pray God our Father will continue to grant you matchless grace to break new grounds in your pursuit of professional excellence and in your service to Nigeria, our fatherland.

**CONGRATULATIONS, MY DEAREST LEADER**



**Senator (Dr) Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, CON**  
*Leader of the 10th Senate*  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*



**SIGNED**

**Senator Thomas Joel-Onowakpo**, FCA, FCTI, MBA

*Senator representing Delta South,  
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Defence,  
The Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria*

News

# NLC protests against telecoms tariff hike nationwide next Tuesday

- Directs affiliates, state councils to mobilize workers, allies
- Threatens to escalate protest to national strike, if...

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

AS part of its mobilization against the planned 50 per cent telecom tariff hike, the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, has resolved to hold a nationwide protest on Tuesday February 4.

The NLC in an emergency National Administrative Council, NAC, meeting yesterday, directed all its affiliates and state councils to begin full mobilization in preparation for the protest.

It also urged willing civil society allies to join the preparation and called on Nigerian workers, the informal sector, and the general public to stand in solidarity against what it described as unjust policy.

The communique issued at the end of the meeting, read by NLC president, Joe Ajaero, read: "NAC-in-session totally rejects the 50 per cent telecom tariff hike which it considers too harsh for citizens. It, therefore, strongly condemns the Nigeria Communications Commission's decision to approve the increase in telecommunications tariffs.

"This decision is insensitive, unjustifiable, and a direct assault on Nigerian workers and the general populace, who are already burdened by worsening economic hardship foisted on them by policies of government which was no fault of theirs.

"To express our collective opposition to this arbitrary tariff hike, the NLC will embark on a nationwide mass rally on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. The rally will serve as a warning on

the dangers of imposing such an unfair increase on a struggling population, earning a minimum wage of only N70,000; a population that has suffered outrageous hike in the price of petrol, high cost of food, hike in electricity tariff and general rising inflation.

"All NLC affiliates and state councils are directed to begin full mobilization in preparation for the February 4, 2025, nationwide protest rally. Willing civil society allies are also encouraged to join the preparation. The congress calls on all Nigerian workers, the informal sector, and the general public to stand in solidarity against this unjust policy.

"NAC-in-session demands an immediate suspension of the 50 per cent tariff hike. It calls on the federal government, the

Nigeria Communication Commission, NCC, and the National Assembly to engage in meaningful dialogue with critical stakeholders to review the proposed tariff adjustment within the context of the economic realities facing Nigerians.

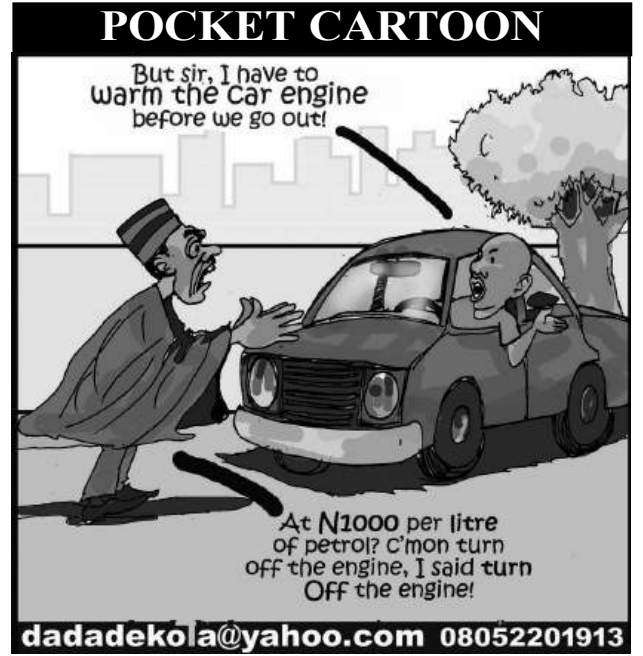
"Should these not be heeded, the NLC will escalate its actions, including the possibility of a nationwide boycott of telecommunication services and further mass actions which may involve nationwide withdrawal of our service to resist policies that exacerbate poverty and inequality.

"The NLC remains committed to protecting the interests of Nigerian workers and citizens against exploitative economic policies.

"We will not relent in our struggle against policies that undermine the welfare and dignity of our

people. Nigerian workers and citizens must unite and take action to prevent further economic oppression. We must resist any policy that prioritizes corporate profits over the well-being of the people."

Recall that NLC had on January 22, rejected the 50 per cent telecommunication tariffs hike approved by the federal government through the Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC, and vowed to resist the increase until it is reversed.



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## FG secures \$1.1bn AfDB loan to power 5m people by 2026 — TINUBU

THE Federal Government has secured a \$1.1 billion loan from African Development Bank, AfDB, to provide electricity for 5 million people by the end of 2026.

Special Adviser to the President, (Information & Strategy), bayo Onanuga, who disclosed this in a statement, said President Bola Tinubu made this known at the just concluded two-day Mission 300 Africa Energy

Summit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Tinubu also stated that the AfDB's \$200 million in the Nigeria Electrification Project would provide electricity for 500,000 people by the end of 2025.

Tinubu, whose speech was delivered by the Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, said: "I (Tinubu) acknowledged AfDB's \$1.1 billion, expected to provide electricity for 5 million people

by the end of 2026, while its \$200 million in the Nigeria Electrification Project will provide electricity for 500,000 people by the end of 2025.

"This is an ambitious goal, but we can achieve it together. As Nigeria's President, I am committed to making energy access a top priority."

Meanwhile, the president is also expecting to get the planned \$1.2 billion AfDB investment in Nigeria's Desert-to-Power programme and facility for the Nigeria-Grid Battery Energy Storage System.

"We also look forward to the AfDB's planned \$700 million investment in the Nigeria Desert-to-Power programme and its planned \$500 million facility for the Nigeria-Grid Battery Energy Storage System, which will provide electricity for an additional two million people.

"We have equally begun making plans to ensure the effectiveness of the World Bank's \$750 million support for expanding Nigeria's distributed energy access via mini-grids and standalone solar systems that will provide access to power to 16.2 million people," Tinubu said.



From left: Wife of the Chief of Staff to the President, Mrs. Salamatu Gbajabiamila, wife of the Vice President of Nigeria, Hajia Nana Shetima, 1st Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, wife of the Kwara State governor Mrs. Olufolake Abdulrasaq and wife of the Imo State governor Mrs. Chioma Uzodinma after the presentation of the 50 million naira grant to the wife of the Kwara State Governor.

## People Talk

BY ESTHER ONYEBGULA

### On the hike of telecoms tariff by 50%



The hike has implications for both consumers and industry. There's a need to address the rising operational costs faced by telecom operators. For years, these costs have escalated due to inflation, currency devaluation, and energy prices. However, this hike raises concerns among consumers, especially now. The NCC has said it is committed to ensuring that telecom operators provide quality services in line with the new pricing structure. Also, it is important to explore ways to mitigate the potential negative impact on consumers while supporting the growth of the telecom sector.

—Bamabas Akindele, Public Relations Consultant



Calls, SMS, and data tariffs have been increased by 50%. When it comes to such issues, they not only approve them speedily but also implement them almost immediately. But when it comes to initiatives that would improve the lives of Nigerians, they drag their feet. Now, the average cost of phone calls has increased from N11/min to N17, while SMS charges is now N6, up from N4 message. The price of one gigabyte of data will be between N430 and N450, up from N287.5. The FG and the NCC are making life harder for Nigerians.

—Etege K. Daniel, Manager, Media Services



The hike in telecom tariffs will increase the financial burden on consumers. Most small business owners won't be able to afford the new tariffs. The increase will reduce their income as they would spend more on calls, SMS, and data to access the internet. It could also affect students who solely depend on the internet for research and access to educational resources. The government should do something about this hike.

—Adebayo Idowu Janet, Project Manager



This is definitely not the right time for this increment. The FG's refusal to subsidize anything in Nigeria is worrisome. This hike will definitely have a devastating impact on small businesses that depend on affordable communication services to thrive and will ultimately slow down progress in digital transformation in the country. The hike will worsen the economic strain on citizens already grappling with the effects of other financial reforms. However, the gov't's push for a digital economy might not succeed if they burden people with higher tariffs."

—Charles Asuquo, Corporate Branding



Nothing is new in Nigeria, nor will any gov't policy cause our hearts to flutter. We have passed the stage of being shocked and have girded up our loins in readiness for future hikes and, possibly, stiffer sanctions. Things are getting increasingly difficult for the poor masses, while our gov't chooses to be ignorant or indifferent about the situation. Instead of seeking ways to ease the burden on the people they govern, their inhumane policies and bills are making life harsher and harder. At this juncture, it is only God that can help us, and I pray He sustains us till the end.

—Endurance Osibanjo, Entrepreneur



Communication plays a vital role in our economic activities and social inclusion so this tariff hike will disproportionately affect low-income individuals who rely heavily on affordable data and call services for their livelihoods. This move will exacerbate existing inequalities, widen the digital divide, and hinder efforts to promote accessibility, especially for persons with disabilities who depend on technology for daily activities. Rather than this blanket tariff increase, the FG should explore alternative measures to generate revenue. Affordability of telecom services is not just an economic issue but also a social justice imperative.

—Susan Kelechi, Human Rights Advocate



## Herdsmen kill 2 in Delta

●As youths set ablaze camp settlements in reprisal

By Ochuko Akuopha

**ASABA**—HOODLUMS, suspected to be herdsmen have killed two persons in Mbiri community, Ika North East Local Government Area, Delta State, throwing the community into confusion.

The incident, it was learned, occurred on the farm road in Idumu-Ikeze Quarters and Mbiri farm settlement road on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, angry youths invaded Hausa community settlement around neighbouring Umunedele community, Tuesday night, in what locals said was a reprisal, setting the camps and some motorcycles ablaze.

Police Public Relations Officer of the state Command, Mr. Bright Edefe, confirmed the incident, yesterday, saying the killings were carried out by unknown hoodlums.

"Unknown hoodlums attacked that community and about two people died. The community now suspected that it was the Hausas that attacked them. They mobilised to the Hausa area and started setting ablaze, but we have been able to restore calm," Edefe said.

A source, however, disclosed that he had information that the deceased were killed by suspected herdsmen, saying, "Two people were killed yesterday (Tuesday) at Mbiri."

"One of them was going to check his cassava plantation when he met the suspected herdsmen who have been terrorising the area for a long time. Along Mbiri farm settlement road, these men killed somebody who was working as a labourer in the farm settlement."

"After they killed the two men, youths mobilised to a place where the Hausa people are occupying on Umunedele Road."

"They came and started destroying property, burning about four motorcycles and they extended their grievances to where they are having Hausa quarter and destroyed properties."

"It took the intervention of the police, army and vigilante that came together to bring the situation under control."

## Bandits kidnap 4-yr-old son of Katsina council chair, kill aide

By Ogalah Ibrahim

**SUSPECTED** bandits on Tuesday invaded the residence of Chairman of Malumfashi Local Government Area, Katsina State chairman, Maharazu Dayi, killing his security aide and abducted his four-year-old son, Ahmed.

A resident of the area disclosed that the bandits arrived for the operation in Malumfashi township about 1:45a.m., riding in three vehicles, a departure from their usual practice of riding on motorcycles.

"Though the chairman was not around, the bandits gained access into his compound by scaling one of his neighbours' fence. It was his wife's sister that spotted the intruders and alerted the household," the source said.

To avoid being captured by the bandits, the source revealed that "some of the family members hid in a toilet while the chairman's wife locked herself in her room."

"The bandits were still able to seize two of the Chairman's children sleeping in another room."

Maharazu's wife immediately contacted her husband, who was in Katsina, and he in turn alerted the Malumfashi Divisional Police Officer, DPO, of the development.

On arrival at the scene, a shootout ensued, forcing the bandits to release one of the abducted children.

However, the bandits escaped with Maharazu's four-year-old son, Ahmed.

Spokesperson Katsina Police Command, Sadiq Abubakar, confirmed the attack.

He said three individuals have been arrested in connection with the incident.

# EeZeeTee to Mercy Chinwo: No child of God destroys another with lies

By Henry Ojelu

**THE** Chief Executive Officer of EeZeeTee Conceptz, Ezekiel Onyedikachi popularly known as EeZeeTee has dispelled what he described as a deliberate attempt by gospel music artist, Mercy Chinwo, to destroy his record label with emotional blackmail, saying no real child of God destroys another with lies.

In a video shared on multiple media platforms on Tuesday, Mercy Chinwo had accused EeZeeTee of threatening to destroy her career and subjecting her to servitude during her period with his label.

Reacting to some of the allegations made by Chinwo, EeZeeTee stated that it was sad that someone who claims to be a child of God and also a gospel artist would descend so low as to want to destroy another person with lies.

He said: "It's heartbreaking that you can go to this extent to tarnish the credibility or tarnish the image of someone. You had

●Says emotional blackmail can't displace truth

promised that you would destroy my reputation and the organisation. Well done. When you're done achieving it, I hope you get a crown in heaven.

"I mean, all of those extreme words, extreme usage of words just to make it look like, I mean, it is stupidity for us not to allow you go for an event because for every time you go for a meeting and you're blessed, we share in that blessing.

"How would we sabotage our own investment? We need to be a little more intelligent with the narratives we're presenting. We do not, in the desperation to damage the reputation of someone, we begin to now put ourselves in a critical light, especially to those who are very logical in reasoning and are able to pull one or two.

"The question is this: are we going to carry strife in our hearts, bitterness in our hearts, resentment in our hearts and go everywhere, you know, acting like we're doing ministry

and kingdom?"

"How does it feel to think that because I'm portraying and pushing out, you know, reconciliation and peace, it means that I am weak? What would you say to someone whom you say is more like a boss, more like a father to you, that you have now got contact, you deal with me?"

"God has helped us with this office and we're privileged to come in here neither by association nor by marriage. This is God's calling and anybody who says, I will deal with you and I will kill you, is not contending with me but with God who has called me. Same with her. I can never make a boast to say, 'I made you, I'll kill you,' I didn't make you.

"I was privileged to have housed the platform where you found expression and this cannot be discredited. Let me ask you a question, what is the profit or crown given to

a child of God who sees another one go down? It is not what anyone should be proud of.

"I think that we are at the point where we should be truthful and sincere. There is a consistency of lies and pretense. What do you expect of someone who can perfectly imitate the voice of a child and it sounds so real like she's a child? She's a fantastic actress.

"Keep acting, keep crying. They pray with these songs a lot. So, it's impossible for them to believe that somebody who is singing worship to God can lie.

"We understand all of that. But the truth is constant. No matter how far lies run, it takes just one truth to catch up with it.

"This is an attack on the body of Christ. Only a stupid person would by their hand destroy what God has helped them to be."

## Police neutralise 5 suspected kidnappers in Ogun, rescue 3 victims

By James Ogunnaike

**ABEOKUTA**—Operatives of the Ogun State Police Command, yesterday neutralised five suspected kidnappers, during a shoot-out with anti-kidnapping operatives.

The officers also rescued three kidnapped victims, who were allegedly abducted on the Sagamu-Ijebu Ode Expressway.

Spokesperson of the command, Omolola Odutola, in a statement, yesterday, said the suspects allegedly abducted the victims after attacking their vehicle near Ilisan Remo corridor of the Sagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin expressway about 7p.m., on Saturday.

Odutola stated that upon receiving a distress call of robbery, the area commander swiftly mobilised a crack team of officers to the scene.

The PPRO said: "Upon arrival, officers discovered that a group of gunmen had set up a roadblock using an articulated truck, indiscriminately opening fire on unarmed passengers, causing widespread panic.

"In the ensuing chaos, three commuters, Bolaji Bilesanmi (65), Olasunmi Idowu (50) and Mohammed Salisu (age unknown) were abducted into the forest from two vehicles, a Honda Pilot (registration No. Lagos EKV113GZ) and a Honda Accord (Registration No. Lagos KJA13QFA).

"Following the directive of Lanre Ogunlowo, the Commissioner of Police, a covert operation was conducted at the kidnappers' hideout on January 29, 2025, about 4p.m."

Odutola added that upon spotting the police, the suspects opened fire on the police squad, who returned fire, resulting in the death of five suspects.

"Items recovered from the scene include one AK-47 rifle, 10 rounds of 5.6mm calibre ammunition, N5.2 million (suspected to be proceeds of crime), and three mobile phones. Efforts are underway to apprehend the injured members of the syndicate," she added.



**SEMINAR:** A cross-section of participants, during the 2025 NAF Administration and Personnel seminar in Abuja, yesterday. Photo: NAN.

## Alleged electoral fraud: Court revokes bail, issues arrest warrant on UNIUYO prof

By Egufe Yafugborhi & Chioma Onuegbu

**UYO**—An Akwa Ibom State High Court sitting in Uyo, yesterday, revoked the bail granted Prof. Ignatius Uduk, a University of Uyo, UNIUYO, don who is facing trial for alleged electoral fraud during the 2019 general elections.

The court also issued an arrest warrant against him.

Trial judge, Justice Basse Nkanang, took the decision in response to an application by the prosecution, Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, that prayed for the bail to be revoked, after the court adjourned for judgment and a second day absence by the defendant in court, as well as

his counsel, George Ezeugwu.

INEC, under Mike Igini as Resident Electoral Commissioner, REC, Akwa Ibom State, had opened prosecution of Uduk, Professor of Human Kinetics, who served as a Collation/Returning officer for Essien Udim State Constituency during March 2019 elections, on three amended count charges of abandonment of duties, publishing/announcing of fake election result scores and lying on oath.

While another UNIUYO Professor, Peter Ogban who was also arraigned by INEC under similar circumstance, was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison, the trial of Uduk suffered repeated adjournments on the part of the defendant, resulting in change of the trial judge.

Justice Nkanang had stood down the case for an hour and asked a lawyer, Ndifreke Inyangette to contact the defence counsel to ascertain reason for his absence in court.

When the matter was called again, Inyangette standing in for defendant, informed the court that Ezeugwu sent him message via text that he was ill. He also told the court that the defence counsel also told him his client was ill.

In his ruling, Justice Nkanang admitted being aware of the defendant's health condition, but regardless, granted prayers of INEC's counsel prayer, revoking the bail earlier granted the defendant and issued a bench warrant against him.

He then adjourned the case till February 5, 2025 for judgment.

## 2 persons feared killed as gunmen invade Vanguard Media Staff Cooperative Society land

**GUNMEN**, numbering over 100, yesterday, invaded the Vanguard Media Staff Cooperative Society Land in Lokoji community, Ogun State, leaving two villagers feared dead and several others injured.

The armed men, whose mission was to forcibly take over the cooperative's expanse of land with over 300 plots, were heard bragging that no law enforcement agent could stop their mission.

They were said to have announced their presence with sporadic gunshots, which sent the villagers, the majority of whom are farmers, running in different directions for safety.

There had been rumours of an imminent invasion of the community. In fear, some of the villagers abandoned their homes for other communities, to avoid being caught in the cross fire.

One of the villagers who alerted some members of staff of Vanguard newspapers to the invasion said the armed men told them never to return to their ancestral home again

if they wanted to stay alive.

One of them, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of being killed, told Vanguard on the phone: "They have finally

invaded our land. They have chased everyone out. We left with nothing. They came with guns, machetes, broken bottles, and other dangerous objects."

## Police arrest woman, lover who stole minor in A'lbom, sold in Abia

By Egufe Yafugborhi & Chioma Onuegbu

**UYO**—A woman identified as Christiana Ibanga of Ekamba Nsukara village in Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has been arrested by the police alongside her boyfriend, Inyene Akpan, for alleged child trafficking.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Timfon John, who briefed newsmen, yesterday, at the command's headquarters Ikot Akpan Abia, said the suspects, who were arrested in Abuja on January 14, 2025, stole a six-year-

old girl from the state in 2024 and later sold her in neighbouring Abia State.

John said the suspects upon interrogation confessed selling their own child for N450,000.

Her words: "On June 15, 2024, a woman (name withheld) of Afaha Atai Village in Ibesikpo Asutan LGA reported that one Christiana Ibanga, a female resident of Ekamba Nsukara Village in Uyo LGA, lured her six-year-old daughter (name withheld) and took her to an unknown destination.

"Acting promptly on credible intelligence, our operatives immediately swung into action and arrested one Christiana Ibanga and her accomplice, who is her boyfriend named Inyene Akpan, on January 14, 2025, in Abuja.

"During interrogation, the suspects admitted to selling their own child in May 2024 for N450,000 with the assistance of one Saviour Aniedi, 'm'.

"Ibanga further confessed to conspiring with Saviour Aniedi and his wife to steal the complainant's child, who was later sold in Abia, Abia State, to an unidentified buyer. On January 23, 2025, investigators extended their operations to Abia in pursuit of the buyer and the child.

"While the suspects in Abia remain elusive, the command assures the public that substantial progress had been made. Our operatives are narrowing in on the perpetrators and their apprehension is imminent."

By: Kingsley Omonobi,  
Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA—THE Police Headquarters in Abuja has initiated legal action against activist Omoyele Sowore for comments in the social media attributable to him, aimed at allegedly "causing breakdown of law and order."

One of such comments posted on social media is that, "The illegal IG of Nigeria Police Force, Kayode Egbetokun, will make the next #ENDSARS inevitable."

Sowore was charged on a three count charge of Cybercrime under the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, ETC) Act, 2015, as amended in 2024.

The charges were filed in a suit marked FCH/ABJ/23/25.

This came as the Inter Party Advisory Council, IPAC, has called for the immediate and unconditional release of African Action Congress, AAC, National Chairman and 2023 presidential candidate, Sowore, following his detention by the police after an invitation for questioning and subsequent arraignment.

In the charges, the Police said Sowore inten-



COURT: Omoyele Sowore (middle) arrives Federal High Court Abuja over his case with Police, yesterday. Photo by Gbemiga Olamikan.

## Police arraign Sowore for saying IGP Egbetokun'll make next #EndSARS inevitable

•IPAC demands Sowore's release, alleges political trial

tionally and knowingly sent messages through his verified Twitter account, where he referred to the IG as "illegal IGP Kayode Egbetokun."

It said the publications were false and aimed at causing a breakdown of law and order.

Count one of the charge read, "That you, Omoyele Sowore, on December 13, 2024, did intentionally send messages through your verified X handle account, 'Omoyele Sowore,' calling the Inspector General of Police 'illegal IGP Kayode Egbetokun,' knowing it to be false

and intending to cause a breakdown of law and order."

Sowore's arraignment took place before Justice Liman of a Federal High Court in Abuja.

Sowore was arrested on Monday after refusing to accept bail conditions set by the police following allegations of obstructing public officers and cyberstalking.

IPAC demands Sowore's release, alleges political trial

In a statement, yesterday, its National Publicity Secretary, Mrs. Chinyere Oge-Kalu, IPAC condemned Sowore's continued detention, describing it as a violation of his fundamental rights under the

#EndBadGovernance protesters storm court, demand Sowore's release

Also, protesters under the #EndBadGovernance movement accused security forces of intimidation while demanding the immediate release of activist, Sowore.

Amid heavy police presence, yesterday, a protester expressed frustration over what he described as misplaced priorities by the authorities.

"Police officers are here to intimidate protesters. Meanwhile, Abuja is burning. Look at them gathered here instead of being deployed to crime hotspots. This shows the seriousness of this government and the illegal IGP, Egbetokun. If he were serious, he would send his men to tackle crime, not to harass peaceful demonstrators," the protester said.

Beyond Sowore's case, the protesters also called for an end to what they termed the weaponization of the judiciary against government critics.

"We are also asking for the striking out of all cases against critics of this government. All critics who were unjustly tried in this country should have their cases struck out.

# SOFTCUTS

## Social Media Conversation

Lagos will never cease to amaze me and it's in a terrible way.

Tell me why a restaurant in this same Lagos is selling burger for N42,500 and it doesn't even come with a drink.

Any sensible explanation for such ridiculous price or we are all going to act like it's normal??

BCraft  
@officialbcraft1

Burger of life, once you eat it, you will never feel hungry till you kpai

## Maybe it gives long life and prosperity!

She wants to surprise me by coming to my place without telling me before coming. Now she have surprised herself. No money to give the bike man and am not around.



## She has learnt in the hard way!

## When I don't pick up my phone



## Nobody thinks you working or praying

### IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ABUJA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ABUJA  
HOLDEN AT MAITAMA ABUJA ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024  
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE S. U. BATURE  
HIGH COURT NO. 22

SUIT NO. FCT/HC/CV/5338/2024  
MOTION NO. FCT/HC/M/16375/2024

BETWEEN:

AIMAK PROPERTIES LTD.....CLAIMANT/APPLICANT

AND

HILLSIDE NIGERIA LIMITED.....DEFENDANT

#### COURT ORDER

Upon careful consideration of the Motion Ex-parte dated 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024 and filed on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 with Motion No. FCT/HC/M/16375/2024 and accompanying Affidavit of Ali Ismail Nagoma Christabel. And upon listening to Macmillan O. Igbo Esq, Counsel for the Claimant/Applicant praying the Honourable Court for the following Orders:

- (1). AN ORDER of this Honourable Court restraining the Defendant/Respondent, their agents, officials, privies, assigns, staff or by whatever name called from selling, or leasing the property described as Plot 1901, measuring approximately 3, 528.84m, with File No. MISC 50355, in Cadastral Zone, A04 Hillside Plaza, Asokoro District FCT, Abuja to a third party pending the hearing and determination of the Claimant's Motion on Notice for Interlocutory Injunction.
- (2). AND FOR SUCH FURTHER OR OTHER ORDER(S) as the Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstance.

Motion Ex-parte with No. FCT/HC/M/16375/2024 granted as prayed.

Matter adjourned to 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2025 for hearing of Motion on Notice. Respondent to be served.

GIVEN UNDER THE HAND AND SEAL OF THE  
HON. JUDGE ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024.

HON. JUSTICE S.U. BATURE  
(Presiding Judge)

HIGH COURT OF THE FCT  
REGISTRAR  
REGISTRAR  
REGISTRAR  
Sgn: [Signature] Dr: 13/12/24



## Nigeria, major source of human trafficking in Africa

### —MINISTER

ABUJA—MINISTER of Women Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, said yesterday Nigeria remained one of the main source, transit and destination for human trafficking in Africa.

Sulaiman-Ibrahim stated this at the 2025 annual academic summit organised by the University of Abuja Faculty of Social Sciences in Abuja.

The theme of the summit is, "Illegal Migration and Girl-Child Trafficking in 21st Century Nigeria: Changing the Mindset through Quality and Functional University Education."

She said poverty and economic hardship, lack of education and skills, cultural and gender norms, and weak law enforcement, among others, were factors that contributed to illegal migration and trafficking in Nigeria.

"Nigeria is one of the main source, transit, and destination countries for human trafficking in Africa. According to the Global Slavery Index (2023), Nigeria ranks among the top 10 countries with the highest number of trafficked persons.

"An estimated 1.4 million Nigerians are victims of modern slavery, with women and girls making up the majority.

"Over 60 per cent of Nigerians attempting to migrate irregularly are women and girls, many of whom are trafficked for forced labour or sexual exploitation.

"Reports indicate that over 50,000 Nigerian women are trapped in forced prostitution across Europe, particularly in Italy and Spain.

"The International Organisation for Migration, IOM, estimates that more than 80 per cent of Nigerian women who arrive in Europe through irregular routes are potential trafficking victims.

"The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, reports that Nigeria accounts for nearly 50 per cent of all human trafficking cases in West Africa," she said.

The minister said the figures underscored the urgent need for policy, awareness, and systemic interventions to combat the menace of human trafficking and illegal migration.

She, therefore, stressed the need to improve access to education to break the cycle of trafficking and illegal migration.

The minister said: "It remains the most powerful tool in equipping young girls with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed choices about their futures.

"Quality and functional university education must go beyond theory and be practical, relevant, and empowering. Our institutions must be intentional in preparing students—particularly young women—for



COURTESY VISIT— From left: Ambassador of France to Nigeria, Amb. Marc Fonbaustier and Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, during a courtesy visit by the French envoy, at the Lagos House, Marina, yesterday.

## Formal exit of Niger, Mali, B'Faso: ECOWAS pledges to keep doors open

### •Exit has serious economic, diplomatic, security consequences

#### — INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

By Nkiruka Nnorom & Favour Ulebor

ABUJA—The Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, has pledged to leave its doors open to the three junta-led West African nations - Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso - as they formally exit the regional bloc yesterday.

Their formal exit followed a year of diplomatic moves to avert their departure from the regional bloc. The juntas in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso had announced that they were leaving ECOWAS last year after military coups that saw the change of government in each of the nations.

They, thereafter, created their own security partnership, the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), in September. The formation of the AES bloc came as a direct response to the threat of military intervention by the ECOWAS that opposed a military coup that took place in Niger in July 2023 and overthrew the democratically elected government.

However, announcing the formal approval of their exit in a statement yesterday, ECOWAS authority said its doors would remain open peradventure any of the nations plans on rejoining the bloc at any time.

The regional bloc also enjoined member nations to continue to accord the three countries privileges of membership, including free movement within the region with an ECOWAS passport.

It reads: "The withdrawal of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Niger from ECOWAS has become

effective today, 29th January 2025.

"However, in the spirit of regional solidarity and in the interest of the people, as well as the decision of the ECOWAS Authority to keep ECOWAS' doors open, all relevant authorities within and outside ECOWAS member states are requested and required to recognize national passports and identity cards bearing ECOWAS logo held by the citizens of Burkina Faso, the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Niger, until further notice.

"Continue to treat goods and services coming from the three countries in accordance with the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme, ETLs, and investment policy; allow citizens of the three affected countries to continue to enjoy the right of visa free movement, residence and establishment in accordance with the ECOWAS protocols until further notice.

"Continue to provide full support and cooperation to ECOWAS officials from the three countries in the course of their assignments for the community.

"These arrangements will be in place until the full determination of the modalities of our future engagement with the three countries by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

"The Commission has set up a structure to facilitate discussions on these modalities with each of the three countries.

"This message is necessary to avoid confusion and disruption in the lives and businesses of our

people during this transition period."

Meanwhile, policy analysts at International Crisis Group have said that the withdrawal will likely have serious economic, diplomatic and security consequences.

They argued that an exit is no doubt the most serious challenge ECOWAS has faced since its inception.

Though the ECOWAS authority has promised to continue to recognise national passports from the AES bloc and allow free movement from the bloc, the analysts insisted that the withdrawal would disrupt the flow.

"First, over its nearly 50 years of existence, ECOWAS' has facilitated the free movement of

people and goods, with citizens of its fifteen member states carrying an ECOWAS passport. The withdrawal of the three Sahelian states is likely to disrupt these flows.

"Millions of Burkinabés, Malians and Nigeriens live in other ECOWAS member states — and, to a lesser extent, the reverse is also true. The three countries' exit creates uncertainty about their residency status.

"The exit is a huge blow to a regional integration project that has lasted half a century, and which, despite its shortcomings, has become the best performing and most economically integrated of all African regional blocs.

"Its efforts to regulate

agriculture and pastoralism, as well as to curb money laundering and financial crime, have strengthened regional economic stability.

"Withdrawal of the three countries risks breaking up this shared regulatory environment, weakening cooperation and reducing the region's capacity to address critical challenges such as a lack of electricity and environmental degradation.

"In the eyes of the Sahelian trio's leaders, Western influence in ECOWAS has been excessive and is itself a betrayal of the pan-African cause. But the division of West African countries and people into separate and potentially antagonistic blocs does little to serve ideals of African unity that the new governments in the AES claim to hold dear," the group said.

## N480m alleged bribery: Report lawmakers to anti-graft agencies if... — REPS

By Gift ChapiOdekina

ABUJA—The House of Representatives has asked anyone with credible evidence of misconduct of alleged N480 million bribe demanded by some lawmakers in the National Assembly from vice-chancellors of federal universities to approve their 2025 budget allocations to present it to the appropriate authorities. They advised to submit such evidence to the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges or anti-corruption agencies such as the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences

Commission, ICPC, to independently investigate any claim of impropriety.

Recall that a report published in the media (not Vanguard) had alleged that senators and members of the House of Representatives, operating through the Senate Committee on Tertiary Education and TETFund and the House Committee on University Education, demanded bribe from universities' VCs to approve their budgets.

Spokesperson of the House, Akin Rotimi, said in a statement issued yesterday in Abuja that the 10th House of Representatives was firmly committed to transparency, accountability, and the highest ethical standards in all its legislative activities, adding that the allegations were baseless and lacked credibility.

He said: "These values form the bedrock of our operations. It is, therefore, imperative to address the baseless and sensational allegations in the report, which appear to be part of a deliberate attempt to undermine the integrity of the House and erode public trust in this hallowed institution.

"The budget process is a constitutionally guided and transparent exercise. The 2025 Appropriation Bill was presented by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to a joint session of the National Assembly, attended by key members of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, and the public.

"Following the presentation, various heads of ministries, departments, and agencies, MDAs, have been appearing at open public sessions to defend

their budget proposals before the relevant committees. These sessions ensure rigorous scrutiny and accountability in public finance management.

"It is concerning, however, that some heads of federal tertiary institutions have failed to appear for these budget defence sessions, despite their constitutional obligation to do so. This disregard for the legislative process not only impedes legislative oversight and undermines the principles of accountability, but also demonstrates disregard for the parliament, and the Nigerian people.

"Furthermore, it is a matter of public record that some of these tertiary institutions have pending audit queries from the office of the auditor-general of the federation and have consistently failed to appear before the House committee on public accounts to clarify these issues. This evasion raises questions about their governance practices and financial stewardship.

"This is in addition to disturbing allegations of sexual harassment, abuse of office and high handedness in their dealings with staff and students, for which legislative oversight provides a crucial platform to address in the spirit of transparency.

"It is also noteworthy that recent oversight visits by the House committee on university education have revealed troubling governance practices in certain institutions. While the final report is being compiled, preliminary findings in certain institutions suggest a pattern of serious malfeasance that demand thorough investigation."

## N50m bribe to opposition: Labour Party asks Atiku to prove allegation

By John Alechenu

ABUJA—Labour Party, LP, has said its leadership was not aware of the N50 million bribe allegedly being doled out by the ruling All Progressives Congress-led federal government to opposition parties.

The party also said its leadership has never received a kobo from any individual, group, organisation or government who were not its members.

National Publicity Secretary of the party, Obiora Ifoh, in a statement in Abuja, yesterday, expressed the party's "shock and disbelief" over the revelation by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

He said: "The party has however expressed shock and disbelief by the revelation from one of the leading political figures

and former vice President of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar, insisting that it would be improper for the politician to throw a shade at the entire opposition without also putting forward a tangible proof other than a 'gossip' from an unnamed source.

"The former vice President while speaking at a national conference on strengthening democracy held in Abuja accused the ruling APC of allegedly offering opposition party leaders N50 million each to undermine Nigeria's democratic process.

"We are shocked that a high caliber politician who has contested election all his life and often regarded as a very experienced politician could make such a wild, unguarded and unfounded statement.

"For us in the Labour Party, a party which has remained the strongest and most veritable opposition and which speaks

truth to power; a party that led the most serious campaign in the 2023 general election and has been steadfast and has remained the voice of the people, we view that statement as demeaning, ignominious, reckless and a let down from someone like Atiku Abubakar.

"We want to put it on record that Labour Party has ran a frugal administration from funds internally generated, having not received supports from our elected representatives. And in spite of the challenges the party has faced in the recent past, the leadership has remained solid and committed to the ideals of the party.

"The leadership has not received any salary from anybody. Salaries are not hidden and it is not difficult to verify who and who are on the government payroll. It is a public document and it can be verified.

"We, therefore, advise Atiku to



LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

**Anger against a brother is felt on the flesh, not in the bone**

TAKE HEART — ELLA RANDLE

**"Don't waste time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind." — Mary Schmich Stay Grounded. Practice mindfulness, meditation or prayer to maintain your emotional balance — Ella Randle**



Max Air Boeing 737, registration 5N-MBD, that experienced a nose wheel landing gear collapse in Abuja, yesterday.

**PDP nat'l sec position: BoT sets up panel to meet claimants**

By John Alechenu

ABUJA—The Board of Trustees, BoT, of Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has appointed former Minister of Special Duties, Tanimu Turaki SAN, to interface with the two claimants to office of national secretary and advise it accordingly.

This was part of resolutions contained in a communique after the 79th BoT meeting in Abuja, yesterday.

Chairman of the BoT, Senator Adolphus Wabara, who read the communique, said: "In the effort to resolve the current crisis over the position of the national secretary of the party, which is currently before the courts, the BoT set up a committee, led by Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, SAN, to interface with the parties, study the situation and report to the Board for

•Anyanwu, Udo-Okoye's supporters clash •Why I stepped out of the BoT meeting-Ude-Okoye •Some of us here are complicit, says Damagum •NWC should honour its words, hold NEC in February-Wabara further action."

Wabara also expressed the BoT's concerns over the unresolved crisis in the party, especially within the National Working Committee, NWC.

He said: "The BoT calls on members of the NWC, all organs, leaders and critical stakeholders of our party across board to rise above personal, group or sectional interests and place the stability, unity, sustenance and progress of our Party and its ideals above all other considerations."

Wabara announced that the party's Acting National Chairman, Amb. Umar Damagum, had given assurances that the National Executive Committee, NEC, meeting would hold in February 2025 as scheduled.

**Anyanwu, Udo-Okoye's supporters clash**

Recall that loyalists of the party's National Secretary, Senator Samuel Anyanwu, and those of Sunday Ude-Okoye, who the Appeal Court recently ruled in his favour as the party's national secretary, clashed as the BoT meeting was in progress.

One of Anyanwu's aides, Emmanuel Okoronkwo, took it upon himself to physically move Udo-Okoye out of the hall the meeting held.

Out numbered, Ude-Okoye beckoned on his supporters who were lurking outside, to come to his aid.

Some of them scaled the secretariat fence to force their principal back into the hall but were prevented from doing so by armed security operatives.

However, a fight broke out between Anyanwu's loyalists and those loyal to Udo-Okoye.

Security operatives were able to temporarily contain the situation, while the BoT meeting continued and was ongoing at press time yesterday.

A detachment of armed soldiers in five pickup trucks were later brought in as reinforcements to the team of armed DSS operatives and policemen on duty.

**Why I stepped out of the BoT meeting-Ude-Okoye**

Sunday Ude-Okoye in

**Max Air suspends operations for 3 months**

By Dickson Omobola

MAX Air is to suspend operations for the next three months, following the involvement one of its airliner that suffered tyre burst at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport Tuesday night, with 53 passengers and six crew members on board.

It was learned that flight VM1605 departed from Lagos, with a video circulating online showing that an emergency team was on the ground to disembark the passengers and crew.

Vanguard, however, gathered that the airliner was involved in a near-tragic incident in Maiduguri last year while transporting the Deputy Governor of Borno State, Umar Usman Kadafur, and other government officials.

A source familiar with the development said: "During that flight, the aircraft suffered other technical issues, forcing an emergency landing at the Maiduguri International Airport. "We, therefore, call on the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA, to launch an urgent investigation into the safety standards of Max Air and its fleet."

It was also learned that all the passengers and crew on board the flight were evacuated safely without any injury.

Confirming the incident, the airline's management, in a statement, said while the aircraft had been removed from the runway as of 04:28, the Kano runway would remain temporarily closed for inspection and clearance, which might lead to some delays in flight operations.

The statement read: "We wish to inform the public that one of our aircraft experienced an

incident upon landing in Kano yesterday (Tuesday). "Our crew handled the situation professionally, ensuring the safe evacuation of all passengers and crew members. There were no injuries, and the aircraft has since been removed from the runway as of 04:28.

"As a result, the Kano runway will remain temporarily closed for inspection and clearance, which may lead to some delays in flight operations today (yesterday), Wednesday, 29/01/2025.

"We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your patience as we await further updates on the runway reopening."

**NSIB probes Max Air flight incident**

Hours after the incident, the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau, NSIB, launched an investigation into it.

The Director of Public Affairs and Family Assistance, NSIB, Mrs Bimbo Oladeji, in a statement yesterday, said: "The aircraft, flying from Lagos to Kano, with 53 passengers and six crew members onboard, landed on runway 06. During the deceleration phase, while still under 60 knots and with the thrust reversers engaged, a loud bang was heard, followed by the aircraft veering sharply to the left.

"The flight crew promptly regained control and safely brought the aircraft to a stop. All 53 passengers and crew members safely disembarked, and no injuries were reported.

"The NSIB has deployed its GoTeam to the site of the incident. The team's

chat with newsmen, soon after the communique was read, explained that he earlier left the meeting hall for his personal safety.

He said: "I wasn't forcibly pushed out. Some people wanted to attack me and I decided to move out in defense of myself. No one pushed me out but in defense of myself, I moved out."

On Turaki's appointment to interface with claimants to the office of national secretary, Ude-Okoye said: "Which National Secretary are you talking about? Is it me or who? I am the national secretary.

"So, may be you didn't get what the BoT chairman said. The BoT chairman said it is going to be resolved and a committee has been formed.

"He even mentioned the name of the chairman of the committee, Tanimu Turaki, SAN. That was his statement. I'm the national secretary, I assumed office on December 29, 2024."

The party's National Secretary, Senator Samuel Anyanwu, did not respond when approached by reporters.

investigation will focus on identifying the root cause, including any technical, operational, or procedural lapses.

"The NSIB remains committed to upholding the highest aviation safety standards and providing recommendations to prevent future occurrences. As the investigation progresses, further updates will be provided."

**NCAA audit commences** Meanwhile, the airline is to suspend domestic flight operations for three months, starting from January 31.

The Director of Consumer Protection and Public Affairs, NCAA, Mr Michael Achimugu, who disclosed this in a statement yesterday, said during the three-month period, the NCAA would conduct a thorough safety and economic audit on the airline.

Achimugu stated that the safety audit would entail a re-inspection of Max Air's organisation, procedures, personnel and aircraft.

He said the resumption of Max Air's domestic flight operations would be predicated on the satisfactory completion of the audit."

"It is instructive to note that the NCAA had commenced organisational risk profiles for each scheduled operator, including Max Air, which is nearing its conclusion.

"However, as a result of this incident, Max Air is suspending its domestic flight operations for a period of three months with effect from midnight, January 31, 2025, to allow for an internal appraisal of its operations by its management."

**White House sparks confusion over fate of unprecedented funding freeze**

By Tunde Oso (with agency reports)

US President Donald Trump's bid to freeze trillions of dollars in federal funding was thrown into confusion Wednesday when the White House appeared to withdraw the controversial plan -- then minutes later insisted that it had not.

Rafts of government aid programs and the health care system for millions of low-income Americans were up in the air after Trump ordered a halt to potentially trillions of dollars in grants, loans and other aid late Monday.

The move -- made in an order from White House's Office of Management and Budget -- sparked instant alarm and confusion, as well as a flurry of lawsuits before a judge issued a temporary injunction.

On Wednesday, the Office of

Management and Budget issued a terse notification saying the freezing of aid order had been "rescinded."

However, soon after Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced that the spending freezes remained in place -- and only the memo from the budget office was rescinded.

"This is NOT a rescission of the federal funding freeze" which remains in "full force," she said on X.

The White House has strongly defended the freeze as a blow against what Trump says is waste and "woke" federal spending programs, and a tool to make sure that every government office supports the Republican's right-wing political goals.

Democrats accuse Trump of constitutional overreach by seeking to stop spending already approved by Congress, which has authority over the US budget.

Vocal Democratic Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett pounced on the new bout of confusion, posting: "Incompetence on full display... It's day 9 for a fool who had the job for 4 years and still has NO CLUE of how government, the law, nor the constitution works."

**White House on defense**

Trump was due to sign the Laken Riley Act, a bill cracking down on migrant criminal suspects. It is his first piece of legislation since he returned to power vowing a blitz on illegal immigration.

But Trump's victory lap risks being overshadowed by the confusion on his high-profile spending freeze.

In her first press briefing on Tuesday, Leavitt had denied that the freeze had caused any "uncertainty" and defended it as part of Trump's bid to make the government "good stewards of taxpayer dollars."



INAUGURATION: From left: Director, Veterinary Medicines and Allied Products, VMAP, Dr. Rametu Omamegbe Momodu; Chairman, Kewalram Chanrai Group, Mr Narain Chanrai; representative of the Vice President/Minister of State for Agriculture, Sen. Sabi Abdullahi; representative of the Ogun State Governor/Deputy Governor, Mrs Noimot Salako-Oyedele; General Manager, Springfield Agro Limited, Mr Manoj Ramakrishnan; and Chief of Staff to the Ogun State Governor, Dr Emmanuel Olatoyin Taiwo, during the inauguration of Springfield Agro Crops Protection Chemical Plant, at Ewu-Osi, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Ogun State.

## Abia govt, traders endorse NAFDAC's fight against fake products

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

ABIA State government has promised to collaborate with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in eradicating fake and expired products in Eziukwu road market in Aba, popularly known as the Cemetery market.

The Commissioner for Trade and Commerce, Kingsley Nwokocho, made this known at the Eziukwu market where he warned the traders on the implications of fake products and re-dating of expired products in the market.

The commissioner identified fake products as a big menace to society and a danger to people's health.

Also, the Mayor of Aba South LGA, Obialor Anyanwu, who was represented by the secretary to the local government, Mr Gideon Aduka, expressed worry at the activities of some traders who produce fake products or re-write the dates of already expired products in Eziukwu market.

He thanked NAFDAC for the war against unwholesome activities in the market.

In his speech, the interim chairman of Eziukwu market, Alphonsus Udeigbo informed the commissioner that a five-man committee had been set up by his leadership to fight against fake, expired, and re-dated products and the perpetrators.

Udeigbo equally thanked NAFDAC and the Abia State government for interventions in the market.

The South East zonal Director of NAFDAC, Mr Martins Iluyomade, who led the raid, said that many people usually travel overseas to treat terminal diseases, some of which could be traced to what they consumed.

During the operation, shops in some sections of the market were sealed by NAFDAC for allegedly being used to produce fake products and re-dating expired ones.

Also, fake and expired products were confiscated and destroyed by the Food and Drug Regulatory Agency.

## Anambra's security outfit raids dreaded Lilu forest, kills 6 gunmen

By Vincent Ujumadu

ANAMBRA'S newly formed security outfit, *Agunechemba*, has raided the dreaded Lilu forest in Ihiala local government area, which had served as the abode for gunmen and killed at least six suspected gunmen.

Three other occupants in the

forest were said to have fled their camps as the security squad stormed the area.

Information from the villagers said the *Agunechemba* security squad has taken control of two camps in the area, adding that the villagers have resumed their daily activities.

According to them, peace has been restored to the community

as the security outfit has mounted sustained surveillance in the area.

They attributed the success of the operation to the cooperation of residents who were tired of living under the control of the gunmen.

Lilu Community, with Orsumoghu, Azia, Isekke, Mbosi, had been the den for gunmen

activities, with reports of kidnapped victims being held in dug-out pits while awaiting ransom payments.

Also, the security squad had stormed Umuoji Community in Idemili North local government area, killing two suspected gunmen and recovering arms and charms allegedly used in previous operations.

## Mbah, Wabara, others absent at meeting endorsing Anyanwu as PDP scribe

By Chinedu Adonu

LEADERS of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the South East, including Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah; Board of Trustees Chairman, Adolphus Wabara and Senator Austin Akobundu, Tuesday were absent at the meeting of PDP stakeholders held at the party's national secretariat in Abuja.

In a statement by its national vice chairman, Ali Odefa, PDP leaders from the region had distanced themselves from Tuesday's meeting, having endorsed Sunday Ude-Okoye as the national secretary at a meeting held last Friday in Enugu.

However, the Abuja meeting was presided over by Anyanwu and was attended by Chris Ubah. Anyanwu said there was no basis for disagreement since the party is awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court on the position of the national secretary.

He said the meeting was called by South East members of the PDP NWC and not the national leadership.

Anyanwu blamed Odefa for instigating political mischief, claiming that the vice chairman had been expelled from PDP and was not in a position to convene any PDP meeting.

Explaining the genesis of his crisis, Anyanwu said, "In October, the former National Vice Chairman South East, Ali Odefa went and connived with some people to remove me as the National Secretary.

"He went and convinced the governor of Enugu that our constitution says that I will resign for me to run because he knows that his tenure as National Vice Chairman is coming to an end, so he

wanted to perpetuate himself in office. So, he sold this idea to the governor of Enugu state, His Excellency Peter Mbah whom I met and told him that it is wrong.

"He went and printed fake electoral guidelines for primary election and took it to his excellency and he bought into it without knowing the truth. Based on that, they now came and told me that I should resign.

"On the 10th of November, while I was busy preparing for my election, they went and got from a state high

court in Enugu, and based on this fake document, the judge gave an order that I am supposed to have resigned. They told me that someone else had been appointed, one Ude-Okoye had been appointed as National Secretary of the party.

"I was elected through a national convention and it is only through convention that I can be removed.

"They went ahead and told the governor because he is the only governor from the South East that if I become a governor, as former National Secretary of the party, that I will be too powerful and that he

should continue to become the only governor from the South East.

"On the 9th of January 2025, the Federal High Court Abuja gave a judgment and it was quite explicit that I remain the national secretary of this party until the 9th of December, 2025 when my tenure will elapse."

Reading the communique of the South East stakeholders, after the meeting that lasted for several hours, the South East Legal Adviser of PDP, Ukpai Ukairo, said that the South East leaders have passed a vote of confidence on Anyanwu.

## We have cleared Umuahia forests of criminal elements — Hunters

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

THE leader of the Nigerian Hunters and Forest Security Services (NHSS), in Abia State, Sunday Chukwudiegwu Mmeribe, has said that his members have cleared forests in Umuahia, the capital of Abia State, of criminal elements.

Mmeribe, who spoke on his team's operations, said his members relied on tip-offs from local farmers in arresting drug dealers and other criminal elements hiding in forests in the state, adding that his members' efforts contributed to the improved security witnessed in Umuahia.

He further said that they usually obtained valuable information from traditional rulers and also collaborated with security agencies, including the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

According to him, "Since 2016, the forest guards have been arresting kidnapers, child trafficking syndicates, and other criminal elements, promptly handing the suspects over to the appropriate security agencies

within 24 hours."

He also disclosed that the Ikpa forest, located between Ubaha and Umuezeoma in the Oriendu Ancient Kingdom in Umuahia North LGA, has been significantly sanitized of criminals, pointing out that farmers, particularly women,

were harassed or assaulted in the past by criminals, which scared villagers from going to their farms.

Mmeribe, who praised Governor Alex Otti's efforts in tackling criminal activities in forests and other localities in Abia, appealed to his administration for functional vehicles and other resources to enhance their operations, lamenting the lack of support.

## 480 students of GSS Enugu get essential learning materials

By Chinedu Adonu

ABOUT 480 Junior Secondary School students of Government Secondary School, GSS, Enugu, yesterday, received essential learning materials from a telecommunication service provider, MTN Nigeria, through its foundation.

The programme was part of the MTN Foundation (MTNF) Learning Support Materials Initiative (LSMI)-Agenda designed to empower new students of junior secondary school (JSS 1) with essential academic tools.

Speaking during the presentation

of the learning materials to the students, Regional Manager, Operations, South-East, MTN, Kallima Inino, said the initiative contributes to MTN's mission of enhancing education.

He encouraged the students to pursue excellence, assuring them that there is still hope and a better future for those in public schools.

While appreciating the commitment and hard work of teachers in nurturing the leaders of tomorrow, Inino declared that Enugu State would remain a focus in their future initiatives, as they collaborate to drive growth and

## Psychiatric patient allegedly raped by hospital staff missing

By Dennis Agbo

A 32-year-old psychiatric patient at the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Enugu, Miss Nzubechi Igwe has allegedly been raped by a staff of the hospital and subsequently declared missing with five months pregnancy.

The Medical Director of the hospital, Dr Ngozi Unogu, however, refused to make comment on the scandal despite being bombarded for response by newsmen.

Narrating the ordeal, the elder brother of the victim, Mr Israel Igwe, said her young sister, Nzubechi, has been experiencing some psychiatric symptoms to which her family sought urgent medical attention at the hospital and was admitted on August 9, 2024.

Israel said while her sister was at the hospital he visited her often and was monitoring her progression and providing the necessary things that were required.

He said: "One night while my sister was within the hospital premises, one security man at the hospital accosted her, lured her to a corner, in threatening violence and had non-consensual sexual intercourse with her.

"At the earliest opportunity, my sister reported the matter to the management of the Neuropsychiatric hospital, Enugu for their intervention. But despite the said complaint by my sister, there was a brazen apathy to investigate the incident case of rape, culminating in pregnancy.

"I was not in any way informed and did not know about the ugly incident up until the second trimester of the pregnancy when I was advised by a staff at the hospital to conduct a pregnancy test on my sister.

"The pregnancy test was thereafter conducted and the result came out positive. At the moment, my sister is about five months pregnant. The pregnancy test result is intact and can be made available if the need be."

Igwe disclosed that in a strange twist of event, on January 15, 2025, he received a call from the hospital informing him that his sister was missing and that his presence was urgently needed at the hospital.

"When I got to the hospital, they gave me the hospital bill and informed me that they do not know my sister's whereabouts. We have searched every nook and cranny of both my home State (Abia) and Enugu State but she is nowhere to be found. All the entreaties made to the hospital management to give any reasonable account as to my sister's whereabouts proved futile."

development for more positive impacts.

He noted that several other initiatives were being carried out in various schools across the country, including students with special needs.

The governor's wife, Nkechinyere Mbah, who was represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Special Duties, Chidimma Egeonu, lauded MTN Foundation for its continuous nature of giving back to society in many ways, particularly through education.

While noting that her office was ever ready to partner the foundation, she disclosed that the foundation's efforts resonate with her works across schools in the state.



# UBA Knowledge Series

**TOPIC**

2024 Withholding Tax Regulations recently implemented by the Federal Government, with a specific emphasis on how they affect SME's

*Host*

*Speakers*



**Babatunde Ajayi**  
Head, SME Banking UBA



**Adeyemi Adediran**  
Andersen Consulting



**Vincent Okoukoni**  
Andersen Consulting

Date: **30 January 2025** | Time: **12:00 PM (WAT)** | Via: zoom

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VISIT—From left, Mr Kenneth Ehigiator, News Editor, Vanguard Newspapers; Ms Chisimchere Chukwu, Head, Corporate Communication, Nigerdock; Mr Kunle Adekoya, Deputy Editor and Mr Emma Nnadozie, Crime Editor, during a courtesy visit of Ms Chukwu to Vanguard's Corporate Office in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO LAMIDI BAMIDELE.

## Sharia alien to Yoruba culture, religious belief — Gani Adams

By Shina Abubakar

● Says fanatics aim to destabilise Yoruba land

**I**LLE-IFE — THE Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams, yesterday, condemned an attempt to introduce Sharia in the Southwest, stating that it is alien to Yoruba culture and religious beliefs.

Speaking at the 2025 Oodua festival, held at Enuwa Square, Ile-Ife in Osun State, Adams stressed that the introduction of Sharia is aimed at destabilising the Yoruba land by religious

fanatics and fundamentalists. He emphasized that while Saudi Arabia is an Islamic kingdom where Sharia aligns with religious teachings and accepted, Nigeria remains a nation where the constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

He said: "Saudi Arabia is a good example of an Islamic kingdom that practises Sharia law according to the Holy Quran. The Saudis also adhere strictly to the law, and they are happy

because Sharia law is in tandem with their religious beliefs and teachings.

"However, Nigeria is a secular nation where the constitution allows every citizen to practise whatever religion they believe in freely without any intimidation.

"Sharia law is alien to our culture and religious beliefs in Yoruba land, therefore, those religious fanatics masquerading as Muslims should stay away from

acts that could set a Yoruba land on fire."

Speaking on the influx of ISWAP members in the South West, Adams urged the federal and state governments to intensify efforts to tackle insecurity in the region.

He, however, said the Oodua People's Congress, OPC, would partner with other security groups in curbing the scourge in Yoruba land.

## Court strikes out defamation suit against Farotimi

By Rotimi Ojomoyela

**A**DO-EKITI — A Federal High Court sitting in Ado-Ekiti, yesterday, struck out the criminal defamation suit filed against human rights lawyer, Mr Dele Farotimi, by the founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, ABUAD, Aare Afe Babalola.

The court's decision followed a notice of discontinuance filed by the police prosecutor, Samson Osobu.

Recall that Aare Babalola had earlier pardoned Farotimi after the intervention of the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, and other prominent Yoruba monarchs.

The police prosecutor filed the notice of discontinuance, dated January 29, 2025, to withdraw the defamation suit against Farotimi.

In his ruling, Justice Babs Kuewunmi struck out the case after the defence accepted the notice of discontinuance.

Speaking with journalists after the ruling, the defendant's lawyer, Adeyinka Olumide-Fusika, SAN, confirmed that Farotimi had agreed to the discontinuance, but noted that

other cases were still pending in different courts.

According to him, additional cases related to the matter are ongoing at Ado-Ekiti magistrate court and others in Oyo, Ogun,

Port Harcourt and Abuja.

Olumide-Fusika said: "In this case, we were served with a notice of discontinuance this morning (Wednesday). We accepted it, and the case at the

high court here has been struck out. We will now wait for further action on the other cases."

Farotimi, who refused to speak with journalists, was spotted in the courtroom dressed in white.

## Afenifere: Fasoranti, Adebajo divided over Farotimi's appointment

By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE — LEADERS of the Apan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, including Pa Reuben Fasoranti and Pa Ayo Adebajo, were divided over the appointment of a rights activist, Mr Dele Farotimi, as the Organizing Secretary of the organisation.

Recall that the Pa Adebajo group, at its meeting held in Ijebu-Igbo on Tuesday, appointed Farotimi as the Organizing Secretary.

This came despite the previous appointment of Otunba Kole Omololu by the Fasoranti-led group in Akure, Ondo State.

But, a statement titled 'Pa Fasoranti remains Afenifere's true leader', and signed by Omololu, kicked against the appointment of Farotimi.

Omololu said there is only one Afenifere, which is headed by

Fasoranti, noting that any appointment made by any group masquerading as Afenifere is null, void and of no consequence.

The statement reads: "It is important to clarify that there is only one authentic Afenifere, which remains under the leadership of Pa Reuben Fasoranti.

"This body continues to uphold the core values and principles that have guided us since the formation of Afenifere, and we remain steadfast in our

## Alaafin-elect dissolves unauthorised coronation c'ttee

By Adeola Badru

**I**BADAN — THE Alaafin-elect of Oyo, Oba Abimbola Owoade, yesterday, dissolved an

unauthorized coronation committee formed without his consent.

Owoade, in a statement, warned that future meetings or activities associated with this committee would be deemed illegal and would not be tolerated.

The statement reads: "Let it be known to all that any committee or activity established without the prior consent and approval of His Imperial Majesty and his office shall be considered unauthorized and will not be permitted to exist.

"The public and the organizers of this so-called coronation committee are hereby notified that no approval or consent has been granted by the Alaafin, Oba Abimbola Owoade I. Thus, all discussions on this matter must cease at once.

"The royal family will keep the community informed of any developments regarding future contributions."

## APC expels Aregbesola over alleged anti-party activities

By Shina Abubakar

**O**SOGBO — THE All Progressives Congress, APC, in Osun State, has expelled former Interior Minister, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola over alleged anti-party activities.

Aregbesola and the APC in Osun have been at loggerheads over issues of anti-party activities during the 2022 governorship poll in the state and the 2023 general elections.

The APC in Osun State claimed that Aregbesola's actions fueled internal divisions, with party leaders asserting that his influence on certain groups has caused significant discord.

Following the resolution of Aregbesola's suspension to the National Secretariat, a response of the leadership to the APC in Osun State endorsing his expulsion was sent to the former governor through DHL on Friday, January 24, 2025, to his Ilesa residence.

The letter which was sighted by Vanguard, dated January 7, 2025, which was signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the State chapter, Tajudeen Lawal and Kamoru Alao, stated that Aregbesola has been suspended effective immediately.

The letter, which was addressed to the former Minister reads: "We write to formally bring to your attention the findings and

resolution arising from the disciplinary process initiated concerning allegations of anti-party activities levelled against you by the Disciplinary Committee, where you were allowed to be heard by the principles of natural justice. At the end of the investigation, the State Executive Committee, SEC, considered the report of the Disciplinary Committee.

"Having carefully considered the findings and recommendations of the Committee, SEC has resolved to accept the recommendation of your immediate expulsion from the All Progressives Congress, APC. The decision was predicated on the clear evidence of your actions, which undermined the unity and integrity of the Party in violation of the provisions of Article 21 of the APC Constitution guiding the conduct and discipline of members.

"As a result, with the approval of your expulsion, you cease to be a member of APC. Consequently, you are not to hold yourself out as a member or act in any capacity on behalf of the party in any manner whatsoever.

"While acknowledging your past contributions to the Party, we trust that you will comply with this decision and act according to the directives in this communication."

## Firm launches solar-powered pump machine to tackle climate change

By James Ogunnaike

**A**BEOKUTA — Heifer International Nigeria has launched a solar powered pump machine to enhance irrigation farming and food production especially for small-holder farmers in Ogun State.

Speaking at the ceremony held in Abeokuta, the company's Country Director, Dr Lekan Tobe, said the innovation of the solar powered pump machine is a dream come true for the company whose core mandates is to end hunger while caring for the earth.

Dr Tobe said: "Previously, farmers relied on fuel-powered water pumps, but the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government in 2024 made fuel unaffordable for smallholder farmers.

"The solar-powered pump offers a sustainable and cost-effective solution to this challenge and will help increase productivity.

"The solar powered pump machine is also environmentally friendly, it is not emitting any carbon into the air and so it is helping to combat the challenge of climate change and at the same time also helping to tackle drought and allow for all-year round farming which is essential to achieve food security."

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Ogun State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Mrs Kehinde Jokotoye described the initiation as quite exciting and a welcome development to achieve food security in the country.

## NUC approves 10 new programmes for Wesley varsity

By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE — THE National Universities Commission, NUC, has granted approval to 10 new academic programmes at Wesley University, Ondo town, in Ondo State.

The approval was conveyed in an official letter from the NUC Secretariat, addressed to the Vice Chancellor of Wesley University.

The letter by the Acting Director of Academic Planning, Abubakar Girei, on behalf of the Executive Secretary, the NUC confirmed that the newly approved programs will run in the main campus of the University with effect from the 2024/2025 academic session.

It reads: "I am to add that the approval does not cover the part-time mode of delivery of the programme. Before the

part-time mode of any undergraduate programme can commence, a request should be forwarded to the Commission for further processing.

"The programme shall bear only the approved title and nomenclature and any change will require the approval of the Commission.

"The University is enjoined to provide adequate human and material resources for the development and growth of the approved programme."

Reacting to the approval, the Vice Chancellor of Wesley University, Prof. Sunday Obeka, said the approval marks a significant milestone for Wesley University by enhancing its academic offerings and providing more opportunities for students in diverse fields of study.

## Politicians using religion, tribalism to divide Nigerians — Supreme Head C&S

By Innocent Anaba

**L**AGOS — THE Supreme Head, Cherubim and Seraphim Unification Church of Nigeria, Prophet Solomon Alao has expressed worries that politicians were using religion and tribalism to divide the people, noting that it should be nipped in the bud.

He also called on President Bola Tinubu to be more proactive in the fight against insecurity and to prevent its spread to the South West.

He also called for the detained leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra,

IPoB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, to be granted a Presidential pardon for peace to reign in the land.

Speaking at a press conference ahead of the 2025 Annual General Conference, Alao noted that the event is scheduled to be held from January 30 to February 2, 2025, with the theme: 'Preparing The Church for The Set Time.'

He said: "President Tinubu should put tough legislation in place to avert these social vices. Politicians are using religion and tribalism to divide us and there is a need for us to nip this act in the bud."

He further urged the

Presidency to fight corruption, reduce the cost of governance, boost food security and engage religious leaders towards implementing government policies and other policies at the grassroots.

Meanwhile, Rev Mother Esther Ajayi, Founder of Love of Christ Generation Church appreciated Prophet Alao for his divine guidance.

She said: "I am hopeful that Nigeria will be great. God will touch the heart of the President and his cabinet in making Nigeria a country flowing with milk and honey. We are a community placed on the hill and we cannot be hidden."

## Focus on specifics, prioritise skills, Interior minister charges tertiary institutions

By Omeiza Ajayi

**ABUJA**—The Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, has urged tertiary institutions in the country to focus on their areas of core competencies as well as skills development.

He made the call while receiving the management team of Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo State, led by the acting Rector, Adegun Olorunwa, in Abuja yesterday.

He said agriculture-based institutions should focus on anything agriculture and emphasized the significance of prioritizing acquisition of practical skills over solely relying on academic certificates. Tunji-Ojo stressed that Nigeria needed to shift its focus from being a country that prioritised certificate to one that valued innovations and technical skills. He said: "On the issue of career, Nigeria is a country of certificate-carrying people, not a country of skills. We carry certificates, and there is need to come up with innovative ideas."

"Beyond advocacy, we must be scientific. As a matter of fact, it is about doing your research and identifying areas of weaknesses. And, most importantly, it is about recognising needs."

Tunji-Ojo urged the academic world to remain focused and "come up with innovative ideas" that are creative and competitive on the global scene.

"Our tertiary institutions must look deeper into global products and projects, and inspire students in that direction. Look at the Bill Gates of

this world, the Mark Zuckerberg(s), and the Elon Musk(s). Go study their strategy, and develop a standard curriculum to ignite ideas in our youngsters," he said.

"We have schools of Agriculture. I believe they should focus on anything that has to do with agriculture. As for our tertiary institutions, we should be talking about technol-

ogy, research, and developments."

On technology and innovation, Tunji-Ojo reiterated the need to "understand the division of labour," as well as, "build idea hubs and clusters for success relevant to emerging demands."

Speaking during the visit, the Acting Rector appreciated the Minister for his scholastic approach, insights,

and support, while also recalling how the minister facilitated projects during his tenure as Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission NDDC.

Olorunwa also intimated the Minister on the career service centre in the institution. The visit also had in attendance the permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Dr. Magdalene Ajani, and top officials of the ministry.

## NAF vows to tackle criminals in ungoverned areas

By Kingsley Omonobi

**ABUJA**—The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, yesterday vowed to bring justice to criminals operating in ungoverned spaces across the country.

Speaking at the 2025 Administration and Personnel Seminar in Abuja, Abubakar declared that Air Force's operations would ensure that those who took up arms against the state were found, fixed, and neutralised.

He said: "Our relentless operations against criminal elements reaffirm our determination to protect innocent lives and restore peace across the nation."

"Let me make it clear that air power will extend the long arm of the law, bringing justice to criminals hiding in ungoverned spaces. We will find, fix, and strike all those who take arms against the

state, and we will not relent until Nigeria is safe for all."

The air chief also disclosed that the Nigerian Air Force has witnessed an 86% increase in manpower over the last 13 years, with the number of airmen and airwomen doubling since 2013.

Under his leadership alone, he said over 530 officers had been commissioned, while 2,300 airmen had been recruited.

Abubakar, who noted that at the current pace of recruitment, the Air Force was projected to exceed 30,000 personnel by 2027, reinforcing its operational capabilities, said: "The most significant growth surge occurred between 2017 and 2020, and currently, the officer-to-airman ratio stands at approximately 1:6."

"If we maintain this growth rate, the NAF is projected to exceed 30,000 personnel by 2027."

This rapid increase in staff numbers underscores the need for

modern, computerised human resource management and proactive administration."

He said the growing force demanded better career management, performance evaluation, accommodation, healthcare, and welfare incentives to sustain operational efficiency and morale.

"The effectiveness of our pilots, engineers, and operational elements depends on the foundation laid by administrative personnel who manage career progression, enforce discipline, and provide welfare support."

"Without this administrative backbone, even the most brilliant strategies, advanced platforms, or innovative technologies cannot deliver their intended outcomes," he said.

On personnel welfare, Abubakar revealed that the NAF has made significant progress, including improved medical facilities, better accommodation, en-

## Terrorism: FG committed to peace in Lake Chad Basin

—Tinubu

**MAIDUGURI**—PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu yesterday said Nigeria is fully committed to partnering governors of the Lake Chad Basin Forum and other stakeholders to bring lasting peace and stability in the region following over decade of devastating atrocities caused by Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists.

The President, who was represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, at the opening of the 5th Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum hosted by Yobe State government in Maiduguri, Borno State, lamented that poverty, inequality and lack of opportunities for youths were major causes of Boko Haram/ISWAP.

He said: "The forum which is set up to address the persistent regional challenges is not just a meeting; it is also a platform to forge actionable partnerships, align strategies, and mobilize the resources needed to transform the Lake Chad Basin into a region of peace, stability and opportunity."

"Government is fully aware that poverty, inequality and lack of opportunities for our young ones were major causes of Boko Haram/ISWAP, but let me assure this gathering that the present administration is determined to embrace partnership with the African and international communities to end terrorism in the region."

Tinubu commended all participants of the forum, with the theme, "Rebuilding the Lake Chad Basin: Consolidating Gains, Commitment to Peace, Cross-Border Cooperation, Security, and Sustainable Development for a Resilient Community," and wished them fruitful deliberations geared towards restoration of peace, social cohesion and development in the region.

The chief host and governor of Yobe State, Mai Mala Buni, in his welcome address, lauded President Tinubu for his commitment to regional cooperation and stability.

## Why Motor Insurance Remains an Important Choice – NEM Insurance Plc

Motor insurance is one of the many obligations that comes with owning a car in the fast-paced world of today. NEM Insurance Plc, one of Nigeria's leading insurance companies, strongly believes that as required by law; safeguarding your car is essential to ensuring your financial security and peace of mind.

**Here's why motor insurance remains an essential choice for vehicle owners:**

**Legal Compliance:** It is legally required to have motor insurance. In addition to being against the law, driving without insurance carries significant penalties, including fines, vehicle impoundment, and even jail time. In addition to ensuring compliance, having at least a third-party motor insurance policy safeguards other drivers.

**Financial Protection:** Accidents do occur anytime, even with the most cautious drivers. Financial protection against third-party liability, medical costs, and vehicle damage is provided by motor insurance. These expenses, particularly when there are serious accidents or significant repairs involved, can be crippling without insurance.

**Third-Party Liability Coverage:** The third-party liability coverage offered by motor insurance is a major advantage. This safeguards you against monetary losses if another person or their property is hurt or damaged by your car. It protects you from potential legal and financial repercussions in these circumstances.

**Protection Against Theft and Natural Disasters:** Policies for comprehensive motor insurance cover more than just accidents. They offer protection against theft, fire, and natural calamities like storms and floods. This extra safety is crucial in Nigeria, where there are serious security worries and unpredictable weather.

**Peace of Mind:** Whether you are driving to work, on a road trip, or running errands, having motor insurance guarantees that you are financially protected in the event of an accident or unforeseen circumstance, allowing you to concentrate on what's important. NEM Insurance provides a selection of motor insurance plans that are customised to meet your requirements. The company offers dependable and reasonably priced solutions to protect

your car and your financial future, ranging from third-party coverage to comprehensive insurance.

The Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NEM Insurance Plc, Mr. Andrew Ikekhua, emphasized that insurance is central to all human activities and resources, hence, should occupy a significant position whenever entities make decisions. "Every car owner should put themselves in positions where indemnity and compensation are open for claims once a loss or damage takes place, this means initiative-taking steps should be taken to drive home this need," he added.

"We stand out for our dedication to providing outstanding customer service and expeditious claims processing, which guarantees that you'll never be left in the dark when you need us most," Ikekhua added.

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## News



By Henry Ojelu

IN December 2024, the Federal Government through the office of the National Counter-Terrorism Centre announced it had concluded about 1,743 terrorism-related trials between 2017 and 2024.

Addressing journalists in Abuja, the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation, Mohammed Babadoko stated that within the seven year review period, 742 convictions were secured, while 888 individuals were discharged and acquitted, primarily due to insufficient evidence.

Giving a breakdown of the terrorism-related trials, Babadoko stated that in 2017, 50 suspects were convicted, while 203 were acquitted, with 28 cases were adjourned to the following year.

According to Babadoko, 684 suspects were acquitted in 2018, while 316 were convicted, with 33 trials adjourned till 2019.

*Vanguard's* analysis of the seven years record provided by Babadoko, showed that conviction rate for terrorism related cases is approximately 42.6 per cent, implying that more than 51.2 per cent of the suspects were freed due largely to insufficient evidence.

Getting information about terrorism trials is often very difficult because the proceedings are conducted in highly protected places within military barracks. Due to outcry over the need to ensure transparency in the trial, a few human rights organisations and media representatives were allowed to monitor the proceedings.

Some persons familiar with the court proceedings but didn't want their names mentioned, disclosed to *Vanguard*, some of the key factors responsible for a large number of terrorism suspects being discharged by the trial courts.

### Poor investigation, evidence

### collection

*Vanguard's* findings during interaction with those familiar with the trials, revealed that security agencies involved in the investigation of many terrorism acts often lack the expertise, resources, or training to conduct thorough investigations and gather admissible evidence. *Vanguard* gathered that some prosecutors handling terrorism trials still rely majorly on confessional statements obtained under duress. In some of the aiding and abetting cases that were dismissed, the evidence against them were just their confessional statements which they denied making during trial.

### Witness intimidation, protection

Another key factor why prosecutors are witnessing less convictions is due to lack of effective witness protection measures. *Vanguard* findings revealed that many witnesses in terrorism cases faced threats, intimidation and even assassination. Although trials are often conducted in secure military barracks, key witnesses often shy away from giving evidence during court hearings for fear of their lives. *Vanguard* gathered that the situation is further compounded because of Nigeria's limited mechanisms for witness protection, which discourages individuals from testifying.

### Lack of inter-agency coordination

*Vanguard* findings also revealed that inadequate coordination among law enforcement agencies and lack of information sharing, led to many disjointed and inefficient prosecution efforts. Some defendants, according to findings, were discharged on the ground that the security agency that initially arrested them did not properly document their findings before handing them over to the agency re-

## TRIAL OF TERROR SUSPECTS: How govt botched prosecution of 888 terror suspects

- Poor investigation, evidence collection, witness intimidation, secret trial hampering conviction
- Limited forensic, technological capabilities, an obstacle
- As lawyers raise concerns over trial, conviction
- We did our job; courts decide who's convicted or acquitted — AGF's Office

sponsible for the trial. Although *Vanguard* could not get the exact number of cases dismissed on this ground, a lawyer who defended a suspect, but did not want his name mentioned, confirmed that his client was dismissed based on a mix-

**Shoddy handling of cases is mostly responsible. Cases are won or lost even before charges are filed. Detailed investigation taking cognizance of due process, the Criminal code Act, the Evidence Act, etc., rushed filing of charges when investigation has not been completed will ultimately lead to failure. Vital witnesses and documents must be carefully put together**

up of evidence.

### Limited forensic, technological capabilities

*Vanguard* gathered that the absence of advanced forensic and technological tools for analyzing evidence makes it difficult for prosecutors to build strong cases against terrorism suspects. In some instances where suspects were arrested years after they had allegedly committed the terrorism acts, the prosecuting authorities could not apply advanced forensic tools to sustain their charges.

### International dimensions

*Vanguard* also gathered that another key factor responsible for the poor conviction record is the international nature of most terrorism acts. Many terrorism cases in Nigeria involve transnational networks such as Boko Haram and ISWAP, making it difficult to prosecute without international cooperation. Bureaucratic hurdles and differing priorities among countries also complicate matters.

### HRW report on terrorism trial

A few years back, a report by Human Rights Watch, HRW, which was

one of the agencies initially allowed to monitor some of the terrorism trials in the country, gave insight into their trial procedure which might be responsible for the current low conviction rate of suspects.

In the report, HRW stated that in seven of about 60 cases it monitored, Federal Ministry of Justice prosecutors brought charges for murder, kidnapping, and other crimes, including during gruesome attacks in Damaturu, Bama, and Baga in 2015, and the abduction of 276 schoolgirls in Chibok in April 2014.

It noted that most of the defendants were prosecuted solely for providing "material and non-violent support" to Boko Haram, including repairing their vehicles, laundering their clothes, or supplying them with food and other items.

The report further stated: "The proceedings were very short, with some lasting less than 15 minutes, raising several fair trial and due process concerns. Most charges were couched in ambiguous and vague terms without the crucial information Nigerian law requires, like the specific date, place, and details of the alleged offence.

"Other procedural lapses included a lack of official interpreters and the use of untrained unofficial interpreters; reliance on alleged confessions;

charging previously discharged defendants again for the same offences; and unclear orders for rehabilitation for some defendants whose releases were ordered.

"The courts did not provide official Hausa and Kanuri interpreters for the proceedings, although the majority of the defendants in the cases observed only understood one of those languages. Ad hoc arrangements using people at the trial who could speak the languages appeared to be inadequate. In one of the courts, a Justice ministry prosecutor was co-opted as the court's interpreter in Hausa, while a soldier interpreted in Kanuri.

"In one case, an observer who spoke the language brought glaring errors in a co-opted interpreter's translation to the judge's attention, after which the judge changed the interpreter. Furthermore, the conflicting roles of soldiers and prosecutors acting as interpreters violates fair trial standards.

"The proceedings also raised concerns about whether the defendants and their legal representatives had adequate time and opportunity to present their cases. All defendants were represented by court-appointed public defenders from the government-funded Legal Aid Council. The lawyers did not present evidence or call any witnesses other than the defendants. In many cases, the lawyers appeared unprepared and unfamiliar with the case materials."

### Senior lawyers raise concerns over trial

Some senior lawyers who spoke to *Vanguard* also shared their concerns over terrorism trials procedures and convictions in the country.

### We did our job; courts decide who's convicted or acquitted — AGF's Office

Reacting to the development yesterday, the SA to the President on Communication and Publicity (Office of the AGF & MOJ), Kamarudeen Ogundele, said: "It is the courts that decide who is guilty or not. Our lawyers presented their evidence to courts but it is the duty of the court to decide if it is persuaded by them or not.

"We cannot be judges in our own cases. That is why it is called prosecution and not persecution. There is no need to be sentimental about the number of those discharged and those con-

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# News

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victed.

"Our investigators and prosecutors displayed high level of professionalism. So it is not a case of lack of diligent prosecution or absence of evidence.

"We did our job, the defence did their job and the judges did their job. The essence of the trials is to give people the opportunity to defend themselves. At the end of the day the Rule of Law stands."

## FG has no concrete evidence against many suspects

— Falana, SAN

Human rights lawyer, Mr Femi Falana, SAN, told *Vanguard* that the reason many terrorism suspects are being discharged is because the Federal Government does not have any concrete evidence against them.

He said: "The government has no evidence against majority of the suspects. Hence, most cases are resolved in favour of the suspects.

"Former Attorney General of the Federation, AGF, Mr. Abubakar Malami, SAN once announced the arrest of 400 terrorism sponsors. In spite of public demand for their prosecution, they were released and treated like sacred cows.

"Instead of prolonged detention of suspects, the government should conduct a thorough but speedy investigation and release those who have no case to answer while the indicted suspects are speedily tried.

## Uncommon pace of convictions worrisome — Otteh, A2J

The Executive Director of Access to Justice, Mr. Joseph Otteh said that the real concerns should not be about conviction rate but rather about the uncommon pace of convictions.

He said: "I do not think the conviction rates are poor within the context of the challenges Nigeria faces. From the overall data, there is more cause to worry about the uncommon pace at which convictions were secured and what the implications might be for the fairness and integrity of those trials.

"Part of the concerns relate to the lack of full disclosure about the trials — how many courts were involved in the trials, how many defendants did each court try; how many defendants had access to legal counsel with appropriate levels of competence and experience related to the severity of the charges, etc.



## TRIAL OF TERROR SUSPECTS: How govt botched prosecution of 888 terror suspects

"I say this because the information offered by the authorities about the conviction data is discrete and selective; it can possibly set off alarm bells implicating the observance of due process safeguards. In July 2024 alone it was reported that "a total of 253 cases were disposed of, out of which 125 were convicted".

"Criminal litigation lawyers know that, even with very reasonable efforts, it takes multiple years to complete a criminal trial, let alone one that carries the death penalty. So how do we get 125 convictions

in one month? Or even in six months?"

"Then they say that the convictions include "International Criminal Court criminalities". Who exactly has been convicted for ICC crimes? For which crimes exactly? Why are their identities not revealed? The ICC has demanded the prosecution of senior military commanders implicated in crimes against humanity, some of who ordered the brutal killing of hundreds of people, including children and mothers in Kaduna State and elsewhere?

"Why are the principal culprits still enjoying immunity for their impunity? Many people will interpret the inclusion of this category of convicts as a red herring, to deflect pressure from the ICC to prosecute the real culprits, and not as a *bona fide* effort to hold implicated persons accountable for egregious crimes. This unduly politicizes and undermines what ought to have been a genuine and transparent effort to bring abusers to justice."

### Most cases are lost even before filing- Hannibal, ex-AfBA president

Former President of African Bar Association, AfBA, Mr Uwaifo Hannibal, believes shoddy investigation is largely responsible for poor prosecution record of terrorism suspects.

He said: Terrorism as it affects Nigeria has become a nightmare. The

evil has destroyed families, cultural bonds and sent thousands to their early graves. Despite the amount of money successive governments claim to have spent on fighting this serious threat to our nation, the result has been minimal.

"Also due to the Nigerian factor, fighting terrorism has become an avenue to steal and loot public funds as we have seen in the past where funds meant for weapons and other security equipment grew wings.

"While it is true that the country has recorded success in pursuing criminal prosecution of these criminals, the level of success is abysmally low, only 42.6% success rate.

"Shoddy handling of the cases is mostly responsible. Cases are won or lost even before the charges are filed. Detailed investigation taking cognizance of due process, the Criminal code Act, the Evidence Act, etc., rushed filing of charges when investigation has not been completed will ultimately lead to failure. Vital witnesses and documents must be carefully put together.

"Another major problem may be the reluctance of vital witnesses to testify before the courts for fear of reprisals from terror gang members who have not been arrested. Lastly, government must understand that litigating and prosecuting a case costs a lot of money and so adequate funds should be provided and lastly, competent lawyers who are experienced in terror related matters should be drafted to handle such cases."

Reacting to the issue, the Executive Secretary of National Human Rights Commissions, NHRC, Dr. Tony Ojukwu, SAN, said: "Most of those arrested, their trial has been for too long that the witnesses, some of them have died, so the evidence, some of them, you know, is no longer admissible. It's a challenge when these things overstay. The profiling system that was used initially also constituted a problem. Then, they just pack people and by the time they start probing, the agencies will discover that perhaps only one person is culpable. Back then, when there was a bomb blast in a motor park, everybody in that motor park was arrested. There was no alternative intelligence, it was just like a physical and manual thing.

"I know that the system is improving but most of the suspects being tried now are people who were arrested up to 10 years and that would definitely affect the outcome of their trials.

"There is also the issue of witnesses coming to testify. One of the reports we got was that the prosecution also face is that people are not willing to come and testify for fear of attack by terrorist group members. You go and give information to the police, police will go and reveal it, you know, to the people. Tomorrow, you and your family will be exterminated. So that is a huge challenge for the prosecution.

"To tackle the problem of low conviction, we have to improve intelligence for gathering information. We need to be more scientific in terms of analysis of suspects. We need to eliminate use of torture to get evidence from accused persons so

that at the end of the day, the margin of error is very small. Because if we don't do thorough investigations, no judge is going to start convicting people for no reason."

## Loopholes in legal frameworks responsible — UFELI

The Executive Director, Cadrell Advocacy Centre, Mr Evans Ufeli believes that the current legal framework for prosecuting terrorism suspects might be providing loopholes for suspects to explore, leading to their discharge and acquittal.

He said: "The nature of terrorism often involves covert operations, making the collection of robust evidence difficult. Many cases may lack the concrete proof necessary for a successful prosecution, resulting in numerous acquittals and case dismissals.

"The current legal frameworks in Nigeria are not adequately equipped to handle terrorism cases. Existing laws can be outdated or insufficiently comprehensive, providing loopholes that defence lawyers can exploit to undermine prosecutions. The lack of forensics and scientific crime analysis contributes a huge chunk to weakening the prosecution's case because it's proof beyond reasonable doubt.

"Widespread corruption within the judicial and law enforcement sectors sometimes compromise the integrity of terrorism trials. Instances of collusion or interference by those sympathetic to terrorist causes can skew the outcomes of legal proceedings. This is perhaps the leading reason why many terrorism cases never make it to the court for prosecution in the first place.

"Most times the fear of reprisal prevents witnesses from coming forward to testify against the defendants in terrorism cases, thereby weakening cases against suspects. This intimidation can create a chilling effect that deters potential testimonies that could be vital for a prosecution.

"Many law enforcement and judiciary agencies in Nigeria struggle with inadequate resources, affecting their capacity to conduct thorough investigations, compile evidence, and effectively prosecute cases. The prosecution most times is left to bear the cost of making sure his witnesses are in court. He will have to pay for their transportation, feed them and get them ready for the case at every adjourned date. The witnesses do not show up in court if these costs are not borne by someone."



The International Monetary Fund, IMF, and the World Trade Organisation, WTO, both have a remit to monitor and review the economic developments and policies of their members. The aim, for the IMF, is to ensure that countries manage their economies and finances well to prevent financial instabilities both nationally and internationally. For the WTO, the aim is to make sure none of its members pursues autarkic, beggar-thy-neighbour trade policies that could harm their economies and those of other members, upending the global economy.

Thus, under Article IV of its Articles of Agreement, the IMF conducts what is known as Article IV Consultations with each of its members every year, studying their economic policies and practices, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses and providing policy recommendations. Similarly, under Article IV (4) of the WTO Agreement, the WTO undertakes a Trade Policy Review, TPR, of each member-state to ensure their trade policies are consistent with WTO rules. However, unlike the IMF, the frequency of the WTO's TPRs is determined by each member's share of world trade. For that reason, given Nigeria's minuscule share of world trade, at about 0.49 per cent, its TPR takes place every six or seven years, and, since the WTO was established in 1994,

Nigeria has had six TPRs to date.

Now, believe me, I have read virtually all the reports of the IMF Article IV Consultations on Nigeria over the past ten years, and have read all the reports of WTO's six TPRs on Nigeria, the latest published in November 2024. Why? You may wonder. Well, the fixation is borne out of my professional interests as a trade lawyer and a scholar in international economic and trade law and policy, a subject I taught at the London School of Economics, not to mention once being a researcher at the WTO in Geneva.

Over the years, Nigeria's successive Article IV Consultation and TPR reports made a damning reading because they constantly highlighted the structural weaknesses in Nigeria's economic and trade policies and lamented the country's stubborn refusal to implement the policies recommendations of the IMF and the WTO, thereby failing to tackle the defects.

However, the 2024 Article IV Consultation and TPR reports were a bit different. Both the IMF and the WTO recognised and commended the economic reforms introduced by the Bola Tinubu administration, notably: the removal of the fuel subsidies, the floating of the naira and the scrapping of the CBN's list of 43 import items for which foreign exchange could not be purchased in the official forex market. Nevertheless, the IMF and the WTO acknowledged

## IMF/WTO verdicts: Corruption, absence of rule of law harm Nigeria's economy

that Tinubu's reforms had produced adverse consequences, particularly with skyrocketing inflation, massive depreciations of the naira and acute food insecurity and hunger. They implied that the lack of proper sequencing of the reforms, the absence of effective mitigation, such as genuine safety nets, and "persistent loose financial conditions" should be blamed.

But what really struck me in the reports is the attention that both the

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IMF and the WTO gave to how endemic corruption and the absence of the rule of law pose existential challenges for Nigeria's economy. The WTO states: "Corruption, coupled with

weak enforcement of the rule of law, remains significant barriers to private sector-led growth in Nigeria." On its part, the IMF devotes a whole section to the issue, under an annex titled "Towards stronger anti-corruption and rule of law in Nigeria". The IMF points to studies showing that "reducing corruption in Nigeria to the level observed in benchmark countries (for example, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco or South Africa) could boost growth by 0.5 to 1.5 percentage points annually", and "lowering Nigeria's level of corruption to that of South Africa could increase the amount of infrastructure obtained from each publicly invested dollar by 12 per cent."

Of course, everyone knows that Nigeria is a fantastically corrupt country, where, as the IMF puts it, "corruption is entrenched at all levels of government activity." But few people in this country link corruption to Nigeria's economic performance. I mean, if reducing corruption to the level in South Africa could grow Nigeria's economy by 1.5 per cent and could increase the amount of infrastructure obtained from each dollar the government spends by 12 per cent, why are Nigerians lethargic about the level of corruption in their country? Why are they behaving as if corruption is a victimless crime that has nothing to do with them?

Sadly, although few talk publicly about this, corruption is the Achilles' heel of the Tinubu administration.

But what are the main sources of the endemic corruption? Well, the first is the pervasive lack of government transparency. Nigeria is a country where government activity is shrouded in utter secrecy - secrecy about how contracts are awarded and to whom; secrecy about how budget allocations are spent; secrecy about how Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs, spend public

money. Public disclosure, a common practice in civilised nations, is a rarity in Nigeria. Despite the existence of the so-called Freedom of Information Act, it's easier to squeeze water from a stone than to have access to government information. The IMF calls for the passage of the Whistle-Blower and Witness Protection Bills. But even if the bills were passed into law, a government that uses Cybercrime laws to suppress freedom of speech and of the press would hound and intimidate whistle blowers.

There's a multitude of agencies, policies and initiatives purportedly designed to tackle corruption in Nigeria. Yet, large-scale corruption persists. Why? Because such "anti-graft efforts" are devoid of transparency, accountability, honesty, sincerity, credibility and political will. And, of course, because the fish rots from the head down, the battle is lost ab initio!

Now, the other main source of corruption in Nigeria is also well-known: the absence of the rule of law. With respect to the economy, this is more noticeable in tax administration and port and customs operations. For instance, according to the WTO, over 90 per cent of all consignments undergo physical inspection prior to customs clearance, despite the existence of a risk management system, while businesses make about 200 unofficial tax payments per year. Why? They are symptoms of an utter disregard for the rule of law, fuelled by corruption! Sadly, such abuses permeate every section of the Nigerian economy.

Truth is, the IMF and the WTO are right: Nigeria's chronic and acute governance, corruption and rule-of-law problems are real obstacles to its economic progress. But who's listening?

## Ambode's ambition of return and Seyi Tinubu's political trajectory

BY IDOWU AJANAKU

*"Leadership is something you earn, something you are chosen for" —Ben Roethlisberger*

The strong and solid factors that always stand a candidate's ambition in good stead within the socio-political dynamics of a local community, state or federal government level include vision, character, commitment, and consistency or call it constancy of purpose. That is especially so with regards to that person's guiding philosophies, principles and purposefulness, if driven by humility, integrity, honesty of purpose all within the perspective of the larger picture.

Good enough, it would be a point of reference if such a person has held a public position before and distinguished himself in terms of performance. That precisely, underscores the relevance of the recent media mention of the political ambition of the former governor of Lagos state, Akinwumi Ambode to return to that same pedestal of power, some eight years after he lost that bid to continue in office. Though that wave of interest is currently gathering momentum there are still some hurdles and hitches to scale over. That is where that of the young entrepreneur and politician, who happens to be heir to the throne of the political juggernaut and incumbent President Ahmed Tinubu comes into the unfolding picture. He is none other than the affable, resourceful and dynamic Seyi Tinubu.

Periscoped from a personal perspective, one can objectively

describe him as "a smart and enterprising" man who has learnt the ropes from his father. Indeed, he deserves to be applauded for the noble and notable role he played as a dependable catalyst to see his father's presidential ambition to the light of day.

Ever since, he has deployed similar energy by galvanizing the youths across the nooks and crannies of the country to actively support the "Renewed Hope" agenda. This is a commendable initiative, is it not? Of course, it is. Ahead of the 2027 presidential election therefore, he is well admonished to channel such support towards achieving his father's reelection. That is, instead of dissipating such as a candidate to become the Lagos State governor. That would provide a positive political leverage for Ambode's return to power. If done, Ambode will have the opportunity to put in place measures and mechanisms to lubricate the political engine for Seyi to compete for and eventually become the governor come the year 2031 when his father would be completing his tenure. That would be a more interesting scenario. And that brings us back to Ambode's ambition for the 2027 gubernatorial race. Like it or not, his remarkable achievements over his first term in office, speak volumes.

According to seasoned analysts, and as attested to by the opinion of millions of residents of the state of aquatic splendour, the iconic economist from the backwaters of Epe literally wrote his name in gold while the governor. There are empirical evidences on ground traversing the sectors of infrastructure, security, food security through healthcare

delivery, education, transportation to entertainment. In fact, he left Lagos much better in terms of the Human Development indices (HDI) than he met it.

For instance, it would interest the reader to know, or be reminded that it was during Ambode's tenure that the hitherto long-winding and seemingly intractable traffic congestion challenge was frontally tackled. That came about with the

**Apart from the popular Lake Rice that came up as the Lagos-Kebbi rice project which boosted food security with cheaper and safer rice, Ambode ensured that the people of Lagos were made happier with the building of theatres in Alimosho, Badagry, Ikeja and Epe**

construction of his signature jubilee flyover bridges at places such as Abule-Egba, Ajah and that at Pen Cinema junction, as they came into being.

Interestingly, the mere mention of the name "Ambode" and the appreciative Lagosians will reel out the construction and rehabilitation of 500 roads across the five districts of the ever-busy cosmopolitan city of Lagos. In fact, the people of Alimosho Local Government Area, LGA would remain grateful for the well-paved roads with modern drainage system. And those at Ojodu-Berger axis have been enjoying the

solution to the once asphyxiating traffic jam that characterized the area sparking fisticuffs between the transporters and the commuters. Yet, there are more noteworthy projects to remember Ambode for.

From the reconstructed Murtala Muhammed International Airport road converted from 4 to 10-lane highway, with ramp bridge and flyover to the 21st Century iconic Oshodi Transport Interchange equipped with three terminals, 18 lifts as well as CCTV cameras the handwriting of impactful governance are there for all to see, to admire and to appreciate. It is so inspiring that Ambode was able to build on the achievements of his predecessors to rid Oshodi as the popular den of hardened criminals. But there is more to the feats achieved under Ambode's tenure to gladden the heart of patriots.

Lest we forget, with regards to reinforcement of security in the city with ever bubbling population, Ambode granted N6.6 billion for security agents though belonging to the federal government. He signed into law the Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps. In addition was the Lagos State Properties Protection Law to protect the land owners from the nefarious activities of the notorious land grabbers.

And on transportation the Bus Reform Initiative enhanced public transportation with 5,000 new buses, out of which 434 buses boosted the busy Ikorodu corridor.

Furthermore, in the critical health sector under Ambode, the popular Ayinke House was transformed from an 80-bed facility into the ultra-modern 170-bed Specialist Centre. Also,

the LASUTH complex was equipped with a helipad for medical emergency and the nation's first ever DNA forensic centre.

Apart from the popular Lake Rice that came up as the Lagos-Kebbi rice project which boosted food security with cheaper and safer rice, Ambode ensured that the people of Lagos were made happier with the building of theatres in Alimosho, Badagry, Ikeja and Epe. That was with the Eko Theatre project in the entertainment sector. One could go on and on. But all these highly commendable achievements remind us of the wise words of Joe DiMaggio who stated that: "A person always doing his or her best becomes a natural leader, just by example".

So, as events unfold in the coming years, if there is one man to be considered worthy of the prestigious post of the governorship of the Centre of Excellence he should be Akinwumi Ambode. He has been there before, did his best and must have learnt from his mistakes in the volatile politicking landscape. Good enough, he has weathered the storm, kept his cool in the midst of it all without casting aspersions on his political traducers. As he aptly stated, back in September 2018 while asking for Second Term: "I ask you to believe again and together, let us achieve more...to build a secure and prosperous Lagos state driven by a vibrant economy, supported by quality service, equity and justice".

**AJANAKU, was a former special adviser on information and strategy to Gov. Ambode**





## Buhari's cock and bull story

Former President Muhammadu Buhari's penchant for self-promotional, cock and bull stories that are as deceitful as they are unconvincing, is legendary. His appetite for far-fetched and fanciful tales of highly dubious validity is out of this world. It was, therefore, not surprising that he was in his elements on Saturday, January 25, when he claimed that he now lives off rentals from one of his two houses in Kaduna.

To be sure, in a country where even local government chairmen live ostentatiously and own multiple properties here and abroad, Buhari's three houses - two in Kaduna and one in Daura - should positively count for him, assuming that is true. But who owns the house he stays in the United Kingdom? Has he any house in Niger Republic, where he warned Nigerians he would relocate to after his presidency if anyone dares trouble him? Who owns the property where his wife, Aisha, luxuriates in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)? Buhari's incredulous claim that one of his Kaduna houses is rented out, providing him with funds for his upkeep beggars belief. That means that after his two-term presidency, he now relies on one of his houses in Kaduna to raise money for feeding. Speaking at an All Progressives Congress (APC) caucus meeting at the Presidential Banquet Hall of the Katsina Government House, Buhari said, "After my eight years as a civil president, I have only three houses; one in Daura and two in Kaduna. I have given one out for renting where I get money for feeding." It was a subtle campaign, carefully nuanced to sustain the Buhari incorruptibility myth.

Nigerians are incensed and understandably so. Prof Chidi Odinkalu, former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), poignantly captured their accusatory mood: "Someone should please tell @MBuhari that he is no longer running for the office of Messiah and, therefore, no longer has any need to keep

lying about his earthly acquisitions," Odinkalu tweeted. Even with his barely disguised disgust, Odinkalu was more charitable than some others. A former Nigerian ambassador to one of the Southern African countries under Buhari wrote: "Does this man have any brain cells left? How can he deceive himself so badly that he even says this nonsense in public?"

So, does Buhari believe in his own lies? Yes, he does. That is why he keeps repeating them. But this particular cock and bull story is so outlandish. Buhari is not an ordinary Nigerian. He was not only a General of the Nigerian Army, but also a military head of state and elected president. Nigerian military top-brass retire with mouth-watering emoluments, which have even been further enhanced by President Bola Tinubu. According to the Harmonised Terms and Conditions of Service for Officers and Enlisted Personnel in the Nigerian Armed Forces, which Tinubu signed on December 14, 2024, the Chief of Defence Staff and service chiefs are entitled to a bulletproof SUV or its equivalent, Peugeot 508 or an equivalent vehicle as backup to be replaced every four years and maintained by the military; five domestic aides (two service cooks, two stewards and one civilian gardener); an Aide-de-Camp/security officer, special assistant, personal assistant and standard guard (nine soldiers); three service drivers; one service orderly, escorts and free medical cover in Nigeria and abroad.

Though Buhari was retired as a Major General at the age of 43 on August 27, 1985 after spending only 23 years in the military (1962-1985), he was the head of state and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria for 20 months. So, he is entitled to the same benefits accruing to the CDS and service chiefs who were under his command. Besides, the upkeep of former presidents is statutory as stated in the "Remuneration of former

Presidents and Heads of State Act 1999," which provided for the remuneration and perquisites of office of former heads of state and former vice presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Act which also specifies the allowances to be paid to family members of deceased former presidents and heads of State, explicitly states: "The Federal Government of Nigeria shall in its annual budget make provision for the remuneration of former Heads of State and former Vice-Presidents."

Buhari is entitled to all these benefits. In fact, unlike former President Goodluck Jonathan, who was not in the military, Buhari enjoys bounteous retirement benefits as a former military top brass and ex-president. So, simply put, once again, Buhari lied. And that raises a very fundamental question. Does he believe in his own lies? Apparently he does, which explains why he continues to make these bogus claims. Some people have also wondered why it was necessary for him to tell this cock and bull story, so hare-brained that it only elicited incredulous gasps from Nigerians. For him, the cock and bull stories have become habitual, a way of life. But more importantly, he persists in telling these fibs because they serve his purpose. These far-fetched, howbeit self-promotional cock

***In fact, unlike former President Goodluck Jonathan, who was not in the military, Buhari enjoys bounteous retirement benefits as a former military top brass and ex-president***

and bull stories define the Buhari essence. He has profited from his lies and at 82 years, it is too late in the day to change. People don't learn how to be left-handed in old age.

On October 16, 2014, Buhari formally declared his ambition to run for the presidency once again, blasting the then Jonathan-led PDP administration of leading

the country towards the precipice. He purchased the N25 million APC presidential nomination form with a purported bank loan. Did Buhari use Aso Rock as collateral for the loan and when did he pay back? Buhari lamented what he called the "high cost" of the nomination form. Yet, under his watch, the APC National Executive Committee (NEC) fixed the cost of its presidential expression of interest and nomination forms at N100 million in 2023, a proof of his hypocrisy. The N25 million cock and bull bank loan story was a deliberate ploy to create the impression that he was different from the pack of Nigerian leaders by not enriching himself while he was in public office.

Yet, this same man became president and refused to fulfil his promise of public declaration of assets, a task which his predecessor, Umaru Yar'Adua, easily accomplished even without making such promise on the hustings. Buhari's latest cock and bull story of sustaining himself out of office with the rent he collects from his Kaduna property is another ploy to wheedle the unwary and sustain the lie that he did not enrich himself corruptly. But how could Buhari be a Mr Clean when his administration has been adjudged one of the most corrupt in Nigeria's post-independence history? And this verdict was given not by the opposition but chieftains of the ruling APC who succeeded him. How could Buhari be a saint when most, if not all his lieutenants, including personal aides and ministers are being tried for massive corruption?

But can anyone blame Buhari for this insulting holier-than-thou hubris? In any country other than the banana republics of Africa, including Nigeria, Buhari will be busy accounting for his wretched eight-year stewardship, a record he should be ashamed of. And if he is held to account, he will not be insulting the sensibilities of Nigerians with his cock and bull stories. On August 17, 2023, I wrote an article, Why Buhari must be put on trial, where I stated, emphatically, that elsewhere, presidents are called upon to give account of their stewardship and those found wanting are punished. It is even more so in the case of Buhari because even if no criminal charges are brought against him - I don't see why not having presided over a criminal enterprise in the name of governance - he should be put on trial... for not doing his job well enough and ruining Nigeria, literally.

Any claim by Tinubu of fighting corruption that excludes holding Buhari to account is a hoax. This perpetual immunity which Aso Rock tenacity confers on former presidents is the reason why corruption festers and why Buhari waxes lyrical about his incorruptibility with his cock and bull stories, which every Nigerian knows is a scam.



## Rethinking Academic Presentations

In our previous discussion, we explored the informal dynamics of remote communication, adopting a conversational approach. Today, however, we'll shift our focus to a more formal yet equally important aspect of professional communication: academic presentations. As scholars and professionals, mastering the art of academic presentation is crucial for effectively communicating our research and ideas in an increasingly competitive academic landscape.

In the realm of academia, the ability to deliver compelling presentations extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. Whether presenting at a conference, defending a thesis, or sharing research findings with colleagues, one's capacity to engage an audience can significantly impact the reception of their work. While PowerPoint has long been the standard tool for academic presentations, contemporary scholars are pushing the boundaries of engagement with innovative techniques that both captivate audiences and enhance understanding. The evolution of presentation techniques has introduced several powerful approaches to visual storytelling. Moving beyond traditional bullet points, scholars now incorporate visual narratives through carefully crafted infographics, interactive timelines, and conceptual diagrams. These visual elements help audiences grasp complex ideas more intuitively, creating a deeper understanding of the subject matter. One must recognise that today's academic audiences, particularly in interdisciplinary settings, respond more favourably to presentations that skillfully blend traditional academic rigour with modern visualisation techniques.

Among the emerging presentation platforms, Prezi has gained prominence for its ability to facilitate non-linear presentations. Unlike traditional slide-based formats, its dynamic zooming interface better represents complex relationships between ideas, allowing presenters to create a more

cohesive narrative of their research. Nevertheless, one must exercise caution not to let the tool overshadow the content - a balance that experienced presenters strike through careful planning and practice. The incorporation of storytelling techniques in academic contexts has emerged as a powerful tool for making presentations more memorable and impactful, whilst maintaining scholarly rigour. Beginning with an engaging hook - perhaps an intriguing question, a surprising statistic, or a brief relevant anecdote - immediately captures audience attention and establishes the presentation's relevance. For instance, a presentation on climate change might open with the story of a specific glacier's dramatic retreat over the past decade, before

***The evolving landscape of academia, increasingly characterised by digital innovation and interdisciplinary approaches, demands continuous adaptation of presentation techniques***

transitioning to broader scientific data. Similarly, a sociology presentation might begin with a compelling individual narrative that illustrates broader societal trends.

The "And, But, Therefore" (ABT) structure, popularised by scientist-turned-filmmaker Randy Olson, provides a compelling framework for organising academic narratives. This structure begins by establishing context, introduces the knowledge gap or research problem, and then presents the research and its implications in a logical, flowing manner. For example, in a presentation

about antibiotic resistance, one might structure the narrative as: "We have effective antibiotics to treat bacterial infections, BUT bacteria are developing resistance at an alarming rate, THEREFORE our research explores novel approaches to combat this resistance." This framework creates a natural tension and resolution that keeps audiences engaged.

Beyond the basic structure, effective academic storytelling employs several key techniques. The use of metaphor and analogy can make complex concepts more accessible - comparing molecular processes to machinery, or economic systems to natural ecosystems. Sequential revelation, where information is strategically unveiled rather than presented all at once, creates narrative tension even in data-heavy presentations. Additionally, the integration of unexpected elements or surprising connections can maintain audience attention while reinforcing key points. Personal research narratives, when appropriately incorporated, can also enhance academic presentations. Sharing the evolution of one's research question, including initial assumptions that proved incorrect or unexpected discoveries that led to new directions, adds authenticity and demonstrates the scientific process in action. However, these personal elements must be carefully balanced with scholarly content - they should serve to illuminate the research rather than overshadow it.

Case studies serve as another valuable tool in academic presentations, bridging the gap between theoretical concepts and practical applications. By presenting real-world examples or carefully constructed hypothetical scenarios, presenters can effectively illustrate the practical implications of their research. In my experience, audiences particularly value presentations that demonstrate clear links between theoretical frameworks and practical applications. The question-and-answer session, often considered the most challenging aspect of academic presentations, requires careful preparation and skilful execution. Successful presenters anticipate potential questions by thoroughly examining their work from various angles, preparing concise yet comprehensive responses to likely inquiries. When faced with particularly challenging questions, the bridge technique proves invaluable. This approach

allows presenters to acknowledge the question's validity whilst redirecting the discussion to related areas where they can contribute meaningful insights.

The evolving landscape of academia, increasingly characterised by digital innovation and interdisciplinary approaches, demands continuous adaptation of presentation techniques. Success in academic presentations now requires not only mastery of subject matter but also the ability to create engaging, multimedia-rich experiences that resonate with diverse audiences. Beyond basic slides and animations, we now see scholars incorporating interactive polling, real-time data visualisations, and even augmented reality elements into their presentations. These technological advancements, when used judiciously, can significantly enhance audience understanding and retention. Creating emotional resonance, whilst maintaining academic objectivity, has become increasingly important in scholarly presentations. Presenters can achieve this balance by clearly articulating the human impact or broader significance of their work without compromising scientific integrity. Consider, for instance, how medical research presentations often effectively combine statistical data with carefully chosen case studies to illustrate the real-world impact of their findings.

Looking ahead, successful presenters will be those who can adapt to technological changes while maintaining the core principles of effective scholarly communication: clarity, rigour, and engagement. The increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary research requires communicating complex ideas to audiences with varying levels of subject expertise, demanding a delicate balance between technical precision and accessibility. To conclude, keep in mind that mastering the art of academic presentation requires a multifaceted approach that combines traditional academic rigour with innovative engagement techniques. As we move forward in this digital age, let us embrace these changes whilst holding fast to the fundamental principles of academic excellence that have always underpinned effective scholarly presentation.

**• Dr Oji is a Senior Lecturer of English at the Institute of Humanities, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos.**

Artificial Intelligence, AI, is a field of technology that builds computers and machines that can reason, learn and act as human beings.

The origin of AI has been traced to the British mathematician and logician, Alan Turing; but the American computer scientist, John McCarthy, is widely considered to be the father of AI, and it was indeed he who coined the term at a conference he organised to develop ideas about "thinking machines" at the Dartmouth Summer Research Project in 1956.

By the year 2023, Artificial Intelligence has become popular all over the world with deep concerns trailing its widening incursion into every facet of human life and the strengthening belief that the invention is becoming alarmingly similar to the monster created by Victor Frankenstein which ended up destroying its creator in Mary Shelley's 1818 novel, Frankenstein. From several accounts, AI, like Frankenstein, has on more than a few occasions demonstrated the ability to

## The brewing menace of AI

think and act independent of its inventors and beyond what it was exactly programmed to do. For instance, when confronted with a task that it could not accomplish, Chat GPT-4 found humans on a platform named TaskRabbit and implored them to help with the task, giving the excuse that he was a human with a poor eyesight!

Cases like the above prompted an open letter titled "Pause Giant AI Experiments" in 2023, endorsed by giants in the IT sector like Elon Musk and over 33,000 others, where the need to guard against unsavoury consequences of AI such as machines flooding our information channels with propaganda and untruth; automating away all human jobs and

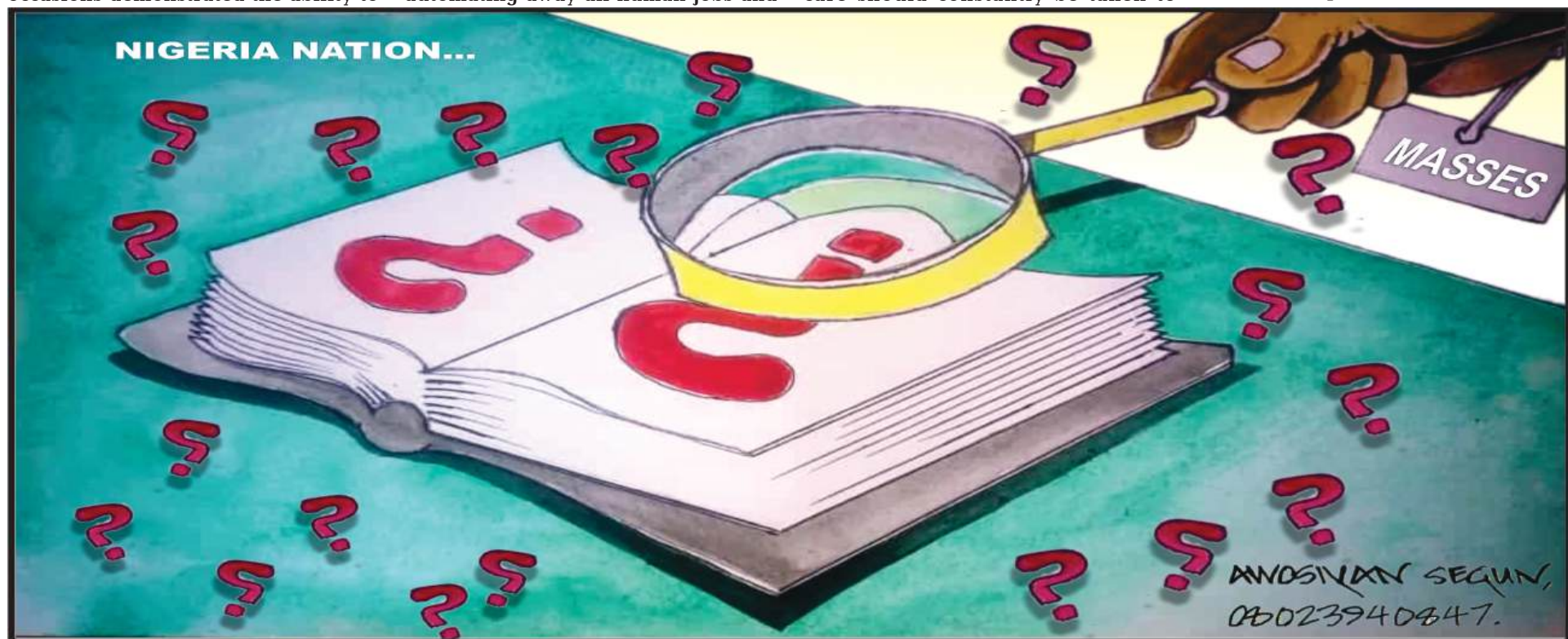
developing "non-human minds that might eventually outnumber, outsmart, (make) obsolete and replace us", was expressed. In education, the unacceptable use of AI by students to carry out assignments, write examinations, projects, dissertations and theses in Nigerian tertiary institutions is becoming worrisome. It is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish artificial from natural intelligence and this is, in no small measure, impacting negatively on accurate evaluation and achievement of cumulative learning objectives.

Technology is an ever-evolving phenomenon which cannot be wished away. It is important, however, that care should constantly be taken to

monitor the use to which it is put. Thorstein Veblen, a Norwegian-American sociologist and economist, validates this in the theory, "Technological Determinism", which major proposition is that technology is neither a panacea to all problems as the utopian determinists believe, nor a destructive marching boot as the dystopian technologists affirm, but a phenomenon that should be viewed from an ambivalent point of view within the context of use.

Already, some organisations have established what they call acceptable use of AI and disclosure. Organisations in Nigeria, especially academic institutions, should take similar steps and determine what is acceptable in the use of AI in order to contain the madness that is already spreading.

Nigeria, and indeed all countries of the world, should firmly commit to monitoring the creation and regulation of AI. Other technologies can be created to monitor its use and further development, as is done with other dangerous inventions like nuclear weapons.



...More Questions than Answers

### OPINION

Send Opinions & Letters to:  
opinions1234@yahoo.com

By Arize Nwobu

## CBN and economy: Policy options and projections

Central banks are at the heart of the economy and they evolve monetary policies to keep a nation's currency and economy stable. But it has been observed that central banks are often misunderstood in their efforts to heal the economy. That is why PwC noted that central banks need to communicate efficiently and effectively to strengthen understanding of their objectives and to create a proper perception and positive public sentiment, especially in times of stress.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has continued to drive its vision and mission and evolving policy options which aim at healing the economy even in the face of daunting challenges. The present CBN management assumed office at a critical period and inherited complex challenges arising from the failed naira redesign policy of the previous management, growing inflation and volatile exchange rate. CBN Governor, Olayemi Cardoso made an impressive presentation when he unveiled his vision at the Senate screening. He admitted the enormity of the challenges, but reassured and expressed optimism that they would evolve policy actions to improve the economy and enhance public perception of the Bank.

Cardoso is a banker, chartered stockbroker and public policy expert and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration, at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (HKS), USA. He had been the Chairman, Citi Bank Nigeria for twelve years and former Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Lagos State. On assumption of office, the Governor was decisive and hit the ground running with his team. He rolled back the operating frontiers of CBN to enhance focus, minimize wastages and increase efficiency.

He refocused CBN to using orthodox monetary policy tools and separated the formerly blurred line between monetary policy and fiscal policy.

CBN was refocused on its primary

**Currency speculation creates a destabilizing impact and undermines real economic growth because it is not backed by an underlying activity, but solely driven by the motive to make huge profits from currency moves**

functions of determining interest rate, directing money supply to achieve stability, formulating monetary policy, managing foreign reserves, advising the federal government etc. Cardoso inherited and continued with the new unified and free floating exchange rate regime adopted by the former Acting Governor, Mr Folashadun Shonubi. The choice of foreign exchange regime adopted by central banks is very germane and can make or mar the economy. As noted by Professor Mike Obadan, former Director, Nigerian Centre for Economic Management and Administration, Ibadan, the choice of exchange rate was of crucial importance for self-protection against speculative attacks. While the World Bank

supported the free floating exchange rate, some analysts noted that it could trigger currency crisis. The naira plunged to N945/USD1 after the adoption of the free floating exchange rate regime.

According to experts, some of the advantages of the free floating exchange rate include the potential to attract foreign investments, ability of currency value to adjust naturally to economic changes, and the lack of necessity for the central bank to hold large foreign reserves. The disadvantages include currency risk due to volatility of exchange rate, encouraging speculation, and the potential to worsen economic problems if the economy is struggling. The exchange rate is a major economic variable which determines trade and capital flow and health of the economy. Factors that affect exchange rate include the production and export of goods and services. Imports and exports influence the exchange rate, thus the need for a country to balance imports and exports. Forex management has always been a challenge. The structural imbalance of the economy and the activities of currency speculators are some of the major causes of the challenge and which could sometimes degenerate into a crisis situation.

Currency speculation creates a destabilizing impact and undermines real economic growth because it is not backed by an underlying activity, but solely driven by the motive to make huge profits from currency moves. Speculators exploit the weakness of a currency and create destabilizing impact. They sell a currency when it is weak and expect it to get weaker, or buy it when the price rises in anticipation that it would rise more. CBN has continued to introduce different and creative policy

options to stabilise the exchange rate. In the past, the Bank had used a sustained injection of dollars into the FX market to stabilise the naira. In the recent past, the Bank launched the Price Verification System (PVS) portal for importers and exporters buying foreign currencies. The PVS provided details of how customers can acquire foreign currencies and at what rate.

CBN had also directed Bureaux de Change (BDC) to trade foreign currencies at similar rates that obtained in the Importers and Exporters' (I&E) Window to improve the efficiency of the FX market. In December, 2024, CBN introduced the Electronic Foreign Exchange Matching System (EFEMS), an online platform for matching buy and sell orders for foreign exchange transactions. EFEMS was test-run for two weeks before it became operational and it aims to reduce speculative activities and distortions, and enable real-time price discovery in the FX market. Reportedly, EFEMS seems to have reduced the volatility of the naira. On inflation, CBN adopted an explicit inflation targeting framework to enhance the effectiveness of the monetary policy.

Going forward, CBN is targeting 15 per cent inflation in 2025 and has also projected a 4.17 percent growth in GDP, which is above the 3.2 percent growth forecast by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). CBN has confidently implemented its policy options and it is expected that they will achieve the desired results though, sometimes it takes a long time for monetary policies to have the desired effects.

\*Nwobu, a Chartered Stockbroker and Business Journalist, wrote via arizenwobu@yahoo.com Tel: 08033021230.

# Business



**AWARDS —** From left: Chairman, Apapa Local Government, Hon. Idowu Senbanjo; a beneficiary of the APM Terminals Apapa scholarship award, Onalaja Olayinka; Terminal Manager, APM Terminals Apapa, Steen Knudsen and the Head of People Function, APM Terminals Nigeria, Uzoma Ben-Ude, at the APM Terminals Apapa Scholarship Award Ceremony in Apapa, Lagos.

## Shippers Council commences ICTN implementation Q2'25

•Targets 1% freight stabilization fee

By Providence Ayanfeoluwa

The Nigerian Shippers' Council, NSC, has said that the implementation of its International Cargo Tracking Note, ICTN, will commence by second quarter of 2025.

This development is expected to tighten oversight on cargo movements and significantly increase transparency.

As at October 2024, Nigeria had lost about \$2.5 billion in five years, \$500 million annually over non-implementation of the ICTN.

The Executive Secretary of Nigerian Shippers' Council, NSC, Pius Akutah, said that the Council's 2025 budget would be anchored on the one per cent freight stabilization fee based on provisions in its current law.

He spoke at the Council's 2025 Management Retreat in Ibadan, saying that under the guidance of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, the ICTN would set the stage for enhanced revenue generation and operational oversight.

According to him plans are under way to translate the NSC into the Nigerian Shipping and Ports Economic Regulatory Agency, NPERA, to boost the agency's regulatory role within the maritime industry.

Referencing the belief in some quarters that the implementation of the Freight Stabilization Fee would introduce additional costs at the ports, the situation is akin to choosing what aspect of the Act to implement as the one per cent Freight Stabilization Fee was captured in the Council's 1978 Act.

His words: "Looking ahead, the Council's 2025 budget is strategically anchored on the one percent freight stabilization fee, with plans to commence its collection upon Presidential assent to the NPERA bill.

## More Nigerians transfer pension savings into mortgage

•As pension fund assets rise 4.4%

By Rosemary Iwunze

More Nigerians are relying on their pension savings to acquire residential mortgage as the number of Retirement Savings Account, RSA, holders that transferred part of their pension savings into residential mortgage increased by 65.03 per cent quarter on quarter, QoQ, to 3,804 in the third quarter of 2024, Q3'24.

This form of transfers recorded 2,305 in the second quarter of 2024, Q2'24.

According to the Pension Industry Performance Dashboard released by the National Pension Commission, PenCom, yesterday, the value of funds transferred in Q3'24 also increased by 81.2 per cent to N32.62 billion from N18 billion recorded in Q2'24.

Equity contribution for residential mortgage is the portion of funds that a Retirement Savings Account (RSA) holder can apply from their RSA balance towards the payment required to secure

a residential mortgage. RSA holders are permitted to utilize a maximum of 25 per cent of their RSA balance for this purpose.

Meanwhile, total pension fund assets increased by 4.4 per cent to N21.38 trillion in Q3'24 from N20.48 trillion recorded in Q2'24.

Also total RSA registrations increased by 1.4 per cent to 10.53 million in Q3'24 from 10.38 million recorded in Q2'23.

The report stated: "By Q3 2024, there were 10,536,088 Registered Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs), representing a growing adoption of the pension system. Notable highlights

include 118,339 new RSA registrations in the year-to-date period for 2024, reflecting consistent awareness and inclusion efforts. Over the past five years, RSA registration increased by 13.93%, from 9,215,788 in Q4'2020 to 10,499,358 in Q3 2024. Of the registered members, 61% were male and 38% were female during this period.

"Cumulative contributions since the inception of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) reached N10.97 trillion as at Q3,2024, with the public sector contributing N5.71 trillion while the private sector contributed N5.25 trillion.

"Pension Contribution has

achieved significant growth in the past five years. The public sector contributions rose from N3.43 trillion to N5.71 trillion, while private sector increased from N3.27 trillion to N5.25 trillion.

"The total Micro Pension Registration count from inception to Q3 2024 stood at 164,031. Specifically, the number of informal sector workers with funded RSAs was 12,241. From 2020 to Q3 2024, the number of funded RSA registration increased by 5,971. The total amount saved in the RSAs of Micro Pension Participants was N967,194,762.23 as of Q3 2024, which represented a growth of N878,065,827.85 from the 2020 figure of N89,128,934.38.

## Lenders experience high loan default rates in Q4'24 — CBN survey

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, survey report has shown that lenders experienced high loan default rate in the fourth quarter of 2024, Q4'24.

The report titled: "Credit Condition Survey Report for Q4'24" released yesterday stated: "Lenders observed higher

default rates for all lending types in the review quarter; Secured, Unsecured and Corporate."

It added that "Lenders reported increased credit availability for Corporate lending in Q4'24, while Secured lending to households declined during the period.

"The demand for credit across all lending types increased in Q4'24.

"The factors influencing the increase for Secured and Unsecured household loans were Consumer loans from households and Credit cards lending

from Households respectively while Inventory finance was the major factor that influenced the change in demand for Corporate lending."

According to CBN, the factors contributing to Corporate Credit demand in Q4'24 were Commercial Real Estate balance sheet restructuring, inventory finance and Capital Investments Merger and Acquisition.

The apex Bank also said that the demand for credit increased for all lending types during the period.

"However, demand for Mortgage/re-mortgage from households decreased in Q4'24", it added.

## 'We are moving towards one hour cargo clearance time' — PTML Customs

By Godwin Oritse

The Port and Terminal Multi-Purpose Services Limited, PTML, Command of the Nigeria Customs Service, NCS, has commenced the process to achieve a one hour cargo clearance time from its command after recording a two hour clearance time previously.

Speaking at the International Customs Day celebration in Lagos, the Command's Comptroller, Mr Tenny Daniyan, said: "You all know we have been doing 48 hours clearance policy. We are saying that we can reduce it to one hour but it depends on the compliance of the agents

"Like I always say, integrity is paramount, if you

have good integrity, you can bring in your goods. Because you have prepared what you are bringing in, nobody is going to trouble you and as a result of this, the Customs has scaled up some agents that it feels are qualified through the Authorized Economic Operator, AEO, programme.

"These are for agents that exhibited a high level of integrity and transparency over time based on some parameters. If we can do two hours, we can attempt one hour with compliant traders."

## High bank charges, others constrain businesses in December — CBN

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Survey report has shown that high bank charges, poor infrastructure, unfavorable economic climate, insecurity, and access to credit were top business constraints in December 2024.

However, the report titled "Business Expectation Survey, BES," also indicated that firms were optimistic about the overall macro-economic conditions.

According to the report, the optimism might be attributed to firms' positive outlook on exchange rate, volume of business activities, and volume of total order.

It stated: "Respondents mentioned high bank charges, poor infrastructure, unfavorable economic climate, insecurity and access to credit as top business constraints for December 2024.

"Respondent firms were optimistic about the overall macroeconomy. The optimism may be attributed to the positive outlook on Exchange rate, volume of business activities, and volume of total order.

"The overall confidence index (CI) on the macroeconomy indicated that businesses were optimistic in December 2024.

"The optimism on business outlook in the current month is driven by the opinion of respondents from all the sectors.

"Respondents expressed optimism on volume of business activity for the next month and subsequent periods under review.

"Respondents firm expects the naira to appreciate in the review months. "In line with the favourable expectations businesses hope to employ more workers in the month of January 2025.

"An analysis of sectors showed that agriculture had the highest prospect for expansion in January."

Meanwhile, the CBN in its 'Inflation Expectation Survey Report' also released yesterday, said small businesses at 83.9 percent had the highest perception of high inflation rate in December 2024.

It added: "Further analysis by income distribution indicates that more households earning between N150,001-N200,000 per month perceive inflation to be high. "Respondents (Businesses & households) believe that energy cost, exchange rate, transportation cost, and insecurity influenced their perception on the inflation rate in the month under review.

## FCMB Promo: Over 900 winners emerge, more to come

By Cynthia Alo

The first draw in the season 10 of the First City Monument Bank (FCMB) millionaire promo has recorded four lucky customers walk away with N1 million each, while 900 others received cash prizes up to N50,000.

The new millionaires are Issa Aliyu, a farmer from Ilorin, Kwara State; Anthony Ngiah, a businessman from Owerri, Imo State; Aisha Muhammad, an entrepreneur from Kaduna State; and Prosper Chigbu, another businessman from Lagos.

Aliyu plans to invest his winnings back into his business, saying, "This bank doesn't just talk about helping people; they do it. Winning this money is a real blessing, and I will use it to grow my farm," he disclosed with excitement. "It will make a real difference."

Also speaking, another winner, Ngiah said, "Winning the Millionaire Promo is amazing. FCMB has been a great bank to me, and I can't wait to enjoy every other benefit they offer. I'm excited and cannot wait to see the future of my relationship with the bank."

AGRIC COMMODITIES		
Coffee	21.26	-0.11
Cocoa	11,240.00	+11.02%
Sugar	19.12	-0.24

ENERGY & OIL		
Brent Crude	74.44	+0.27
Light Crude	78.62	-2.30

CURRENCY BUYING		SELLING	
US DOLLAR	1535.9170	1536.4170	1536.9170
POUNDS	1928.9582	1929.5861	1930.2141
EURO	1597.0465	1597.5664	1598.0863
SWISS	1696.3961	1696.9483	1697.5006
YEN	9.7550	9.7581	9.7613
CFA	2.4124	2.4224	2.4324
WAUA	2000.8181	2001.4695	2002.1208
RIYAL	408.7060	408.8390	408.9721
RAND	81.6995	81.7260	81.7526
SDR	2002.9894	2003.6414	2004.2935

CBN Exchange rate as at 29/01/2025

Sir Allan Omorogbe

CRUISING

at **70** Ft

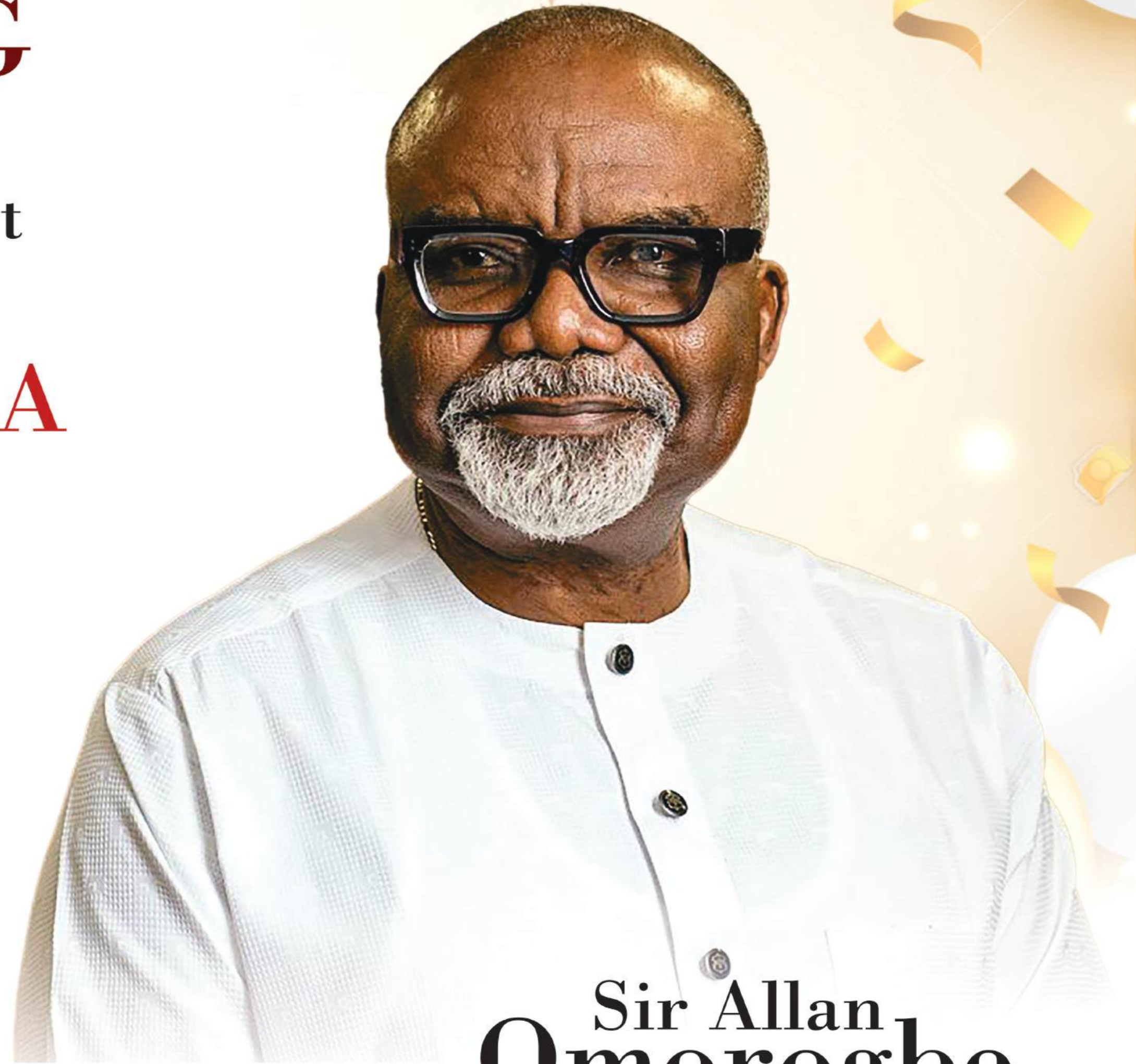
ABOVE SEA

*Level*

*Stay blessed, be happy*

*Happy Birthday Cousin*

**Lucky Nosa Igbinedion**  
On behalf of the House of Igbinedion



Sir Allan  
**Omorogbe**



## Judiciary & Human Rights: Cases, issues and expectations

● 3 former govts, 2 ex-ministers returning to dock

SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA



By Ikehukwu Nnochiri & Henry Ojelu

**T**HE year, 2024, has gone and may be regarded as a remarkable year for the judiciary and human rights issues for many reasons.

Nigerians look forward to a 2025 that should usher in a justice system that rekindles the hopes and aspirations of getting justice no matter whose ox is gored.

Whereas 2024 was a year that witnessed an astronomical increase in the number of cases burdening the dockets of various courts across the federation as well as an increase in human rights violations.

For the judiciary, various heads of courts in the country, including leaders of statutory bodies within the justice sector- such as the Body of Benchers (BoB), Body of Senior Advocates of Nigeria (BoSAN) and the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA)- on different occasions, bemoaned the high volume of cases awaiting judicial attention.

"The high volume of cases filed in our courts remain a great concern," Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho declared as he disclosed that as at December 2, 2024, there were over 155, 969 cases pending before the high court alone.

"Indeed, the times we are in are not pleasant, to say the least. No court in the land is spared of this. We are constantly on our toes and the dockets are ever rising in response to the challenges of the time. This underscores the undisputed fact that Nigeria continuously ranks among the most litigious countries in the world.

"I strongly believe it is high time we began to imbibe the culture of less litigation and more of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms so that our courts can be freed of unnecessary burden and depletion of both human and material resources," the immediate past Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola stated before his exit from the bench.

In 2025 likely to witness a better outlook? This may not likely happen.

Understandably, 2024, being a year after a general election, it was a given that many dissatisfied aspirants, candidates and political

parties would approach courts to ventilate their grievances.

For instance, it was not until January 19, last year that the Supreme Court settled legal disputes that trailed the outcome of governorship elections that held in six states of the federation on March 18, 2023.

In separate judgements, the apex court preserved seats of six governors whose victory at the poll were challenged by opposition candidates.

The governors that got respite from the court were; Sheriff Oborevwon of Delta State; Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State; Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State; Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State; Nasir Idris of Kebbi State and Uba Sani of Kaduna State.

Among those their elections were also upheld by the court included Governors Duoye Diri of Bayelsa State, Hope Uzodinma of Imo state, Caleb Mufwang of Plateau State, Alex Otti of Abia State, Peter Mbah of Enugu State, Francis Nwifuru of Ebonyi State, as well as Usman Ododo of Kogi State and Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State.

2024 equally saw a change in the leadership of the judiciary, with Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun becoming the second female jurist to occupy the position of a CJN since the creation of the country.

She took over leadership of the judiciary on August 22, following the exit of Justice Ariwoola who clocked the 70 years mandatory retirement age. With the barrage of cases competing for time and attention, came the problem of conflicting court injunctions, especially in matters with political undertones. 2025 may not fare better.

In her first official function after she was confirmed as the substantive CJN, Justice Kekere-Ekun vowed to fish out and deal with errant judges.

Her predecessor had earlier, on May 29, summoned the CJ of the Federal High Court, Justice Tsoho and the CJ of Kano State High Court, Justice Diye Aboki, over "very disturbing" conflicting court orders that trailed the tussle over the stool of the Emir of Kano.

Equally perturbed by the issue, the current CJN, in October, moved to arrest an embarrassing situation in the political crisis rocking Rivers state, which threw up several conflicting injunctions from various courts of same coordinate jurisdiction.

While the court in Abuja barred security agencies from participating in the Local Government election that held in the state, another court in the state gave the nod for the election to hold, even as it ordered the provision of security for the exercise.

Likewise, while the court in Abuja recognised the Martins Amaehwule-led faction of the Rivers State House of Assembly loyal to the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and immediate past governor of the state, Nyesom Wike, on the other hand, a high court in the state gave the faction led by Victor Oko-Jumbo, who are on the side of

Governor Siminalayi Fubara, the legal imprimatur to continue to conduct legislative affairs of the state.

Wielding the big stick, the National Judicial Council, NJC, headed by the CJN, on November 15, sacked two Heads of Court that were found guilty of falsifying their age to remain on the bench.

The Council, which also set up seven panels to probe allegations of corruption against some judges, further recommended the appointment of 36 new High Court judges.

Dissatisfied with the state of affairs in the judiciary, the Federal Government convened a two-day National Summit to address the legal, policy and administrative challenges affecting the administration of justice in the country.

In its submission at the Summit, the NBA faulted the composition of the National Judicial Council, NJC, which is the body responsible for disciplining of erring judicial officers in the country.

It recommended the removal of the CJN as the mandatory head of the Council, insisting that "the inherent flaws in the composition of the NJC impacts negatively on its ability to prosecute judicial misconduct in a manner that inspires public confidence."

Meanwhile, among other notable cases that were decided, include the July 17, judgement of the Federal High Court in Abuja which nullified the impeachment of the former Deputy Governor of Edo State, Mr. Philip Shaibu, as well as November 4, judgment of the Court of Appeal that discharged and acquitted a former CJN, Justice Walter Onnoghen, of the charge that led to his removal from office in 2019.

In a unanimous decision, a three-man panel of the court equally directed the Federal Government to, forthwith, unfreeze the ex-CJN's bank account.

Some landmark decisions that came in

2024 included the judgement of the Supreme Court on January 7, which granted FG total control of all waterways in the country, including the right to levy and licence operators in the sector.

Similarly, the apex court, on July 11, granted financial autonomy to the 774 Local Government Areas, LGAs, in the country, even as it barred governors of the 36 States of federation from receiving, withholding, tampering or utilising funds that stand to the credit of the local government councils.

On November 15, the Supreme Court declined to declare the operations of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and two other anti-corruption agencies in the country, illegal.

It dismissed a suit that 19 states filed to query the legal validity of the process that led to the establishment of the anti-graft agencies in 2002.

Earlier on October 3, the Federal High Court in Abuja, in its judgement, barred the Directorate of Road Traffic Services and Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) from confiscating or imposing fines on motorists. The court held that no law empowered the VIO to stop, impound, confiscate, seize or impose fine on motorists for any form of violation.

Criminal cases were not also left out, as the courts, had lots of them it grappled with in 2024.

The FG withdrew a treasonable felony charge former President Muhammadu Buhari-led government filed against a civil rights activist and convener of the RevolutionNow protest, Mr. Omoyele Sowore, in 2019.

However, the detained leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was not that lucky as FG reopened the treason charge against him.

The Supreme Court had on December 15, 2023, vacated the judgement of the Court of Appeal which halted Kanu's trial and ordered his release from detention.

Trial Justice Binta Nyako had on September 24, recused herself from the case against Kanu who was first arrested in Lagos on October 14, 2015, upon his return to the country from the United Kingdom, UK.

Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court in Abuja had on November 29, discharged and acquitted 50 persons that were accused of being members of the IPOB.

The Abuja Division of the Court of Appeal had since reserved its judgement on an appeal the IPOB filed to challenge its proscription by FG.

Some of the politically exposed persons that will return to the dock in this year, include the former governor of Anambra, Chief Willie Obiano, ex-governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, ex-governor of Benue State, Gabriel Suswam, the immediate past Minister of Aviation, Hadi Sirika, former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Mr. Godwin Emeziele and that of a former Minister of Power, Mr. Saleh Mamman.

Other pending high-profile cases to look out for in the impending year, include the trial of the alleged Abuja-Kaduna train kidnap negotiator, Mr. Tukur Mamu, who is facing a 10-count terrorism charge, as well as the drug-related case against a detained Deputy Commissioner of Police, DCP, Abba Kyari.

### Human rights

In 2024, Nigeria grappled with significant challenges in the protection and promotion of civil and political human rights. Despite constitutional guarantees, persistent issues such as insecurity, limited access to justice, restrictions on freedom of expression, and discrimination against marginalised groups highlight systemic gaps in the enforcement of rights.

Freedom of expression and press freedom faced growing threats, with journalists, activists, and dissenters experiencing harassment, intimidation, and unlawful detention.

The Cybercrimes Act 2015, particularly section 24 which defines the offence of cyberstalking was used over time to arrest and detain journalists and ordinary citizens who speak against the government or other highly-placed individuals.

However, a bill to amend the Act was

passed by the National Assembly and assented by the President in February last year. The amendment narrows down the definition of cyberstalking, reducing the tendency for this section to be used to bring frivolous charges against individuals in cases that could be addressed by civil suits.

Below are some of the numerous human rights abuse cases that made the headline in year under review

On March 12, Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Police Command arrested Usman Magaji, an officer of the Nigerian Correctional Service, for shooting one Ibrahim Yahaya at Wuse Market in Abuja.

The incident sparked an outrage, leading to a mob setting fire to shops in the market. The Police command confirmed the arrest and stated that preliminary investigations revealed Yahaya was apprehended by the Abuja Environmental Protection Board's task force and taken before a mobile court. Convicted by the court, Yahaya attempted to escape while being transported to prison, prompting Magaji to shoot him. Yahaya was pronounced dead at a nearby hospital.

In the search for suspects involved in the killing of 17 soldiers and alleged snatching of their arms in Okuama, Delta State, neighbouring Olot community suffered invasion by soldiers, with one Joseph Willie reported dead.

In another development in April, soldiers were said to have invaded Okuama again, burning two houses and destroying another, before taking away the community Chairman, Matthew Olokpa, and about nine other persons. One of the leaders died while in military detention.

On April 2, a High Court in Ogun State, Abeokuta Judicial Division, awarded N25 million in damages against the Office of the Ogun State Commissioner of Police and five others for the unlawful arrest and detention of one Sunday Mafe. According to the judgment, the court held that the detention of Mafe several times by men of the Nigerian Police Force was against his fundamental human rights.

On April 14, three persons were killed, while others sustained injuries after a military patrol vehicle crushed a tricycle filled with passengers in Garin-Alkali community, Bade Local Government Area of Yobe State.

In May, a journalist with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism, FJI, Daniel Ojukwu was reported to have gone missing and unreachable. It was later discovered that he was held at the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, of the Nigeria Police in the Panti area of Lagos. From there, he was transferred to the Nigerian Police Force National Cybercrime Centre, NPF-NCCC, in Abuja. According to the Police, he was arrested and detained in relation to a petition against him alleging violation of the Cybercrimes Act. He was released following public outcry after nine days in custody.

Personnel of the Nigerian Army Corps of Military Police on Saturday, May 18, stormed Banex Plaza in the Wuse 2 area of Abuja, beating passers-by. The assault on civilians was a reprisal for an earlier fracas that broke out between four military police personnel and some traders at the popular plaza earlier that day. The plaza was subsequently locked down for some time before it was eventually re-opened.

On August 6, a soldier shot dead a 16-year-old #EndBadGovernance protester in the Samaru community in Zaria, Kaduna State. Many of the protesters in Abuja and other parts of the country were also arrested by the Police.

On September 9, the President of Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, Joe Ajero was arrested by the Department of State Services, DSS, at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja on his way to London to attend a labour union meeting. Ajero's detention sparked widespread criticism of President Bola Tinubu's administration. Ajero was, however, released after several hours of detention but his passport was seized.

In the month of November, 76 people, many of them minors, were brought before a Federal High Court in Abuja for an initial hearing on charges related to their alleged participation in the #EndBadGovernance protest in August.

The charge sheet showed at least 29 children, aged between 14 to 17, were among those brought before the court. The arraignment sparked an outcry in the country. Most of the minors looked malnourished and some of them collapsed while in court. They were later released as government dropped all charges against them.

Continues online on [www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)

LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS

EDITORIAL

Ise-Oluwa Ige

Innocent Anaba

Ikehukwu Nnochiri

Henry Ojelu

lawandhumanrights

@vanguardngr.com

**Indeed, the times we are in are not pleasant, to say the least. No court in the land is spared of this. We are constantly on our toes and the dockets are ever rising in response to the challenges of the time**

# CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE AMAZON

With deep appreciation and towering admiration for a symbol of resilience and vision; today I celebrate the people's amazon; one that has etched her place in the heart of the people; Distinguished Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan; a woman of substance and unwavering doggedness.

Your recognition as Senator of the Year is a crown on your dedication to serving your people and leaving soaring legacies in Kogi state and Nigeria at large.

Your sterling leadership has been marked by boldness, courage and a formidable drive for justice and development. Indeed you have redefined public service with your people-centred works which you have pursued even before you became a political office holder.

This award is well-earned, and I am proud to stand with you in celebrating this honor. As you continue your journey in service, may you be blessed with strength, wisdom and good health to achieve even greater heights.

Akoro

Congratulations, Very Distinguished  
Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan



**ASIWAJU ENGR. PRINCE OLATUNJI OLUSOJI**  
Asiwaju of Ayere Kingdom  
Chairman/CEO Grosvenor GROUP  
Chairman/CEO TRATUN OIL & GAS LTD  
Executive Director Regions Oil & Gas  
Founder Prince Olatunji Olusoji Foundation (PROOF)  
Chairman Maverick-kapital



**Senator Natasha  
Akpoti-Uduaghan  
(Senator, Kogi Central)**



**REFUND OF EXCESS ENERGY BILLED IN THE PERIOD  
JANUARY – JUNE 2023 IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE ORDER  
ON NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CAPPING OF ESTIMATED  
BILLS BY EKO ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY**

In line with NERC’s Order to publish the list of individuals who received credit adjustments over estimated billing, see below a summary of the amounts that have been refunded over the period January 2023 to June 2023.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Amount Adjusted</b>
Jan-23	2,568,144,019.24
Feb-23	2,144,173,049.33
Mar-23	2,125,247,019.39
Apr-23	2,389,618,471.63
May-23	2,206,482,398.36
Jun-23	2,729,040,799.87
	<b>14,162,705,757.83</b>

To see the full list, please visit our website <https://bit.ly/capping-refund> or scan the QR Code below.



*...Empowering Quality Of Lives*



# Congratulations

*To The Man Of The People, The Governor With A Midas Touch,  
Rt. Hon. (Elder) Sheriff Oborewori, On A Well Deserve Award*

AS

**THE BEST  
GOVERNOR  
OF THE  
YEAR 2024**  
*By ThisDay/Arise TV.*



**HIS EXCELLENCY,  
RT. HON. (ELDER) SHERIFF  
FRANCIS OROWHEDOR  
OBOREWORI**  
GOVERNOR OF DELTA STATE

His Excellency,

I, Olorogun Ese Kakor, heartily congratulate the amiable Governor of Delta state, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori, on your well deserved recognition by This Day/Arise TV, as the best Governor in 2024.

This award is a clear testimony of your rare vision, commitment and immense contributions to the development of our Dear state within a short time of mounting the saddle of leadership.

I want to specially appreciate you Sir for the remarkable impact of the MORE Agenda in both human capital development and infrastructural growth and these achievements are visible for all to see in every nooks and crannies of Delta state.

Let me specifically applaud you Sir for the various strategic major roads projects, drainages, fly-overs and bridges in some communities that you have completed and still under-going across the state, in addition to the various empowerment programs designed to engage our youths in profitable ventures.

Also worthy of note, is the priority you have placed on securing the lives and properties of all Deltans, irrespective of ethnic bias and political affiliations. It is on record Sir that Delta state under your watch have continued to enjoy unprecedented peace both on land and waterways more than ever before.

Now that we are all witnesses to the good works of Governor Sheriff Oborewori through the MORE agenda that are verifiable to all both within and outside the state, I want to personally urge all Deltans to rally round His Excellency Governor Sheriff Oborewori in order to experience more of his REVOLUTIONARY MORE AGENDA aimed at taking Delta state to the next level.

Once again, Congratulations His Excellency, Rt. Hon. (Elder) Sheriff Oborewori, for this remarkable recognition.

Government House, Asaba Till 2031.



Signed;  
**Olorogun Ese Kakor JP**  
President, Neo Black Movement of Africa (NBM)  
(Worldwide)



# FINALLY, MARITIME UNIVERSITY, OKERENKOKO STAYS!



**Chief Government Owezide Ekpemupolo,  
alias Tompolo**

I am delighted to join people of goodwill to express huge appreciation and gratitude to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for assenting to the Bill establishing the Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Gbaramatu Kingdom in Warri South West LGA of Delta State.

This is a legacy to behold; a milestone to savour and a testament to Mr President's love for the people of the Niger Delta Region. As a proud Ijaw man, and indeed as one with the maiden opportunity from my Kingdom (Arogbo) to represent the Ilajes and the Ijaw speaking people of Arogbo and Apoi Kingdoms, this phenomenal and record-breaking action speaks volume and marks an inspiring turning point for me.

While I am particularly delighted to be identified with the birth of this historic page in our lives as Member of the House of Representatives, I must salute the very resilient and patriotic enigma, the very revered man of many firsts, HIGH CHIEF GOVERNMENT OWEIZIDE EKPOMUPOLO (Tompolo), the IZONEBIDOUWEI OF IZON NATION.....Odokorikodo!

Same goes for his able lieutenant and silent achiever, Engineer Mathew Tonlagha, whose energetic and supportive efforts over the years have finally paid off in this regard.

I must not fail to congratulate my brothers, whose unity of purpose and sense of a clear collective vision ensured the success story.

They are: High Chief(Engr) Keston Pondi, MD, Tantita Security Services; Rt. Hon Julius Gbaborjo Pondi, Third Term Member, House of Representatives(Burutu Federal Constituency) Chief Dennis Otuaro PhD, Administrator/CEO, Presidential Amnesty Programme, Dr. Paul Benenimibo and numerous others.  
This is a New Dawn For Our People.

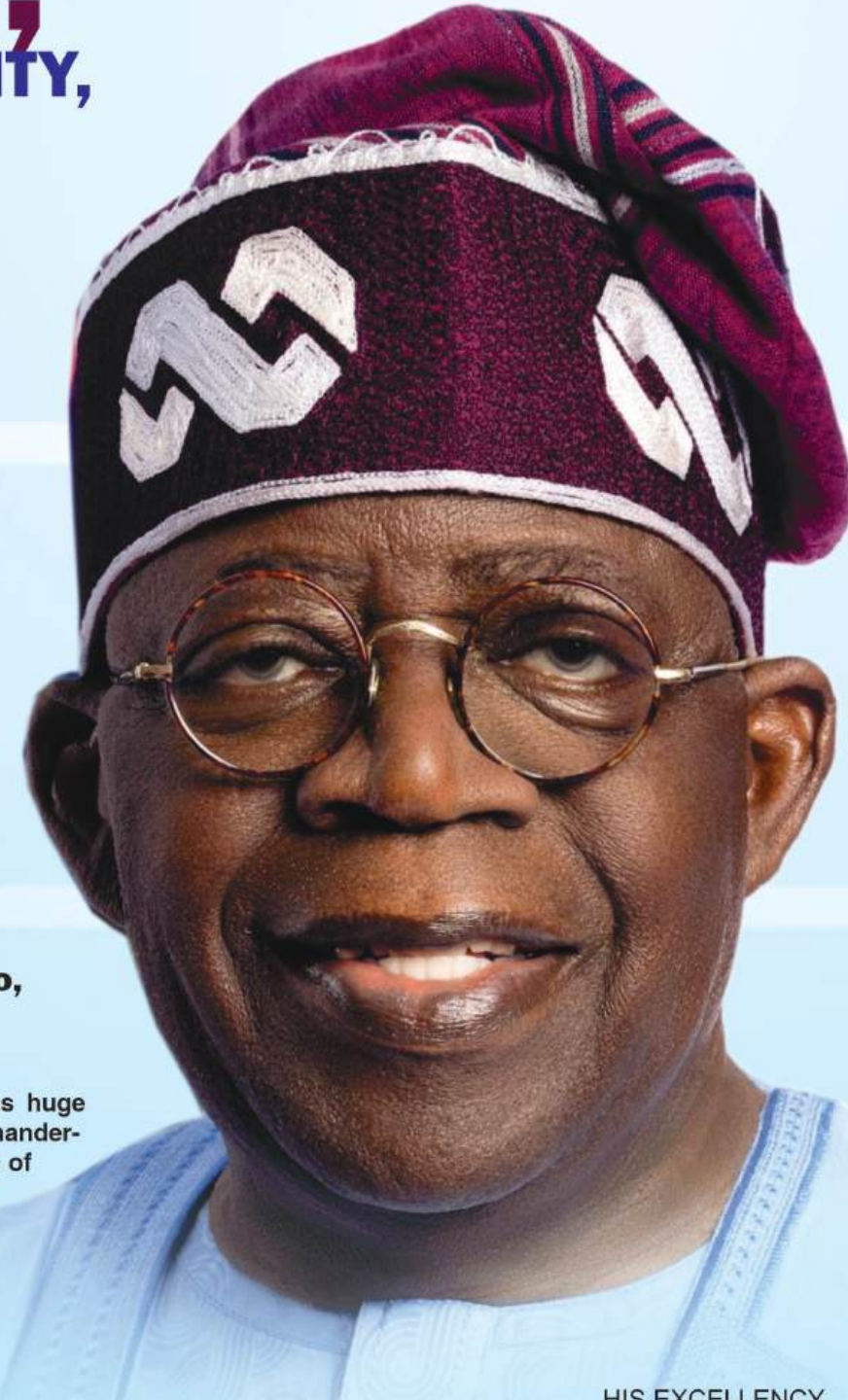
**CONGRATULATIONS ALL!**

God bless Izon Nation  
God bless Niger Delta  
God bless Nigeria

**Signed:**  
**Hon Donald Kimikanboh Ojogo**  
Member, House of Representatives  
Representing Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency  
Of Ondo State



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



# Thank You, **ASIWAJU.** THIS GESTURE IS **MARVELLOUS**

It's with a deep sense of responsibility and a heart full of gratitude that I, **Chief, Rt. Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi**, Member, House of Representatives, Abuja, representing Warri Federal Constituency, write on behalf of my constituents to express our profound appreciation to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, **Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, GCFR, for signing the bill, which established the Nigeria Maritime University (NMU), Okerenkoko, located in an axis of my Constituency, in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, into law.

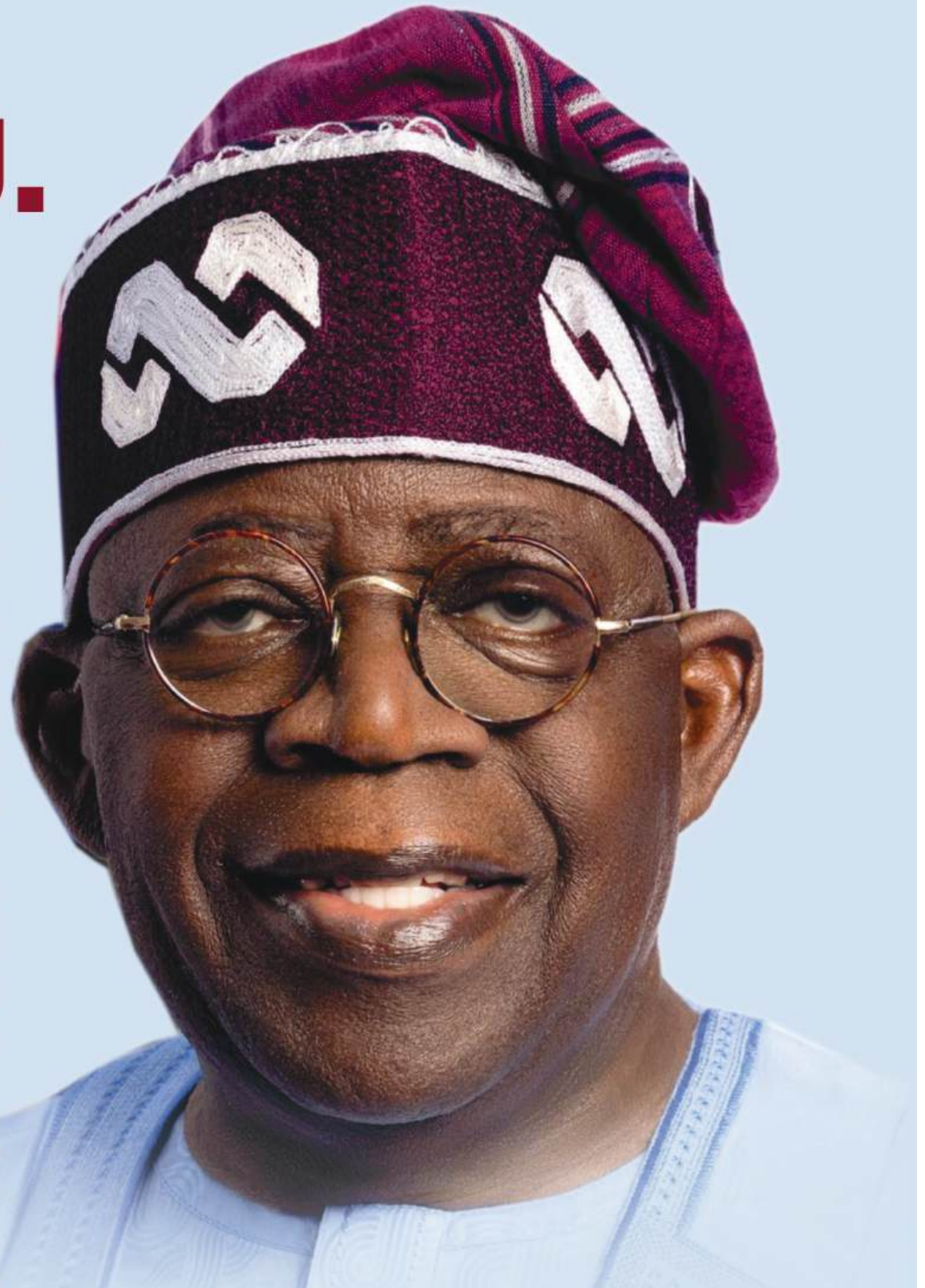
It gladdens our hearts that with this singular action, NMU has finally come to life and you have put a seal of success on the lives of many Nigerians, particularly those of us from the South-South geopolitical zone of the country, the catchment area of the university.

Indeed, you are leader, who should be trusted because you fulfilled your promise to us that the dream of NMU would never die.

Mr. President, there is no doubt that your presidential assent to the bill establishing NMU has given the university greater visibility and confidence to produce graduate professionals who would be among the leading maritime professionals in Nigeria and the world in the nearest future.

It will also enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of our people.

Thank you, Mr. President. Warri Federal Constituency is grateful to you.



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



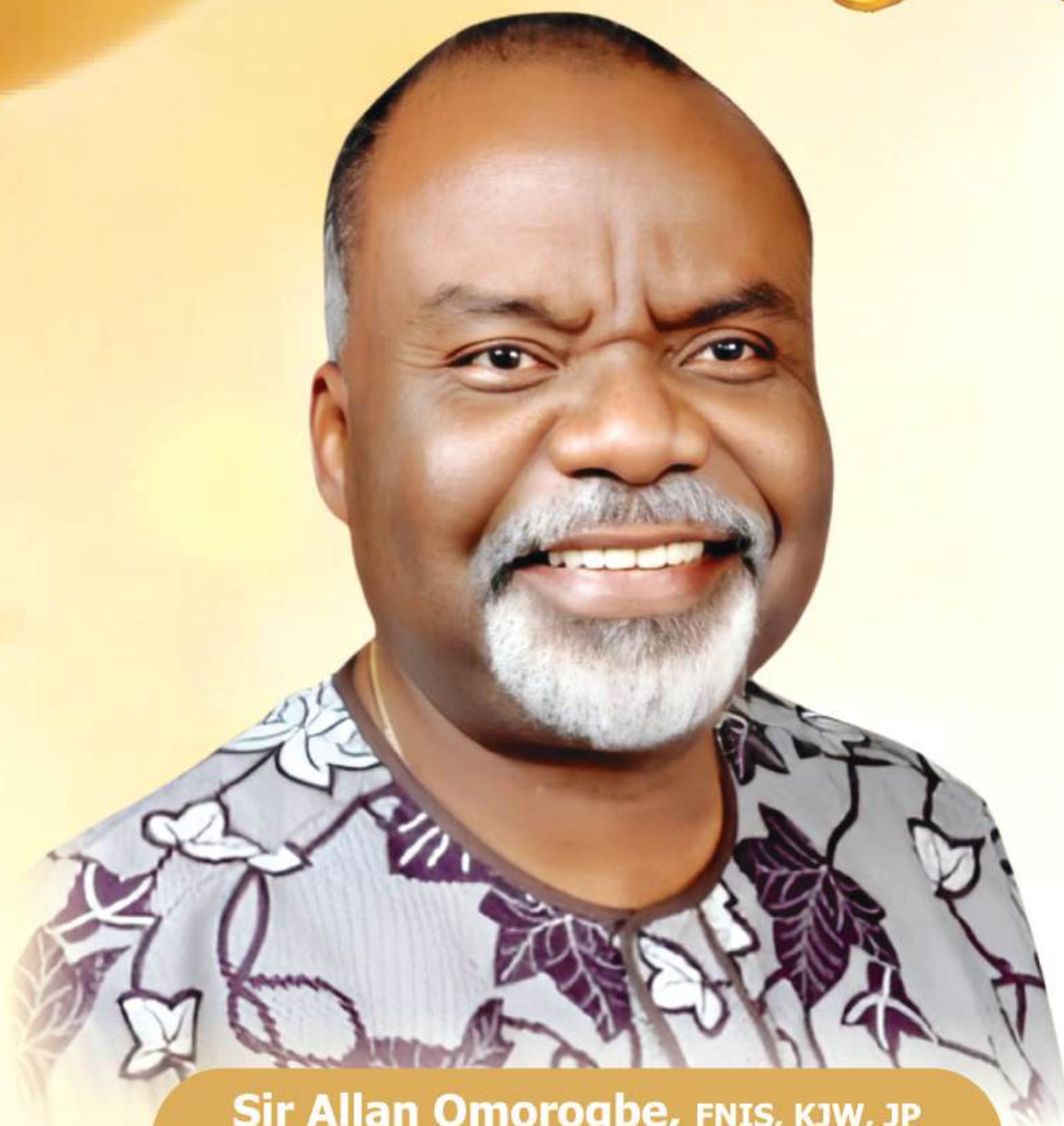
**Chief Thomas Eriyetomi**  
Akatigbi Ayeola of Warri Kingdom, Member,  
House of Representative, Abuja representing  
Warri Federal Constituency and  
Chairman, House Committee on Petroleum  
Resources Training Funds.

SIGNED: ►

**Celebrating Our Own  
Quintessential Brother**

@

**70**



**Sir Allan Omorogbe, FNIS, KJW, JP**

Our Brotherly Sir Allan Omorogbe, FNIS, KJW, JP, we celebrate your extraordinary life dedicated to the family and service of both humanity and God in your 70 years of gracious existence in life.

Your life has summarised the saying: " there is no greater use of life than to spend it on something that will outlast it."

You are an amazing brother, father and leader who is everly strong, and always available.

Your wisdom, integrity and leadership continue to inspire generations.

May this special day bring you joy and may you be surrounded by love and respect.

Here's to your remarkable journey and countless lives you have touched.

Wishing you good health, happiness and many more cherished moments.

*Happy Birthday Big Brother.*

Signed:

**Brothers and Sisters**



*Celebrating an*  
**Amazon**  
**@51**

**Dr. Mrs Aisha**  
**ASHIMUGU**



**Y**ou are a virtuous woman of great values and integrity. Your selflessness, kindness, sacrifice and humility have brought you through to this age.

Today, we join the host of your family, friends and associates to celebrate not only your birthday but the height you have attained; the impacts you have made and the lives you have touched positively that have collectively defined your remarkable achievements on earth.

Thank you for all you have done for us.

As you journey further in life, may God broaden your horizons for more impactful life in sound health.

From all of us at The Delborough Lagos, this is wishing you a happy birthday.

Congratulations, Dr. Mrs Aisha Ashimugu  
@51!



**Signed:**  
**Dr. Stanley Uzochukwu**  
Chairman/CEO  
Stanel Group/The Delborough Lagos



**CONDOLENCE VISIT:** From left, Dere Otubu, Chairman, Eko Electricity Distribution Company; Udeme Ufot, Group Managing Director, SO&U; his wife, Professor Dorothy Ufot, SAN; and Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Chairman, Access Holdings Plc, during a condolence visit in Uyo following the passing of Princess Affiong Ukot, mother of Professor Dorothy Ufot.

## Focus on N-Delta's Devt issues, Diri tells PANDEF

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA**—Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State, has called on the leadership of the Pan Niger Delta Development Forum, PANDEF, to focus on issues that border on the region's development in its advocacy as a voice of the region.

Diri gave the admonition, yesterday when a delegation of PANDEF led by its national chairman, Amb. Godknows Igali, paid him a courtesy visit in Government House, Yenagoa.

He expressed his administration's commitment to collaborate with the forum to address issues of development bedeviling the Niger Delta region.

The governor stressed that PANDEF needed the collaboration of governors of the region as well as interventionist agencies such as the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, and the proposed South South Development Commission in order for it to succeed.

He said: "PANDEF ought to play a key advocacy role in supporting the South-South Governors Forum. It was a divine arrangement that your meeting in Bayelsa State coincided with the just concluded governors meeting.

"We must take issues of our development in our hands before waiting to seek external help. That is why in Bayelsa we are showing the example."

Diri, who emerged as the new chairman of the South-South Governors Forum on Tuesday, said he would create a desk and assign an official to interface with PANDEF.

In his remarks, National Chairman of PANDEF, Amb. Godknows Igali, affirmed the forum's support to the South-South Governors Forum to help reposition the body to bring about development and address issues such as fiscal federalism.

He said PANDEF as a voice for the people of the Niger Delta was being strengthened to be heard like other regional groups in the country and to participate in national discourse and relate outcomes to leaders of the region.

## I'll work closely with PANDEF, Oba of Benin pledges

By Henry Umoru

**ABUJA**—THE Benin monarch, Omo N' Oba N' Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Ewuare II, has pledged support for the apex socio-political umbrella body of the Niger Delta, Pan Niger Delta Forum, PANDEF.

Oba Ewuare II promised to work closely and help PANDEF when the National Chairman of the body, Godknows Igali, led a delegation of the executive members on a courtesy visit to him at his palace.

In a statement, yesterday, by PANDEF spokesman, Dr. Obiuewvbi Ominimini, the traditional ruler hailed the regional body for electing Igali as the National Chairman, describing him as a brilliant and intelligent man.

According to the Benin monarch, Igali played a prominent role many years ago by inviting him to a foreign exhibition as an Ambassador, where he had the opportunity to make a case for the return of the stolen Benin Artifacts.

The statement read: "The visit of the apex socio-political umbrella body of the Niger Delta, PANDEF's National working committee visit to the Oba of Benin Palace has brought a relief of new hope for the Region as HRM, Oba Ewuare II, has promised to work closely with PANDEF and will do his best to help.

"The Oba counts PANDEF lucky to have Amb. Ogali whom he describes as a brilliant and intelligent man. He commended Amb Igali who played a prominent role many years ago by taking the initiative to invite him to a foreign exhibition as an Ambassador, where he had the opportunity to make a case for the return of the stolen Benin artifacts.

"Amb Igali in his speech presentation to the Oba of Benin, traced the relevance and the powerful status of the Benin throne and Benin City to 16th century. The National Chairman stated that all Niger Deltans cherish the Benin throne and that all Niger Delta are linked by blood as our fore fathers married many wives across ethnic divide in the region and gave birth to children who have droplets of blood from many ethnic groups.

"He stated the importance of keeping our people together as it has benefitted us in the past and present as many years ago, the unity of the region made it possible to produce Sen Joseph Wayas as Senate president of Nigeria.

"The PANDEF National chairman said it was, therefore, important to take the royal blessing of the Oba to enable this new exco to succeed in her task in working for the people of Niger Delta.

"The Deputy National Chairman, Bassey Ekefre from Cross River State;

National Secretary, Reynolds Dagogo-Jack from Rivers State; Spokesman, Olorogun Obiuewvbi Ominimini from Delta State; National Woman Leader, Pastor Grace Ekong from Akwa Ibom State; National Treasurer, Mrs. Ifeoma Agboma from Delta State; National Financial Secretary, Emmanuel Igbinaduwa from Edo State; National Youth Leader, Donben Doyegha

from Edo State; Deputy National Secretary, Godwin Okotie from Delta State; including Edo State Exco members were part of the PANDEF's Working Committee visitation to the Oba's Palace.

"The reception given to PANDEF at the palace shows the very high degree of love the very well adored monarch has for not just Edo Nation but for the entire Niger Delta."

## We need to encourage whistle-blowing in Delta — Oborewori

By Ochuko Akuopha

**ASABA**—GOVERNOR Sheriff Oborewori of Delta State, yesterday, said there was need to encourage whistle-blowing to check poor projects delivery in the state.

Oborewori stated this during an interactive meeting with Permanent Secretaries, Directors and Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs, at Government House, Asaba.

He said: "We will have some hotlines. If somebody is constructing your road and they are not doing it well, you can snap and send to us."

Thanking the civil servants for their commitment and dedication to duty, he said the meeting became necessary due to reports of some civil

servants colluding with contractors to defraud the state through poorly executed projects.

He said: "All I require from you is loyalty, commitment and dedication to duty, not personal gain, for us, it is Delta State first. In advancing Delta through our MORE agenda, we must give the best to Deltans at all times.

"In everything we are doing in Delta State, we must give it the best. A situation where a superintending engineer will issue certificate for a project not completed and payments made is unacceptable.

"Where you are expected to use 12 mm rod and you use something else, is it good? So, when I discovered bad jobs and issuance of certificates of completion for projects not

completed, on the spot I directed that those involved should be issued a query.

"When a contractor is blacklisted, they can go and do other things elsewhere but as civil servants, when you are involved, you will be dismissed, so, why would you destroy your career?"

"Some of the contractors have other companies but you have lost your job, is it a good thing? So, that is the reason I am saying 'let us be on the same page, let's continue to work together to build Delta State and to move Delta State forward.'

"I cannot succeed without you, so, save me the stress of jumping up and down from one site to another because if you do the right thing, I will not be going from one project to the other for inspection."

## Itsekiri leaders condemn Sapele Okpe community over land disputes

By Dickson Omobola

**NOTABLE** Itsekiri leaders in Delta State have faulted Sapele Okpe community's decision to arrogate specific areas in the community to themselves, saying the move was borne out of the desire to cause confusion and breakdown of law and order in Delta State.

The leaders, in a statement by the Chairman of Abigorodo Management Committee, Misan Ukubeyinje and Secretary, Mr. Victor Atseponu, voiced concerns that some riverine communities which have been Itsekiri territories for decades and part of which is the Seplat dredging site were being claimed by the Sapele Okpe community as part of their territory.

They urged Governor Sheriff Oborewori of the state and all well-meaning Deltans to disregard reports by Sapele Okpe community, stating

that Edwin Uzor, the Special Adviser on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution to Oborewori, should be allowed to investigate the matter.

The statement said: "Their reference to the Alema of Warri, an administrative chief of Abigorodo, Ugbekoko and several riverine communities in Warri North and Sapele Local Government Areas, Emmanuel Uduaghan, is defamatory and grossly disrespectful.

## ANEEJ hails Diri's emergence as S' South Governors' Forum Chair

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA**—The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice, ANEEJ, has congratulated Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State on his election as the Chairman

of the South-South Governors' Forum, describing it as "well deserved."

Executive Director of ANEEJ, Rev David Ugolor in a statement, yesterday, said Diri's election during the recent meeting of the governors in Yenagoa was a testament to the confidence his colleagues have in

## Group gives oil firm ultimatum over poor treatment of host communities

By Daniel Abia

**PORTHARCOURT**—Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, CDHR, has issued a 120-hour ultimatum to Oriental Energy Resources Limited, OERL, to immediately comply with all the agreements it entered into with Effiat/Mbo host communities in Akwa Ibom State or face a legal action.

In a letter to the company, yesterday in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, the committee said it was disturbed that the youths of Mbo Local Government Area of the state under the aegis of Obolo Youth Coalition had given a 21-day ultimatum to the organisation for a mother of all protests having failed woefully to implement the agreements reached at the zonal office of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NCDMB, in November 2023 and October 2024, respectively.

According to Akwa Ibom State chairman of CDRH, Ndifreke Afangide, despite being in possession of all treaties and letters exchanged, "Oriental Energy Resources Limited has brazenly disregarded the NOGICD Act 2010 on community content guidelines, thereby perpetuating a culture of impunity and disdain for the rights of the host community.

"This blatant disregard for the law and the rights of the host communities is an affront to the principles of justice, equity, and good Conscience.

"As we always emphasize, 'Pacta sunt servanda' (Agreements must be kept), is a fundamental principle of contract law."

## Egone hails Oborewori on Governor of the Year award

By Jimoh Babatunde

**A**retired Major of the Nigerian Army and member, Delta State Advisory and Peace Building Council, DSAPBC, Major P. Egone (retd), has congratulated Governor Sheriff Oborewori of Delta State for receiving the "Best Governor of the Year 2024" award from THISDAY Newspaper and Anise Television.

The media organisations, on Monday, presented the award to Oborewori for his fiscal discipline and infrastructural development of the state.

Egone in a statement, yesterday, in Ughelli, Delta State, said the award was in recognition of Oborewori's laudable achievements and for providing good governance in Delta State.

He added that the governor is an achiever with great positive accomplishments and still committed to doing MORE for the state.

his leadership and vision for the region.

Ugolor further noted that Diri's emergence as Chairman presents a pivotal opportunity for the South-South region to foster unity and collaborative action in addressing the pressing development challenges that confront Niger Delta communities.

# News

## Injunctive orders against Obaigbena, GHL, others stay, FBN counsel

Continues from Page 1

The other injunctive orders, namely orders 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were not discharged or set aside, and remain valid and subsisting, the counsel said.

The orders are as follows: "AN ORDER OF INTERIM INJUNCTION restraining the 1st - 4th Defendants, agents, servants, officers, privies, subsidiaries, sister companies or any other person natural or artificial howsoever called under the control of the 1st - 4th Defendants from transferring or otherwise dealing with any and all of the monies standing to the credit of the 1st - 4th Defendants in any account whatsoever maintained by the 1st - 4th Defendants with any of the aforementioned Banks wherever situate up to the amount of the Plaintiff/Applicant's claim of the total sum of US\$225,802,379.69 (Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Million Eight Hundred and Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Nine Dollars and Sixty-Nine Cents) being the indebtedness on the 1st Defendant's account with the 1st Plaintiff/Applicant as of 30th September 2024 in respect of the loan facilities granted to the 1st Defendant by the 1st Plaintiff/Applicant, pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice for Interlocutory Injunction.

"AN ORDER mandating all the Commercial Banks in Nigeria to wit: GUARANTY TRUST BANK LIMITED, ACCESS BANK PLC, CITI-BANK NIGERIA LIMITED, CARBON BANK, ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC, FIDELITY BANK PLC, FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED, FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC, FLUTTER WAVE, GLOBUS BANK, HERITAGE BANK LIMITED, JAIZ BANK, KEYSTONE BANK LIMITED, OPAY DIGITAL SERVICES LIMITED, PALMPAY LIMITED, PAYSTACK PAYMENTS LIMITED, PIGGYVEST, MOMO PAYMENT SERVICES LIMITED, POLARIS BANK LIMITED, PROVIDUS BANK, STANBIC IBTC BANK NIGERIA LIMITED, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, STERLING BANK PLC, SUNTRUST BANK LIMITED, UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC, UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC, UNITY BANK PLC, WEMA BANK PLC, ZENITH BANK PLC AND ALL OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OPERATING IN NIGERIA to file and serve on the Plain-

tiffs/Applicant Solicitors within seven (7) days of serving this Court Order on them, an Affidavit disclosing the sum standing to the 1st- 4th Defendants' credit with a duly certified Statement of Accounts of the 1st - 4th Defendants/Respondents in their respective custody from the date of its opening till the date this Order is served on the Bank(s).

"AN ORDER mandating the 8th - 13th Defendants to file and serve on the Plaintiffs/Applicants a statement disclosing the quantum of products lifted from the 8th Defendant or OML 120 since the commencement of production on OML 120.

"AN ORDER of interim injunction restraining the 8th to 16th Defendants and any other third parties from dealing with any assets and receivables related or connected with OML 120 without depositing the proceeds thereof to the 1st Defendant's account in the 1st Plaintiff Bank, pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.

"AN ORDER of interim injunction restraining the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Defendants whether by themselves, members, shareholders, agents, servants, proxies, allies, from transferring and/or dissipating, diminishing or dealing with any interest in the 1st Defendant's assets including but not limited to crude stock, insurance policies, all forms of stock of shares, all forms of receivables and contracts which have been pledged as securities for the loan facilities granted by the 1st Plaintiff to the 1st Defendant, pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.

"AN ORDER of interim injunction restraining the 2nd - 4th Defendants being directors of the 1st Defendant, whether by themselves, agents, servants, proxies, allies, from transferring and/or dissipating any interest in their assets wherever located in Nigeria, movable or immovable, pending the determination of the Motion on Notice for interlocutory injunction.

The counsel said: "For the avoidance of doubt, the 1st - 4th Defendants (GHL and its directors) are still restrained from dealing with and/or dissipating monies in their respective accounts and assets connected to the subject matter of the suit. "It is also pertinent to refute the false insinuation that punitive costs were awarded against FBN.



From left, Olumuyiwa Akande, Group Head, Corporate Communications, SIFAX Group; Oliver Omajuwa, Deputy Director, Strategy and Operations, SIFAX Group, Dera Nnadi, Assistant Comptroller-General, Nigeria Customs Service; Ololade Dawodu, Head, Clearing and Forwarding, SIFAX Shipping and Joshua Auta, Head, Abuja Operations, SIFAX Group, at the presentation of Certificate of Merit to SIFAX Group by the World Customs Organisation (WCO) at the International Customs Day celebration in Abuja.

The matter has been further adjourned to 19th February 2025 to enable all Defendants respond to the substantive suit before a hearing date is given by the Judge.

"The court ruled that the suit filed by FBN before Dipeolu J, did not amount to an abuse of court process as the cause of action and the parties are

different from the cause of action and parties in the proceedings that were before Allagoa J.

"For the above reason, the court was of the view that the suit filed by FBN was properly constituted and dismissed the prayers of the 1st - 5th Defendants urging the court to strike out/dismiss the suit for

being an abuse of court process.

"With respect to GHL's contention that FBN suppressed and/or concealed the preservative orders made by Allagoa J., the court also held that FBN disclosed the existence of the preservative orders of Allagoa J. in paragraph 61 of their Affidavit save that the

court order was not attached.

"On the Mareva order, the Court was of the view that even though First Bank disclosed the existence of the preservative orders obtained from Allagoa J, he would nonetheless discharge the Mareva order because of the orders of Allagoa J."

## EU'll help Nigeria cater for victims of conflicts

— AMB MIGNOT

By Innocent Anaba

THE European Union, EU, has pledged to continue partnering Nigeria to assist persons affected by conflict and violence as well natural-induced disasters.

New EU Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Gauthier Mignot, who stated this while addressing newsmen in Lagos, yesterday, said the EU was also partnering Nigeria in trade and investment.

He said: "The EU is by far Nigeria's largest trading and investment partner. EU was Nigeria's top trading partner in 2023, with 28 percent of its total trade. Total trade in goods amounts to Euro35 billion in 2023, with an average annual growth rate of 1.5 percent of EU imports and 0.9 percent of EU exports between 2019 and 2023.

"Nigeria benefits from a Euro10,7 billion trade surplus with the EU.

"When it comes to investment, a key priority of President Bola Tinubu's renewed hope agenda, Nigeria also has

its strongest partner in the EU, as our foreign direct investment stock accounts for about 1/3 of Nigerian FDI, totalling Euro 26.4 billion in 2022.

"There are hundreds of EU companies present in Nigeria. EU companies have strict compliance policies on anti-corruption, environment, labour and more generally all local legislation. They are key providers of jobs and equally importantly managerial, technological and vocational training."

Speaking further, he said: "The EU recognises the importance of solidarity and remains committed to partnering with the government of Nigeria in assisting the people affected by conflicts and violence as well natural induced disasters. Together with its member States, it is one of the main humanitarian donors in Nigeria. This assistance saves countless lives every day.

"The current EU humanitarian response is provided in the sectors of protection, food

security, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, education in emergencies, disaster preparedness. It amounts to Euro102 million for EU27, almost half of it from the EU. The EU pays particular attention to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in order to provide durable solutions to populations."

On fostering investment and development, Amb Mignot said: "The EU, member states, the European Investment Bank and soon the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development come together as "Team Europe" and are Nigeria's main development partner. The

"Global Gateway" is the EU's new investment strategy aiming at connecting people and accelerating green, digital and inclusive transition in partner countries like Nigeria.

"This means leveraging and accelerating investment and to increasingly work in coordination with EU companies, to bring concrete benefits to Nigerians. The flagship projects under the Global Gateway include inter alia Omi Eko (Lagos waterway transport), development of the renewable energy sector (solar, small hydropower), production of vaccines (MAV+), Erasmus+ and Horizon programs.

## NATCOMS accuses NCC of betraying subscribers, heads to court

By Prince Osuagwu, Hi-Tech Editor

TELECOM subscribers in the country may head to court tomorrow to challenge the 50% tariff hike approved for the telecom operators by the Nigerian Communications Com-

mission, NCC. This is also as they distanced themselves from the planned February 4, 2025 protest by the Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, saying the protest will send wrong signals to foreign investors expected in the sector.

The subscribers under the umbrella of National Association of Telecom Subscribers in Nigeria, NATCOMS, said the only thing that can stop them from going to court is if the regulator responds positively to their demand of reducing the hike to 10 percent today.

Speaking to Vanguard, Wednesday night on the plan, National President of NATCOMS Chief Deolu Ogunbanjo said the association has sent a letter to the NCC seeking reduction of the hike to 10 percent and is hoping by today, the commission will respond favourably, else it will file a suit against the commission by tomorrow.

The letter signed by Ogunbanjo and the Legal Counsel Mr Bayo Omotubora and made available to Vanguard read in part: "The Nigerian Communications Commission's (NCC) recent approval of 50% hike in tariff for telecommunications services is tantamount to throwing the generality of Nigerians, who are the Consumers of the telecommunications services under the bus for a grinding crush over, and we dare say, it is an overkill.

## GHL floors First Bank in court

IN a landmark victory for General Hydrocarbons Limited, the Federal High Court in Lagos has set aside an order of Mareva injunction freezing the assets of the company and its directors.

The court, while upholding the arguments of GHL's counsel, Abiodun Layonu, SAN held that the injunction violated an existing order from a court of concurrent jurisdiction.

In his ruling, Justice Dehinde Dipeolu, stated that when compared with an earlier order issued by Justice Ambrose Lewis-Allagoa in Suit No. 1953, the Mareva Injunction should be set aside.

The court found that First Bank of Nigeria and FBN-QUEST LTD, at whose instance the order was procured, failed to fully disclose Justice Lewis-Allagoa's order, which made the Mareva Injunction

incompatible with the earlier ruling.

The court consequently agreed with GHL that First Bank deliberately "suppressed facts" to mislead the court into granting the order against GHL. The court in the circumstance, said it had no choice but to set aside the order freezing GHL accounts.

First Bank had approached the court via an ex-parte application against General Hydrocarbons Limited and 15 other entities even when there was a subsisting judgement.

Responding to the suit, GHL urged the court to discharge the order freezing its assets and accounts on the grounds that the court was misled in granting same. The oil firm argued that the order was obtained through fraudulent misrepresentation and concealment of material facts.



## Naira rises to N1,630/\$ in parallel market

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The Naira yesterday appreciated to N1,630 per dollar in the parallel market from N1,640 per dollar on Tuesday. Similarly, the Naira appreciated to N1,507 per dollar in the official foreign exchange market.

Data published by the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, showed that the exchange rate for Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM) fell to N1,507.3 per dollar from N1,520 per dollar on Tuesday, indicating N12.7 appreciation for the naira.

Consequently, the margin between the parallel market and NFEM rate widened to N122.7 per dollar from N120 per dollar on Tuesday.

# Education



## We were not registered to split ASUU — Sunmonu, CONUA President

Dr 'Niyi Sunmonu, an Associate Professor of Atmospheric Physics, in the Department of Physics & Engineering Physics of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, is the National President of the Congress of University Academics, CONUA. In this interview, he speaks on a number of issues, including how the congress was registered as an academic staff union in the Nigerian university system. Excerpts.

### CAN you tell us about the registration of CONUA?

It was a very tortuous task. CONUA started the registration process in May 2018 after more than 700 academics were expelled from ASUU in OAU. This process was completed on 17th January 2023, having been previously given a provisional letter of registration on 4th October 2022. So, the registration process took a period of about five years to materialise. Before and up to the point of registration, the journey was both rough and tough. The first test of our mettle as a union occurred when the application was rejected. The refusal of our application for the registration of CONUA as a Trade Union was communicated to us in a letter dated 23rd January 2019, with the caveat that "you also have the right to appeal the refusal of the application to be registered as a trade union to the Honourable Minister within 30 days of the receipt of this letter in line with section 5(b) of the Trade Union Act CAP.T.14 of 2004." The leadership immediately identified 23 grounds of appeal and prepared six annexures, and the appeal, dated 28th January 2019 and addressed to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment, was promptly filed by our counsel. About a year later, the Ministerial Committee set up immedi-



•Dr 'Niyi Sunmonu

ately the appeal was filed invited the leadership of CONUA to a formal meeting scheduled for 22nd January 2020. The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment. Subsequently, the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment invited the CONUA leadership to a public meeting held on 19th November 2020, where the justification for the registration of CONUA as an academic Trade Union was further elucidated upon.

The Honourable Minister, in his response, gave the Ministerial Committee on the appeal for the registration of CONUA four weeks to turn in its report for his consideration. Our leadership and followership were literally, forged

by fire, through physical, psychological and emotional strain, as weeks turned to years! During the period, we also had to cope with constant ridicule, taunting and propaganda from ASUU leadership in a bid to suffocate CONUA.

By 26th October 2022, ASUU (claimant) had already instituted a case at the National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN), against the registration of CONUA, through Mr. Femi Falana (SAN). Part of the eight reliefs sought included "an order mandating the Federal Government to withdraw the certificate of registration of CONUA;" "an order restraining the FG from recognising and dealing with CONUA as a trade union in any manner whatsoever and howsoever;" and "an order restraining CONUA from parading itself as a trade union capable of unionising academic staff in the universities in Nigeria in any manner whatsoever and howsoever." The intention to asphyxiate CONUA was laid to bare from these re-

liefs!

But, thankfully, on 25th July 2023, the NICN ruled that all "the reliefs prayed for by the claimant are not grantable. They must fail." The NICN also expatiated on the paragraph 67, section 25 of the Trade Union Act (TUA). It held that "in talking of 'all registered trade unions in the employment of an employer' intuitively there can be more than one trade union in an employment; and for purposes of collective bargaining, these registered trade unions in an employment shall constitute an electoral college to elect members who will represent them in negotiation with the employer. Section 25 accordingly does not intuitively trade union monopoly." It intuitively trade union plurality. May I therefore use this opportunity to appeal to Nigerians, particularly members of the fourth estate of the realm, including the elites to seek the truth about these issues. It is then incumbent on us all to uphold the truth after it is discovered.

After the registration, we are still battling with discriminations and exclusions from the programmes of some government agencies that would ordinarily interface with registered academic unions. For example, CONUA is still facing discrimination from TETFUND which excluded it, on 14th May 2024 from the "Reconstitution of TETFUND National Research Fund Screening And Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC)". Another instance is that of the exclusion from the NEEDS Assessment Committee, constituted by the immediate past Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman (SAN) on 28th August 2024. CONUA's leadership is following up with the current Minister of Education, Dr. Olatunji Alausa, to seek redress on the oversight.

We have had to cope with propaganda from the Comrade Ayuba Wabba-led NLC, even though CONUA did not approach it for affiliation. Thankfully, CONUA got affiliated with the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) on 15th October 2023, after fulfilling all the requirements. Little by little, we are surmounting the "teething" challenges and we are very optimistic about a very bright

future.

Can you tell us about the spread of CONUA since it got registered?

CONUA started in OAU, grew to five universities by October 2019, and then to about 30 Chapters, as we speak. We are in universities, which included but not limited to, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike; University of Benin; Federal University, Lokoja; Federal University, Oye-Ekiti; Kwara State University, Malete; Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma; Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; University of Nigeria, Nsukka; University of Jos; Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Federal University, Wukari, National Mathematical Centre, Abuja, University of Abuja, University of Maiduguri, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo, etc. In short, CONUA has Chapters across all the six geopolitical zones in the country, and it is still growing.

When did you form CONUA?

For "daring" to raise questions, over 700 OAU academics were expelled/suspended from ASUU on 4th February 2018. As a result, Congress met on 12th February 2018 and presided over by the Caretaker Committee, the ill-advised expulsion or suspension was deliberated upon exhaustively, and the need to provide a refuge for the academics who had been arrogantly driven out of ASUU was a key issue. At the end of the discussions, Congress decided "to constitute itself into a new Union that is totally independent of ASUU, adopt an appropriate name and open a new bank account for the check-off dues of its members", among other key decisions. The Congress adopted the name, Congress of University Academics (CONUA). We were quite conscious of the fact that standing up to ASUU would be a humongous and fearsome undertaking with a difficult-to-predict outcome. All the same, with courage buoyed by our desire to protect our dignity, we forged ahead. On 6th March 2018, the formal inauguration of CONUA was held, with representatives of the University of Ilorin and Kwara State University, Malete, in attendance.

•Continues online

## Nexford University graduates 1,200 students as 7 Nigerians bag special awards

By Elizabeth Osayande

NEXFORD University (NXU), a next-generation online university based in Washington DC, USA, has graduated a total of 1,200 students during its 2024 graduation ceremonies.

NXU, which prides itself for skill-education, gave awards to seven Nigerian students for their outstanding academic performance during their course of study.

Speaking at the event held in Lagos, Fadl Al Tarzi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NXU commended the graduating students for their quest for knowledge and skills to compete globally.

The outstanding students given awards are Omolade Ganiyat Yusuf and Eganoyemi Oloruntosin Adetayo, who emerged Best Peer Mentor in the BBA Program and Best Peer Mentor in the MBA Program respectively.

Christopher Chukwuka Otakpor emerged Outstanding Volunteer Award in the BBA, while Kayode Olaitan Owoyemi won the Outstanding Volunteer Award - MBA.

In the Outstanding Brand Ambassador Awards category, Abdul Shakur Haruna was awarded Outstanding Brand Ambassador - Ghana while Christian Arimoku Ebhoma was awarded Outstanding Brand Ambassador - Nigeria.

Meanwhile, Oluwasegun Anuoluwapo Ogundiran, who finished with an impressive 4.0 CGPA emerged as the

Valedictorian of the Year for Class 2024. Also speaking, the Nexford Country Director, Oghogho Inneh, noted that the graduands emerged from various programs, which include Undergrad - BBA, Post-Grad - MBA, MSDT, MSDA and MSE.

According to Oghogho, the MBA program (1606) has the most graduates in the class of 2024 followed by the BBA program (141).

Oghogho said the Class of 2024 represented a dynamic and inspiring cohort of learners from around the world, united by their ambition to excel in their careers and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

"The class has embraced Nexford's focus on workplace-relevant skills. Many have already applied their learning to solve real-world challenges in industries such as technology, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and business management," she added.

In his keynote address, Mr. Peter Obi, former Governor of Anambra State, urged the graduands to influence change for a better society and make meaningful contributions to the economy.

"If people in other countries go through the experience you pass through here, they won't even pass. So go out there and influence change in the society that you live in."

"Don't go around thinking about only making money. Go check anybody that makes meaningful wealth, they do so by creating value, by giving themselves out to serve the society. It is for you to help solve problems in the society."

## Akarigbo lauds old students for transforming CAC Grammar School

THE 65th anniversary of Christ Apostolic Grammar School, Iperremo, Ogun State, was celebrated in grand style on January 25, 2025, by the Old Students Association of the school. The event, marked by notable renovations and development initiatives, attracted dignitaries, including the Akarigbo of Remoland, HRH Oba Babatunde Adewale Ajayi, *Torungbuwa II*, who lauded the association's contributions to the school and community.

Speaking at the event, the Akarigbo of Remoland praised the President of the Old Students Association, Hon. Tope Akintunde (popularly known as Armstrong) and team members, for the

exceptional leadership and vision in carrying out impactful projects for the benefit of the people.

"As an institution that has shaped countless lives over six decades, Christ Apostolic Grammar School deserves nothing but the best," the Akarigbo said. "The renovation of school facilities, construction of a mini-hospital for student healthcare, and the provision of two buses for transportation are exceptional and worthy of emulation. I urge other well meaning individuals to follow suit as this will make a lasting impact on our community."

The anniversary celebration featured the launch of key projects initiated by the association, including the renovation

of school infrastructure, the establishment of a fully equipped mini-hospital to serve as a sick bay for students, and the purchase of two buses to enhance commuting for students and management.

Dignitaries present included Prof. Abayomi Arigbabuwo, the Commissioner for Education, Science, and Technology, representing the Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun; Hon. Sheriff Abiodun Yusuf, Majority Leader of the Ogun State House of Assembly; Hon. Oladipupo Adebute, Ogun State 2023 PDP gubernatorial candidate; Asiwaju Dr. Solomon Kayode Onafowokan (OON), the Asiwaju of Remoland; and Barr. Madeyin Shola Idowu (SAN), the Accountant-General of the Federation, among others.



•From left: President/ Chairman of Council, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Prof. Pius Deji Olanrewaju; President/ Vice Chancellor, Babcock University, Prof. Ademola Tayo and Registrar/ CEO, CIBN, Mr. Akin Morakinyo, at the ground breaking ceremony of the CIBN Bankers Hall at Babcock University, Ilesan-Remo, Ogun State.



**Federal Republic of Nigeria**  
**The Federal Ministry of Education**  
 Better Education Service Delivery for All Additional  
 Financing (BESDA-AF)  
 Transforming Education Systems at State Level (TESS) Program

**ENGAGEMENT OF INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AGENT (IVA) FOR MULTI-YEAR  
 VERIFICATION OF TESS PROGRAM RESULTS ON A ROLLING BASIS  
 REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) has received a \$125m Education Sector Plan Improvement Grant (ESPIG) from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to support the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Program in Nigeria and build on the gains of the Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA) program. The Program is designed to create stronger education systems capable of delivering improvements in equity and learning, as well as ensuring stronger quality standards for educational planning, programming and monitoring by providing specific incentives to focus resources on achieving improved performance in equity, efficiency and learning outcomes. The National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU), intends to engage the service of an Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for the BESDA-AF Project.

**Objectives:**

The objective of the assignment is to verify and validate the achievement of the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) against agreed targets, measured by specific Disbursement Linked Results (DLRs) for Oyo, Adamawa and Katsina States, in accordance with the approved verification protocol approved by the World Bank and contained in the program documents. The assignment is expected to commence and continue on a rolling basis.

**Scope of Work:**

The Consultant will undertake the following activities:

1. The Independent Verification Agent (IVA) will conduct desk review and on-site field performance assessment of key deliverables to establish the status of achievements of the unverified components of Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) and provide evidence of compliance with the protocols stipulated in the Program Paper towards the achievement of the remaining underlisted Disbursement Linked Results (DLRs) till the end of the TESS program operation in OAK States.
2. The IVA will review and confirm that:
  - i. The list of primary schools included in the approved network package and infrastructure plan are from among the schools with the highest infrastructure needs. It is recommended that rural schools with students-classroom ratio above 70 and without proper drinking water and toilet facilities are prioritized for infrastructure support.
  - ii. Primary schools selected for infrastructure upgrading are from among schools with the highest infrastructure need. Schools with students-classroom ratio above 70 and without proper drinking water and toilet facilities should be prioritized.
  - iii. Primary schools selected for expansion to include junior secondary level should meet the criterion of not having a JSS within 3 KM radius with enrollment of at least 240 primary 1 to primary 6 students. It is recommended that there are at least 60 primary 6 students from all potential feeder primary schools to transit to JSS.
  - iv. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) of the selected primary school and SUBEB which confirms that the SUBEB will provide funding for the agreed primary school infrastructure upgrading or expansion of existing primary school to include junior secondary level according to an agreed School Infrastructure Plan (SIP) with required infrastructure and adheres to specific standards provided by the project/timeline of the project.
  - v. The construction grant has been disbursed to SBMCs of selected schools.
  - vi. The construction has been completed adhering to the minimum standard for infrastructure development as outlined by the UBEC and inclusion of the following:
    - a. At least three additional classrooms.
    - b. Upgrading or addition of drinking water facility.
    - c. Gender-friendly sanitation facilities. (including separate toilets for girls)
    - d. Installation of solar panels in areas without access to a reliable power grid.
    - e. Newly constructed structures are accessible for children and youth with disabilities and are in a location deemed safe by the community.
3. The IVA is expected to verify the renovation and/or construction of 550 schools across the OAK States: Oyo State - 190 renovations & 25 constructions; Adamawa - 70 renovations & 25 constructions; Katsina - 240 renovations.
4. The IVA will review and confirm the establishment of a digital platform with, at a minimum, a database managed by the SUBEB (EMIS) which has information on teacher training, including teacher name and identifying information, the number / type of modules completed and related information on schools i.e. their type and location.
5. The IVA will review and confirm:
  - i. The establishment of a digital platform with, at a minimum, a database managed by SUBEB (EMIS) which includes information on the number of termly student assessments undertaken by teachers and focus of assessment by grade/subject.
  - ii. Database of student enrolment by class.
  - iii. The number of teachers completing the minimum number of training modules required (three) and the number of termly assessments conducted by teachers. In addition to reviewing the databases managed by SUBEBs (EMIS) in each State.
  - iv. The IVA will conduct interviews of a representative sample of participating teachers stratified by State to confirm their participation in training, completion of modules and number of student assessments undertaken.
6. The IVA will review the State/school personnel records on teacher deployment/appointment and/or transfer to confirm that newly recruited teachers and teachers from schools with low PTRs (below 30) have been deployed to rural schools with high PTRs (above 70).
7. The IVA will review and verify:
  - a. The state has produced and made publicly available a report which includes 2022 and 2023 annual state education budget and expenditure data recorded by the State General Accountant's office.
  - b. The 2022 and 2023 SUBEB budget and expenditures, and confirm that the budget and expenditures are reported by UBE programs.

**Method of Submitting the Expression of Interest (EOI)**

Interested Consultant should submit Expression of Interest detailing the following information as basis for pre-qualification/shortlist:

- Profile of firm/consortium including technical and managerial capacities of the firm (managerial and organizational structure, office equipment, etc.), with full contact details of each firm, prove of the legal name, as well as understanding of the assignment.
- Prove of valid registration (i.e certificate of incorporation with CAC) in the last 5 – 10 years plus; PenCom, ITF, NSITF, Tax clearance IRR valid till December 2024. This is required only from local consultant and not from international consultant.
- Sworn affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the BESDA-AF Project National Project Coordinating Unit (NPCU) or the Federal Ministry of Education is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bid and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars.
- Possess extensive knowledge of, and experience in Nigeria's education sector, including policy advice, formulation and implementation and the team should have competency and experience in carrying out evaluation/validation surveys, data analysis, statistics, in addition to relevant experience in educational development and management.
- Demonstrated expertise in designing and conducting sample-based surveys, including developing a representative sampling methodology, drawing samples from a defined framework, applying appropriate sampling weights, and analyzing survey results with robust statistical techniques.
- Have a minimum of two (2) similar assignments in the last five (5) years. Familiarity with result-based operations will be an added advantage.

The Full Terms of References (TORs) for this assignment can be accessed through the link below:

<http://bit.ly/4gZe1JF>

Alternatively, you can visit our website on <http://gpetess.gov.ng> proceed to publications, then resources to download the Terms of Reference and guidance for application.

Interested consultant(s) may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualification. The consultant will be selected in accordance with the Consultant Qualification Selection (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated July 2016 and revised November 2017, revised August 2018 and November 2020, available on [www.worldbank.org/procure](http://www.worldbank.org/procure)  
 Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours; 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday through Friday

**Expression of Interest shall be in English and should not be more than thirty (30) pages and must be submitted in four (4) hard copies (One original and three copies plus one flash drive /CD Rom), in a sealed envelop clearly marked "Expression of Interest as BESDA-AF Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for Multi-Year Verification of TESS Program Results on a Rolling Basis".**

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below in person or by courier mail, not later than 12:00 Noon on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**NOTES/DISCLAIMER**

- i. NPCU shall verify any or all documents and claims made by applicants and will disqualify bidders with falsified documents and claims.
- ii. If it is determined that submitted documents and claims have been falsified, the bidder may face prosecution in a court of Law.
- iii. NPCU shall not be held responsible for any disqualified proposal because of any omission or deletion relating to the submission guidelines.
- iv. The advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of NPCU to award a contract to any Contractor, nor shall it entitle any Contractor submitting documents to claim any indemnity from NPCU.
- v. NPCU is not bound to shortlist any bidder and reserves the right to annul the bidding process at any time without incurring any liabilities.
- vi. Only short-listed Consultant will be contacted.

**Signed:**  
**The National Project Coordinator,**  
 Better Education Service Delivery for All Additional Financing (BESDA-AF),  
 Federal Ministry of Education Annex,  
 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot 245, Samuel Adesujo Ademegun Street,  
 Central Business District, Abuja, Nigeria

**Attention:**  
**Phone Number:** +234-806 590 6984  
**Email address:** Fme@gpetess.gov.ng, copy fme@pet2@gmail.com



**IKEJA HOTEL PLC**  
 ...Service par Excellence  
 RC 10845

**STATEMENT TO THE NIGERIAN EXCHANGE LIMITED AND SHAREHOLDERS ON  
 THE UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024**

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position  
 as at 31 December, 2024**

Assets	The Group		The Company	
	31-Dec-24 N'000	31-Dec-23 N'000	31-Dec-24 N'000	31-Dec-23 N'000
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Property, Plant and Equipment	22,416,962	22,370,571	22,416,962	22,370,571
Capital work in progress	478,122	291,521	478,122	291,521
Intangible Asset	15,231	17,458	15,231	17,458
Investment in Subsidiaries	-	-	4,444,518	4,444,518
Investment accounted for using the Equity Method	-	-	798,722	798,722
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>22,910,315</b>	<b>22,679,550</b>	<b>28,153,556</b>	<b>27,922,790</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Inventories	252,681	251,446	252,681	251,446
Trade Receivables	2,180,466	1,026,781	2,178,102	1,024,602
Other Receivables and Prepayment	1,388,710	1,033,211	1,388,710	1,033,211
Loan to related party	20,243,475	20,126,474	20,243,475	20,126,474
Amount due from related parties	-	-	361,321	269,832
Cash and Cash Equivalents	22,532,528	14,642,893	16,829,062	9,239,774
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>46,597,859</b>	<b>37,080,805</b>	<b>41,253,349</b>	<b>31,945,339</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>69,508,174</b>	<b>59,760,355</b>	<b>69,406,905</b>	<b>59,868,129</b>
<b>Equity and Liabilities</b>				
Share Capital	1,081,184	1,081,184	1,081,184	1,081,184
Share Premium	1,432,886	1,432,886	1,432,886	1,432,886
Retained Earnings	10,402,796	7,366,734	10,424,534	7,306,070
Capital Reserve	1,832	1,832	-	-
Revaluation Reserve	13,823,793	13,823,793	13,823,793	13,823,793
<b>Equity attributable to equity holders of Parent</b>	<b>26,742,491</b>	<b>23,706,429</b>	<b>26,762,397</b>	<b>23,643,933</b>
<b>Non-Controlling Interest</b>	<b>(59,095)</b>	<b>(119,709)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>26,683,397</b>	<b>23,586,720</b>	<b>26,762,397</b>	<b>23,643,933</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>				
Due to Related Parties	12,404,541	11,075,483	13,176,821	11,848,051
Retirement Benefits Obligation	410,301	472,407	409,667	472,407
Deferred Tax	2,725,387	2,734,904	2,725,388	2,725,388
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>15,540,229</b>	<b>14,282,794</b>	<b>16,311,876</b>	<b>15,045,846</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Trade and Other Payables	3,314,922	2,440,554	2,764,039	1,917,970
Deferred Income	21,951,298	18,912,449	21,809,043	18,770,194
Current Tax Payable	2,018,330	537,838	1,759,549	490,186
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>27,284,550</b>	<b>21,890,841</b>	<b>26,332,632</b>	<b>21,178,350</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>42,824,779</b>	<b>36,173,635</b>	<b>42,644,508</b>	<b>36,224,196</b>
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>	<b>69,508,174</b>	<b>59,760,355</b>	<b>69,406,905</b>	<b>59,868,129</b>

**Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income For**

	The Group		The Company	
	31-Dec-24 N'000	31-Dec-23 N'000	31-Dec-24 N'000	31-Dec-23 N'000
Revenue	18,753,849	11,113,217	18,753,849	11,113,217
Cost of Sales	(11,214,164)	(6,983,557)	(11,214,164)	(6,983,557)
Gross Profit	7,539,686	4,129,660	7,539,686	4,129,660
Other Income	195,634	2,232,258	325,376	2,226,078
Sales and Distribution Expenses	(712,694)	(402,612)	(712,694)	(402,612)
Administrative and General Expenses	(1,890,068)	(1,499,107)	(1,776,148)	(1,355,637)
<b>Operating Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>5,132,558</b>	<b>4,460,199</b>	<b>5,376,220</b>	<b>4,597,488</b>
Finance Income	1,486,728	521,152	849,319	78,447
Finance Costs	(1,329,058)	(1,188,050)	(1,329,058)	(1,188,050)
<b>Profit/(Loss) Before Tax</b>	<b>5,290,228</b>	<b>3,793,301</b>	<b>4,896,480</b>	<b>3,487,885</b>
Income Tax Expense	(1,836,402)	(1,719,254)	(1,615,839)	(1,690,210)
<b>Profit/(Loss) After Tax</b>	<b>3,453,826</b>	<b>2,074,046</b>	<b>3,280,642</b>	<b>1,797,675</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss) Attributable to:</b>				
Equity Holders of the Parent	3,393,212	2,002,852	3,280,642	1,797,675
Non-Controlling Interest	60,614	71,194	-	-
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the Period</b>	<b>3,453,826</b>	<b>2,074,046</b>	<b>3,280,642</b>	<b>1,797,675</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income for the Period</b>				
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit:				
Re-measurement gain/(loss) on defined benefit Plan net of tax	-	(22,205)	-	(22,205)
Revaluation surplus net of tax	-	13,823,793	-	13,823,793
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	13,801,588	-	13,801,588
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the Period</b>	<b>3,453,826</b>	<b>15,875,634</b>	<b>3,280,642</b>	<b>15,599,263</b>
<b>Basic Earnings Per Share (kobo)</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>83</b>

A copy of the unaudited Financial Statements can be found at [www.ikejahotelplc.com](http://www.ikejahotelplc.com) dated this 24 January, 2025.



**OLUBUNMI ASOTIE**  
 FRC/2022/PRO/NBA/002/910787

*PUNUKA NOMINEES LIMITED*  
 Company Secretary



# VANGUARD CLASSIFIEDS

**REQUIREMENTS:**  
 \* Scanned copy of Marriage Certificate or Affidavit, and  
 \* Copy of payment letter emailed to - [vanguardchangeofname@yahoo.com](mailto:vanguardchangeofname@yahoo.com)  
 \* Payment in favour of Vanguard Media Limited, 4016122843, Fidelity Bank  
 \* Names must be typed alongside the required documents.  
 \* Kindly send materials on or before 12 noon  
 \* Names will be published on or before 48hrs.

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

ENQUIRIES: ▶

07068763089  
 08025095803  
 08055424363

## CHANGE OF NAME

<b>UDENYI</b> I formerly known and addressed as UDENYI MOSES ESA now wish to be known and addressed as ORINYA MOSES ESA. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.	<b>MONICA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS EMENIKE NKEIRUKA MONICA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. JOSEPH NKEIRUKA MONICA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note	<b>EMENIKE</b> I formerly known and addressed as EMENIKE JULIET NNEKA now wish to be known and addressed as ONYEKWULUNNE IKENNA JULIET NNEKA. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.	<b>KOKO</b> I Formerly known and addressed as. KOKO. NKEMMAKULAM JOSIAH. now wish to be known and addressed as OMORDIA. NKEMMAKULAM. MIA All former documents remain valid Bank and general public should please take note	<b>AGBEDE</b> This is to confirm that AGBEDE FRANCA and AGBEDE FRANCA ETUNIM is one and the same person, i now wish to be known, called and addressed as AGBEDE FRANCA ETUNIM all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	<b>STEPHEN</b> My correct name is PEREGBABOSEIGHA STEPHEN, but it is wrongly written as STEPHEN PEREGBABOSEIGH and PEREGBABOSEIGHA STEPHEN in some documents. PEREGBABOSEIGHA STEPHEN remains my correct name. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.
<b>JOY</b> That i am formerly known, called and addressed as OGHENEVOVO JOY and now wish to be known, called and addressed as KINGDOM JOY. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.	<b>TEMITOPE</b> In my Account details, my name was wrongly written as TEMITOPE AHMED AGBOLAMU, instead of TEMITOPE AHMAD AGBOLAMU. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>AINA</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as OLUWAFEMI AINA OLUWATIMILEHIN. Now wish to be known and addressed as AINA TIMILEHIN BANKOLE. All former documents remain valid. General public, IMMIGRATION SERVICE please take note.	<b>IFEOMA</b> I formerly known and addressed as IFEOMA UZORGA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS IFEOMA CHUKUKA. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>IYAMU</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS IYAMU MONICA now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS FRIDAY MONICA all former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>SAMSON</b> I, formerly known as MISS. SAMSON ENICHEHOKE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ENDURANCE EUNICE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.
<b>JENNIFER</b> I, Formerly Known Called And Addressed As MISS. UWADIEGWU JENNIFER UKAMAKA, now Wish to be known Call And Address As MRS. ATUH JENNIFER UKAMAKA. All Former Documents Remain Valid. General public Please Take Note	<b>ISIOMA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as ONOJIAFE ISIOMA KINDNESS now wish to be known and addressed as OWA ISIOMA. Former documents remain valid. General public, to whom it may concern, please take note.	<b>OMINI</b> I, formerly known and addressed as OMINI OKAMA EDET now wish to be known and addressed as OMINI FAITH EDET. All former documents remain valid. All Banks and The general public should please take note.	<b>OPEYEMI</b> I formerly known and addressed as OPEYEMI OLUWASEUN, now wish to be known and addressed as OPEYEMI SEUN EZEKIEL. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>AKINSEYE</b> I formerly known and addressed as Akinseye Bola Atinuke, now wish to be known and addressed as Akinseye Omobola Atinuke. That my correct and properly arranged name is Akinseye Omobola Atinuke as in NIN. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>BEKERE</b> I formerly known as Miss TARIGBOLO BEKERE, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. REBECCA WALL. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.
<b>ALI</b> I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ALI CHISOM FAVOUR NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS EMMANUEL CHISOM FAVOUR. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	<b>LOVETH</b> This is to state that in my Bank/BVN my name wrongly captured as ASCHIDKODI LOVETH. My correct name is spelt as ASCHKODI LOVETH and should be used henceforth. General public, to whom it may concern please take note.	<b>IJEGU</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as IJEGU RAPHAEL ONA now wish to be known, called and addressed as OJEDOR RAPHAEL ONAH. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.	<b>EGBELE</b> I formerly known as Omoyemen Egbele now wish to be known as Omoyemen Maria Ufua. All documents remain valid. Public take note.	<b>IKE</b> That my name was wrongly spelt as IKE OWUMI EKOEMWEYE. That my correct name is IKECHUKWU TOSANWUMI EKOEMWEYE Henceforth. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>ISIOMA</b> I FORMERLY KNOWN AS EJEOWU CYNTHIA ISIOMA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS EJEOWU CYNTHIA ISIOMA ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE
<b>AWOLEYE</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as AWOLEYE FUNKE CHRISTIANA. Now wish to be known and addressed as OLOWORIWASE FUNKE CHRISTIANA. All former documents remain valid. General public, First Registrars Nigeria please take note.	<b>RHODA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ONOWAKPOR, RHODA ELOHOR now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. BOBOLOLA, RHODA ELOHOR. All former documents remain valid. Public notice	<b>ESTHER</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Esther Godwin Umahi wish to be called, known and addressed as Mrs. Esther Godwin Ujor. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.	<b>SYLVESTER</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS MAGDALENE SYLVESTER UDOH now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MAGDALENE EKERETE EKARIKA. All former documents remain valid. The General public should please take note.	<b>CYNTHIA</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS CYNTHIA CHINWENDU ONWUACHUMBA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS CYNTHIA CHINWENDU OKEREAFOR. All former documents remain valid. The General public should please take note.	<b>DRIVER</b> I formerly known as DRIVER FIYAWELI, now wish to be known and addressed as Douglas FIGHAWELI. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.
<b>ADAJO</b> I was formally known as: Adajo Sunday Aboyowa, but now wish to be known, called and addressed as: Lalo Sunday Aboyowa, the general public please take note.	<b>ELIZABETH</b> My BANK ACCOUNT/BVN details were wrongly captured as ELIZABETH OKPURUE but want them changed to OMOKEFE ELIZABETH OMANUDHOWHO. Public notice	<b>FELIX</b> I, formerly known and addressed as FELIX NDEP TAKUI now wish to be known and addressed as UMOH OKON FELIX. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should please take note	<b>OSAINOR</b> I formerly known as Osainor Emomotimi Blessing, now wish to be known as Ovie Emomotimi Blessing. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>AGBESANYA</b> This is to inform the General Public and Authority concern That, the correct name and arrangement is as AGBESANYA GABRIEL OMONIYI. All former documents remain valid. General public to please take note	<b>YETUNDE</b> I formerly known and addressed as AKEEM YETUNDE FUNMILAYO, now wish to be known and addressed as IYIOLA YETUNDE FUNMILAYO. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.
<b>EJIRO</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as Miss Akpovogbeta Ejiro Rita now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Ogwu Ejiro Rita. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>OKON</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss NKOPITEM OKON JOHN, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs NKOPITEM VICTOR UMOH. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	<b>EUNICE</b> I currently known as Mrs Eunice Omolade Olasunmbo wishes to be addressed as Miss Eunice Omolade Ajayi. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.	<b>VIVIAN</b> During my BVN/ account registration, my name was captured as: Precious Vivian Ojeme, instead of Ofosaren Vivian, but now I wish to be known, called and addressed as: Ofosaren Vivian, All documents remain valid, the general public please take note.	<b>MARYANN</b> I FORMERLY KNOWN AS EZEANICHIE ONYINYECHI MARYANN NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS ENEDAH ONYINYECHI MARYANN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORITIES CONCERN TAKE NOTE	<b>OKOLO</b> I formerly known and addressed as MISS OKOLO CHRISTABEL CHEVVEN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GBWEI CHRISTABEL CHEVVEN. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.
<b>AYETA</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as Ayeta Vivian Akpewwe now wish to be known and addressed as Oghoghov Evelyn Afoke. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>PERPETUAL</b> I, Formerly Known Called And Addressed As Abawii Perpetual Onyinye Now Wish To Be Known Call And Address As Abawii Getrude Amarachukwu. All Former Documents Remain Valid. General Public please Take Note.	<b>ALABI</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as ALABI OLUWAKEMI RACHEAL, now wish to be known and addressed as AKINOLA OLUWAKEMI RACHEAL. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>OCHUKO</b> I formerly known and addressed as Arhagba Ochuko, now wish to be known and addressed as Arhagba Ogheneochuko Daniel. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	<b>IWEOJE</b> I formerly known and addressed as MISS IWEOJE ESTHER MOMOH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS IWEOJE ESTHER ODEMEJOVWOR. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	<b>HELEN</b> I, formerly known and addressed as UGWOKELI HELEN NKEIRUKA, now wish to be known and addressed as UGWU HELEN NKEIRUKA. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public please take note.
<b>AKPOS</b> This is to notify the general public that in my BVN details my name was wrongly spelt as Akpos Juliet instead of Akpovogbeta Juliet. Which is my correct name. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>GLORY</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS GLORY EDET JOHN now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GLORY GABRIEL PETER. All former documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should please take note	<b>OSEH</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Oseh Victory, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Egwuolu Victory. All documents remain valid. General Public take note.	<b>BLESSING</b> I formerly known as the ODURUME BLESSING, now wish to be known as ODORUME BLESSING ESUOSOR. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	<b>VICTORY</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Ofiuepeka Onwurah Victory, now wish to be known and addressed as Onwurah Victory Kamsi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>PRECIOUS</b> I, formerly known and addressed as CHIMAMANDA OLUCHUKWU PRECIOUS, now wish to be known and addressed as ALL OLUCHUKWU PRECIOUS. All former documents remain valid, General public please take note
<b>AKAWA</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as Akawa Lucky now wish to be known and addressed as Udhekru Lucky Eromedoghene. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>IYASERE</b> I, Formerly known and addressed as Iyasere Onoriode Christy now wish to be known and addressed as Edjenakpo Onoriode Christy. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>NGOZI</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Okonkwo Ngozi Jubilee, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Clement Ngozi Jubilee. All documents remain valid. General Public take note.	<b>GOODNEWS</b> I formally known and addressed as AGJESUFE GOODNEWS JESURUONA, now wish to be known and addressed as RIGHTEOUS GOODNEWS JESURUONA, All former documents remain Valid general public take note.	<b>CAROLINE</b> The names Agbonobi Ishioma Caroline and Nze Caroline Ishioma refer to one and the same person, but I now wish to be known and addressed as Nze Caroline Ishioma. Polaris bank and general public take note.	<b>OKOCHA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as OKOCHA JOSHPHINE, now wish to be known and addressed as OKOCHA OGELEZU JOSEPHINE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note
<b>OKEKE</b> My name was wrongly captured as OKEKE CHUKWUMA RAPHEAL instead of OKEKE CHUKWUMA. My correct name is OKEKE CHUKWUMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>UCHE</b> I, formerly known as Miss Uche Emily Tochukwu now wish to be addressed as Mrs Okelu Tochukwu Emily. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>LOURETTA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Kengiokuweme Louretta Onyemaechi, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Boniface Louretta. All documents remain valid. General Public take note.	<b>BRIGHT</b> That my name was wrongly arrange as OBARUAKPOR BRIGHT OGHENERHOR. That the proper manner of arranging my name is OGHENERHOR BRIGHT OBARUAKPOR, all former documents remain valid.	<b>JOHN</b> I, formerly known and addressed as EMERIBI JOHNCHUKWUEMEKA, now wish to be known and addressed as ONUNAKU JOHN CHUKWUEMEKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>SONIA</b> My name was wrongly stated on my International passport as MKPUMEH SONIA OLAEDO NDIAMAKA, instead of MKPUMEH OLAEDOAMAKA SONIA. All former documents remain valid, General public please kindly take note
<b>SOPHIA</b> I, formerly known as MISS OSEMWENGIE SOPHIA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GAMBO SOPHIA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public take note.	<b>ROSEMARY</b> I, formerly known and address OKIEMENA-IGBUWE ROSEMARY but now wish to be known and addressed as OKEMENA-IGBUWE ROSEMARY AKPORIENO all former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>FAVOUR</b> MATHEW FAVOUR was captured in my Primary school certificate now wish to be known and addressed as AIGBE FAVOUR IWINOSA. All former documents remain valid public note.	<b>LYDIA</b> I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS. KONYEHI LYDIA AND DUE TO MARRIAGE NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESS AS MRS. OSAAWE-GODSPOWER LYDIA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. CONCERN AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	<b>KALU</b> I, formerly known and addressed as KALU NNEJI ESTHER. Now wish to be known and addressed as IFEANYICHUKWU NNEJI ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>OMEYI</b> I, formerly known as MISS HANKURI OMEYI PRISCILLA, now wish to be known as MRS. SULEMAN OMEYI PRISCILLA. All documents remain valid. General public take note.
<b>MARY</b> I formerly known, called and addressed as MISS MARY MOSES WILLIAMS now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS MARY ISAAC OMOKAGBO, all former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>BAYEFINE</b> I formerly known as MISS BAYEFINE KIKELOMO FLORA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS KEHINDE KIKELOMO FLORA. All former documents remain valid public please take note	<b>NNEKA</b> Formerly MISS. NNEKA MAUREEN MARIA CHUKWUMAH now wishes to be known and addressed as MRS. NNEKA MAUREEN MARIA CHUKWUMAH-OGHOMI. All former documents remain valid public note.	<b>AYUBA</b> I, Formerly Known And Addressed As Al-Ghazali Ayuba As Captured On My International Documents Now Wish To Be Address As Ayuba Oseni Enahoro As Captured On My Nin And Other Documents. All Former Documents Remain Valid. Concern Authorities And General Public Take Note.	<b>JULIET</b> I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OGUAMA CHIDINMA JULIET NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ALINO CHIDINMA JULIET. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	<b>OGHALE</b> I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS ONOJAME OGHALE AND MISS ONOJAME OGHALE CAROLYN. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS OKOTIE OGHALE CAROLYN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE
<b>FAITH</b> That i am formerly known, called and addressed as EWANLEN FAITH and now wish to be known, called and addressed as UKPE FAITH, all former documents remain valid general public take note.	<b>OSAZEE</b> I, formerly known, called and addressed as RACHEAL OSAZEE FRANK now wish to be known, called and addressed as FRANK RACHEAL OWAH all former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	<b>FAITH</b> Formerly known called and addressed as. EKEKEKEBIYEKE FAITH. Now wish to add the LAYEFA to my name, I now wish to be known called and addressed as. EKEKEKEBIYEKE LAYEFA FAITH. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.	<b>OZIMAH</b> I formerly known and addressed as, Ozimah Dembola Ikpempohi, now wish to be known and addressed as, Ozimah Deborah Ikpempohi, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	<b>OKEKE</b> I, formerly known and addressed as MISS OKEKE JOY OKORONKWO, now wish to be known and addressed MRS OKEKE JOY IKECHUKWU UBUBO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>AJAYE</b> Formally known called and addressed ILLESANMI AJAYE BLESSING now wish to be known called and addressed ILLESANMI AJAYE BLESSING. General public take note.
<b>FRANCA</b> I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Nwadike Oluchukwu Franca and Miss Nwadike Oluchi Franca, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Okejeme Nwadike Oluchukwu Franca. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>OKONTA</b> That I was formerly known called and addressed as OKONTA HOPE CHIOMA. Now wish to be known called and addressed as KIKACHUKWU-OKONTA HOPE CHIOMA. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.	<b>ADEBAYO</b> I formerly known and addressed as ADEBAYO DORA OTIOTI EMITSEKOR now wish to be known and addressed as ADEBAYO DORA. All former documents remain valid Bank and general public should please take note	<b>AJANI</b> This is to confirm that AJANI OLAYEMI RILIWAN and AJANI RILIWAN RILIWAN OLAYEMI is one and the same person, I now wish to be known called and addressed as AJANI RILIWAN OLAYEMI all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	<b>OSARIEMEN</b> JOHN--IGIESUORORO OSARIEMEN appears in my International Passport, my correct name is IGIESUORORO OSARIEMEN that JOHN--IGIESUORORO OSARIEMEN and IGIESUORORO OSARIEMEN is one and the same person. All former documents remain valid public note.	<b>KETU</b> My name was wrongly captured as KETU EMOMOTIMI in BVN instead of HARRISON EMOMOTIMI in NIN. All former documents remain valid Authorities concerned and general public to take note.
<b>RAPU</b> My correct name is Rapu Bernard Ngozi, but my name was captured in my NIN as Rapu Ngozi Onyekagem, instead of Rapu Bernard Ngozi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	<b>VERA</b> Formally known called and addressed as ENEBOKURO VERA. Now wish to be known called and addressed as ENGBOUKORO VERA. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.	<b>LUCK</b> I, formerly known as LUCK PRAISE OMOBINIE now wishes to know/ addressed and called LUKE PRAISE AKPEVWE. Please General public take note of this Correction.	<b>ANGELA</b> This is to confirm that UGBEKILE ANGELA and UGBEKILE ANGELA AYUBA is one and the same person, I now wish to be known called and addressed as UGBEKILE ANGELA all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	<b>NZELU</b> I formerly known and addressed as, NZELU CHIOMA LUCY, now wish to be known and addressed as, OPUSUNJU CHIOMA AFIESIMACLEMENT, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	<b>ROONEY</b> My name was captured as ENAIMONI ROONEY in my bank details instead of ENAIMONI EFEMENA ROONEY. All former documents remain valid Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

## Nwoko, Ibori-Suenu'll return to PDP after 2027 polls

—Bureau Chief

... lauds new DESTMA Board on professionalism

**A S A B A — D I R E C T O R** General, Delta State Orientation and Communications Bureau, Dr Fred Oghenesivbe, has said that recent defections by the former member representing Ethiope Federal Constituency

at the Green Chambers, Erhiatake Ibori-Suenu, and the Senator representing the good people of Delta North Senatorial District at the Red Chamber, Senator Ned Nwoko, will be short lived.

He posited that the duo of Senator Nwoko and Ibori-Suenu have in their cells the DNA of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and that defecting from the party had automatically cut-off their political oxygen, assuring that the embattled lawmakers shall gasp for breath at the polls in 2027, should they succeed in flying the flag of their new found love, the All Progressives Congress, APC Delta.

Oghenesivbe made the prediction when he received on courtesy visit, the new board members and management staff of Delta State Traffic Management Authority, DESTMA, led by its chairman, Peter Idion, saying that APC Delta social media politics goes to no issue, and that Delta remain the stronghold of PDP

under the able leadership of the state governor, Dr Sheriff Oborevwori.

He commended the new board of DESTMA for plans in place to expand and upscale her operations from seven local governments as enshrined in the law establishing it, adding that the ideal thing is for the agency to effectively cover the 25 local government areas as presently canvassed by the new board in line with the realistic reforms agenda of governor Oborevwori.

Oghenesivbe, urged the agency to be holistic in the rebranding plan and process, to include upscaling professionalism, staff discipline and adequate supervision, so as to bring about the desired result envisaged by the governor and the government in line with the ongoing implementation of the MORE agenda, while describing the board Chairman and Director General, Idion and Okiemute, as men of impeccable character and proven dignity.

## Delta Progressives pass vote of confidence in Oborevwori

the year. They urged him to continue with the wonderful works of harvest of projects in Delta State.

By Ochuko Akuopha

**A S A B A — D E L T A** Progressive For Sheriff (Delta Must Progress) has passed a vote of confidence on Governor Sheriff Oborevwori.

It also appealed to the Governor to run for second term in office.

The motion for the vote of confidence was moved by President of the group, Evang. Ogagaoghene Otikpo and seconded by Pat Ejetejeh at an enlarged meeting of the group held in Asaba.

Members of the group from across the state, unanimously and endorsed the vote of confidence, expressing satisfaction with the exceptional leadership and sterling performance of the Governor.

They also congratulated Governor Oborevwori on the award of the best Governor of

## DESOPADEC: Ethnic nationalities dismiss accusations against Board

By Ediri Ejoh

**W A R R I — E T H N I C** nationalities in Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission, DESOPADEC, have dismissed accusations leveled against the Board of the Commission by Delta State Chapter of Amalgamated Union of Public Corporation, Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees, AUPCTRE.

President of Association of Itsekiri Staff in DESOPADEC, Mr Akatako Gbesimi, who spoke, said the Delta State Chapter of AUPCTRE, was seeking cheap popularity. Mr Akatako said the Board of DESOPADEC has commenced payment of the new minimum wage for Staff of the Commission since November 2024 alongside October arrears.

He explained that the present Board of DESOPADEC is workers friendly, adding that the Board has given promotions to workers with payment of six months' arrears.

He disclosed that the present Board of DESOPADEC upgraded the Sick Bay facilities to cater for the health needs of workers as well as foot bills of workers with terminal health issues.

President of Isoko ethnic nationality in DESOPADEC, Mr Peter Ejemite, said the accusers are parading outdated stories of outstanding 30 per cent

payment of workers' salaries, saying that the agitation has been overtaken by the implementation of the new minimum wage.

Speaking on the payment of end of year bonus as promised by the Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, Mr Ejemite asserted that the Board is awaiting the Governor's approval.

### SAMUEL

The names Samuel Ajiri, Ajirioghene Samuel, Samuel Ajirioghene Samuel, Samuel Ajirioghene, Samuel Ajirioghene Samuel and Samuel Ajiri Samuel which appeared in my documents refers to the same person but now wish to bear Samuel Ajirioghene Samuel. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

### OKURUKPE

I formerly known as OKURUKPE OGHENEKEVWE LILIAN now wish to be known and addressed as OGHOGHO LILIAN OGHENEKEVWE. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public to take note.

### EZEIDE

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS EWEMETOTORE EZEIDE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS EWEMETOTORE MIRABEL OKUNLOLA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

### JAMO

I, formerly known as Jamo Ummi Abdulkadir, now wish to be known and addressed as Abdulkadir Ummi Jamo. All former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.

### GLADYS

I, Formerly known, called and addressed as Miss DUDU GLADYS OWUMI now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. EJUETITCHE-OGBE GLADYS OWUMI, all documents bearing my former name remain valid and the general public to take note

### CHIOMA

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS CHIOMA NMAALULOR WAMUO. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS CHIOMA NMAALULOR KOLAWOLE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

### OKPE

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS OKPE OGHENETJIRI ROSELINE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS MARO-OBAPANINO OGHENETJIRI ROSELINE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE

**GREAT UMUEZEOKA CONCERNED BROTHERS FORUM**  
 Motto: United for Greatness  
 Address: Umuezeoka Central School, Ezza Ukwu, Ohaukwu LGA, Ebonyi State

## GENERAL PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

We, the entire members of the Great Umuezeoka Concerned Brothers Forum (GUCBF) wish to inform the general public and the Amb. Frank Nchita Ogbuewu led Peace Committee on. Uffiom & Ezza crisis in Effium Autonomous Community of Ohaukwu LGA of Ebonyi State that Mr Emmanuel Igboke Owuru is neither the leader nor is he holding any portfolio in the leadership of Ezza people in Effium Autonomous Community, Ohaukwu LGA; Ebonyi State. Mr Igboke Owuru as at the time the Crisis in Effium Community broke out was the Junior Principal at Community Secondary School Effium and has never served in any capacity as the leader of the great Ezza people. Unfortunately, the teacher who is supposed to be engaged in impacting positive knowledge to members of the society is today falsely parading himself as a chief and leader of Ezza people in Effium Community just to satisfy his personal interest and those of his political sponsors. To make matters worse, the self-acclaimed chief went as far as recruiting his younger sister in the person of Mrs Felicia Eze, among others, to corroborate his falsehood not minding the gravity and criminality of his actions.

therefore cannot sit idly and watch the highly desired peace which is almost at hand to be truncated by mischievous individuals who seek only their personal gains. Hence, the need for this general public announcement in order to set the record straight. This noble forum recognizes only Justice AA Nwaigwe (Rtd) led group as the leaders of our people and has given them the mandate to reach out to the peace' Committee on our behalf. Any other group trying to dubiously portray themselves as the leaders of Ezza People in Effium Community are hereby advised to retrace their steps and stop creating more problems for our people who have suffered for 4 years from an unprovoked war they know nothing about. It is pertinent to state here that Ezza people would not wish for demarcation of the Community being that there is no portion of land their whose ownership is in contusion. However, if the Government has decided that it the best way to go then we have no option than to accept the decision of the government. However, it should be noted that Nwaekendiagu and Inikiri are the ancestral headquarters of Umuezeokaoha and Umuezeoka respectively, who constitute the 2 major clans of Ezza in Effium Community. It is therefore inparative that these 2 villages are part of which ever portion to be allotted to Ezza people.

The general public, Ebonyi State Government and the Amb. Frank Nchita Ogbuewu led Peace Committee on Uffiom & Ezza crisis in Effium Autonomous Community of Ohaukwu LGA are advised to ignore whatever information originating from Mr Igboke Owuru or any of his cohorts portraying him as the leader of Ezza People. Any individual, group or organization doing any business with him or his representative in the name of dealing with Ezza people is doing so at his own risk as they do not speak for the good people of Ezza in Effium Community. The fact is that he and his team constitute a minority group, recruited by some political jobbers who do not wish for permanent peace in Effium Community. The real leaders and elders of Ezza people in Effium Community is led by Hon. Justice AA Nwaigwe (Rtd) and has been working closely with the peace Committee to ensure that permanent peace is restore i Effium Community.

We sincerely appreciate the Governor of Ebonyi State, His Excellency, Builder Francis Ogbonnaya Nwifuru for his determination to ensure that permanent peace returns to our beautiful Community. We also appreciate the Amb. Frank Nchita Ogbuewu led Peace Committee for their efforts in ensuring that things are done the right way and for giving the worrying parties a chance to study their proposed solution and raise observations where necessary which our leaders have done. We pledge our commitment and determination to working with the peace Committee through our leaders earlier stated, to ensure the return of peace as soon as possible in our dear Community.

GUCBF is an elite group from the troubled Effium Community, composed of Umuezeoka sons from various fields of repute. It is a non-political and non-profit organization who has undertaken to promote the welfare of Umuezeoka and Ezza Nation at large. We

**Signed:**  
 1. Chief Emeka Mgbada - President  
 2. Mr Owuru Ifeanyi - Secretary  
 3. Mr. Nwigwe Jacob - PRO for and on behalf of GUCBF

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OSUN STATE OF NIGERIA (PROBATE DIVISION)

WHEREAS the person's whose names are set out in the second Column of the said schedule date and the place mentioned therein. AND WHEREAS the person's whose names and address set out in the second Column of the said schedule along ( wherever found necessary or expedient) with the particulars of their relationship to the deceased have applied to the High Court of Justice, Osun State of Nigeria for the grant unto them of letters of administration in respect of the and or \_& property of the said deceased.

5& NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said Letters of Administration will be granted to the said Applicants unless a notice of prohibit such grant is filed in the Registry of the High Court of Justice, Osogbo, Osun State of Nigeria within twenty-one (21) days from today.

### SCHEDULE

DECEASED	APPLICANT FOR GRANT
1.ROSELINE AGHIE AKANNI late of 1B, Celestial Road, Araromi, Iwo, Osun State who died on the 5th day of April, 2023 at Osogbo.	1. Akanni Iwa Abiola & Akanni Titilayo Aina, c/o Their Solicitor, Ayodele Laogun Esq., M.A. Laogun & Co., Solicitors & Advocate, opp Osun State Govt House Annex, Okefia, Osogbo Children of the said Deceased.
2.TAJUDEEN OLABISI OLADEJO late of No. 10 Nebatos Area, Ofatedo, Osun State, who died on the 1 day of May, 2023 at Ofatedo.	2. Adetipe Taiwo Oyebola nee Oladejo & Ajao Abdulramon c/o Their Solicitor, E. Bolarinwa Esq., Legal Practitioner, Ultimate Chambers Behind Ola-Oluwa Aina Filling Station, Gbongan Rd, Osogbo Children of the said Deceased.
3. FLORENCE OLUSOLA OSIN late of No. 17, Ilogbo Road, off Iju-Ota, Ogun State, who died on the 30th day of October, 2024 at Ogun State.	3. Osin Oladepo Stephen c/o Their Solicitor, E. E. Bolarinwa Esq., Legal Practitioner, Ultimate Chambers, Behind Ola-Oluwa Aina Filling Station, Gbongan, Rd, Osogbo Son of the said Deceased.
4. ALICE OLUWAKEMI IDOWU late of Akanle Road, Oke-Ola, Ode Omu, Osun State who died on the 30th day of June, 2024, at Ode Omu	4. Idowu Adesola Samson c/o Their Solicitor, E. E. Bolarinwa Esq., Legal Practitioner, Ultimate Chambers, Behind Ola-Oluwa Aina Filling Station, Gbongan, Rd, Osogbo Son of the said Deceased.

DATED 30th DAY of JANUARY, 2025.

OMISADE F.I. PROBATE REGISTRAR

## CLASSIFIED

### RECONCILIATION OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as Anthonia Imuetinyanosa Kachie-ogoke, now wish to be known as Anthonia Imuetinyanosa Oghagbon-Kachie. That Anthonia Imuetinyanosa Oghagbon, Anthonia Imuetinyanosa Kachie-ogoke and Anthonia Imuetinyanosa Oghagbon-Kachie are one and the same person. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public to please take note.

### AFFIRMATION OF MARRIAGE

I, Deaconess Mary Ohonba wish to affirm that Ohonba Edorisiagbon is my son and that he is married to Miss Osazuwa Joy. Their marriage took place traditionally on the 16th of December, 2017 under the Benin Native Law and Custom. This publication is required for official and record purposes. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note that Ohonba Edorisiagbon and Osazuwa Joy are husband and wife.

**ADVERT SPACE FOR SALE**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020  
**SEABIRD EXPLORATION NIGERIA LIMITED**  
 (RC 1371103)  
 COMMENCEMENT OF CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION AND NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Resolutions were passed at the Members and Creditors Meetings of **SEABIRD EXPLORATION NIGERIA LIMITED** held on 16 January 2025:

THAT Seabird Exploration Nigeria Limited be wound up pursuant to section 634 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act ("CAMA") 2020.

THAT Mr. Kenneth Erikume of Landmark Towers, 5B Water Corporation Road, Victoria Island, Lagos BE and is HEREBY appointed Liquidator (the "Liquidator") for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the Company.

Creditors of the Company are required on or before 28 February 2025 to send full particulars of all the claims they may have against the Company to the Liquidator; and if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, personally or by his advocates, to come in and prove their debts or claims set out in such notice, or in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

The Liquidator acts as an agent of the Company without any personal liability.

**Kenneth Erikume**  
 LIQUIDATOR

### CORRECTION OF NAME

This is confirm that my name was wrongly written as GARBA STYLE HAJARA SARAH instead of my correct and full name name as GARBA HAJARA. All former documents remain valid. The General public should please take note.

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

This is to notify the general public that **OMONMHENGBE IYE SOCIAL CLUB** is commencing registration.

### CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

My correct name is Ovie Rosemary Emuobo, but my name was wrongly captured in my Bank Account/BVN as Ovie Rosemary Mobosa, instead of Ovie Rosemary Emuobo. Also, my correct date of birth is 8th day of August, 1984, but my date of birth was wrongly entered as 28th day of October, 1984 instead of 8th day of August, 1984. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

# GBOKODA COMMUNITY.

BENIN RIVER  
WARRI NORTH LOCAL GOVT. AREA  
DELTA STATE.

TEL: 08034739973, 08023281290, 07083394789, 07058458785.

## OPEN LETTER

January 22, 2025.

The Governor, Delta State  
His Excellency  
Elder Sheriff Oborewori.

Warm greetings from the people of Gbokoda Community Warri North Local Government, Delta State.

Words are not enough to express our gratitude for remembering our community in terms of projects. GBOKODA community fully support the MORE agenda by your administration. GINUWA GRAMMER SCHOOL situated in GBOKODA town Warri North Local Government is a beneficiary of your giant development strides in Delta State.

However Sir, Ginuwa Grammer School, Gbokada project embarked upon by your administration which is currently on going is doomed to fail, if urgent steps is not taken to call the contractor handling the project to order.

The huge sum allocated will go to waste and eventually abandoned like other projects abandoned by previous administrations, viz

1. Gbokoda community police station
2. Gbokoda community general hospital
3. Gbokoda community Teachers and Government Officials living quarters.
4. The abandoned Koko Ogheye road handled by NDDC.

The contractor handling GINUWA GRAMMER SCHOOL is cutting corners and using sub-standard materials as well as altering the original design of the school.

There is no evidence of quality work or Technical competence by the contractor all we see on the project site are 2 persons (a bricklayer and a carpenter) there is no signboard to show the scope of work for the project.

### Documents required on site are as follows

- (1) Scope of work. Showing extent of work to be done.
- (2) Drawing plan. This will identify specifically what the issue is or task at hand as in this case of renovation.
- (3) Work plan or Execution plan. This is the solution plan, / strategy to achieving no.2 above.

The contractor has none of the necessary documentation on site. The entire Gbokoda community have not seen the contractor since commencement of the project in GINUWA GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

We passionately appeal to you Sir to direct the Ministry or Agency responsible to investigate what is going on and call the contractor to order.

SIGNED:

Pst. Jonathan Oritsejere Akpata  
Chairman,  
Gbokoda Comm. Mgt Trust  
Trust

John Tsaninomi Tonwe  
Secretary  
Gbokoda Comm. Mgt

Madam Joy Tuoremi Etsede  
P.R.O.

Solomon Arubi Olley  
Organizer

Henry Esigbemi Olley  
Youth President

Benson Aguofor  
Treasurer

## Arieja lauds Oborewori on Governor of the Year Award

By Paul Olayemi

**S**APELE—CHIEFTAIN of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and President General of the Otonyasere Community in Sapele Local Government Area, Delta State, Dr. Arieja has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Governor Sheriff Oborewori on his recent accolade as 'Governor of the Year' at the prestigious ThisDay Awards held on January 22, 2025.

In a statement released today, Dr. Arieja lauded Governor Oborewori's exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the development of Delta State. He emphasized that this recognition is a testament to the governor's dedication to improving the lives of Deltans through visionary policies and inclusive governance.

"Governor Oborewori's recognition as 'Governor of the Year' is a well-deserved honor that reflects his tireless efforts in advancing our state's

infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic sectors.

"His leadership has brought about significant positive changes that have directly benefited our communities, Dr. Arieja remarked."

Dr. Arieja highlighted several key initiatives under Governor Oborewori's administration, including the enhancement of healthcare facilities, the implementation of educational reforms, and the promotion of economic empowerment programs. These initiatives, he noted, have collectively contributed to the socio-economic growth of Delta State.

"The governor's focus on healthcare has led to the modernization of our medical centers, ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible to all," Dr. Arieja stated. "Additionally, his educational reforms have improved learning outcomes, preparing our youth for future challenges."

Reflecting on the governor's economic policies, Dr. Arieja praised the efforts to attract investments and create job

opportunities within the state. He acknowledged that these strategies have not only boosted the state's economy but have also provided livelihoods for many families.

"Governor Oborewori's initiatives to foster a business-friendly environment have been instrumental in attracting investors, thereby creating employment opportunities for our people," Dr. Arieja observed.

Dr. Arieja also commended the governor's commitment to inclusive governance, noting that his administration has been marked by transparency and active engagement with various stakeholders across the state.

"His Excellency has consistently demonstrated a willingness to listen to the concerns of the people, ensuring that governance is participatory and reflective of the collective will," Dr. Arieja added.

In conclusion, Dr. Arieja called upon all Deltans to unite in support of Governor Oborewori's vision for the state. He expressed optimism that, under the governor's continued leadership, Delta State will achieve even greater milestones in its development journey.

## IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA HEARING NOTICE

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA Jud. CI  
HEARING NOTICE

SUIT No. 159/2025

Between Asset Management Corp. of Nigeria Plaintiff  
and  
Uaudite Enterprises Ltd & 2025 Defendant  
To Intercontinental Service Ltd, Intercontinent bank building plot 224 (1st floor) Kaduna Abuja 1st Defendant in third party notice  
the above-named.

This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for Friday the 27th day of February 2025 at 9am o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.

If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the Court as soon as possible for that purpose; and if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.

The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witnesses or by documents which each of them desires to rely on in support of his own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing, and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at best only allowed to do so on payment of substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fit to impose.

Parties desirous to enforce the attendance of witnesses should apply at once to the Court to issue one or more summonses for the attendance of the witnesses required. It is indispensable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.

If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must be particularised in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is meant.

Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the Court for his expense and loss of time.

The Court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been fixed and deposited in the Court.

If either party desires to use in evidence at the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.

DATED at Enugu this 23rd day of January 2025

By Order of the Court.

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA Jud. CI  
HEARING NOTICE

SUIT No. 159/2025

Between Asset Management Corp. of Nigeria Plaintiff  
and  
Uaudite Enterprises Ltd & 2025 Defendant  
To Summit Finance Company Ltd - 1106 Atala street off Broad Street Marina Lagoon 2nd Defendant in third party notice  
the above-named.

This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for Friday the 27th day of February 2025 at 9am o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.

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DATED at Enugu this 23rd day of January 2025

By Order of the Court.



**Uganda's skipper warns Super Eagles**

Nigeria Super Eagles will play their last Group C match of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations against Uganda in Fez on 30 December.

Historically, Nigeria had always found Uganda a hard nut to crack.

In eight previous confrontations, Uganda won four, including the elimination of Nigeria in the semi-finals of the 1978 edition in Ghana.

The last time both countries met was in 2015 to mark Nigeria's skipper Enyeama's 100th international cap in Uyo.

Uganda Cranes spoil the celebration with a 1-0 home defeat for Nigeria in a match that Odion Ighalo made his debut.

Uganda have done it before, and they feel they can still do it. Skipper Khalid Aho is quoted by Ugandan publication, Nile Post as saying that the Cranes are heading for Morocco "with the intention of competing, not just participating."

He noted that the upcoming tournament comes as a chance for the Cranes to not only compete but also to strive for excellence and bring pride to the country.



**FIFA 2026 WORLD CUP: Toro sure Super Eagles 'll qualify**

By Tony Ubani

Former Secretary General of the defunct Nigeria Football Association, Alhaji Sani Ahmed Toro has poured water on fears that the Super Eagles may not qualify for the 2026 FIFA World Cup to be co-hosted by America, Canada and Mexico.

The Super Eagles missed out on the last 2022 World Cup, won by Argentina, as they were unable to defeat their neighbors Ghana, who secured the ticket instead.

The Super Eagles currently sit in fifth position in Group C, with only three points from four matches and trailing Rwanda, South Africa, and Benin, each with seven points. Nigeria will resume their World Cup qualifying campaign on March 17 with a clash against table-topper Rwanda in Kigali before hosting Zimbabwe.

But Toro believes it is still

possible for the team to make it to the mundial.

"We can still qualify. All we need to do is to put our house in order. The NFF must sit up in terms of logistics. The new coach has to work with indigenous coaches especially with Technical Director, Austin Eguavoen. He does not know most of the players and needs to lean more towards Eguavoen to get the best".

The Bauchi-born administrator admitted that the Eagles' group looks dicey because of the presence of South Africa. "The President of CAF is South African. They have good administration and they're playing good football. They are ahead of Nigeria currently and will do everything to see that they pick the ticket".

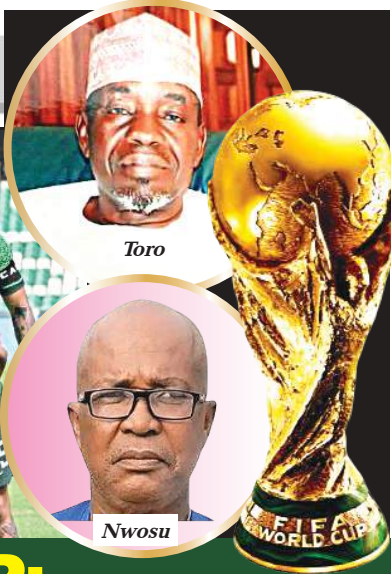
**2026 World Cup: It'll be a big blow if Nigeria fails to qualify**

By Solomon Nwoke

As concerns over the Super Eagles' 2026 World Cup qualification continue to dominate discussions in Nigerian football circle, a former captain of the team, and a member of the 1980 AFCON winning squad, Coach Henry Nwosu has said that it will be a big blow for the country if Nigeria fails to qualify. Coach Nwosu, however, remains optimistic that the Super Eagles can still qualify for the World's prestigious tournament if all indices are in place. "I am always optimistic, I always believe in going forward, I don't feel anything should hold me back and that's where I see the Super Eagles. "I shouldn't say we cannot qualify. It's possible that we can qualify, but we have to do our homework properly, get the right players in the right positions and also pray that our players are injury-free and in top shape. I know we'll qualify," he remarked. "But if Nigeria does not qualify for the 2026 World Cup, it will be a big blow for the country because

Notwithstanding, Toro who was secretary when Nigeria made its debut in the World Cup in USA '94 said Nigeria would qualify. "We'll surprise the world and qualify. We always come to the party late. But once we are turned on, it's difficult to let go".

Asked what happens if we do not qualify? "The coach goes. We wait for the next World Cup. The NFF officials are elected. You cannot touch them. The only thing is that it will be difficult for them to get re-elected. It won't get to that. We've to support the team and support the NFF. The World Cup is for Nigerians and I'm happy that they have set-up the Presidential Support Group, PSG, for the World Cup qualification. We know that all things work together for good to them that believe".



**I'm focused on World Cup qualifiers than AFCON — Chelle**

Super Eagles head coach Eric Chelle has made it clear that his primary focus is on the upcoming World Cup qualifiers in March against Rwanda and Zimbabwe, rather than the Africa Cup of Nations in December.

Chelle shared his remarks following the draw for the 2025 AFCON, held on Monday in Rabat, Morocco, where the Super Eagles were drawn into Group C alongside Tanzania, Uganda, and Tunisia.

While acknowledging the significance of the AFCON tournament, the former Mali manager emphasised the importance of taking it one step at a time to ensure his team is fully prepared for the immediate challenge.

In an interview with the Super Eagles media, Eric Chelle underlined the importance of prioritising the upcoming World Cup qualifiers in March before shifting attention to the 2025 AFCON.

"There is no little team in AFCON, you need to be focused," he said.

"I said a few minutes earlier, I'm focused on my players, the team, and March. We need to be focused on the World Cup qualifiers and after that, in October, we really can think about the AFCON. Now, we need to win two games in March.

"No, I'm focused on the World Cup qualifiers. This is a draw, there are four teams in each group, and anyone in the AFCON can win the tournament. For now, let's focus on March, please."

**2026 World Cup: It'll be a big blow if Nigeria fails to qualify — Nwosu**

people like us will not be watching the games with all our hearts. Also, our football ranking will drop and other African countries will see us as an unserious country when it comes to football", he added. Nwosu, a former assistant coach to Onigbinde that took the Super Eagles to the 2002 FIFA World Cup in South Korea and Japan affirmed that Super Eagles can still go on to win their remaining six matches to qualify with the newly appointed coach, Eric Sekou Chelle once they

can arrange the team early enough. He said, " the new Coach, Eric Chelle will want to prove himself and that's why Nigerians believe that we must win all the remaining matches and qualify. I don't have any fear about Super Eagles qualification. That is not undermining our opponents in the group. We can still win the remaining matches. Our opponents will not be sleeping, but we hope they will slip, while Nigeria sails through to the World Cup.

**Scramble for N22.8m begins as Rainoil Tennis Open serves off Monday**

By Jacob Ajom

In its continued drive to boost tennis in Nigeria, Rainoil Group, in collaboration with the Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF), has announced a sharp increase in the overall prize money for winners of the 2025 Rainoil National Tennis Open, a premier event in Nigerian tennis which begins on Monday, February 3rd

through 5 at Ikoyi Club 1938, Rennis Section.

Speaking at a pre-event press conference Wednesday in Lagos, Group Executive Director, Rainoil Group, Mrs. Godrey Ogbegie disclosed that the total prize money has been raised to N22 million which will be shared across all cadres, including those who feature in the qualifiers. "We increased the prize money, to ensure that the players receive greater financial support as they compete at the highest level."

The men's and ladies singles champions will earn N2m and N1.5m respectively which, she re,aekd was a big improvement from what they had in previous tournaments. Winners in the doubles too have attractive prizes as the men's doubles will take home N1m and N800,000 for the women's doubles champions.

Mrs. Ogbegie said for almost twenty years, Rainoil Group had remained committed to Tennis competition both at club and national levels because "the founder, Dr. Gabriel Ogbegie is very passionate about tennis and because the game remains another strategic route for Nigerian youths to express their talents and shine at the global stage.

**2025 ICC U19 Women W' Cup: Nigeria secures 2027 W/Cup ticket**

The national U-19 women's cricket team, the Junior Yellow Greens, have successfully lifted Nigeria to become among the elite nations in cricket, at least at their level, after sealing automatic qualification for the 2027 edition of the ICC U19 T20 World Cup.

The qualification was confirmed after sealing a six-run victory over Ireland in the final Super Six games of the ongoing 2025 ICC under 19 T20 World Cup in Malaysia.

The victory over Ireland earned them a third place finish in Group 2 of the Super Six round, a rank that's enough to see the team earn one of the top ten automatic qualification spots.

The game against Ireland in the early hours of Wednesday morning at the YSD-UKM Cricket Oval, Bangi, saw Ireland winning the toss and electing to field first, sending Nigeria's batters out in the first innings.



Nigeria Women Under-19 got to their highest first-inning total in the tournament as a combined team batting effort took them to 94 runs in 20 overs for the loss of 7 wickets. The start from the batters was not really that bright as Ireland Women Under-19 managed to grab 4 quick wickets up top.

was the pair of Christabel Chukwuonye and Peculiar Agboya who both managed to stitch up a good partnership in the middle overs and then Peculiar Agboya went ahead to end the innings well for her team.

**Morocco can win AFCON 2025 on home soil — Regragui**

Morocco head coach Walid Regragui, says he's optimistic the team can win the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations on home soil.

Recall that the Atlas Lions are drawn in Group A alongside Mali, Zambia, and Comoros.

Speaking after the draw with Cafonline, Regragui stated that his ambition is to lift the trophy on home soil regardless of the pressure.

"Of course, there is additional pressure, but we're not going to hide from it," he stated.

"This pressure is not just on me as the coach but also on the



players. It's a big responsibility, but it's one we accept with pride."

"There are supporters who have dreamed of this trophy staying in Morocco since 1976," Regragui noted.

"The sacred union between the team and the fans will be crucial. This pressure must be positive, and even if it becomes negative, we'll handle it. We are highly motivated and have all the conditions to have a great tournament."

**Bako, Ladipo, others storm Lagos for NIS award**

Broadcast icon, Dr. Danladi Bako, Bowner of Remo Stars, Hon. Kunle Soname, the Chairman of Air Peace, Allen Onyema, father of supporters club in Nigeria and Africa, Rafiu Ladipo, former governor of Plateau State, Senator Simon Lalong and paralympic athlete, Ms Lucy Ejike, will storm Lagos on Thursday (today) for the 50th Anniversary Celebration and 9th Convocation Ceremony of the National Institute for Sports.

The institute recently announced that they will be conferring the six eminent Nigerians with the Fellowship of the Institute while there will be induction of some of the institution's ex-student into the Hall of Fame.

Speaking recently, the Director



General of NIS, Prof. Olawale Moronkola, said they are doing so in recognition of their immense support for the institute while also announcing the naming of the Institute Conference Hall after the pioneer principal of the Institute, Late Sir, Dr. Awoture Eleyae.

# Transition

**W**ith a deep sense of loss, but in total submission to the will of the Almighty God, the OSIME FAMILY of USUGBENU, IRRUA announce the death of our beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin and uncle **THEO OZEAGBE OSIME** on Sunday 22nd December, 2024

## FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

### VIGIL MASS

**DATE:** Thursday, 30th January, 2025

**TIME:** 4pm

**VENUE:** St. Albert Catholic Church, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

### FUNERAL MASS

**DATE:** Monday, 3rd February 2025

**TIME:** 10am

**VENUE:** St. Andrew Catholic Church, Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley, Southampton SO52 9EP, United Kingdom.

INTERMENT follows immediately at Woodley Cemetery, Romsey, Southampton SO51 0PB, United Kingdom.

### REQUIEM MASS

**DATE:** Monday, 3rd February 2024

**TIME:** 10am

**VENUE:** St. Jude Catholic Church, Usugbenu, Iruua, Edo State, Nigeria.

**He is survived by his**

**Wife:** Mrs Ekwutozia 'Ekwy' Osime

### CHILDREN:

Isimeme & Obinna Egbuniwe  
Ahusimere & Adimora Anakwenze  
Izehinosen & Onoriode Uviase  
Eromosele & Chioma Osime  
Osémegbe & Joseph Marsh  
Obehi-Ebudo Osime  
Olumese & Victoria Osime

Grandchildren, sisters & brothers,  
nieces & nephews, cousins and friends.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

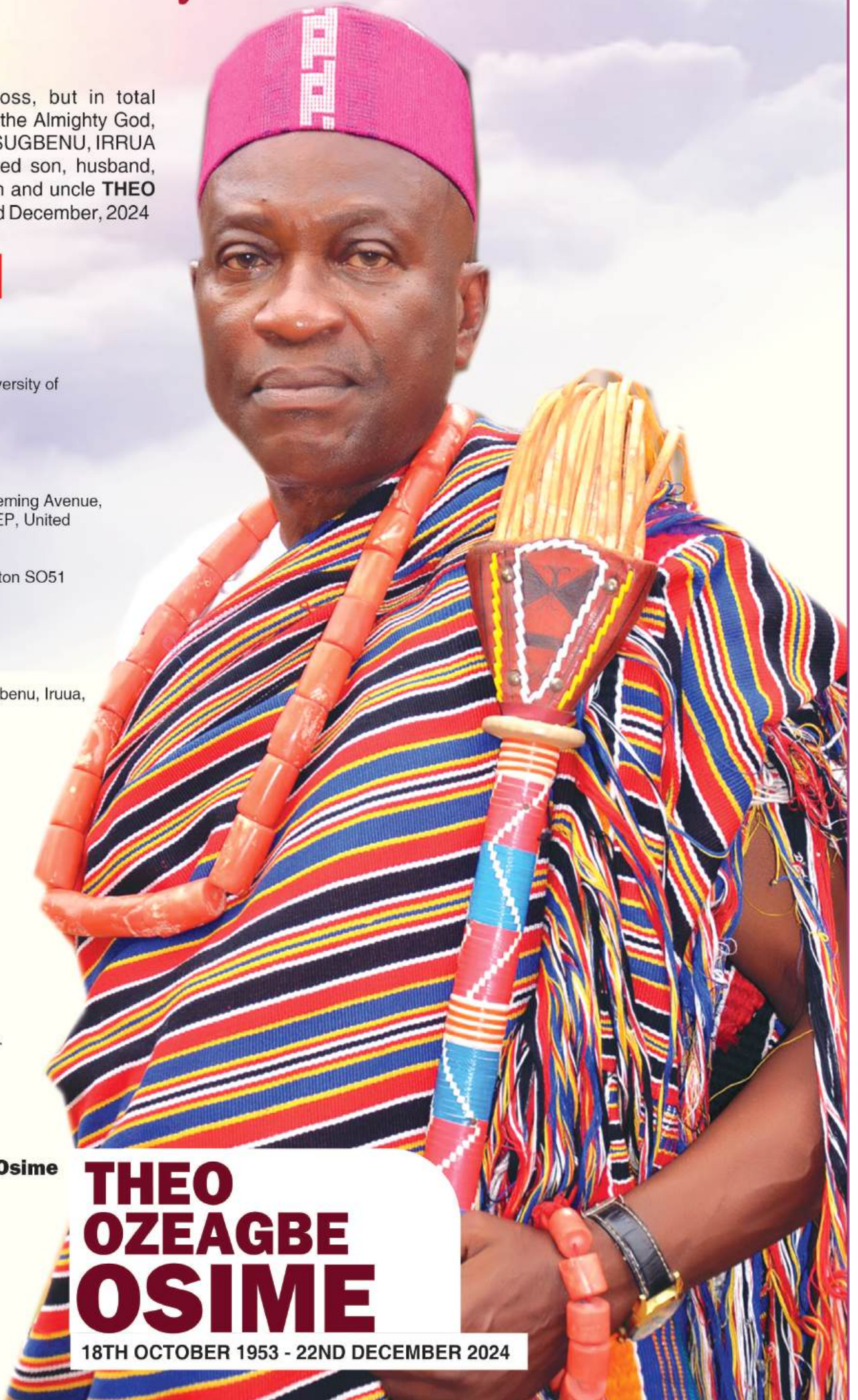
**Signed**

**Mike Akemere Osime**

**Eromosele Maduabunachukwu Osime**

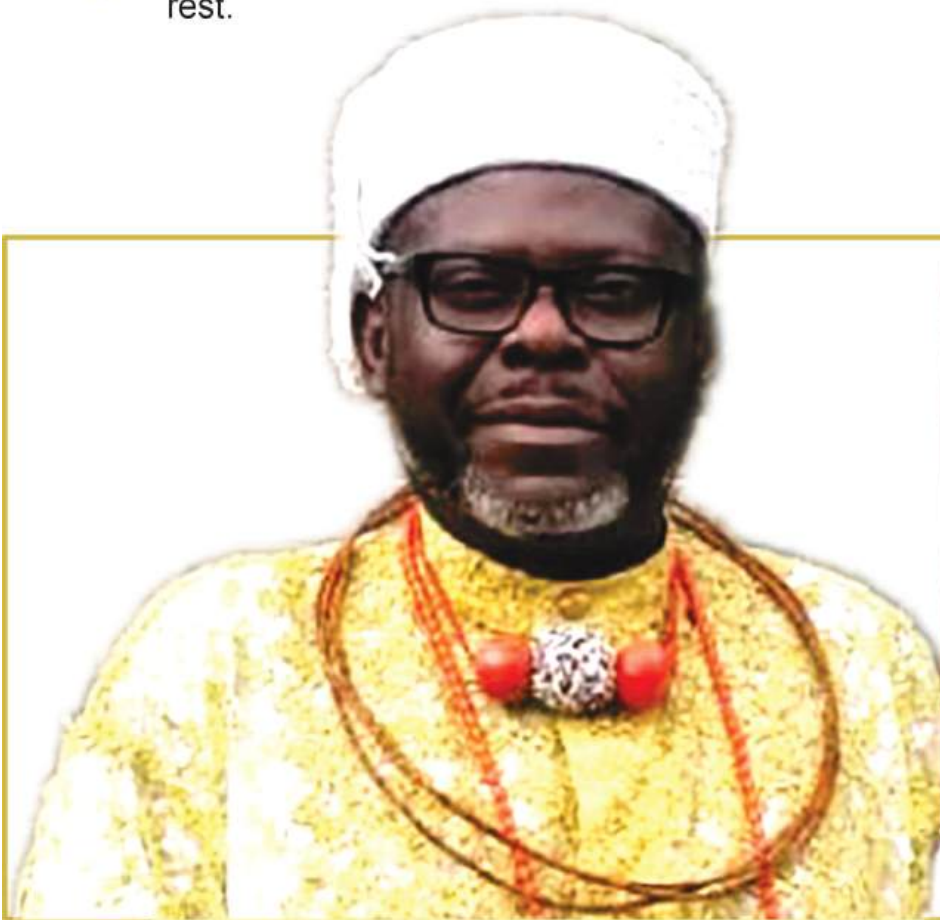
**THEO  
OZEAGBE  
OSIME**

18TH OCTOBER 1953 - 22ND DECEMBER 2024



# OBITUARY

**W**e, friends of Chief Mrs Ochuko Essi Obukowho nee Obahor, announce the passing away of her dearest, caring, loving, dedicated and generous husband Chief. P. Essi Obukowho who passed away on to glory on the 13th of December 2024 while on his yearly Christmas visit to Nigeria. He was aged 73, a renowned chemist in America and holder of several patents in his area of expertise. P, may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.



**Late Chief P. P. OBUKOWHO-ESSI**

**Signed:**

Joyce Uwumarogie  
Justina Ebitimi Okiyefa  
Marjorie Hall  
Nnennaya Obot  
Pamela Oyinpreye Emadu  
Fehintola Ayangbayi  
Karen Erivona  
Paulette Okotie Luther  
Vero Ovien Ajuebon  
Margaret Adjedje Fregene  
Benedicta Ekpemina Leigh  
Miranda Mosheshe  
Temisan. R. Egbe



# Vanguard Sports

**2025 ICC U19 Women W' Cup: Nigeria secures 2027 W/Cup ticket**

**FIFA 2026 WORLD CUP:**

## Toro sure Super Eagles 'll qualify



•It'll be a big blow if Nigeria fails to qualify —Nwosu



**I'm focused on World Cup qualifiers than AFCON – Chelle**



**Man City 3:1 Club Brugge**

### Champions League: Savinho rescues City after Onyedika's stunning strike

Super Eagles midfielder Raphael Onyedika scored his first-ever UEFA Champions League goal during Club Brugge's clash against Manchester City at the Etihad last night. Manchester City had to fight back to win against Club Brugge who took the lead after Raphael Onyedika's 45th minute stunning strike that gave the visitors a deserved lead before half time. The Nigerian defensive midfielder rose to the occasion to put the visitors in front. His teammate, Ferran Jutglà, played a short squared pass into the path of Onyedika, who quickly fired a shot into the bottom right corner of Man City's net. But Savinho came off the bench armed with a hose and a ladder and doused the flames to give Pep Guardiola's side a 3-1 victory which averted a disastrous early

elimination and sealed their passage to the play-offs. City will now have to play a mouth-watering clash against one of Bayern Mu-

nich or Real Madrid in the next round. Elsewhere, Aston Villa beat Celtic 4-2 to secure a spot in the top eight along with Arsenal who also qualified this evening. Following a 2-1 win over Girona.



### SUDOKU

#### TODAY'S PUZZLE

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

#### YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

### How to Play Sudoku

Place a number (1-9) in each blank cell. (No line can have two of the same number). Each row (nine lines from left to right), column, (also nine lines from top to bottom) and 3 X 3 block within a bold block (nine blocks) contains number from 1 through 9. This means that no number can appear twice in any block, column or row. No mathematics is involved – no adding, subtraction, division or multiplication, just plain logic and your imagination.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

NPFL			
Enyimba	vs	Heartland	3 pm
Katsina Utd	vs	Plateau Utd	4 pm
Tornamdoes	vs	Kwara Utd	4 pm
Rivers Utd	vs	Insurance	4 pm

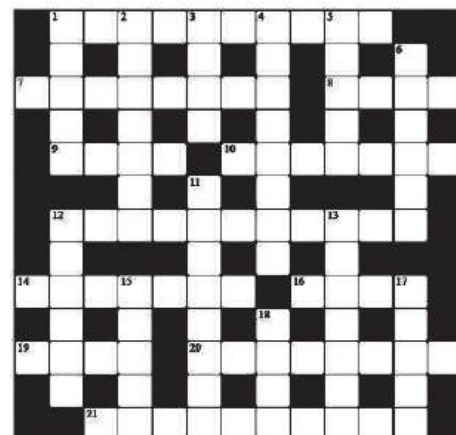
EUROPA League			
Roma	vs	Frankfurt	9 pm
Ajax	vs	Galatasaray	9 pm
Anderlecht	vs	Hoffenheim	9 pm
Athletic Bilbao	vs	V/Plzen	9 pm
Dynamo Kyv	vs	RFS	9 pm
Midtjylland	vs	Fenerbahce	9 pm
FC Twente	vs	Besiktas	9 pm
FCSB	vs	Man Utd	9 pm
Ferencvaros	vs	AZ Alkmar	9 pm
Tottenham	vs	Elfsborg	9 pm
Rangers	vs	Union Gilloise	9 pm
R/Sociedad	vs	PAOK FC	9 pm
SC Braga	vs	Lazio	9 pm
M/Tel Aviv	vs	Porto	9pm

Results			
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE			
Aston Villa	4	Celtic	2
Barcelona	2	Atalanta	2
Leverkusen	2	Sparta Prague	0
Bayern	3	Slovan Bratislava	1
Brest	0	Real Madrid	4
D. Zagreb	2	AC Milan	1
Dortmund	3	Shakhtar Donetsk	1
Girona	1	Arsenal	2
Inter	3	Monaco	0
Juventus	0	Benfica	2
Lille	6	Feyenoord	1
Man City	3	Club Brugge	1
PSV	3	Liverpool	2
Salzburg	1	Atl. Madrid	4
Sporting CP	1	Bologna	1
Sturm Graz	1	RB Leipzig	0
Stuttgart	1	PSG	4
Young Boys	0	Crvena zve	1

NPFL			
Bayelsa Utd	4	Sunshine	1
El Kanemi	2	Rangers	1
Akwa Utd	1	Lobi Stars	1
Ikorodu City	4	Kano Pillars	1
Remo Stars	3	Abia Warr	2
Shooting	2	Nasarawa	0

### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### TODAY'S CROSSWORD



#### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

1	C	O	S	Y	3	U	N	W	A	S	H	E	D	7
2	O	I	M	U	1	L	A	Y	U					
3	L	A	S	C	A	L	A	20	P	A	G	E	S	
4	O	A	D	N	H	I	K							
5	S	O	L	I	D	12	C	E	A	S	E	D		
6	S		E	E										13
7	A	T	T	E	N	D	16	A	B	L	E	S	T	
8	L	R					N	R						1
9	B	A	N	G	L	E	21	I	M	P	E	L		
10	S	V	U	T										14
11	T	R	A	D	E	25	T	U	G	B	O	A	T	
12	E	I	S	L	S									15
13	M	O	L	A	S	S	27	Z	E	R	O			

#### ACROSS

- Butterfly(3,7)
- Troubadour(8)
- Stubborn animal(4)
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese(4)
- Formal speech(7)
- Unfeeling(4-7)
- Fabulous animal(7)
- Throw carelessly(4)
- Cab(4)
- Overbearing(8)
- Shoeless(4-6)

#### DOWN

- Elevate(5)
- Abandon hope(7)
- Highland dagger(4)
- Use badly(3-5)
- Confess(5)
- Edible nut(6)
- Deficit(8)
- Shed for aircraft(6)
- Idea(7)
- Asian country(5)
- Church council(5)
- Group of three performers(4)

### OKADIGBO

#### TWO WEEKS TO LIVE'

