

# Adeboye: Nigeria's Security Problems Beyond Human Comprehension

● Storms Imo for prayers, says God directed him to visit troubled areas

**Our correspondents**

The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adeboye yesterday told Governor Hope Uzodimma

of Imo State that the security challenge facing Nigeria today was not ordinary, but assured that God's intervention was real and inevitable.

Adeboye, during a courtesy call on the Governor at the

Government House Owerri in the company of some of his senior pastors, on a prayer mission to the state said: "The problem of Nigeria today is beyond human comprehension. A situation where non-state actors dictate

to the government when people should come out and not to come out is disturbing."

Pastor Adeboye said his team and members have been fasting and praying for the restitution of the land for days but that

God directed him to visit the places and lands across Nigeria where the forces of darkness were enveloping light, hence the visit to Imo for a prayer session.

He informed the Governor

that the reason for his visit was not just to touch his legs on those lands and places where the forces of darkness tend to have taken upper hand, but to

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# THIS DAY



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## Jonathan Still Eligible to Contest for President, Declares Court

● Rules his right to vie for president again cannot be prevented by any retroactive law

**Olusegun Samuel** in Yenagoa

A Federal High Court in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State yesterday ruled that former President Goodluck

Jonathan is still eligible to contest in the 2023 presidential election on the grounds that he had only been elected into office once, in 2011.

The trial judge, Justice Isa Hamma Dashen, in his judgement also held that Jonathan's right to vie for the office of president again cannot be stopped by any

retroactive law.

The suit was filed by Andy Solomon and Idibiye Abraham as first and second plaintiffs and listed Jonathan, the All





Progressives Congress, and the Independent National Electoral Commission as first, second, and third defendants, respectively. But the APC and the

INEC did not have any legal representations in the matter. Solomon and Abraham,

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# Tension As PDP Convenes to Pick Presidential Candidate

● Atiku, Wike, Saraki, Tambuwal are frontrunners ● Northern Elders meet, aim to back one northern aspirant ● APC may shift National Convention as INEC extends deadline for primaries to June 10 See story on page 5

ATIKU	WIKE	SARAKI	TAMBUWAL
 <p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Experience, capacity, competence</li> <li>● Extensive contacts nationwide</li> <li>● Courageous, consistent</li> <li>● Huge war chest</li> </ul> <p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unending corruption questions</li> <li>● Age and health issues</li> <li>● Part of the infamous old order</li> </ul>	 <p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Huge war chest</li> <li>● Energetic</li> <li>● Has been able to buy loyalties, friends</li> </ul> <p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unstable</li> <li>● Can't be trusted</li> <li>● Seen as corrupt, wasteful</li> <li>● Perceived as clueless</li> <li>● Crabby character</li> </ul>	 <p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Seen as a team player</li> <li>● Combines Executive, legislative experience</li> <li>● Political pedigree with wide exposure</li> <li>● Dogged fighter</li> </ul> <p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perceived as corrupt</li> <li>● Deemed stubborn</li> <li>● Perceived as elitist</li> <li>● Controversial state of origin</li> </ul>	 <p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Young, vibrant, urbane</li> <li>● Strong Legislative, Executive background</li> <li>● Defender of democratic ethos</li> <li>● Focused, determined</li> </ul> <p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lacks nationwide name recognition</li> <li>● Limited success in Sokoto State</li> <li>● Weak support base</li> <li>● Weak on policy</li> </ul>

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# At AU Session, Buhari Charges African Leaders to Ameliorate Suffering of Displaced Persons

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

The pitiable condition of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Africa got the attention of President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday as he called on his fellow African leaders to put in more concerted and institutionalised effort in ameliorating the suffering of refugees and IDPs in Africa, saying only "collective and coordinated" approach would make a difference.

He also disclosed that 70 per cent of the five million displaced persons in the Lake Chad region are Nigerian citizens.

Speaking during the 16th African Union Extra-ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Humanitarian Crises in African and Pledging Conference, holding in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea, President Buhari said

more than five million people have been displaced in the Lake Chad region, with 70 per cent of them mostly Nigerians.

According to him: "We cannot deny the fact that we have a very dangerous humanitarian crisis in our hands," adding that the violent onslaught by Boko Haram insurgents in the North-east of Nigeria had led to humanitarian crises.

The President noted that the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria informed the creation of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, which was designed to provide a national response strategy.

He said: "This is in line with the Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons. I am glad to inform Your Excellencies that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs of Nigeria

has continued to live up to its mandate in responding quickly to all situations of displaced persons and disaster management."

President Buhari said the ministry also broadened its scope of operations by caring for deprived school children in the country.

"The ministry carries out a compulsory school feeding programme in primary schools across the country. This is to ensure that every child gets at least one balanced and nutritious meal daily.

"Through the ministry, the government established Internally Displaced Persons camps in every part of the country for refugees, returnee migrants and displaced persons, where food, shelter, clothing, medical care and other livelihood support are provided for all displaced persons.

"We also have introduced a Conditional Cash Transfer scheme,

whereby a monthly cash transfer is made to the very poor and vulnerable in our society."

President Buhari welcomed the establishment of an African Union Humanitarian Agency to cater for the growing needs of displaced persons and refugees.

He said, "The rationale for the establishment of this Agency is to forge a common African position on humanitarian effectiveness and to create an appropriate continental architecture to effectively respond and coordinate humanitarian crises on the continent."

He thanked the African Union, government and people of Equatorial Guinea for providing the platform for leaders to deliberate and address pressing issues confronting the continent.

According to him: "You will agree that this conference could not have come at a better time, considering the challenges posed

by the increasing rate of Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnee Migrants, to our various countries and the continent at large.

"As you are aware, Mr. Chairperson, the world is confronted by emerging threats, such as Climate Change, resulting in global warming, rising levels in waters, in some climes shrinking of rivers and lakes.

"All these lead to distortions in our aquatic and consequently ecological systems. Conflicts, violent extremism and terrorist attacks, including herdsmen-farmers clashes and banditry lead to the displacement of whole communities, thus rendering thousands of people homeless.

"In the North-east of Nigeria alone, millions of people have been displaced, as a result of the Climate Change, which caused the shrinking of Lake Chad and subsequent loss of means of livelihood.

"Your Excellencies, as we meet today in this historic city of Malabo to actualise

our dreams to establish the African Humanitarian Agency, I congratulate you all for rising to the occasion."

While pledging \$3 million for the take off of the African Union Humanitarian Agency, the President also appreciated the Specialised Technical Committee for their hard work to produce the statutes.

On his part, the African Union Chairman and President of Senegal, Macky Sall, pledged \$3 million on behalf of his country, urging other African leaders to contribute to the establishment of the humanitarian agency.

The AU Chairman said the rising challenges of climate change, natural disasters and terrorism had made it mandatory to set up an Agency that would meet the needs of displaced Africans.

President of the host country, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, also pledged \$4 million, with \$2 million for the new Agency, while \$2 million will go to Mozambique.

## ADEBOYE: NIGERIA'S SECURITY PROBLEMS BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION

proclaim and decree the strength of God Almighty on such places.

He said: "With the visit, South East from henceforth, there must be light."

Receiving the General Overseer and his team, Governor Uzodimma described the visit as "a big privilege because Adeboye is believed to be a real anointed man of God."

Governor Uzodimma said Imo people and his government were not in doubt that Pastor Adeboye's visit would bring

peace, unity and stability to Imo State in particular and the South East in general because they were required for progress and development.

He described Pastor Adeboye as one of the true men of God who, the people believe, in the current situation and challenges facing the country, "as the last hope of the common man.

"We have seen, we have heard and we believe."

Governor Uzodimma assured Pastor Adeboye of the support

of the people and government of Imo State to make his visit a successful one, and also prayed God to protect him and his team, not only on their visit but in all they are doing "to rescue Nigeria from insecurity and the quagmire it has found itself."

"I am sure that the visit of Daddy G. O. Adeboye will bring peace, unity and remove all the things that cause distractions on the way of government and the people will confess with

testimonies," he said.

Present at the visit were the President of CAN, Imo State Chapter, Rev. Dr. Eches Divine Eches; the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Nnamadi Anyaehie; the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, COC Akaolisa and other members of the State Executive Council as well as the member representing Okigwe South in the National Assembly Hon. Chike Okafor among other political leaders from Imo State.

## JONATHAN STILL ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST FOR PRESIDENT, DECLARES COURT

members of the APC, had approached the court through their counsels, Egbuwabi Seigha and Timi Robinson, seeking the disqualification of Jonathan from the 2023 presidential polls.

They argued that by virtue of the introduction of Section 137, sub-sections 1(b) and 3 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended, Jonathan was no longer eligible to vie for the office of the president because he had taken an oath to that office on two previous occasions.

Justice Dasha dismissed the reliefs sought by the plaintiffs and held that the swearing of Jonathan as acting president on May 6, 2010, after the death of Umaru Yar'Adua, was a constitutional provision.

According to him, the 2007 general elections produced the late Yar'Adua as president and not Jonathan, stressing that Section 137 could not have a retroactive effect to stop him from contesting the forthcoming presidential polls.

Dasha ruled that there was no presidential election conducted in the country in 2010 and Jonathan could not be deemed to have been sworn into the office of the president that year.

He said that Section 137, which came into effect on June 7, 2018, following the fourth alteration to the constitution, "cannot apply retrospectively except the legislature in clear terms expressly stated their intention for it to be so."

The judge rationalised that if Jonathan had won his re-election bid in the 2015 general polls, which he lost to the incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, he would have been inaugurated as president without any legal impediment.

He said, "In my opinion, the position being propounded by the first defendant (that he is eligible to contest) is tenable. It is the duty of the plaintiffs to direct this court where the legislature stated that the provisions of Section 137 sub-section 3 of the Constitution are to apply.

"I, therefore, find the arguments of the first defendant that he has been elected into the office of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria only once and in the year 2011, not only irresistible but established, and I so hold.

"In law, he who asserts must prove. I find that the plaintiffs have not discharged the burden of proof placed on them by law. I, therefore, find merit in the argument of the first defendant that the introduction of Section 137 of the Constitution does not affect his right to contest for the office of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 2023 general elections.

"Before the year 2015 when the first defendant lost his re-election bid to the office of President, the restriction by Section 137 sub-section 3 was not in existence. If he had won the 2015 general elections, he would have been sworn in for the third time without any legal impediment.

"The first defendant acquired his right to contest for the office of President immediately after his term as president on May 29, 2015. Clearly, it is incontrovertible that the first defendant's right to contest and be sworn in as president was vested in him on May 29, 2015, and I so hold.

"I declare that the provision of 137 sub-section 3 of the Constitution acquired the force of law with effect from 7th June

2018, and as such does not have retrospective application.

"I also declare that the first defendant is not disqualified by the provision of Section 137 sub-section 3 of the Constitution from contesting for election into the office of President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the 2023 general elections.

"Consequently, I enter judgment for the first defendant, and all the reliefs sought by the plaintiffs in their originating summons dated 16 May 2022 and filed on 17 May 2022 are all hereby dismissed."

The plaintiffs' counsel, Seigha, said that they believed that the introduction of Section 137 sub-sections 1(b) and 3 in the constitution "is the law now."

He said, "We challenged the eligibility of Dr Goodluck Jonathan. We canvassed our position before the court that he is no longer eligible (to contest for presidency) by the introduction of Section 137 sub-sections 1(b) and 3 because he had taken the oath to the office of President twice.

"By the introduction of sub-section 3, which is the law now, it is our position that under the law as it is, he is going to be screened for the elections coming in 2023."

Seigha also said they approached the court seeking Jonathan's disqualification because he had ruled the country with integrity and dignity, "and we also do not want a situation where he would come to transgress the law for so much integrity he had worked hard to acquire and will be allowed to slip into an error."

He, however, added that they would get a copy of the judgement and study it critically with a view to heading to the

Court of Appeal.

The former president's counsel, Omare, expressed delight that "The court agreed with us and held that President Goodluck Jonathan is qualified to contest the 2023 general elections."

Omare said he and his team were prepared to meet the plaintiffs at the Court of Appeal, adding that they were waiting to be served the processes of the appeal.

Jonathan was Nigeria's vice-president between 2007 and 2010. He became the president in May 2010 following the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and completed the latter's tenure.

He won the 2011 presidential election but failed in his attempt to secure a second term in office in 2015.

There have been speculations that the former president had left the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the All Progressives Congress (APC) — the platform on which President Muhammadu Buhari defeated him in 2015.

A Fulani group had purchased the N100 million presidential nomination and expression of interest forms for the former president.

The forms were purchased days after he had asked his supporters to watch out, when he was asked if he would contest the 2023 poll.

But in a statement issued by Ikechukwu Eze, his media aide, Jonathan had said he did not give his consent to the purchase of the forms.

Buhari signed the fourth alteration of the 1999 Constitution which bars Vice-Presidents who succeed their principals from serving more than one full term.

However, some have argued

## TENSION AS PDP CONVENES TO PICK PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

Charles Ajunwa in Lagos, Chuks Okocha, Adedayo Akinwale and Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja

After crisscrossing the country for weeks, consulting with delegates and stakeholders, 14 politicians aspiring to be the presidential candidate of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 2023, will from today face 810 delegates in Abuja who will pick one of them.

Also yesterday, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) extended the deadline for the conduct of party primaries to June 10 from the initial June 3, prompting speculations that the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) may shift its Presidential primary election hitherto scheduled for May 29 to 30.

THISDAY learnt that some Northern elders, led by former National Security Adviser, Aliyu Gusau and former governor of Sokoto State, Attahiru Bafarawa, went into a crucial meeting last night, to try and reduce the Northern aspirants to one.

Seventeen persons purchased the nomination and expression of interest forms for the PDP presidential ticket, two were later disqualified by the David Mark led screening committee; while another aspirant (former governor of Anambra State) Peter Obi left the party and opted out of the race. So, 14 aspirants are contesting for the ticket of the PDP today.

The aspirants are former vice president, Atiku Abubakar; former Senate President, Abubakar Bukola Saraki; Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Anyim Pius Anyim; Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed; Sokoto State Governor, Aminu Tambuwal; Akwa Ibom Governor, Emmanuel Udom; boardroom guru, Sam Oluabunwa; former Managing Director of Nigerian International Bank (NIB), Mohammed Hayatudeen; ex-Ekiti State Governor, Ayodele Fayose; Ovation Magazine publisher, Chief Dele Momodu; Olivia Tarela, who is the only female among them, Charles Okwudili and Chikwendu Kalu.

However, the contest this weekend is expected to be a

four-horse race involving Atiku, Wike, Saraki and Tambuwal.

The source said the Northern leaders felt Wike was getting stronger and may win the ticket if not checked.

Said the source: "With the departure of Peter Obi, Wike has gained more grounds in the South-east, while the aspirants from the North are divided. The Northern elders felt the only way to stop him was to present a single Northern aspirant at the convention. So, they are working to get two of the top three Northern aspirants to step down."

Another source added, "If Wike is allowed to win the primary, he can't win the presidential election. So, he must be stopped."

The refusal of President Buhari to sign the amended electoral act -Section 84(8) - to allow statutory delegates to vote at primaries, is also a plus for Atiku.

With reduced delegates from the South where the PDP dominates, the new geo-political distribution of the delegates favours Atiku.

In the earlier order, the Southern part of the country has more delegates because the PDP controls more states in the South. But with the exclusion of statutory delegates and with the provision that only elected delegates, one from each local government area, are eligible to vote during today's convention, there is a shift in the balance of power between the North with more local government areas and the South with less local government areas.

This is where Atiku holds the ace. He is expected to get a bulk of the vote from the Northern delegates.

Atiku's Strengths are his experience, capacity and competence to address Nigeria's problems. He also knows Nigeria well enough and can balance the fault lines without crossing the lines.

Atiku's major weakness remains his never disappearing corruption tag, which mere explanations have refused to clear. There are also questions about his age and health. Above all, he is categorised as part of the old order that brought Nigeria to its knees.

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## NEWS

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# S'Court Puts Amaechi's Presidential Bid at Risk, Rivers State Moves to Prosecute Him, Tonye Cole

**Alex Enumah** in Abuja and  
**Blessing Ibunye** in Port  
Harcourt

The presidential bid of former Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, is now at risk following the Supreme Court's ruling

yesterday asking him to face probe on alleged N96 billion fraud.

A five-man panel of the apex court made the order in a judgment that also saw the dismissal of Amaechi's appeal against the investigation by the

Commission of Inquiry set up by the Rivers State Government to investigate his eight-year tenure as governor of the state.

Amaechi had in the appeal sought an order of the apex court prohibiting his successor, Governor Nyesom Wike from investigating his 8-year tenure as governor of the state.

But in their ruling the five-man panel of the apex court held that Amaechi's suit lacked merit and ought to be dismissed and was subsequently dismissed.

Justice Adamu Jauro, who read the lead judgment held that the two lower courts - the Court of Appeal and High Court of Rivers State were in order when they

dismissed the suit for want of substance and merit.

Meanwhile, the apex court has ordered Amaechi to pay a fine of N1 million.

Sources told THISDAY last night that following the Supreme Court judgement, the Nyesom Wike-led Rivers State Government was getting set to arraign Amaechi, and Tonye Cole, both whom were indicted by the probe panel.

Amaechi did not appear before the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice George Omekeji to give account of how N96 billion was allegedly withdrawn from the Treasury of the state government and how it

was expended. The Commission of Inquiry was inaugurated by Wike to look into the lawful or otherwise of the alleged sales of valuable assets of the state.

The listed valuable assets are Omoku Gas Turbine, Afam Gas Turbine, Trans Amadi Gas Turbine, Eleme Gas Turbine, Olympia Hotel and the award of contract for the execution of Mono Rail Project.

Wike may file charges against the former Minister of Transportation, Amaechi, following the Supreme Court judgment that dismissed Amaechi's appeal to frustrate investigation into activities of his administration.

In a statement yesterday by

his Special Assistant on Media, Kelvin Ebin, Governor Wike, said the judgement has vindicated the Rivers State government.

Wike said leaders of Rivers State will meet to decide on whether to commence criminal prosecution of the immediate former governor of the state, over the alleged sales of some valued state assets and diversion of state funds.

The governor said those whose fate will also be decided during the meeting, will include, Mr. Tonye Cole, Sahara Energy Ltd, the APC governorship flag bearer in the state and former Rivers State Commissioner of Transport, George Tolofari.

## Peter Obi Joins Labour Party, Says He's on Road to Recovery

Former member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and a presidential aspirant, Peter Obi, has finally registered with the Labour Party (LP) from where he will contest the 2023 presidential election.

In a statement he signed, Peter Obi also commended his supporters across the country.

He said, "I thank all Nigerians, especially our youths, who have joined me in the mission of rescuing and taking back Nigeria.

"This project is yours and for the future of your children. I am just a facilitator.

"Since I resigned from the PDP because of issues that are at variance with my persona and principles, I have consulted

widely with various parties and personalities to ensure we do not complicate the route to our desired destination.

"For me, the process of getting into this high office is as fundamental as what one will do thereafter.

"Therefore, I have chosen a route free of rancour and one in line with my mantra of taking the country from consumption to production and that is the Labour Party, which is synonymous with the people, workers, development, production, securing and uniting the Nigerians as one family. "I invite my fellow Nigerians to join me to take back our country.

"Be assured that I'll never let you down," Obi stated.

## Enugu Youths Hail Ugwuanyi on Ngwu's Enugu West Ticket

Youths of Enugu State under the auspices of "Enugu State Youth Frontiers (ESYF)" have thanked Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, who is the state leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), for the emergence of Mr. Osita Ngwu, a young Engineer with high entrepreneurial spirit, as the candidate of the PDP for Enugu West Senatorial District during the party's Senatorial district primary election in the state.

In a statement signed by its Chairman and Secretary, Ekenna Eneiga and Waziri Obinaka Udeoko, respectively, ESYF disclosed that Ngwu's candidature justified Ugwuanyi's commitment to youth development in the state, stressing that "it is unprecedented in the annals of Enugu State that a young

person emerged as senatorial candidate of the PDP."

The youth group commended the democratic process that led to the emergence of Ngwu as the PDP senatorial candidate, pointing out that "his popularity is overwhelming and the people of Enugu West Senatorial District recognise his sterling leadership qualities as a philanthropist, reputable engineer, entrepreneur and astute politician."

Recognising the immense contributions of Ngwu, popularly known as 'RG', towards the progress of the PDP in Enugu State, ESYF described his election by the delegates at the party's senatorial district primary election held at Awgu LGA Headquarters, on Tuesday, as a well deserved recognition.

## One Dead in Multiple Vehicle Collision, Overtaken Tanker on Otedola Bridge

**Bennett Oghifo**

An adult male was reportedly killed in a multiple vehicle collision and an overturned tanker accident on Otedola Bridge yesterday morning.

The Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Dr. Olufemi Damilola Oke-Osanyintolu, confirmed this to THISDAY in a statement on WhatsApp, stating that the remains of the deceased had been handed over to Lagos State Environmental Health Monitoring Unit (SEHMU) for further

processing.

Oke-Osanyintolu said, "The agency received distress calls via its toll-free number of a multiple vehicle collision and overturned tanker incident at Otedola Bridge and deployed its resources immediately to the scene. Upon arrival of the Agency's (LASEMA) tiger team at the incident scene, it was observed that a multiple accident involving a tanker with unknown registration number conveying about 45,000 litres of petrol and four vehicles had occurred.



## PRAYER MISSION TO OWERRI...

L-R: Imo State Governor, Hope Uzodimma and the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adebayo, during Adebayo's courtesy call on the governor... yesterday.

## Abaribe Resigns As Senate Minority Leader, Quits PDP

**Deji Elumoye** in Abuja and  
**Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo** in  
Umuahia

The Senator representing Abia South Senatorial district in the National Assembly and Senate Minority Leader, Enyinnaya Abaribe, has resigned his position as Minority Leader of the Red Chamber.

The ranking Senator has also resigned his membership of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In a letter addressed to President of the Senate, Dr. Ahmad Lawan, titled 'Notification of Resignation from the Membership of the Peoples Democratic

Party in the Senate', Senator Abaribe disclosed that he has ceased to be Senate Minority Leader, consequent upon his resignation from the PDP.

The letter read in part: "This is to notify you and my dear colleagues in the Senate that I have formally resigned my membership of the Peoples Democratic Party through my ward. This also means my resignation as (the) Minority Leader of the Senate."

"I wish to thank you and my dear colleagues in the leadership of the Senate for the warm camaraderie we enjoyed while I was Minority Leader."

In another letter addressed to his Ward Chairman and Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in his Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State entitled, 'Resignation of my membership from the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP', the former Minority Leader said he took the decision to quit the PDP after due consultations.

The letter reads: "I write to inform you of my decision to resign as a member of (the) Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"This development is consequent upon the shameful display of illegality, impunity and undemocratic decision of the

party and after due consultations with my constituents."

Abaribe had during the week failed to participate in the PDP governorship primary in Abia State saying he could no longer stomach what he called impunity and illegality in the Abia State chapter of the main opposition party.

There are indications that the erstwhile Senate Minority Leader may pitch his tent with the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) where he will battle for the Abia South Senatorial ticket with incumbent Abia State Governor and PDP senatorial candidate, Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu.

## 'Inadequate Law Enforcement, Bane of Trafficking in Pangolin'

**Wale Igbinade**

The Chief Medical Director, Research Institute for Traditional and Alternative Medicine (RI-TAM), Dr. Johnson Idowu, has identified lack of adequate law enforcement, and poor public awareness as main contributors to the widespread illegal trafficking of Pangolin in Nigeria and across the world.

Speaking at the 2022 Pangolin Day organised by Pangolin Guild in Nigeria held at the Depart-

ment of Zoology, University of Lagos, Dr. Idowu advocated for the domestication of Pangolin, just like poultry and fishery.

He absolved registered Traditional and Alternative Medicine practitioners from illegal trafficking of Pangolins in Nigeria.

In his paper entitled 'Pangolin Trafficking In Nigeria- The Way Out', Idowu identified lack of adequate law enforcement and poor public awareness as main contributors to the widespread illegal trafficking of Pangolin in

Nigeria and across the world.

The main contributors to the widespread illegal trade were the lack of adequate law enforcement; poor awareness of trade-related regulations among public and some key stakeholders; and the absence of certain key stakeholders in the pangolin conservation process, such as the TCM community," he stated.

He stated all over the world Traditional Medicine Practitioners have been accused of being

involved in the illegal trafficking and use of Pangolin.

According to him, in the past, traditional practitioners were using Pangolin's scale to improve Blood Circulation, for bulletproof, improves breast milk secretion for lactation, financial independence, and for chieftaincy coronations.

He stated further that the scale of Pangolin also helps cure ulcers, improve sight, bleeding conductivities, conduct disorder, baldness, and asthma cough.



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## NEWS

# IPOB Denies Killing Pregnant Woman, 4 Kids in Anambra

**Bennett Oghifo**

The Indigenous People of

## Okorocho to Remain in EFCC's Custody as Court Declines Him Bail

**Alex Enumah** in Abuja

Embattled former governor of Imo State, Chief Rochas Okorocho, is to spend more days with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), following the refusal of a Federal High Court to admit him to bail.

The EFCC had on Tuesday arrested the Senator representing Imo West after laying siege at his Abuja residence for several hours.

According to the anti-graft agency, Okorocho's arrest was necessitated by his refusal to

Biafra (IPOB) has said it did not kill a pregnant woman and her four children in Anambra State,

attend his trial.

Okorocho had been slated for arraignment on N2.9 billion money laundering charges before Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, but had twice refused to honour the court.

However, following his forceful arrest Tuesday, Okorocho had filed an ex-parte application in which he predicted his bail on the grounds that he is a Presidential aspirant on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and that his political ambition would be jeopardised unless granted bail.

## PSC Commissioner Says Promotion of Two Female AIGs Will Assuage South-east Cry of Marginalisation

**Kingsley Nwezeh** in Abuja

The Commissioner representing the South-east in the Police Service Commission (PSC), Chief Onyemuche Nnamani, has congratulated two female police officers of South-east extraction recently promoted by the commission to the rank of Assistant Inspectors General of Police (AIG).

The officers are, CP Ngozi Vivian Onadeko, current Commissioner of Police, Oyo State Command and CP Josephine Nna, Commissioner of Police, Anti-trafficking, Force CID.

Chief Nnamani said the promotions will obviously signal a bright future for the

Igbos in the Nigeria Police especially with the recent cries of marginalisation from the South-east zone.

He also congratulated DIG John Ogbonnaya Amadi on his confirmation as a DIG, statutorily representing the South-east in the police management team.

Nnamani said the promotion and appointment should motivate the youths of the South-east to embrace a career in the Nigeria Police where they will have equal opportunities to rise to the top.

He noted that "the police force is a noble profession that should attract the best of the South-east youths."

## Runsewe Charges Nigerian Youths on Cultural Rebirth

As the custodian of the nation's culture and the head of the institution of government saddled with the responsibility of popularising the cherished cultural values, the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) is deeply disturbed by the alarming rate at which Nigeria's culture is being eroded and replaced with alien practices.

Given this worrisome trend, the Director General of NCAC, Otunba Segun Runsewe at a cultural sensitisation programme with the theme 'Nigerian Youths

and Nation Building' held at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja, charged Nigerian youths on cultural rebirth

Runsewe, who said that the youths are the greatest assets and the driving force of the development of any nation given their resourcefulness, dynamism and vigour noted that if the youths are allowed to derail and internalise the wrong attitudes and orientation that cannot engender national development, the youths can also become the nation's most disturbing liability.

## Madam Grace Ibijola Arowojobe for Burial June 3

The family of Arowojobe has announced the passing of Madam Grace Ibijola Arowojobe, who slept in the Lord, aged 77. Part of the obituary announcement which reads "Celebration of a fulfilled life of our caring and loving mother, wife, grandmother and great grandfather who answered her home call on March 1st, 2022", the burial arrangement is stated as follows: Thursday 2nd June, 2022 corpse leaves Ile Abiye Hospital, Ilawe Road, Ado-Ekiti to her residence @ No. 14 Igbale street, Ijero-Ekiti. Time for lying in state at Arowojobe House @ 14, Igbale Street, Ijero-Ekiti 12.00 noon.

Christian Wake-keep at 14, Igbale Street Ijero-Ekiti, 4.00 p.m. while on Friday 3rd June, 2022,



**Madam Arowojobe**

the burial and outing service @ Messiah Anglican Church Opp Doherty Memorial Grammar School, Ijero-Ekiti. 11.00a.m. Interment follows at Messiah Anglican Church Cemetery Ijero-Ekiti. Reception at Boulevard Hall & Apartment Akin Omoboriwo Way, Oju-oro Area Aramoko Road, Ijero Ekiti.

describing the act as abominable in Igboland.

The pregnant woman from Adamawa State, Harira Jubri, her four children, and six other persons, were murdered in Isulo, Orumba North Local Government Council Area of Anambra State last Sunday May 22.

IPOB in a statement it issued yesterday said, "in Igboland, it is an abomination to kill a pregnant woman. The perpetrators of the heinous crime are certainly not IPOB and could never have been."

The statement signed by IPOB's Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful,

said, "We have always said it that the terrorists were imported into Biafra land to commit the ongoing atrocities all in an attempt to discredit our struggle, demonise IPOB and proscribe it, then lobby and bribe Britain to tag us a terror group with the hope to stop our match to freedom."

According to the statement, "IPOB has severally said that these criminal elements are not part of us and they should allow Hausa do their legitimate business in our land because Hausa too suffer the same fate we are facing in the hands of Fulani terrorists claiming they

are herdsmen in Nigeria.

"The husband said he ran away from his home state, Adamawa because of terrorists pursuing him and his family members. The people pursuing him can come here and kill them to give impression that Igbos and IPOB killed them. We can't kill pregnant women and children, it is an abomination in our land.

"We wonder how a Fulani newspaper would bluntly be accusing IPOB for what we know nothing about without proper investigation. The newspaper should have done its proper investigation before arriving at the conclusion that it was

IPOB that killed the innocent woman but we are not surprised at their accusations because it fits perfectly into their grand plan and agenda.

"They think we are as barbaric as the Fulani who massacred many Biafran pregnant women, ripped open their stomach, brought out the unborn baby and smashed it on the ground. How will the Killing of one pregnant poor Hausa woman bring about the restoration of Biafra? IPOB will gain nothing in shedding innocent blood. Daily Trust newspapers must retract their wicked publication.



## INSTILLING SKILLS...

L-R: Operations Director, Fan Milk Plc and Danone Dairy Farm, Godwin Allen, Managing Director, Fan Milk Plc, Danone West Africa, Ferdinand Muoko; Finance Director, Titus Owoeye, and General Secretary, Olakunle Olusanya, at the Fan Milk and Danone Inaugural Dairy Training for Dairy Farmers in Ogun State...recently.

## FCT Residents Protest against AEDC Prohibitive Estimated Electricity Bill

**Olawale Ajimotokan** in Abuja

Aggrieved residents and workers of Federal Government Girls College, (FGGC) in Bwari Area Council of the FCT, yesterday protested against estimated electricity bill by the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), which they considered to be high.

The residents embarked on the protest the moment they sighted some AEDC officials, who came for electricity disconnection,

insisting they must remove their meter, which they alleged was an industrial meter.

They decried the estimated tariffs they were forced to pay monthly by the AEDC as 'criminal and unjustified' while demanding that prepaid meters be made available to them immediately.

Speaking on behalf of the protesting staff and residents, the Union chairman of FGGC, Bwari, Ajiloye Samuel, said in spite the fact that each residents

was forced to pay between N6,000-N7,000 monthly, the AEDC still calculated their outstanding bill to be in excess of N5 million. He said that the school and residents had resolved to intensify their agitation until the excesses of the AEDC were addressed.

"We are agitating for the light bill which the AEDC is giving us the residents and staff, the bill is too much for us and we are saying that we cannot pay the bills again because it

is too high.

"They're giving us industrial bills from an industrial meter in which we are not manufacturing anything in school. We are all residents like any other customer in the town. So we are now telling them that we held a meeting with all the residential staff on Wednesday and agreed that when they come to cut the light, they should also carry their industrial meter away. We cannot service the industrial meter," he said.

## Don't Become Pawns to Dubious Groups, NUJ Warns Practitioners

The national leadership of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has warned practitioners not to become easy pawns to dubious groups instigating libelous publications against targeted individuals and organisations in the country.

The warning was contained in a statement titled 'Don't Become Pawns To Dubious Groups And Libelous Publications' signed by

NUJ Assistant National Secretary, Akorede Opeyemi.

"It has become urgent and imperative to draw the attention of our members that in our ethical demand for good governance, transparency and accountability from all segments of society, we should not yield our various platforms and civic space to individuals or groups out to settle personal scores or

advance their personal interests in the guise of fighting corruption and promoting good governance.

"Over the past few weeks, the Union has been inundated with complaints from government officials and entities; the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Finance, and heads of parastatals, that some groups masquerading as civil society in cohort with

some "journalists," are out to tarnish their good names and reputations alleging corrupt acts," it said.

The statement further said, "While we applaud the commitment of credible groups to expose corruption and demand accountability, we are not unmindful of the antics of a few for personal gains and settle scores.

## IG Orders Deployment of Digital Facility in 36 State Commands

**Kingsley Nwezeh** in Abuja

The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Usman Baba, yesterday, inaugurated a new digital facility, the Q-Soft Hybrid Case Management System for the legal department of the Force Headquarters and ordered its deployment to the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

The facility, a case management system developed by Funmi Quadiri (SAN) and Co, is expected to efficiently manage

the 500 cases handled by the police across the country.

The application is designed to enhance the productivity and efficiency of police lawyers by automating the management of case files, personnel documents among others.

The IG said the project was in furtherance of his policing agenda to deploy advanced technology in managing cases even as he said the police had a pool of 5,000 lawyers.

He said the software and

the hardware components of the facility would be deployed in state commands and zonal headquarters across the country for efficiency of the legal departments.

In her remarks, Quadiri said computer hardware to officers from the 36 states commands and FCT alongside "With several lawyers and over 500 cases scattered across the federation, the Nigerian Police Force remains one of the largest law firms in the world.

"Though the cases have been managed manually over the years, the increasing number of cases has made it cumbersome and almost impossible to manage manually," she said.

Quadiri said the case management gives the legal department the ability to review information about each matter, track progress, monitor attorneys, identify critical events, dates of court sittings and also take actions when needed in order to improve productivity and efficiency.

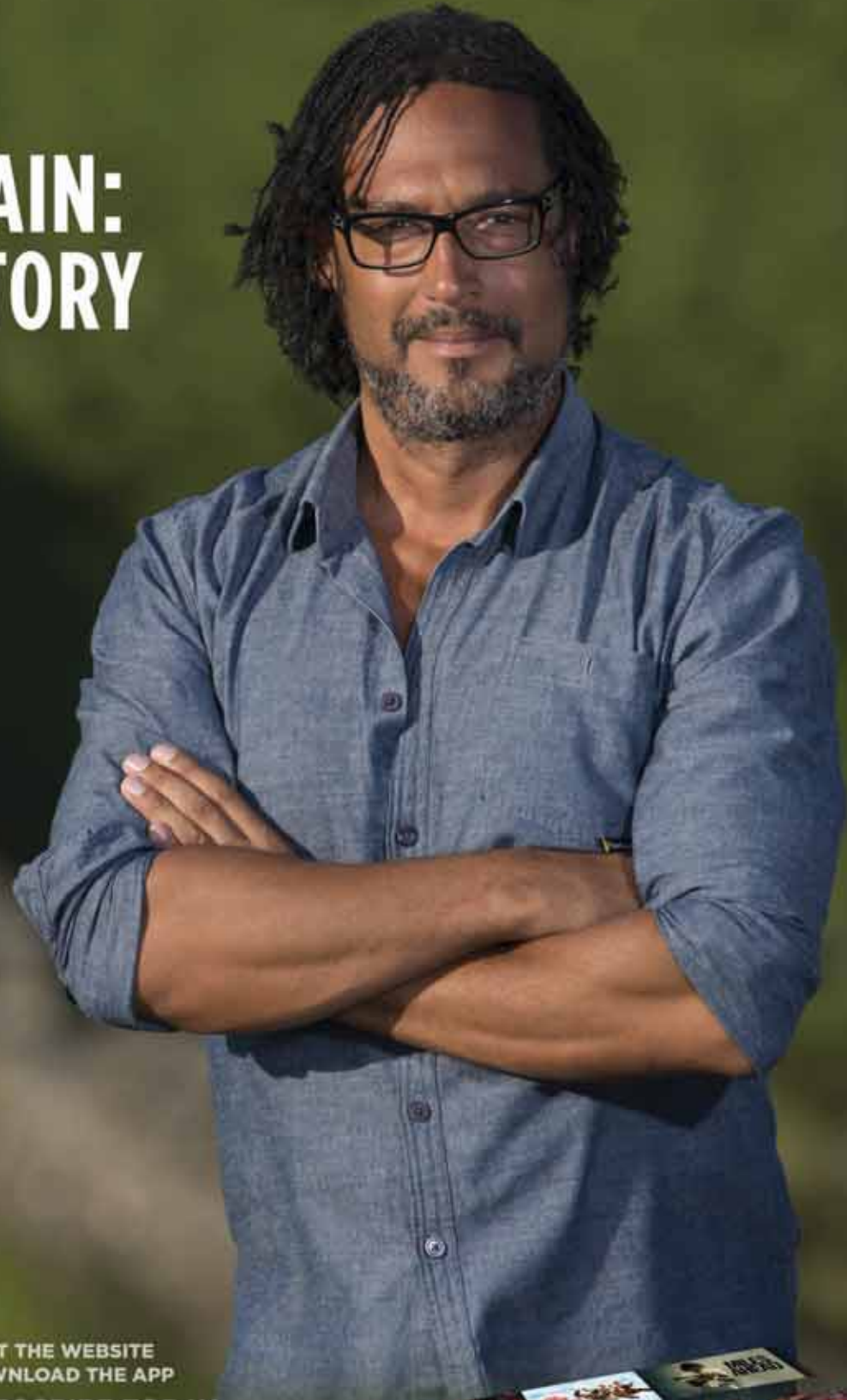
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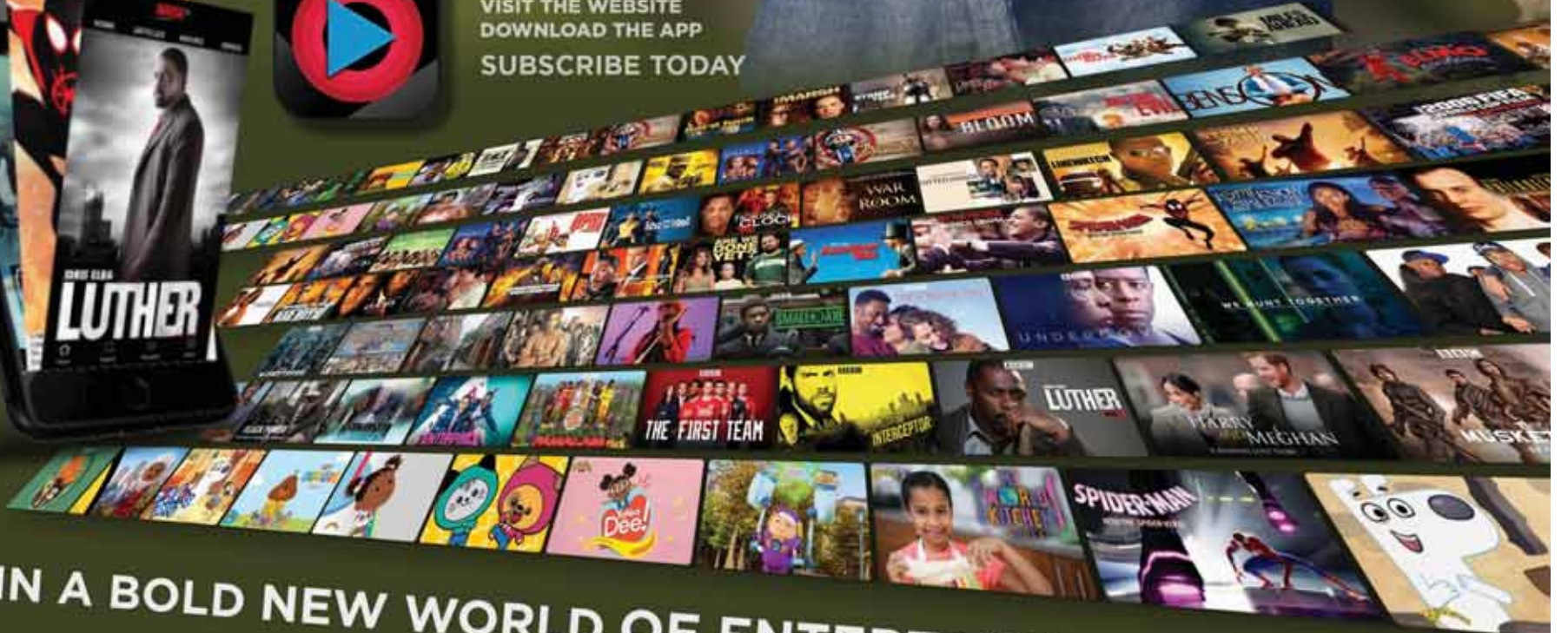
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## NEWS

## RESULTS OF PRIMARIES... RESULTS OF PRIMARIES... RESULTS OF PRIMARIES...

## Gbajabiamila Wins APC Ticket as House Spokesman Emerges Candidate for Bende

**Udora Orizu** in Abuja

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila has won unopposed for the All Progressives Congress (APC) ticket for Surulere 1 Federal Constituency.

The primary election took place at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, yesterday. Gbajabiamila is the candidate of the APC, who has been the member representing the federal

constituency since 2003, seeking to return to the House for a historic sixth term.

According to one of the delegates, Mrs. Bamidele Hussein, the Speaker deserves the peoples backing because of all he has done for the constituency.

"This is in appreciation of what he has done for us in Surulere. He brought a lot of empowerment, free medical services, reconstruction of many roads with solar lights, building

and renovation of schools, supply of educational materials, both electronic and others, to students and teachers, and he equipped existing hospitals and built new ones. Look, he has done a lot and has positively touched the lives of all in Surulere beyond our expectations. Surulere loves him," she said.

In a related development, the House Spokesman Hon. Benjamin Kalu emerged APC candidate to represent Bende Federal Constitu-

ency at the Green Chambers of the National Assembly.

The election which was conducted under the supervision of the Independent National Electoral (INEC), and monitored by the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), the Department of Security Service (DSS), and Nigerian Civil Defence Corps began at about 11a.m. with accreditation of delegates commencing at 11:58a.m., voting began at 12:29p.m. and was concluded by 1:43p.m.



### TAKING STOCK...

L-R: Chairperson, Corporate Communications Committee, Mrs. Nsima Ogedi-Alakwe; President / Chairman of Council, Mr. Idorenyen Enang; Chairperson, Conference & Events Committee, Mrs Adenike Olufade; Registrar, Mr Sidney Ogodo, all members of the National Institute of Marketing Nigeria (NIMN) at a media parley on the forthcoming annual Conference/AGM of the Institute, held at their secretariat in Lagos... recently

## Self-styled Godfather of Anambra Politics, Uba, Oduah Win PDP Senate Tickets

**David-Chyddy Eleke** in Awka

Self-styled godfather of Anambra State politics, Chief Chris Uba, has emerged as the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the Anambra South Senatorial District.

Also, the senator representing Anambra South North zone and former Aviation Minister, Princess Stella Oduah also won the party's ticket to run for Anambra North Senatorial zone election.

Uba and Oduah were declared

winners in a primary election that was held in Awka, the state capital.

While Uba contested alongside four other aspirants, Oduah contested against two aspirants.

Declaring Uba the winner, an official of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) who acted as returning officer of the election said: "The election was conducted under the strict guideline of the Electoral Act.

"At the end of the exercise,

Mrs. Ngozika Nmegbu scored seven votes,

Val Ozigbo scored three votes, Mrs. Queen Peace scored four votes, Chris Uba scored 338, while Dr. Obinna Uzo scored no vote.

"With the powers conferred on me, I hereby declare Chief Chris Uba winner of the election, and the rightful candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP for Anambra South Senatorial election."

Meanwhile, in the Anambra

North Senatorial district primary election of the party, Hon. Tony Nwoye was announced to have scored one vote, Chinedu Emeka scored no vote, while Senator Stella Oduah scored 278 to emerge winner.

There had been turbulence in the Anambra State chapter of the PDP, following accusations of hijacking of processes.

Citing the same reason, Mr. Val Ozigbo and Hon. Tony Nwoye had previously withdrawn from the contest.

## Jigawa Deputy Governor Wins APC Gubernatorial Ticket

**Ibrahim Shuaibu** in Dutse

Jigawa State Deputy Governor, Malam Umar Namadi, has emerged the All Progressives Congress (APC) gubernatorial flag bearer for the 2023 general election.

Namadi won the APC gubernatorial ticket during the party primary election held at Aminu Kano Triangle Dutse and the election was keenly contested by nine aspirants.

Declaring the election results in

the wee hours of yesterday, the chairman electoral committee in the state, Dr. Kabiru Ibrahim, said nine aspirants participated in the race.

According to him, a total of 1,420 votes were cast out of which 1,418 were valid while 2 were invalid.

The aspirants scored the following votes: Senator Sabo Muhammad Nakudu, 106, Architect Aminu Kani, 16, Senator Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia, 58, Malam Umar Namadi, 1220, and Barr. Sani Hussaini Garin Gabas, 5.

## Bago Wins Niger State Deputy Governor, Clinches APC Guber Ticket

**Lalaye Dipo** in Minna

A member of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Umaru Mohammed Bago, has clinched the 2023 governorship ticket of the All Progressives Congress APC defeating the Niger State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Ketso and seven others.

In the results of the primary election announced in Minna, yesterday, Bago pulled 540 votes to beat his closest challenger and Publisher of Blueprint Newspapers

Limited, Alhaji Mohammed Idris Malagi who garnered 386 votes.

The deputy governor, Ketso, polled 17 votes. Others who contested the primary election but lost include a former Secretary to the Niger State Government, Prof. Mohammed Kuta Yahaya zero votes, former Minister of Sports Mohammed Sani Ndanusa 84 votes, Mohammed Rufai 4 votes, Mohammed Nda, Mohammed Idris and Mohammed Kpoutagi one vote each.

## GNI, Osoba's Son, Commissioners Win Ogun APC Reps Ticket

**James Sowole** in Abeokuta

A three term governorship candidate in Ogun State, Gboyega Naairu Isiaka popularly called GNI and Olumide, a son of a former Governor of the state, Chief Okusegun Osoba, were among others that emerged candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to represent their various federal constituencies at the primaries held yesterday.

While Osoba won the ticket of the party for Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency

lost the ticket of the party to

the former Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy, Afolabi Aduwape, in Abeokuta South Constituency.

Edun is the current member representing Abeokuta South Constituency in the Lower Chamber of the National Assembly.

In another constituency, the immediate past Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Okufemi Ogunbanwo, popularly known as Iwa, won Ijebu Central Constituency's ticket.

Similarly, a two term member of the House of Representatives representing Ewekoro/Ifo Federal Constituency, has emerged as the candidate of the APC to continue his third term bid in Ogun State.

## Ihombere, Akpatason, Idahosa Others Emerge Edo House of Reps Candidates

**Adibe Emeyonu** in Benin City

Edo State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) yesterday commenced its primaries to elect candidates for the House of Representatives with Prof. Julius Ihombere, Peter Akpatason and Dennis Idahosa emerging victorious in the exercise.

Also, Crosby Eribo, former member of the state House of Assembly, got the ticket to represent the party for Ego/Ikpoba-Okha Federal Constituency.

However there were parallel primary elections in some parts of Edo North senatorial district.

While Akpatason is to

represent Akoko-Edo federal Constituency, Prof. Ihombere got the nod to represent Owan Federal Constituency.

Similarly, Dennis Idahosa, member representing Ovia Federal Constituency was returned unopposed just as the former council chairman of Oredo Local Government Area, Osaro Obazee emerged as the candidate for Oredo federal constituency.

In Egor/Ikpoba-Okha federal constituency, Crosby Eribo emerged as the candidate scoring 53 votes to defeat his closest rival who scored 21 votes while voting was still going on in Orhionmwon/Uhunmwonde constituency as at the time of this report.

## Protest Trails Election as Akan Udofia Emerges A'Ibom APC Guber Candidate

**Okon Bassey** in Uyo

Businessman and philanthropist, Mr. Akanimo Udofia, has emerged as the governorship flag bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Akwa Ibom for the 2023 general elections.

Udofia secured a total of 1,227 votes out of 1,313 votes from delegates to beat eight other aspirants including Senator Ita Enang who scored 34 votes and a university don, Prof. Chris Ekong with 21 votes.

Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State Governorship Nomination Committee, Mr. Omabatunde Ajibola who announced the results yesterday, said other

aspirants including Mr. Uduak Udo scored 7, Akpan Udoedehe (2), Richard Anana (2), Larry Esin (1) and Austin Utuk (0) with 19 votes declared void.

This is as protest erupted yesterday over the election of Udofia as the governorship candidate of the APC in Akwa Ibom for the 2023 general elections.

The immediate past Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to President Muhammadu Buhari, on Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Ita Enang led other aspirants in the protest rejecting Obong Udofia as the winner of the gubernatorial primary of the party held in Uyo.

## Incumbent APC Reps Member Suffers Defeat In Kwara

**Hammed Shittu** in Ilorin

Member representing Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun constituency of Kwara State in the House of Representatives, Hon. Tijani Ismail, has been defeated in the All Progressives Congress (APC) primary election in

his constituency.

Ismail was defeated by Ambassador Tajudeen Abioye who polled 179 votes to emerge as APC's candidate for the federal constituency.

The incumbent House of Representatives member scored only three votes in the primary.

## Aishatu Binani, Defeats Bindow, Ribadu in APC Governorship Primary

**Bennett Oghifo**

There has been a remarkable upset in Adamawa State's political landscape as Aishatu Binani, the senator representing Adamawa Central, coasts comfortably ahead of some big wigs to win the

governorship primary of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

According to results of the primary released yesterday, Senator Binani, the only female aspirant in the race, easily defeated Nuhu Ribadu, former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission (EFCC), and Jibrilla Bindow, former governor of the state.

Binani had 430 votes to coast far ahead of Bindow who polled 103 votes and Ribadu who got 288 votes, and with this she will now square with other gubernatorial contestants, including the incumbent governor of the state, Ahmadu Fintiri in next year's election.

Gov. Fintiri, who is seeking a second term, on Wednesday, won the gubernatorial primary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).



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## COMMENTARY

# OBI AND PDP'S LOST OPPORTUNITY

Kene Obiezu writes that the resignation of Peter Obi is a dent on the credibility of the party

For Mr. Peter Obi, former Anambra State Governor and for many Nigerians, the man who symbolizes the hope that Nigeria can come back from the land of the dead, May 24, 2022 was the day such an inevitable decision was communicated via a letter he wrote to the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party intimating it of his decision to leave the party. The decision sent shockwaves among many Nigerians but not for those who saw it coming. For keen political observers, in a party notorious as a spendthrift, the famously austere Mr. Obi was always going to struggle.

Just as Nigeria is at a crossroads having been run aground by the All Progressives Congress in the last seven years, the PDP is on a journey of redemption. It has to be redemption because it was the party's political debauchery during 16 bitter-sweet that ultimately tore out the door to enable the APC gain access to the sanctum of Nigerian political power in 2015. If in the eyes of many Nigerians, the PDP failed in power for 16 years, in the eyes of many more, the party has failed to provide virile opposition in the last seven years.

Nigerians are a disillusioned lot. All over the country, there are many who have lost faith in the future of Nigeria. There are many who have grown weary of the concept of Nigeria and are thus wary of those who seek to convince them that Nigeria can work again. To tell many Nigerians to be patriotic these days is to waste otherwise useful breath.

However, as the 2023 general election continues to draw closer by the day, the disillusioned lot who lament that Nigeria is only fit for the political refuse dump have found a lullaby in the voice of Mr. Peter Obi. They have found in his words a man who delivers something remarkably different from the political pitches of many others. They have found a man who has a mountain of work in Anambra State to back up his claims. So, they have warmed up to him confident that he can repeat the miracles he worked in Anambra State in Nigeria.

Yes, for the PDP, it appears that old habits die hard. It is and remains the challenge of transactional politics, the idea that politics involve some degree of buying and selling until everything is bought and sold on some level. With Mr. Peter Obi now gone from the PDP, the party is expected to rally around its other candidates. The Nigerian situation may yet offer some light at the end of the tunnel.

With the political garbage currently greeting Nigerians from the refuse dump of the APC, Nigeria may have again lurched into a season of anything goes as was the case in 2015 when President Muhammadu Buhari was elected.



**AS THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION CONTINUES TO DRAW CLOSER BY THE DAY, THE DISILLUSIONED LOT WHO LAMENT THAT NIGERIA IS ONLY FIT FOR THE POLITICAL REFUSE DUMP HAVE FOUND A LULLABY IN THE VOICE OF MR. PETER OBI. THEY HAVE FOUND IN HIS WORDS A MAN WHO DELIVERS SOMETHING REMARKABLY DIFFERENT FROM THE POLITICAL PITCHES OF MANY OTHERS**

However, in engaging Nigerians politically, in seeking the votes of a people made wary by the wanton lies told them for many years, the least the PDP could do is to keep in mind the baggage it carries in the eyes of many Nigerians.

The staff who stuff the party's top echelons may selectively choose to remember a time when the party gave power to Nigerians, but Nigerians also have in mind the 16-year period during which corruption fastened its fangs into national institutions while violence buried its proboscis into the electoral processes all under the PDP. It is not with a clean slate that the PDP will approach Nigerians. Very little has been done by the party since it lost the general elections in 2015 to show that it has turned a new leaf. Indeed, the epileptic opposition it has provided the ruling APC is a major reason Nigeria is currently embroiled in a crisis of noxious and nonchalant leadership.

For many Nigerians, the question of credibility now blurs party lines. The shocking experience of many Nigerians is of vipers delivered into the corridors of power concealed in the Pandora's box of political parties. It was this shift in mentality that got Nigerians on the side of Mr. Muhammadu Buhari in 2015 when his personal appeal overpowered the smokescreen of the APC.

If many young Nigerians, at least those far removed from the core North where a shocking educational gap has left many in the stranglehold of poverty and mental slavery, are able to connect with Peter Obi on a level far deeper than they can to any other presidential candidate, it is because to hear him speak about his dreams for Nigeria is to be bathed by a breath of fresh air, to be flooded by light even as Nigeria remains submerged in darkness.

But there is more to the enigmatic former Anambra State Governor whose relentless three-year legal battle forced the PDP to give up the mandate it had stolen from him in a first which rewrote the electoral timetable of Anambra State. He does not just speak, his antecedents amplify his voice. His sterling performance while he was governor of Anambra State continues to put many past and present governors in Nigeria to shame.

The hideously greedy delegates of the PDP may yet elect the highest bidder to become its presidential candidate, yet, with the loss of Mr. Obi, a rare opportunity has been lost at a time when everything should be done to put credible people into the halls of power in Nigeria.

*keneobiezu@gmail.com*

## LAGOS TRAFFIC RADIO: 10 YEARS ON

The station's timely information is invaluable, writes **Samuel Omojoye**

Since its establishment in 2012, during the administration of Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN), the Lagos Traffic Radio (LTR) has become a reference point in traffic information dissemination in Africa.

It was established to provide traffic information on all modes of transportation and travel advisory to commuters and motorists, within and beyond Lagos.

In 2015, the Station, which started with a director, Israel Ayodele Ogunlade, had a veteran broadcaster, Olayinka Adagun, as pioneer General Manager. Adagun set the pace for an enduring institutional framework that has made LTR the darling of road users in Lagos and beyond.

The change in leadership of the station in 2018 paved way for the emergence of an experienced and resourceful media professional, Tayo Akanle, as the new helmsman.

Since he assumed office, Akanle has been at the forefront of strategically positioning the station for greater impact through creative concepts.

Unsurprisingly, residents readily testify to the indispensability of the Station's timely information in planning their daily activities.

In a viral video, one of the popular listeners of Lagos Traffic Radio and Managing Director, Conrad Clark Plc, Joachim Adenusi, aka Oga Risky, recounted an encounter he had in 2021 during a heavy downpour that made several roads impassable. He said: "It was Traffic Radio that saved the day for us as we were guided to safer routes to take. For me, it was such an amazing experience".

Several other testimonials abound like that of Oga Risky. However, beyond its potency in managing risk, the Station also informs the populace about the government's activities across all sectors.

In order to sustain its leadership status, the Station's leadership lays immense emphasis on staff training and retraining. Hence, staff have been exposed to several capacity building training, both within and outside the country.

The result is the visible improvement in the quality of broadcasters as well as programmes on parade at the Lagos Traffic Radio.

Considering the renewed attention being accorded intermodal transportation by the Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration, the Station has expanded the scope of its operations of its station to include live reports from the Waterways.

This is to buy into the administration's vision of encouraging more Lagos residents to embrace water transportation.

Similarly, the Station also collaborates with the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) to give train schedules in preparation for the commencement of the Blue and Red Lines of the state government.

In addition, the Station now offers information on flight schedules for local travelers as well as shipping position on the number of ships berthing at the Ports. Another major initiative of the Traffic Radio is the inauguration of the Pilot scheme of Live Updates Motorbike in September 2020. The idea behind this is to have the presence of Lagos Traffic Radio at incident scenes to provide on-the-spot-live updates.

At the inauguration, Lagos Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso, described the initiative as symbolic and a manifestation of the creative thinking capacity of the management.

The Lagos Traffic Radio has also moved from the initial provision of 15 minutes intervals for traffic updates to 10 minutes. This is based on the conviction that 15 minutes can no longer be.

The Station is also leveraging technology to increase its listenership base. Its online platforms have been deliberately reinvigorated and re-engineered, making them more active by introducing tried and tested social media strategies coupled with homegrown initiatives.

The resultant effect was a phenomenon increase in online audience, shooting it up from about 4,000 Likes on Facebook in 2019 to about 70,000 in 2022 while in 2022 on Twitter about 50,000

Followers were recorded against 15,000 in 2019.

Naturally, these platforms have enhanced the level of interaction and engagement with its audience.

To sustain its social media momentum, Mobile Apps have been deployed, while an official website has also been created for the station to ensure regular interactions with the public.

Additionally, the technology of live streaming has also been embraced in all the Station's programmes, thus giving its online audience a new experience as they can now view their favourites programmes and presenters through live video from the studio.

All these translate to multiple channels to access traffic information and travel advisory.

Lagos Traffic Radio has consciously and consistently reflected its mandate of providing traffic information on all modes of transportation, while echoing the developmental strides and achievements of the state government as most MDAs now leverage on its popularity.

In order to further contribute to the attainment of the developmental agenda of Mr. Governor, the Station introduced a weekly special report on the Sanwo-Olu's administration's its T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda.

The programme has been highlighting what has been done, what is yet to be done as well as the perception of Lagosians as it relates to the development agenda. These and other quality contents, being aired on the station, has led to an increase from about 800,000 daily listeners to about two million in 2022.

Indeed, the transformation of Lagos Traffic Radio is a holistic one that cuts across its on-air content, capacity enhancement of its on-air and off-air personalities, acquisition of modern broadcasting equipment and enhancement of the Station's complex, which now constitutes the new face of Lagos Traffic Radio.

No doubt, LTR has come of age, not only in the number of years, but also in terms of innovations and accomplishments. The road can

only get smoother, and the stories better told in future as the radio station remains committed to its core values of timeliness, reliability, accuracy, dynamism, innovativeness and objectivity.

In chronicling the Station's success story, thus far, it is, however, vital to stress the impact of its robust partnership with Agencies such as the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), TRACE as well as several volunteers who provides regular traffic updates for the Station.

Indeed, the partnership with these organisations and individuals is partly responsible for the Station's success story.

Has Lagos State attained where it envisioned? No! Has the radio station made some remarkable progress? Yes! Are there more miles to cover? Yes!

No doubt, with the good and humble beginning of the Station, coupled with the unrelenting support of the Sanwo-Olu administration, the Lagos Traffic Radio will continue to break new grounds in traffic information management in the State. I will end this piece by sharing a personal experience of how the Radio Station had helped me plan my journey. Being a resident of one of the very busy routes in Lagos State- the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, exactly the day following the inauguration of the Live-updates Motorcycles.

I tuned in to the Station to enable me plan my journey, only to be duly informed about the huge traffic along that corridor. That morning, I decided to continue with my work at home pending when the road would be freer.

But then, I kept my ears glued to news from the Station to be abreast of development on the road. Characteristically, Traffic Radio did not disappoint. Within a few minutes came information from the Station that the coast was now clear. I know that it is a similar story for most road users across the State.

For me, Traffic Radio has become an integral part of my daily living. My car's radio is permanently tuned to the Station.

**Omojoye writes from Palmgroove, Lagos**

## INSIGHT



The race to 2023 ...

## TO OUR READERS

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

## Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Child abuse has been an age-long topic which has drawn attention and interventions from different stakeholders, locally and globally. The issue of child abuse has been encapsulated within physical, psychological and sexual domains of child relationships including the neglect of children. All forms of child abuse have been ascribed as crimes against children and ultimately, humanity. However, as clear-cut as child abuse descriptions may be, its intricacies sometimes require inferences to establish occurrences of the crime. A case in point is domestic violence.

Domestic violence refers to violent incidents that often happen within the confines of a home or domestic arrangements and it is often accounted to occur between intimate people. It has been reported to be perpetrated more by men against women. The World Health Organisation estimates that at least a third of women aged 15 – 49 years have experienced domestic violence, globally. This has made the classification of domestic violence to sometimes fit into the description of gender-based violence, especially when women are predominantly victims albeit; male victims of domestic violence have now been on the rise.

Domestic violence is the underlying cause of spousal abuse and is usually physical, psychological or sexual in nature. Other forms of this violence identified are financial, religious or cultural in nature. Typical behaviours that portray domestic violence include threats and aggression with the objective of inflicting pain, suffering and economic losses. These behaviours are characterized by shoving, slapping, punching, kicking, strangling, intimidating, humiliating, cursing, exempting, defaming, raping, stalking, destroying properties, monitoring of movements, isolating from friends and family members and restricting of access to needed things such as freedom, information or money, among others.

Domestic violence can be recognized by its pattern of repetitive violent behaviour(s), targeted at a spouse or intimate partner within a relationship. Its aftermath can lead to series of reactions and decisions which victimizes third parties especially, the children involved. This can become quite worrisome if it exacerbates their existing vulnerabilities. According to a 2019 research titled "Child-to-Parent Violence and Parent-to-Child Violence", victimization of children in domestic violent situations may be vicarious or direct. Vicarious victimization is the indirect victimization of children, as the children are not intentionally

targeted. It usually occurs when children get to witness or hear domestic violent acts. Direct victimization on its part, involves intentionally targeting and maltreating the children of the abused spouse.

Many victims of domestic violence have often watched in horror as the consequences of their toxic relationships spill on their children. According to UNICEF, over 275 million children witness domestic violence, globally. The impact of witnessing domestic violence on children is many times downplayed or misunderstood. Research reveals hurting a child's parent, who is an active care-giver, with whom the child lives and has an emotional connection with; in the presence of or to the hearing of the child, will more than always lead to the psychological abuse of the child. In other situations, abusive partners go further to threaten the wellbeing of children of their partners, to the hearing of the children in question. This can worsen these children's psychological abuse. It is truly unfortunate that children have to hear that their welfare and safety are in jeopardy as a result of one of their parents, who they have come to know or accept as a care-giver.

**Bidemi Nelson, Shield of Innocence Initiative, Ibadan, Oyo State**

## The Media Must Stabilise Society

The media is a connection platform in every society. It connects the habits, behaviors, antecedent, societal evolution and every strata of societal fabric. Every expressive form is media. The biggest media platform is the family. The parents are the great television sets in the eye of the children before they come in contact with the wider world. The prospect of a society is the sum total of its media interactions and anything that a society becomes is a reflective in its media.

The media has a powerful appeal to every generation, technology is just cascading its impact. The discovery and the evolution of the printing press by Johanne Gutenberg is an indication of the rapid movement and developmental impact media has on societal. Every media will bring about a shift, a shift will bring about oscillations, oscillations will make a revolution. It is sad that the media has not been a tool in destroying the society and this is not just the social media but the traditional media is also suspect in this moral decadence.

The Radio and television platforms that are supposed to help in shaping society are now tools for hate speech and nefarious vices. We have to say, the society is always on the journey of fine tuning and balancing out but with the journey of balancing comes many twists and turns albeit a ferocious gyration in some cases but caution is of great importance in a bid not to lose equilibrium.

In finding solutions, I must repeat that society and stakeholders in the media space must be introspective and intentional. In being introspective, we must ask what society we intend to leave behind and how we can use the media as a tool to foster societal balance. And the deployment of various platforms must be intentional in addressing various retrogressive ills in society. Hitherto emboldened by various unsavory agenda. It has to be said our society is going through a moral embolism and we must save the societal arteries to avoid a shutdown.

**Rufai Oseni, [rufaioseni@gmail.com](mailto:rufaioseni@gmail.com)**

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# CELEBRATING AN ICON OF GRACE @ 50

We celebrate grace,  
we celebrate goodness,  
we celebrate God in our  
friend, Joyce, as  
she turns 50.

May you enjoy many more  
years of God's boundless  
grace!

Happy birthday, Joyce!

## Mrs Joyce Ojemudia

MD/CEO, African Alliance Insurance PLC  
President, Professional Insurance Ladies  
Association (PILA)



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- BARR. ROTIMI EDU
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NEWS

**RESULTS OF PRIMARIES... RESULTS OF PRIMARIES... RESULTS OF PRIMARIES...**

**Emenike: I'm a Bonafide APC Member, Court Affirmed My Membership**

**Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo**  
in Umuahia

The 2023 governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Abia State, Chief Ikechi Emenike, has described his

purported suspension from the party as the worst form of judicial rascality, insisting that the High Court of Abia under Honourable Justice Benson Anya on the 4th of November 2021 in a considered and full judgement of the court

nullified his purported suspension from the party.

Emenike, who defeated five other aspirants to clinch the governorship ticket of the APC in Abia State insisted that his membership and loyalty to the

party has never been in doubt, saying the only option open to anybody aggrieved by the said judgement is to appeal against it.

"It is the worst form of judicial rascality for another High Court of Abia State to purport to sit on appeal over the judgement of the High Court of Abia State as done by the said other judgement delivered today (Thursday) in clear disregard of the earlier judgement of a competent court of coordinate jurisdiction," Emenike said.

Emenike's membership of the APC was affirmed by an Abia State High Court sitting at Umunneochi which ruled in his favour in a suit he and two other claimants filed challenging a purported suspension by desperate party members during the leadership crisis said to have been instigated by former state chairman of the party, Donatus Nwankpa.

Following what was regarded as a mischievous suspension announced at "a kangaroo

meeting of the aggrieved" held at Ikwuano in August last year, the trio of Chief Emenike, Mr. Ejike Olekanma and Ikenna Emmanuel Anyalewechi had gone to court asking for the nullification of the said "suspension".

Joined as defendants in the suit were APC, then Caretaker Chairman, Mai Mala Buni (for himself and member of the Caretaker Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee), and Wilson Chimelulum Utaegbulam.



**ON A CULTURAL NOTE...**

L-R: Director General, Nation Council for Arts and Culture, Otunba Segun Runsewe and the Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, during a culture sensitisation programme for youths in Abuja...recently

**APC Primary: My Life in Danger, Senator Adeyemi Cries Out**

**Sunday Aborisade** in Abuja

The Senator representing Kogi West Senatorial District, Smart Adeyemi, yesterday, raised the alarm that powerful politicians who wanted to stop his reelection, were after his life.

The Senator, however, said details of those threatening his life had been properly documented with the appropriate security agencies.

Adeyemi made the disclosure in a statement he personally signed and made available to

THISDAY in Abuja.

He noted that his perceived enemies actually wanted him to drop his reelection bid to allow someone else to contest the poll, to satisfy a rotation arrangement.

He, nevertheless, said the leaders in the senatorial district had asked him to ignore the threats and forge ahead with his ambition.

Adeyemi said he had no problem with anyone being anointed as the All Progressives Congress candidate but maintained that

such arrangement should not be at the detriment of other aspirants.

The Senator assured his supporters that nothing would stop him from contesting and that the will of the people would definitely prevail.

Part of the statement read, "After due deliberate consultations with very senior citizens and my constituents who believe in me, I have been urged and geared to go ahead and contest this election in continued service to my people.

**Tension As PDP Convenes to Pick Presidential Candidate *Cont'd from Pg. 5***

Saraki is also a force to reckon with in today's contest for PDP's Presidential ticket. He was former President of the Senate between 2015 and 2019, a platform which availed him an opportunity to sell himself. Unlike many before him, Saraki made the office of the senate president very attractive and also drew attention to the fact that there was so much power and influence in being the nation's number three citizen.

His days as senate president also showed him off as a dogged fighter, who despite the various traps set in his way, triumphed, defeating the corruption label that his opponents had tried to hang on his neck.

Saraki has shown capacity, competence and has experience also going for him. He clearly understands the issues and at every turn, has always intervened in the Nigerian project, proffering solutions to those knotty national concerns, even as a floor senate member.

Saraki connects more with the youth and is very much in tune with global trends. His zone, the North-central, has been in the trenches for recognition, having been marginalised for many years. They consider now as their time.

Saraki's major weakness is his state of origin, which is the first factor to count against him. Small Kwara in North-central has always been hard to place, either as a Northern or Southern state, realistically.

Wike is the third leg of today's four-horse race. He is believed to have also made in-roads into some places in the North. He also understands politics very well, even though his style is crude.

Being governor of an oil rich Rivers State is in itself a lot of advantage.

Wike has a lot of cash to throw around and with money, he has been able to buy loyalties and friends. This also accounts for why his reach transcends Rivers

State.

Wike, without a doubt, lacks the character befitting of the office of the president. This is his major weakness: In virtually all his engagements, he throws decorum to the wind and treats his colleagues as if they are subservient. Unmindful of his integrity (if any), Wike is too reckless about his carriage. While he could actually undo many things, because of his money, he hardly can find the requisite support for his aspiration amongst his peers.

**Mark: PDP Ready for National Convention**

The Chairman of PDP's National Convention Organising Committee (NCO), Senator David Mark has assured that arrangements had been made for a hitch-free exercise today.

Addressing members of the committee of the Convention in Abuja ahead of the programme, Mark assured that the exercise would be smooth and transparent.

He told members of the committee to brace up to the challenges to ensure a credible exercise, saying "you must be absolutely transparent.

"If you have any interest or bias for any of the aspirants, you can excuse yourself from this assignment," he said.

Mark maintained that the stage was set for a hitch-free programme as all logistics, materials and security have been sorted out.

He added: "We are prepared for the exercise, virtually all our delegates have arrived Abuja."

He said the PDP had a track record of conducting peaceful congresses and conventions over the years, assuring that the outcome of this convention would make the party stronger.

According to Mark, "The PDP has an array of eminently qualified persons to rule Nigeria. We carried out due diligence during our screening. I am confident

that whoever emerges from the Convention will reflect the wishes of our party."

Senator Mark and his committee members also inspected the facilities at the Velodrome, Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja, venue of the Convention.

The Party is expected to elect its presidential flag bearer for the 2023 presidential election on Saturday.

**Tight Security in Abuja**

Ahead of the PDP primary scheduled for May 28 and 29 at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, the Federal Capital Territory Police Command has announced a robust security arrangement to ensure a hitch-free exercise.

The event is projected to be characterised by a high influx of people into the nation's capital.

"Consequent upon the above and in a bid to ensure a hitch-free event, the FCT Police Command has designed a robust security arrangement defined by a generous deployment within and without the election ground and to every nook and cranny of the Territory.

"The deployment prioritises the protection of lives and properties of all and sundry by emplacing counter-insurgency measures, maintenance of clear road access, robust stop and search at strategic points around the suburbs and city center, effective crowd control, and intelligence gathering," it said in a statement.

It said the Commissioner of Police FCT Police Command, CP Babaji Sunday, while briefing the divisional police officers, heads of the various tactical and intelligence units of the command scheduled for the operation, charged them to be effective in discharging their duties with the utmost respect for fundamental human rights.

He, therefore, charged the good people of the FCT to go about the discharge of their

lawful duties without the fear of harassment or molestation of any kind from any quarters.

He urged FCT residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or abnormal occurrence to the police.

**INEC Extends Deadline for Primaries to June 10**

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has extended the deadline for the conduct of party primaries to June 10 from the initial June 3.

The commission disclosed this in a statement yesterday, signed by the INEC National Commissioner in Charge of Information and Voter Education, Festus Okoye.

The Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) had requested an extension of the deadline for primaries to June 10.

In a statement after a meeting between IPAC and INEC yesterday, the commission said it had granted the request of political parties to extend the deadline.

Okoye said: "Based on the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election, the parties have now pleaded with the Commission to use the six-day period between 4th and 9th June 2022 to conclude outstanding primaries and prepare to upload the list of candidates and their affidavits on the INEC Candidates Nomination Portal.

"The Commission did not schedule any specific activity during this period. The idea is to simply give parties time to compile the list and personal particulars of their nominated candidates before uploading the same to the INEC Candidates Nomination Portal from 10th - 17th June 2022.

"The Commission has decided to allow the request of the political parties, since the six-day period does not conflict with the next scheduled activity which is the submission of the list of nominated candidates or any of

the subsequent timelines which remain sacrosanct."

Okoye said the request was granted in respect of outstanding primaries only without prejudice to those already concluded by political parties, adding that the Commission would not monitor already concluded primaries.

He added: "After the conduct of primaries, the next critical activity for political parties is the online submission of the list of the candidates the party proposes to sponsor which shall be accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the candidates indicating that they fulfilled all the constitutional requirements for election into the various offices via the INEC Candidates Nomination Portal.

"Political parties are, therefore, advised to ensure that their primaries are free of rancour in order to meet the timelines for the remaining activities embodied in the Timetable and Schedule of Activities for the 2023 General Election."

**PDP: INEC's Decision Unfair**

The PDP yesterday said that the decision of INEC to change the timetable and schedule of primary elections was an unfair move, describing it as shifting the goal post in the middle of the game.

The position of PDP was made by the National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba, who said that bowing to pressure was akin to shifting the goalpost in the middle of the game.

It was gathered that the PDP National Working Committee may meet early today to take a holistic position on the shifting of the timetable by INEC.

**APC May Postpone Presidential Primary**

Following the decision of INEC to give political parties a week's grace to conduct their primaries, the ruling APC may have decided to postpone its presidential primary initially

scheduled to commence on May 29.

According to the timetable and the schedule of activities issued by the ruling party, its presidential primary was scheduled to be held between Sunday May 29 and Monday May 30.

But as at the close of work yesterday, there was no activity to indicate that the ruling party was ready to hold any convention.

A party source told THISDAY yesterday that even without issuing an official statement, the party was going to postpone its special convention as there was no activity to show initially that it would hold.

The source added, "But that is a right guess. The party will surely postpone the convention since INEC has given a week extension. You and I know there was no preparation on the ground initially."

Though, there was no official statement from the party as at the time of filing this report, it is expected that the ruling party would announce a new date today.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS CHIGBOGWU NNEKA CATHERINE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NWABUEZE CATHERINE NNEKA. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as TOLUWANI FAITH EZU, now wish to be known and addressed as TOLUWANI FAITH EZU COKER. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS CHIOMA CYNTHIA MACHIE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS CHIOMA CYNTHIA NWAUDOH. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as OMOLODUN OGHENE-ADJEKE EDITH, now wish to be known and addressed as OGHUWU OGHENE-ADJEKE EDITH. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.



*Anyim Pius Anyim* LLB, LLM

27th May, 2022

Prof. Iyorchia Ayu  
National Chairman  
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)  
Wadata Plaza  
Abuja.

Sen. David Mark, GCON  
Chairman 2022 PDP Special Convention  
Legacy House Abuja.


**RE: OPEN LETTER ON THE ABSENCE OF EBONYI  
STATE DELEGATES LIST**

The chairman may refer to my earlier letter of today the 27th day of May 2022 and captioned as above.

I am to observe that shortly after my letter, I noticed in an official publication by the party, list of Ebonyi State Delegates alongside other states. It is disheartening that by 6pm today, the Ebonyi State Delegates List has changed from what was officially published. There is no doubt that the aim of this gamble with Ebonyi State Delegates List is to disenfranchise duly elected delegates from Ebonyi State from participating in the presidential primary election.

Let it be on record that anybody not on the list originally published by the party, is certainly not a delegate from Ebonyi State.

Yours Sincerely,

  
**Anyim Pius Anyim, GCON**



10 JUSTICE FATAI WILLIAMS STEET, ASOKORO, ABUJA

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**SHOWBIZFLAIR**

## Stan Nze

# I Want the Films I Do to Change Lives

Stanley Ebuka Nzediegwu known professionally as Stan Nze has evolved much that has seen him assume different characters over the years in his career prior to winning the Best Actor in a Drama at the last AMVCA. Starting by just wanting to be on TV, Stan progressed by playing lead in his own movies which eventually paved the way for further roles. In this riveting conversation, he tells **Ferdinand Ekechukwu** that the whole lot culminated to make the brand everyone knows as Stan Nze, and more ...

**How do you feel winning Best Actor (Drama) at the 8th AMVCA?**  
It's like the best thing to me in the world. I mean for every actor that's what they work towards. Besides from the fact that people recognise your work, like individuals that say 'oh you did such a great job in this film and that film, an award as prestigious as the AMVCA is also a way of knowing that 'oh you have not been wasting your time! It's a great pat on the back. For me I'm really honoured and I feel really elated. More so because, I sort of just so expected it every year since the inception of the AMVCA. You will see the list you are not on it. I mean this is the eighth edition. So for seven years, I have looked forward to it, it never happened. It's a great feeling I must say.

### Looking at your career how much have you evolved as an actor?

I've evolved so much. Anybody that knows me knows that I've grown over the years. I mean I started off my career with just wanting to be on TV; anything just put me on TV you know... Yes, and I started doing my one scene, two scenes, then three scenes to one episode there about. It got to a point that I felt there's more. One episode was not costing it anymore. I didn't want to be just that random guy on TV. I wanted to be that person making a mark. So, I started auditioning for bigger stuff. I auditioned for Tinsel a couple of years. I got in in the fourth season that was in 2011. Even the role was not so big. But at the time, it was good for visibility. In 2013 I got my first lead in a series, 'The Benjamin'. Afterwards, I wanted more; I wanted it on TV now and nobody was giving me so I gave myself. I made my first film in 2015, 'Bad Drop', that was my first lead in a film. That gave me some form of revelation. That same year I got on something really profound for Trino Studios, called 'The Encounter' it's on YouTube. Prior to then all I was doing was comedy. You know like sitcoms on TV. Nobody was taking me seriously. So I was looking for characters that could showcase my strength as an actor. Comedy is great. I think it's one of the hardest to do, but it's not my strength. I had to be doing it because that's what was available at the time. I had to make the best of that opportunity until I made my first film and then I got on that Trino Studios. The character was a mean soldier. I played the villain. It was just about two scenes but very powerful scenes. I was shown in a different light. I went on to produce my second film the year after, titled 'Colourless'. So instead of always waiting for producers to give me role or give me the opportunity you know, God just has a way of bringing the opportunity. Because that same year 2015, I got a call from a friend of mine she said she was making a film, 'Just Not Married' and wanted me to play the lead. So you see after I have given myself lead people started believing in me. I got on 'Just Not Married'. It premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. It became one of the biggest films I have done at the time. It gave me so much exposure. It went on and on like that until I got on 'Rattlesnake-The Ahanna Story'. That's what I won the award for the Best Actor in a Drama for at the AMVCA. I did a couple of projects before that. But you know how sometimes, like for my career, I like to think that everything culminated to make the brand that everybody knows as Stan Nze today. So that's how I have evolved over the years.

### What would you attribute to as the reason for the increase in your appearance in movies, the roles in recent times?

Well it has always been. The only thing is I'm more in your face now. So you are more interested in things I do. From 2015 or 2016, I have been working back to back. The only difference is that most of the films now I have had have had more exposure, are more in the cinemas, are more in the blockbusters, which is what gets promotion. So you feel like I'm working more now, but I have always been working. It's just that maybe I was doing smaller films you know. Films with lower budget they didn't have budget for marketing



Stan Nze

as such. So you didn't get to see. But right now I'm doing more of films that have more exposure. I have always just been working just in a different space. I'm working now in a bigger space.

### In the course of your acting is there any character trait you have imbibed from assuming different characters and bringing them to life?

I like to separate my real life character from the characters I play. Because I don't want to be Stan Nze all the time you know. So there might be some things I do in real life that might imbibe once in a while; and sometimes that might happen unconsciously. I mean we are still humans. You have things that you have done over the years that still creep into you.

### What are your top memorable career moments so far?

Hmmm! definitely the night I won my award for Best Actor at the AMVCA. That has to be one of the best. The year I got the call that I was 'Ahanna'; that for me was great. There are a lot of them but these ones definitely the peak.

### What excites you most as an actor and what inspires you?

What excites me most are brilliant characters; interesting characters. So when I read a script I'm looking forward to who I'm becoming next you know; who's the new person I'm going to get the privilege of becoming. You know like what will he be doing? Is he an emotional wreck? Is he a woman beater? Is he a spiritual man? Is he going to jump off a skyscraper? Who is he? What is he going to

**I like to separate my real life character from the characters I play. Because I don't want to be Stan Nze all the time you know. So there might be some things I do in real life that might imbibe once in a while; and sometimes that might happen unconsciously**

do? What is his backstory? Does he have children? 'Oh I get to be a father to a five year old'. I don't have children yet. Those are the things that intrigue and excite me to be honest. Then things that inspire me are the lives we transform. That's why I don't tell any sort of stories. I don't tell stories for the fun of it. I want the films I do to affect lives, change lives. So those are the kind of things that inspire me and make me want to do more.

### You did mention not having children yet. You are married to an actress, are we going to see you play couple together in a movie soon?

We have done a lot of movies together. We have films that we are working on. I mean we don't sort of plan it you know. After we have gotten married we have acted together maybe. But before we got married we did a lot of films together. Most of the films coming out now are the films we did before we got married. We don't say 'oh because we are married now we should create husband and wife roles'. We don't plan it we just go with the tide. If there's a script we should play love interest, fine.

### Was it in the course of acting together you guys met and decided to go into partnership for life?

No, no, it wasn't. We became friends even before we even started shooting for people and doing stuff together.

### What set are you on at the moment and which was your last?

My last set I just finished from a set it's a TV film. It's called 'Absent'. Then I'm currently filming something for the big screen with Inkblot Studios. I have one day to go we are almost done. I don't think I'm allowed to say the title. I think that's the much I can say about that.

### Aside acting what else does Stan do? And if you weren't into acting what else would you have been doing?

Okay I run a management for children. I do this project called 'The Kids Can Act' project. We train children. We push them into film and television. Then I already mentioned that I make films and I produce as well. Most of the things I do are just related. Of course I model for people. And if I weren't into acting I would have probably been doing radio. I did radio (radio presenter) back in school. And it's something I really enjoyed. I love to talk and that's one thing I probably would have been doing.

## SHOWBIZFLAIR

## 'Kwaku The Traveller' Now has a Video

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

A fake Instagram story of Black Sheriff warning Davido and his team to stop disturbing him for a remix of his hit song recently appeared online. This has since stirred reactions on social media as the said post went viral. However, Black Sheriff in a tweet via his verified Twitter account confirmed the post as fake, admitting he never denied Davido or his team.

The monster hit song 'Kwaku the Traveller' has been trending on Tiktok and all other social media channels. The song was on the lips of virtually everyone. The famous part "Who never fuck-up hands in the air, no hands?" was all over the place. The song was officially released on April 15, 2022 and has since then been on the apex of major music playlists across various digital streaming platforms in the world.

'Kwaku The Traveller', which became the number one song in Nigeria now has a music video. The video directed by Ghana's David Nicol-Sey

has earned him accolades with music lovers giving high ratings for the video quality.

The music video captures Sheriff's message on the struggle of the youth. The song is themed on a fascinating story of a young man on a lifetime journey searching for greatness with a well-crafted storyline and amazing melodies. The video has the rapper going through different scenarios social media fans have dubbed, his journey.

The 'Kwaku the Traveller' clip begins with Black Sheriff addressing a session and he's then seen kneeling in front of some older women in red who seemingly prayed for him. The rapper later dines with some women in the company of bodyguards and his dog. In other scenes, Black Sheriff and his friends are chased by the Police and were later arrested.

Some on Twitter have been debating the concept portrayed in the video since the release on May 19. Others are arguing whether or not the video's concept relates to the message in the song. Soon after the impressive music video for Kwaku The

Traveller dropped, American rapper Timbaland described the song as a "vibe."

Timbaland shared a snippet of the video on Twitter, writing "this that vibe @blacksherif\_ @beatclub". The single has garnered over one million views on Youtube since its release. Black Sheriff's fast rise to success comes as no surprise to music lovers across the world. His unique sound is geared towards creating a mass cult following, with the end goal of creating a global icon.

With the manner in which he blends Ghanaian Highlife with Afro Beats, Drill, Trap and other sounds, it widens his reach and potential. Recall how Black Sheriff made name for himself through his previous hit track, 'Second Sermon' including the vocals of Burna Boy on the remixed version.

Speaking in an interview on how he linked up with Burna Boy, Black Sheriff said Poco Lee, the Nigerian dancer and influencer introduced him to the 'African Giant' crooner by playing 'Second Sermon' to him. He said a member of Burna Boy's team later reached out to him after which he connected with the 'Ye' singer himself through a video call.

The rapper, who has not met Burna physically, said it was after numerous calls that they eventually agreed to work on a remix for 'Second Sermon'. "I think it was Poco Lee who played the song for Burna Boy. Poco is a fan but he's a friend now," he said.

Black Sheriff, whose real name is Mohammed Frimpong, started out as a dancer at Kumasi Academy where he had his secondary education. Previously known as Blacko, the rapper later switched from dancing to music. At 17, he started looking for ways to break into the limelight in the Ghanaian music industry. This also prompted him to audition for talent shows such as Mentor X and MTN Hitmaker.

Although he never made it past the audition stages at every attempt, he did not give up. Amid his struggles, Sheriff came through with 'Cry For Me', his first-ever single. In 2020, he released 'Money', the hit single that catapulted him to stardom. With the track, he started to gain attention in Ghana while his style of music also garnered positive reviews. By 2021, Sheriff became very popular in his home country with 'First Sermon' and 'Second Sermon' respectively.



Black Sheriff



Johnel NG

## The World of Johnel NG

**N**amani Chimaobi John (born 11 April, 2006), better known as Johnel NG is a Nigerian Hip-hop, Afro-pop, rapper, songwriter and entrepreneur. He is from Enugu State and was born and raised in Lagos.

Johnel used to freestyle in the street at a very early age and was admired by different people. He was offered an opportunity at age 11 but due to fear he ignored it and kept his pace.

As time goes on, Johnel was known in his school as a rapper and was called anytime entertainment was needed even till date. Johnel didn't take music for fun but rather a cash flowing strategy as he makes a better definition of an entrepreneur Artiste. In 2022, Johnel teams up with his closest friend who is also a rapper Gusty Guy in on Luminous Sounds.

He started rapping and singing at age 13 while he went after the stage name 'Johnel'. Because of his passion for music, he formed a crew named 'Triggerz' consisting of three rappers including him, but due to some issues the crew separated in less than a year of their collaboration. He is known for his singles "Dance" and "Champagne" released 2022.

Later on, he started making his own sound, mix, artworks, distribution and fan base all by himself at age 15. He used different strategy to attract attention and on Instagram, some celebrities like Dax, Lil frosh, Dandizzy and others have reacted on his comments. He has been through different experience on his journey to the industry which is a great start for a teenage boy.

According to the budding starlet, he is not really dependent on record labels but still looks forward to getting a deal, which means there is a Plan B of him building his own label. As time passed, John started studying financial intelligence from his billionaire mentor Robert Kiyosaki, and started making petty cash from his music. He keeps gathering numbers of followers and fans to teach and entertain.

## Obi Emelonye's IBB's Biopic Launched on Amazon Prime

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

**H**ighly anticipated biopic of former Nigerian Head of State, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida has been launched on Amazon Prime. Titled, "Badamasi: Portrait of a General", the Obi Emelonye directorial appeared on the streamer on May 18, months after an historic world premiere at the Cineworld Cinema O2 Arena, London. And almost three years after its anticipated theatrical release.

The film witnessed multiple delays influenced by the Nigerian National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB) which also led to a forced postponement of its cinema release originally slated for November 29, 2019. The delayed release of 'Badamasi' in cinemas was attributed to some powerful figures that would prefer it covered.

In 2020, Emelonye in an exclusive interview revealed that the ex-head of state granted him the rights to make the film after a four-year wait. Shot in 2018, in Lagos, Minna, Abuja and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka campus, where the UK-based filmmaker graduated some 30 years ago, the IBB biopic takes a look at the life of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida.

It stars Enyinna Nwigwe in the lead role, alongside a stellar cast such as Charles Inojie, Sani Danja, Yakubu Mohammed, Okey Bakassi, Kalu Ikeagwu, Julius Agwu and Erick Didie. The IBB biopic follows the life of the former military Head of State and portrayed him as a man with a deep sense of patriotism amid his human flaws.

In a remark following his earlier posts, the multiple-award-winning filmmaker said:



Emelonye

"Watch General Ibrahim Babangida's journey up the ladder of life from an orphan to President (plus everything in between) and back down by 'stepping aside'."

Confirming the launch of the biopic on the Amazon Prime streaming platform, Emelonye wrote on his Instagram page: "Yesss! It's out! I am grateful to all who made this possible."

"Almighty God for making a way through the barricade. Gen. Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (rtd.) for letting me touch the hem of his agbada. My executive producers for believing and being patient. My family for supporting. My cast and crew for giving blood, tears and sweat. My distributors - FilmOne and Evrit for staying the course. You... yes you out there for the time to watch. God bless you all."

## SHOWBIZFLAIR

# Kizz Daniel's #Buga Challenge Gets Winner

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

**W**ith the world still giddy with captivating performances from Afrobeats, Pop, R&B singer and songwriter, Kizz Daniel as he took over musically on his Afroclassic tour 2022, after widely-acclaimed and sold-out shows in Africa and the United Kingdom, the party, energy and gallantry continues with other countries waiting impatiently to escape into the newly discovered world of Kizz Daniel and his inimitable music.

His recently released monster hit song 'Buga', featuring Tekno Miles, which peaked at #1 in twenty countries, used by over two million people in creating social media content and has now become the most Shazamed song in the world with over 1m Shazams, leading to the #Bugachallenge — an instant rave on all social media platforms — with over 165m views on TikTok and over 15,000 posts on Instagram.

Sifting through a daunting number of entries to pick from with social media audiences as judges, two years old Ozim Chionye Elvira emerged the winner of N1 million in the #Bugachallenge prize money on Instagram at the inaugural competition. Inspired and humbled by his fans' enthusiasm and engagement, the 'Laye' crooner is raising the prize money to N5million for the next winner.

Touring four cities in the UK during his successful of ClassicWorldTour selling out in London, Manchester, Glasgow and

Birmingham, from May 13, 2022 to May 21, 2022, Kizz Daniel is a star performer who puts on a great show and is a transformation to behold. Sounding great in all his performances, Kizz has the undeniable X-factor in an enigmatic presence that gets the crowd going especially when he moves to the crowd, almost as naturally as ever.

Delivering an overall incredible performance with stuff which has been likened to magic, Kizz is known for two things as a performer: incredible energy and incredible music. For one who has been doing back-to-back shows on this Afroclassic tour, it's amazing and heartwarming to see that this talented performer still gives his 100% at every venue.

The entertainment industry's golden goose begins his Afroclassic US tour of 10 major cities, on July 1, 2022 through to July 30, 2022. Kizz Daniel teamed up with Tekno to drop the single "Buga".

The new song was produced by Reward Beatz and co-produced by Blaise Beatz, Young Willis and Micky Geetarist.

The Afropop song has Tekno giving off amazing lyrics and vocals adding to the charm of "Buga." "Buga" talks about money, motivation, and jamboree.

The singer has also explained that 'Buga' is a Nigerian saying, which means "Show off", and "stunt on them". "So in this context, it means after

you've put in the work, let your results speak loudly. Enjoy your success. "Whatever you're seeing out there, whatever results in the song is generating, that's the result of hard work. And I've consistently put in my best in all my songs. Nothing good comes easy," he said.



Kizz Daniel



Winner, Ozim Elvira

## PERSPECTIVE

## Obi, Ekweremadu, Abaribe, et al: How PDP Composed its Obituary in South-East

Law Mefor

**T**he crisis and haemorrhage rocking the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the South East in particular and across the nation, did not come to many as a surprise. There is nothing happening to the party in that region that I did not predict in my tribute to former Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, on his 60th birthday earlier this month of May. It wasn't even difficult to predict either. The PDP lost its soul long ago and behaves like a man destined for doom, who arrogantly takes the wrong step at every corner and arrogates to himself the power of invincibility while walking to his own damnation.

In that piece, I highlighted how the PDP was consistently trumping its own constitution, guidelines, and relevant laws of the country in its determined bid to undo not only the South-East presidential aspiration, but also to undermine, embarrass, and edge out some of its notable leaders, who had shown unmatched loyalty to the party in its most trying times. Consequently, I warned against the way PDP's National Chairman, Senator Iyorchia Ayu, had wilfully mortgaged the party to the demi-gods called governors and how he was aiding and abetting the irresponsibility and pervasion of democracy and PDP's constitution and guidelines in the processes leading up to the PDP primaries.

I expressed particular displeasure at how Ayu was overseeing a clearly rigged three-man ad-hoc delegates election at the wards, which compilation had no semblance of democracy. In most cases, such as in the case of Enugu State which was reportedly compiled in a hotel adjacent the Government House, people just sat somewhere and compiled names.

I forewarned PDP this way: "Lastly, let it be on record: the PDP national leadership encouraging irresponsibility and irrationality going on in Enugu State and the South East is taking too much for granted. That you have thrown the presidential race open has already left the people of the South-East deeply hurt. Any attempt to manipulate the governorship

ticket to an unpopular candidate anointed by any governor in the South-East amounts to taking too much for granted. And as one has often warned on matters like this, there will be consequences and by then, it will be too late."

But did Ayu-led National Working Committee of the party pay any heed? Did the greedy power mongers called PDP governors pay any heed? No! What of the PDP elders? There is virtually none left unmuzzled by interests and patronage. When you're at the dinning table, you must observe table manners.

Consequently, in the absence of statutory delegates due to the non-signing of the Electoral Act amendment, the governors weaponised the fraudulent delegates lists at the kangaroo primaries to impose their lackeys, yes-men, and accomplices on the party in the House of Assembly, National Assembly, and Governorship primary elections. They are also poised to repeat the same in the presidential primary.

In Anambra, to underline the fact that the Igbo have never been in PDP's equation going into the 2023 presidential race, Ayu and his puppeteers ensured that the leading aspirant from South-East and about the most popular aspirant in PDP nationally, Peter Obi, was schemed out of the National Delegates from his state. The entire 21 National Delegates from the 21 local governments of Anambra were fraudulently handed over to someone that would execute the bidding of PDP's dollar-blinded masters against the aspirations of the South-East region.

In Enugu State, Ekweremadu, who literally took bullets for the PDP after the 2015 election even when he had everything to gain by defecting, was thoroughly mistreated. As a principled politician and man of conscience, Ekweremadu must have reckoned after his reemergence that as the only PDP political office holder at the federal level after the 2015 tsunami, he was the beacon of hope for the party faithful.

Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu left the country as Chairman of the PDP immediately after the 2015 election before he eventually defected to the All Progress

sives Congress (APC) alongside former governor Mallam Isah Yuguda; former Secretary to Federal Government, Yayale Ahmed; and former PDP Deputy National Chairman, Senator Babayo Gamawa in January 2019. Countless others who benefitted so much from PDP's 16-year rule dumped the party and fled. Some PDP governors, including governor of Ekweremadu's home state, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, disappeared from the scene — never attending PDP functions, never attending National Executive Committee meetings, never seen at PDP Governors Forum's meetings, and never speaking up in defence of the party, masses or democracy. Some governors eventually defected. But Ekweremadu stood strong.

When some PDP governors like Nyesom Wike and Ayo Fayose imposed Ali Modu Sheriff as Muazu's successor against all voices of reason in the party, including that of Ekweremadu, it was still this same Ekweremadu that joined forces with the likes of Senator Ahmed Maikarfi, etc. to rescue the party from Sheriff's stranglehold.

Yet, once he declared his gubernatorial ambition, which he hinged on his belief that the best route to revival and development is to get the states working again, the gang up and hell were let loose on him by his governor and Wadata Plaza. Apart from attacks on his supporters, media reports were rife about how no single result sheet was seen in any of the 260 wards during the ward congress and how the panel from Wadata plaza accepted a fraudulent list of delegates compiled days before the real exercise, while jettisoning the outcomes of the real exercise conducted at the designated venues. The three-man delegates list is now a subject of three litigations and Zamfara tsunami appears imminent.

In Abia, the Minority Leader of the Senate, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe, who has stood up to be counted when it mattered for the PDP, was mistreated too. He has been a fearless thorn in the flesh of the ruling party. He has been vocal and helped to galvanise the opposition. Yet the party he sacrificed so much for refused to recognise his efforts.

In manipulating Abaribe and Ekweremadu out of contention in the PDP Abia and Enugu gubernatorial

primaries, zoning was trumpeted. But why should you jettison zoning the centre and uphold it in states? Is that not approbating and reprobating at the same time?

In the case of Enugu, there were lucid arguments including a 2018 interview by ex-governor Sullivan Chime stating emphatically that there was zoning in Enugu. In any case, why not provide a level playing field and let the people decide?

The Deputy Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, Hon. Toby Okechukwu, has functioned so well as an opposition in parliament. He has shone like a million stars in projecting and protecting the PDP and masses interest in and outside parliament. He has fought for democracy, including the Electoral Act where he brilliantly ensured the stalemate that stalled the efforts to throw away the electronic transmission of results on that fateful 15th July 2021. That gave a leeway, which the Senate's decision was overturned.

But today, the same party has connived with Governor Ugwuanyi to treat him like a nobody. From televised heavy shootings that lasted for hours at the Awgu venue of the Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency primary, to harassment and intimidation of his honourable person by thugs and agents of the state government, to the flawed and fraudulent delegates identification process that created way for the impersonation and flooding of the hall with unknown delegates, and to the outright rigging by imposing an already prepared result, the PDP did everything to ensure that he was humiliated. In backing out of the primary, he described the process as a comedy of errors.

As I write, another major presidential hopeful from South East, Senator Pius Anyim, has issued a statement complaining about PDP's hide and seek game with Ebonyi delegates list.

**Dr. Mefor is a Senior Fellow of The Abuja School of Social and Political Thought and writes from [drlawmefor@gmail.com](mailto:drlawmefor@gmail.com)**

Read full Perspective online - [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)

# Congratulations

**DR. WAHEED A.  
OLAGUNJU**



**HAJIA MOBOLAJI M.  
OLAGUNJU**

on your Chieftancy investiture  
as Aare Bobagunwa and  
Yeye Aare Bobagunwa of Offa land.



**SIGNED: YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM OFFA**

| Page 1

Asiwaju Tajudeen Owoyemi  
Dr. Funsho R. Oladipo  
Dr. Sarah Alade  
Dr. AWA Ibraheem  
Senator (Arc) Lola Ashiru  
Alh. Razak Jaiyeola  
Alh. Moshood Oyebisi Oyeleke  
Chief Gafar Y Olagunju

Aare Abdulateef Tayo Shittu  
Mr. Bisi Salau  
Alh. Bola Mustapha Olowogada  
Alh. Demola Balogun  
Alh. Razak Ayodeji Shittu  
ACG Rasak Kunle Oyeleke  
Arc Abdulrazaq A. Kalejaiye  
Dr. Olayiwola Bello

Chief Dr. Tunde Lawal  
Hajia Muheeba Dankaka  
Aare Kunle Ajeigbe  
Alh. Bisiriyu Afolabi  
Mr. Tunde Olagunju  
Bashir Adesoye Oladipo  
Chief (Mrs) Shade Omoniyi  
Dr. Bode Bakare

Alh. Masaud M. Nuhu  
Alh. Yinka Adebisi  
Alh. Musibau Olatinwo  
Mr. Bode Shogo  
Ms. Muibat Ijaiya  
Dr. Mahmud Ajeigbe

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**SIGNED: YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM OFFA**

| Page 2

Prince Soji Olagunju  
Arc. Yomi Lawal  
Galaxy Clique Offa  
Wahab Shittu  
Engr. Tajudeen Shittu  
Engr. Abdulfatai K. Yusuf  
Engr. Sarafa Ayobami Ibrahim  
Engr. Taofeeq Kola Olatinwo

Mr. Sherif A. Olagunju  
Mr. Muideen Akorede  
AIG Aderemi Opadokun rtd  
Engr. Tunde Ibikunle  
Mr. Kazeem Olatunde  
Alh. Ademola Buraimoh  
Mr. Yemmy Omokanye  
Iyalode Bolaji Iyabo Ibiyeye-Adisa

Hajia Kudirat Moji AWA Ibraheem  
Alh. Abdulwaheed Yeosuf Ishola  
Alh. Tajudeen Yinka Ahmed  
Mr. Salami Kazeem Alakija  
Hajia Lola Mustapha  
Dr. Adegboyega Abdulkadir  
Engr. Moshood Oladipo  
Alh. Abdullahi Abdulmajeed

Mr. & Mrs. Akeem Oyewale  
Hon Hassan Oyeleke  
Mr. Ibrahim Tejani  
Alh. Azeez Bukoye  
Mr. Suraj Ayo Shittu  
Alh. Kehinde O. Oladipo  
Ogbeni Seun Ogunniyi (Adato)

EVENTS

**M**s **Chinwe Izegbu**, a former General Counsel of THISDAY, recently paid her mother **Lady Beatrice Izegbu** the final respects. Family members and friends of the Izegbus were at the funeral ceremony



L-R: Mr Nduka Izegbu; Barrister Chinwe Izegbu; and Ms. Ifeyinwa Izegbu



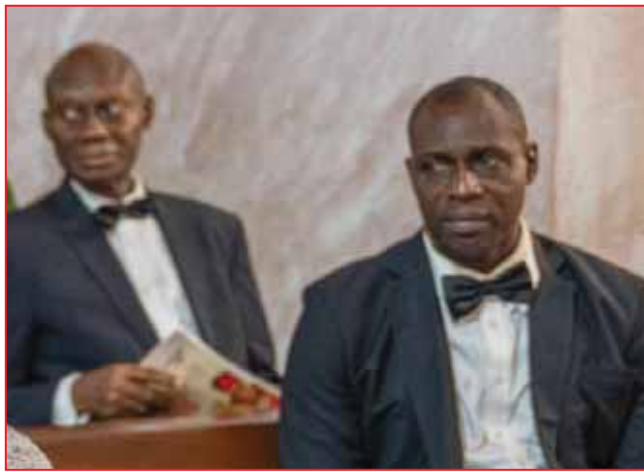
L-R: Prof. Victor Izegbu; Chief Mrs. Juliana Edewor-Izegbu; Mr. Nduka Izegbu



First Lady of Delta State, Mrs. Edith Okowa; and Prof Leroy Edozien



L-R: Ms Ifeyinwa Izegbu; Mrs. Mimi Izegbu; Engr. Medua Izegbu



L-R: Former Head of Service, Delta State, Sir Ogbueshi Oke Ofili (KSM) and Sir Alana (KSM)



L-R: Former Head of Service, Delta State, Sir Ogbueshi Oke Ofili with other Knights and Ladies of St. Mulumba



L-R: Ms. Ifeyinwa Izegbu; Barrister Chinwe Izegbu; and Mr. Nduka Izegbu



L-R: Ms. Ifeyinwa Izegbu; and Mrs. Biola Okeowo



L-R: Former Head of Service, Delta State, Sir Ogbueshi Oke Ofili KSM (Centre) with two other Knights of St Mulumba



L-R: Prof Stanley Okafor and Mrs. Pat Okafor



L-R: Mr. Ben Izegbu; Mrs. Mimi Izegbu; and Engr. Medua Izegbu



L-R: Mrs. Martina Osaji; and Engr. Jaja Isichei



L-R: Mrs. Blessing Azorbo; Ms. Chinwe Izegbu; and Ms. Anita



L-R: Prof Victor Izegbu; Chief Mrs. Juliana Edewor-Izegbu



L-R: Mrs. Biola Okeowo; and Ms. Ifeyinwa Izegbu

## INTERVIEW

## ADEWOLE ADEBAYO

## I Have Never Been Part of Those Misgoverning Nigeria

Prince Adewole Adebayo is presidential aspirant on the platform of the Social Democratic Party for the 2023 elections. In a recent television interview, he outlines his turn-around plan for the country if he eventually emerges president of Nigeria

**Y**ou are you are a lawyer, business man and founder of the Caftan TV, among other business interests. One clearly needs some experience in governance before joining politics. You don't have this. Is this not a disadvantage?

Let me confess in public that I do not have any experience in bad governance. So I have not been part of those who have been misgoverning the country. So, that lack of experience in doing bad things, I admit, I don't have. However, when you want to take a decision in the public sector, the only difference is that the money doesn't belong to you. It belongs to the people. Everything you do in managerial field - both in the private sector or public sectors - are the same. If I am managing this station, as a private station, it is the same principle as that of a public station, the only difference is that profit interest or motive is downplayed but if I need to provide electricity, I need to provide it. It doesn't matter if I am in government or outside. Leadership in public service is not about forming an alliance. So if you are a failed minister, you are in charge of housing and people don't have housing, you cannot come to say, 'I was a minister. I have experience.' No, you can only say you had an opportunity to serve and you failed. If you are a governor, and you spent eight years, and bankrupted the state, you cannot say you have experience in managing a state. No, you will say, I was given an opportunity to manage state, I mismanaged it. You can only be good at if you have been good at it. If I you have to give him more opportunity than me, does it mean that you are better than my experience. I have represented and advised government. I have consulted for government, Nigeria and overseas. Let me say what can happen to you if you have no government experience, you come to an environment, you do not know how decisions are made. You do not know the facts on ground. That's not my case. If you ask me when it comes to every critical aspect in terms of security, it will surprise you to know that I know more about the strength of the military and the challenges they face than the CIC who is in charge of them but who doesn't listen to them. You can see in this country that people outside have defense and security intelligence than the people inside governments. When some incumbent who are there now when they came in 2015 in spite of having been in government all their lives, they came back and I said, 'oh, we are shocked. We didn't know government was this bad.' But we were out there advising them that this is what it is. So there isn't anything in government that is not about you. First, mastering the issues, having the facts and surround yourself with competent people. These kinds of people are available. The only problem is that they don't have money to give the delegates.

**What gives you hope that you are going to win. Have you thought about losing the N35 million?**

First, we have problems that are human problems. There are no natural problems. There are some countries with natural problems, not human. I lived in California for many years. In Nigeria, it is not natural problem. Now, in economics, the whole idea is based on the principle of scarcity. That is an environment of scarce resources. You have to make economic choices in Nigeria. No scarcity. Every developmental resource that we need is in abundance. There is no scarcity of human beings. There are some countries that want to develop, they have to import labour. We don't have to that. They have to import food. We don't have to have to do that. They have to import water. We don't have to. The



Adebayo

**Now, what do you do about leadership? To change the leadership, you have to expand the leadership pool. What can you do if you want to change the country and you know that leadership is the problem? You need to put more people into the leadership pool. How do you put them in the leadership pool? You put them into politics. You test them out and their understanding of the issues in the country? And they can start providing solutions to them**

whole of geopolitics of Europe is that they have to import gas. That's why everybody's looking towards Russia, Ukraine. We don't have any of this. So, it goes down to one thing that we have leadership problem. Now, if you address that leadership problem, then you have solved all our problems. Now, what do you do about leadership? To change the leadership, you have to expand the leadership pool. What can you do if you want to change the country and you know that leadership is the problem? You need to put more people into the leadership pool. How do you put them in the leadership pool? You put them into politics. You test them out and their understanding of the issues in the country? And they can start providing solutions to them.

You must look at their lives. You look at where they worked; were they good workers? When they went into business, were they ethical? When they went into public service, were they efficient and patriotic? Then you test them on whether they understand the issues at stake today. If you put all that together, then

you can now choose them as a leader because you have nothing to lose. But we have been choosing from the same pool. The issue is that what is right has a price. That price requires selflessness, not the traditional way we presently operates where when I am in power, I share the resources of the country among my friends. The old boys network. I cover their errors and I reserve position for your children and you reserve for my children. If they are competent or not, we don't care; we can put the person in charge of critical infrastructure, and you can break it down. And if you are caught with N80 billion and your uncle can call me and say, 'okay, look at that small boy. Okay, well, don't worry. Let them make noise for three months afterward we will help him out.' So all those things are the reason why we are not progressing. It's not that our problems defy human nature. No. If you go to government offices, as I do many occasions, you will see that the person elected as a governor or president may spent the substantial hour of the day not even doing the people's business,

he may be with his party chairman, discussing party issues.

So they don't have time to do work. You may see a minister that spends half of his time on things that don't have to do with his ministry. So it is not that our problems are so complicated that we are always in the church and in the mosque, round the clock, praying for divine intervention. You don't need divine intervention to clean your room if you have a broom. But if you don't want to do it, you can't be looking for divine intervention. Problems, however, small, needs somebody who wants to solve them. It is the person who doesn't want to solve them, or who, in addition to that, wants to use this problem to make money. Yesterday, my campaign managers were going to Zamfara State and the called me to say 'we are in panic'. So what happened? They said bandits stopped them on the way. Then a few hours later, they called back and said, well, we can go now. I said what happened, did you see the army? He said no they called local hunters and they chased the bandits away. So, I said, there are bandits in this country that local hunters can chase away but the army cannot chase away? So that's one example that can be adopted but it doesn't make it scientific. If you do research, you will find out that every problem from security to poverty to collapsed infrastructure are places where people make their money. There are people in this country who haven't done any decent job in 40 years. There is an estate, out of our Commonwealth which is created for them. So they are in charge of the ports, they sit down and collect rents.

So we don't improve on the ports or build new ports.

**What gives you hope that you are going to win your party's ticket and the Nigerian presidential election?**

N35 million is a lot of money because I know many people are hurting in this country. But N35m is not up to what I pay every month for scholarships for indigent students. So, it's not a problem. I have employees who work for me. I have over a thousand employees who work for me. So N35 million, yes, I don't disrespect it, it is a lot of money, but it's not money that I will do a sign of the cross before I spend, because I pay salaries of my workers.

**You don't need supporters to come up with the money. You actually paid for that out of your pocket.**

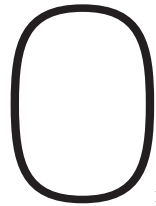
No, no, no, not at all. I paid for that from my pocket and I paid for so many other things out of my pocket. Okay. So and if you look at the taxes, every year in my state, I get the Tax Payer of the Year award. And the governor of my state is of APC, he's not from my party, but every year, including this year, I got the taxpayer of the year and the NYSC, which is owned by APC led government, gives me Employer of the Year. So you can accuse me of not having been advertising myself, but it's not my job to advise myself. It is the job of the journalists to look for developers of community? If a person is hiring over 1000 workers for the past 15 years, it is the job of the journalists to find the person. Okay. If I practice law up to the Supreme Court of Nigeria, I have practiced law in the Supreme Court of the United States, I practiced in New York I practiced law in California, I practiced all over the world, and I am one of the rated arbitrators. I have been a fellow of arbitrators since I was in my twenties. All of that are for the people who are in the media to search and criticize. And if you Google my name, you will not have to struggle to know who I am.

Read full interview online - [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)

## POLITY

## Soludo and the Predicament of Barabbas

Austin Tam-George.



One of the most infamous voice votes in human history occurred in the court of the Pontius Pilate, over two thousand years ago.

Jesus, an innocent man, had been framed up by the Pharisees, and sentenced to death for sorcery, and for making false claims.

But there was another fellow in court that day, Barabbas, a convicted criminal. Indeed, all the synoptic gospels acknowledge Barabbas as a notorious arsonist, bandit and a murderer.

It was time for the feast of Passover and Pontius Pilate had arrived in court to grant the ceremonial clemency to prisoners.

But when Pilate asked the crowd which of the prisoners they wanted him to set free, Jesus or Barabbas? The response was wincingly unanimous: The crowd wanted Barabbas freed.

Barabbas was then set free to wild and raucous applause; while Jesus was shackled and taken away to be killed.

To this day, the paradox of the triumph of Barabbas remains an inscrutable subject for priests, public administrators, judicial officers and experts in crowd psychology.

For thousands of years since that incident, Barabbas has become a metaphor for criminality, anarchy, and a warning about the dangers of the jurisprudence of the street.

Here in Nigeria, we can see versions of the ideology of Barabbas at work in the form of the reign of criminal gangs, arsonists, kidnappers and violent extremists.

We see them almost everywhere. They steal children from schools, operate a sophisticated human trafficking syndicate, and demand ransom.

In the North, Boko Haram, the terrorist group, has created what looks like a differentiated habitat of brutal sovereignty. It beheads men, women and children in captivity, and imposes taxes on farmers.

In the Eastern region, a few months ago, Professor Charles Soludo, a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, was inaugurated as the elected governor of Anambra State, after a bloody and treacherous political campaign.

In the run up to the election, Soludo himself had escaped an assassination attempt that claimed the lives of some of his closest aides.

In fact, the Labour Party candidate for governor in that



Soludo

election, Mr Obiora Agbasimalo, was kidnapped in broad daylight and remains missing, months after the polls.

But from all indications, Soludo's resounding victory at the polls was also clearly the people's victory.

His expansionary vision of economic diversification, good governance, and "buy local" industrial rhetoric has wide resonance in Anambra State, and across the country.

From his first hour in office, Governor Soludo appears to be moving quickly to break old habits, by taking government to the people in a practical and impactful way.

Governor Soludo's open and consultative approach to governance, so far, is a refreshing departure from the exclusionary and arrogant model often adopted by the Nigerian political class.

But his efforts to end the self-defeating sit-at-home order imposed on the people every Monday of the week, is now being resisted by known and unknown criminal gangs.

The brazen insistence by criminal gangs to maintain such a ruinous lock down on Anambra and the entire Eastern region means that anarchy, arson and wanton murder, may

once again win the voice vote over peace, development and the prosperity of the people.

In his Easter Message in April, Governor Soludo lamented the spate of criminality in Anambra by declaring that "Whatever it is that makes the people choose Barabbas over and above Jesus must stop in our time".

But to defeat the foul ideology of Barabbas, Governor Soludo cannot be left alone in helpless perplexity, as criminal gangs behead citizens for sport, and levy war against the people.

Governor Soludo needs the moral and logistical comradeship of Ndi Anambra, the Federal Government, and all Nigerians.

The cancer of organized banditry must not be allowed to metastasize into a fatal pathology in the East, Nigeria's most inventive and trading hub.

As a first step, Governor Soludo may create a "Government of the Whole" in Anambra State, by working more closely with civic groups, leaders of faith, transport unions, artisans, farmers, traders, industrialists, traditional leaders, and the youth.

When the people feel that they constitute the center of gravity of the administration, the governor will find it easier to mobilize an unstoppable communal revulsion against organized crime in the State.

Secondly, the governors of the States of Anambra, Imo, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Abia, must foster a new governance model for the region that prioritizes accountability, shared prosperity, and creates opportunities for young people.

For too long, Government in Nigeria has been de-linked from the people it is meant to serve. Everywhere in the open, the people seem to encounter the government only as a predatory dispenser of grief.

This has created an implacable platoon of angry and disoriented citizens who see no hope of living a meaningful life in their own country.

In the East, this anger has taken a virulent and insurgent turn that has been hijacked and remastered by criminal demagogues.

In his novel, Arrow of God, Chinua Achebe warns about the perils of bringing ant-infested faggots home.

It is time to heed Achebe's incessant warnings.

The only way to defeat the ghost of Barabbas is to return the Government to the people.

*Dr Austin Tam-George is a former Commissioner for Information, Rivers State.*

## Rev. Oghifo

## I Use Challenges as Stepping Stone to Greater Heights

Reverend Dr. Gilbert Irifori Oghifo, the Minister in Charge of First Baptist Church in Ughelli, Delta State, officially steps down honourably tomorrow, Sunday May 29, 2022, after leading the church for the mandatory period. He discusses his missionary journey with **Funmi Ogundare**

## Tell us about your journey as a Reverend of the Baptist Church

I started my pastoral work after graduation from the seminary in 1981. I had a call at Okotie Eboh Memorial Baptist Church Sapele December that year. So I spent five years there, it was an eventful ministry. God chose to bring me down to Ughelli. You know, I will not forget my Baba S.A Akakporo who came to Sapele to inform me that they needed me in Ughelli. I had to resign my appointment in Sapele and take up the appointment here in Ughelli, and the people welcomed me, the elders, the young people, they gave me a massive support that gave me a good foundation to be able to do one or two things we have on ground today. To date, I have spent a total of 40 years, you know five years in Sapele, 35 years plus, because January first this year 2022 was my 25 years in this church. You see, if we add the five years in Sapele it is 40 years. I just thank God for his grace and I have no regrets, just as we are made to understand in our Moto at the Baptist Seminary in Ogbomosho (Osun State), "In Christ I Trust, in HIM I have no regrets". These 40 years of ministering, in fact, I call it part one of my ministry. The supporting roles played by my mother, father, my wife, children, family, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters are all very important. They added to my success.

## What memorable experiences and challenges can you share with us?

Well, life is full of challenges, but I won't look at them as anything and forget what lies behind, my attitude is whether achievements or challenges, I am pressing forward for a greater opportunity in the Lord's Vineyard and above all, my gain is Christ even as he gained me and I apprehended even Christ even had apprehended me, that is my goal. Well, my challenges were interesting, they didn't disturb me and I won't look at them as something to refer to, rather they became my stepping stones to achieve the little I could achieve today.

## As a young Pastor, who inspired you in your ministry?

So yes, my number one is Revered S.A Akakporo my real mentor, Late Baba Orikri of First Baptist Church Warri, he is late now, Baba Reverend Ezaza, the Visitor, because he visits a lot even as pastor. He means a lot, S.A Agbaluwa, Reverend S.S Ogboru, Reverend J.O Akunu, Reverend Doctor Ewumere Enumate, they influence me a lot, and they have their own character. Another mentor was Rev. A.Y Ogwori. They all influenced me directly, consciously and unconsciously. My uncles, Deacons like A.T Onosode, my Uncle Ray Okerentie of blessed memory. Uncle Raymond was like a "mother" to me, my mother and family and the church family that helped me to behave myself. But the greatest one is the Lord Jesus himself and Apostle Paul, I want to be like him.

## What would you say is your legacy in this church?

Well, as for legacy there are a lot of things we introduced when I came. But the first one we introduced was the fasting and prayer ministry. That is our power-nerve of this church and has kept the church going. Today it is called the Midweek "Sunday" Service. We also introduced the house fellowship that helps to keep us as one family - fellowshiping from house to house as was done in the Bible. It helped us a lot during the COVID period. The house fellowships are conducted in zones and the leaders are wonderful. We brought in the Communion Service, which takes place twice in a month. As I said, there are very many things we introduced, to ensure we follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then there is this huge magnificent church building you see here. Perhaps the biggest church building in the whole of Delta State. It was built through the hard work and commitment of members of this church and our well wishers far and near. The members are wonderful people to have been able to raise up this structure- all the leaders who assisted and the various committees, including the building committee. They have done so much to effect



Oghifo

the changes that we have today. We were able to achieve this as a result of their cooperation. I'll mention just a few.

## What advice will you give to young Pastors to enable them succeed in their ministry?

My advice for them is that they should learn patience, whether in Baptist and non Baptist denominations, but mainly in Baptist. Patience, faith and then be a teacher of the word, teach the word and preach the gospel, be an example in your conduct of life, love the people as Christ loves you. Patience and faith determination to succeed to be like Christ. Patience, Faith!!! Teach it very well and if you teach very well the members will not leave you. On the pulpit, teach them. I can't do without that because Christ did teach it 99 per cent of HIS teachings, so teach them even if they leave you they will come back. Know your people and identify with them at all times and as Christ loves you, love them. My thought is, if you do not fight the Devil he will fight you, so fight him because he will fight you, keep your promises, keep your friends, if you do not keep your promises you will lose your friends.

## POLITY

## Ugwuanyi's Fidelity to Enugu's Growth Seven Years On

Laurence Ani

Coinciding with a period the Independent Electoral Commission had scheduled for the conduct of party primaries, there is a strong possibility that the symbolism of May 29th - the date commemorating the inauguration of most governors - might be overshadowed by the usual shenanigans of politics. Given the attendant public scrutiny the date elicits, it may just be that many governors will consider the shuttle politicking of the primaries a happy distraction, which won't be surprising as a common complaint in the media is that governance has been largely in abeyance in many states.

There are few exceptions though. Enugu is one such state. The governor, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, still displays as much enthusiasm for governance as he did seven years ago, fueled by the conviction that the people's wellbeing is the reason for the existence of governments. So, even amidst the flurry of politics and jockeying over succession in 2023, there is still an unrelenting investment in sectors that enhance the people's living condition. Just as it was in the early years of the Ugwuanyi administration, there is a continuing upgrade of primary health care, sustained investment in schools rehabilitation and narrowing the student-teacher ratio.

These interventions are a huge leap from the tokenism of previous years that unabashedly gave some facelift to the facade of hospitals and schools without a corresponding attention to staffing and equipment. The success of state policies can often be gauged from the outcome their implementation yield. With regard to Ugwuanyi's investment in the key sectors, there are many social indicators that prove how impactful they have been. For example, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey carried out in 2017 by the National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency shows Enugu State has one of the lowest child mortality rate in Nigeria, where the average figure is 54 deaths in 1,000 live births between the first and fifth birthday. Although Enugu ranked fifth in the MICS report, its mortality figure (12) cannot be deemed ideal. Yet, it is indicative of the progress the state would have attained in maternal and child care had previous administrations' attention been just as robust.

Another strong validation was the NBS fourth quarter survey in 2020 (the latest as yet) which revealed that Enugu has the sixth lowest unemployment figure. Much of the employment is in the agro-allied sector where the government has devoted huge resources. The attention the sector has received reflects in the fact that Enugu is among ten states in the country with the highest proportion of enterprises in agricultural activities, as an NBS report further shows. Enugu also has one of Nigeria's least out-of-school population, ranking sixth in the most recent federal ministry of education's report. The impressive development scorecard of the Ugwuanyi administration is in spite of the massive decline in revenue accruing to states from the federation account.

Indeed, it is important to note that declining revenue has been a recurrent feature of the last seven years, a problem



Ugwuanyi

the Enugu State governor alluded to in his inaugural speech. Nigeria was, in fact, on the cusp of a recession at the time the inauguration (May 29, 2015) was held. "Let me state categorically, that while we are gearing to achieve so much, we must bear in mind that the resource flow has grown lean across the country due to the new price of oil in the international market. A political associate recently told me that this is not the best time to be governor of Enugu State but I replied that this is indeed the best time to be governor of Ndi Enugu. Importantly, I believe in the miracle of five loaves and two fish, I believe that God will give us the wisdom and courage to successfully navigate the state through the current economic crisis," he said. His optimism was still however tempered with some pragmatism, as he would later add: "We must match our faith with the right decisions and good work".

The significance of the Ugwuanyi administration's achievements gets an added sheen by the fact that Enugu State receives one of the least sum of the monthly federal allocation, which, ab initio, puts it at a disadvantage. So, every progress recorded in the state has been through a deft deployment of resources and sustained dismantling of factors that impede the growth of business. This has enabled businesses to flourish and helped the state to shore-up its internal revenue.

As the Enugu State governor has demonstrated, "matching faith with the right decisions and good work" means deploying funds optimally to benefit the entire populace. It means as well jettisoning the decadent practice of old where recurrent

expenditure takes a disproportionately large share of budgets at the expense of capital expenditure. This budgeting philosophy is the reason Enugu State has substantially revamped its infrastructure in the last seven years, even at the height of Covid-19 when many states scaled down their capital budgets due to the associated economic constraints of the pandemic.

Equally significant is the administration's scrupulous budget award process. The impact is that every contract award for a capital project is sufficiently cash-backed, eliminating the risk of abandoned project. As with most of Ugwuanyi's policies, the benefit is not a matter of conjecture. It is laid bare in statistics. As a capital budget expenditure performance survey conducted by BudGIT in 2019 shows, Enugu ranks among the top ten states with an outstanding ratio. So, even amidst this paucity of funds, a splendid array of legacy projects has either been conceived and implemented or in the process of being completed. Examples include the first state-built flyover bridge in Enugu, which would resolve the perpetually gridlocked Abakpa-Nike Lake Road intersection.

Another remarkable example is the construction and equipping of the Enugu State Infectious Disease Hospital that sits on about two acres of land with a backdrop of rolling hills. The construction of the facility is both a demonstration of the Enugu State government's commitment to a long term Covid-19 strategy, and concrete proof that Enugu State won't be lulled into complacency even when the pandemic is no longer deemed a threat. The huge investment in the health sector is motivated by the goal to make quality health care affordable and largely accessible to the public even in the state's most remote communities. It was on this premise that the Enugu State Universal Health scheme was launched. The ongoing construction of the Enugu State University of Science and Technology Teaching Hospital and College of Medicine also derives from that vision.

For Ugwuanyi, the pledge to make the people the centre-piece of government policy is not a catchphrase for the cameras. It has to be demonstrated even when it seems least convenient. His administration's payment of the new minimum wage and its consequent adjustments in 2020 easily comes to mind. Aside from being among the earliest states to do so, the payment commenced despite the adverse effects of the coronavirus. By embracing a people-centric philosophy in all matters of state policy, Ugwuanyi has clearly won the people's trust. Nothing best illustrates that trust than the emphatic victory (the governor had 449,935 votes while the All Progressives Congress's candidate got 10,423 votes) secured by Ugwuanyi in the 2019 general election when he was re-elected for another term.

With the governor having barely one year left in office, his performance already puts an immense weight of expectations on his would-be successor's shoulders. The people would expect no less.

Ani is a senior communications aide to the governor of Enugu State.

## Consensus Mode: Can APC Deliver?

Kayode Ajiri

Like a bone in the neck, the consensus model which appears to be the fancy of leaders of the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC), President Muhammadu Buhari and their courtiers, portends ill that may smother the party, render it spineless and reduce it to shreds.

Facing a major election with a divided house of dispirited members can prove a costly gamble which may adversely affect the fortune of the party. It's like walking on a minefield with unwholesome consequences. A party beaten on many fronts by careless handling of its previous primaries ought to be more circumspect this time around.

But if the APC leaders working at the behest of the President, opt to throw stones in the marketplace by pressing on with this consensus option in the vain desire to anoint their favoured presidential candidate, indications are that the bubble may burst, resorting to other members reaching for their cudgels against each other.

To your tents oh Israel is not the kind of battle cry the APC needs at this auspicious moment. It's also doubtful whether the leaders can deliver an anointed candidate without igniting a rage. Forcing this option through will evince only a pyrrhic victory.

It will certainly hit a brick wall that will be difficult to remove from the party's alleys as an ill wind threatens to consume its soul. Those aspirants who are weeded out unfairly will be its albatross. They will readily embrace a trade-off with other political players that will eventually undermine the party. Unless the leaders have resolved to be the party's undertakers, this is not an edifying road to travel.

It's possible that the leaders and the President may have been bolstered in their scheme because of the seamless outcome of the last Abuja convention where officials of the party zoned to different regions were elected by consensus. But casting a lot for the party's long list of presidential aspirants via consensus mode is a different kettle of fish. A misstep can make it plunge on edge of the precipice.

These aspirants have greater muscle and load of cash than the small fries that bided for party positions. Many of them are

not run on the mill politicians who can be scared or scamper by the ranting of party leaders. Nor can they hardly be made to buckle under the weight of party orders particularly one scripted to aid the emergence of a favoured candidate.

No one can be faulted for employing different mechanics undermining the opponents to plot for power in line with the Machiavellian dictum. But the party is up against aspirants who have gone several miles ahead of it as strategic political thinkers and can match anyone cash for cash.

The APC leaders will be shooting themselves on the feet if they seek to unduly force an anointed candidate down their throats. The best option is to ensure that all aspirants have an opportunity of participating in an indirect primary that will be devoid of hanky panky and wururu. A transparent process will bear redeeming grace to aspirants that will eventually lose out in the race.

Musings from the primaries of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) where thugs and gunmen had a free reign in some parts of the country, may have given vent that the leading opposition party had not discarded the braggadocio and ills that made it lose power in 2015. But the APC will be mistaken for using this as a gauge to rest on its oars. Falling for this bait will be like dancing naked around a stifled cobra.

In many of the off-season elections, the PDP dusted the APC giving a strong inkling it is the party to beat in the 2023 presidential election. It will be wrong permutations for APC leaders to provide it with more ammunition by deliberately creating a schism among its members.

The new Electoral Act is very clear about the consensus model. Unlike before when party leaders and godfathers ride roughshod of aspirants and milk their pockets for a mess of pottage, it specifically stipulated that their consent is now required for any consensus option to be carried through. Getting the consent of a load of aspirants angling for the party's ticket will not be an easy ride.

In Section 84 (9), the Act states that: "A political party that adopts a consensus candidate shall secure the written consent of all cleared aspirants for the position, indicating their voluntary withdrawal from the race and their endorsement of the consensus candidate." In Section 84 (10), the Act further



Adamu

states that where no such written consent can be obtained, then there should be direct or indirect primaries.

The party will be risking working fowl of the Electoral Act and attracting INEC sanctions if it chooses to throw reason overboard. More importantly, the APC must be rescued from the hands of hawks who may not mind letting it sink unless their wish is the law.

Kayode Ajiri, a community leader writes from Akure, Ondo State capital.

# Three Years of Gov Abiodun's Ingenuity

Femi Ogbonnikan

It is exactly three years down the lane, taking stocks of the focus and qualitative governance that has berthed in Ogun State under the leadership of Prince Dapo Abiodun, fifth democratically elected governor of the Gateway State. Three years under review, marked with a shower of kudos and encomiums on the administration for the unprecedented and exemplary leadership in the Gateway state, thus making it a 'numero uno' among the comity of states. Upon assumption of office on May 29, 2019, the administration inherited collapsed and structural deficit in governance that resulted in huge debt profile, near empty treasury, low morale in the workforce of the state government, piles of abandoned and uncompleted projects, empty promises, marginalization, distrust, vindictiveness, personalisation of governance like a family estate, amongst others.

Upon hitting the ground running, hinged on his administrative ingenuity, Abiodun hasn't been missing in action, with the implementation of lofty projects and programmes predicated on five developmental pillars of Infrastructure, Social Welfare and Wellbeing, Education and human development, Youth Empowerment and Agriculture (ISEYA).

While underscoring the contributions of the state workforce in the smooth running of the day-to-day administration of governance, Abiodun understood that it took motivation to earn the trust and confidence in the civil and public servants to put in their best to achieve optimal results. Barely a week into office, he entered into a social contract with the workers, and pledged the commitment of his administration in the payment of wages and salaries, (with or without Joint Allocation Account Committee or Federal Allocation Account Committee), as and when due, a development he has sustained its tempo till date. However, the least junior worker goes home with N30,500 as wages every month. Also, in appreciating the genuine and pragmatic efforts of the retired civil and public servants who had contributed significantly to the promotion of the service, the administration has committed N500 million on a quarterly basis, beginning from 2021, out of the outstanding the immediate past administration owed pensioners. So far, the administration has paid N2.5 billion to redeem its pledges.

In furtherance of boosting the morale of the workforce, the government has released the promotion letters to all categories of workers covering both 2018 and 2019 exercises. Also, it has reviewed upwardly the budgetary allocation for car refurbishment and motorcycle loans for both junior and senior civil servants, from N100,000 to N200,000 and N40,000 to N80,000 respectively.

By and large, in keeping faith with a vision which is



Gov Abiodun

predicated on "a focused and qualitative governance, while creating an enabling environment for a public-private sector partnership which is fundamental to the economic growth of the state and individual prosperity", the first major pre-occupation of the administration was the speedy completion of all the inherited abandoned and uncompleted road projects spread across the three senatorial districts from the immediate past administration.

Thereafter, it embarked on the construction and reconstruction of new road projects that are of economic benefits to the growth and development of the state. To date, 80 major roads and 120 others have either been constructed and reconstructed or rehabilitated which account for 661.76 km and 99.125 km completed projects, while a total of 562.63 km are still ongoing across the three senatorial districts. Besides, the administration has completed the reconstruction of all the inherited abandoned flyovers spread across the state.

Health is wealth, Governor Abiodun took up the gauntlet, a week after his assumption of office in 2019, directed the immediate rehabilitation of the state-owned Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Sagamu

which was at the verge of collapse, with the procurement of the state-of-the-art medical equipment, construction of new blocks and employment of well over 150 medical personnel, cutting across all the cadres to complement the efficient and effective delivery of service. Not left out, he directed the renovation and equipping of selected Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across the 20 local governments, procurement of drugs and laboratory reagents and upgrading and increasing the fleet of Ambulance and Emergency Services from the inherited four vehicles to 26 in two years. Also, the administration disbursed N100 million for the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme in the informal sector.

Agriculture has taken a centre-stage in the administration's drive towards producing abundantly for both local consumption and export in order to meeting up with food security. It is the major thrust of the administration's revolution in guaranteeing food security and employment generations for the unemployed teeming youths. Thus, the administration has supported 9,048 farmers with improved production of inputs for rice and cassava in eight participating local government areas of the state; and training of 6,812 farmers in good Agronomic practices in cassava and rice; strengthening of Ogun State Agricultural Linkage Programmes for job creation, with well over 85,000 registered interests from farmers. Others include 4,565 farmers who benefited from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)/Ogun State Anchor Borrowers Programme in linked inputs and credit worth N959 million in the cassava value chain, while 1,081 beneficiaries were linked to inputs and credit of over N243 million in the rice value chain.

The administration has made the fight against youth unemployment feature prominently in its developmental pillars. Various programmes have been put in place to empower the youths, vulnerable and women; one of such was the launch of the Job Portal in the state, shortly after it assumed office in 2019. So far, no fewer than 150,000 youths have benefitted from the scheme, since inception. Another human capacity development which is 'Oko Owo Dapo' is technology-driven to enable the government empower 2000 market women with loans to support their businesses in order to reduce poverty.

Though, despite the lip service the immediate past administration paid to the education sector which impacted negatively to the dwindling performance of the students who sat for the Ordinary Level West African School Council Examination (WASCE) in the recent past, it is a cheery news that the present administration has bailed out the sector with its declaration of an emergency on the sector and reclaimed its status as the educational capital of Nigeria.

Ogbonnikan wrote from Abeokuta, Ogun State

Read full article online - [www.thisdaylive.com](http://www.thisdaylive.com)



L-R: Federal Road Safety Corps, Lagos Sector Commander, Commander Segun Ogungbemi; General Manager, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency [LASEPA], Dolapo Fasawe; Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof Akin Abayomi; Economic/ Political Adviser, U.S Embassy, Ms Oliveth Smith; and Permanent Secretary, Lagos State, Ministry of Environment, Dr Tajudeen Gaji during the Awareness Walk/ Interactive Session, on Air Pollution and air Quality in Lagos, Organised by United State Mission, Nigeria and Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, held at US Embassy, Walter Carrington Street, Victoria Island, Lagos... yesterday SUNDAY ADIGUN



L-R: Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Finance Committee, Seni Adio SAN; MD/CEO, Access Bank, Roosevelt Ogbonna; President, Nigerian Bar Association, Olumide Akpata; and Deputy Managing Director, Retail Banking, North, Access Bank, Victor Etuokwu at the MOU signing agreement between Access Bank and Nigerian Bar Association on Access to finance for Lawyers in Nigeria, held at the Access Bank head office, Lagos, on Friday.



LR: Director, Corporate Services, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Ambrose Oruche; Chairman and Managing Director, Henkel Nigeria, Rajat Kapur; Director-General, Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN), Segun Ajayi-Kadir; Head, Manufacturing, Henkel Nigeria, Roman Rylk, and Head, Research and Development, Innocent Ojiaku during a courtesy to MAN Office in Ikeja..... yesterday



L-R: Executive Head, Content and West Africa Channels, MultiChoice Nigeria, Busola Tejumola; Nigerian Idol season 7 winner, Progress Chukwuyem; Asst. Brand Manager (Beverage and Bakery), Rite Foods Limited, Boluwatife Adedugbe; and Marketing Director, Binance, Emmanuel Ebanehita at the presentation of Cheque to the winner of Nigeria Idol season in Lagos... yesterday SUNDAY ADIGUN

# GLOBAL SOCCER

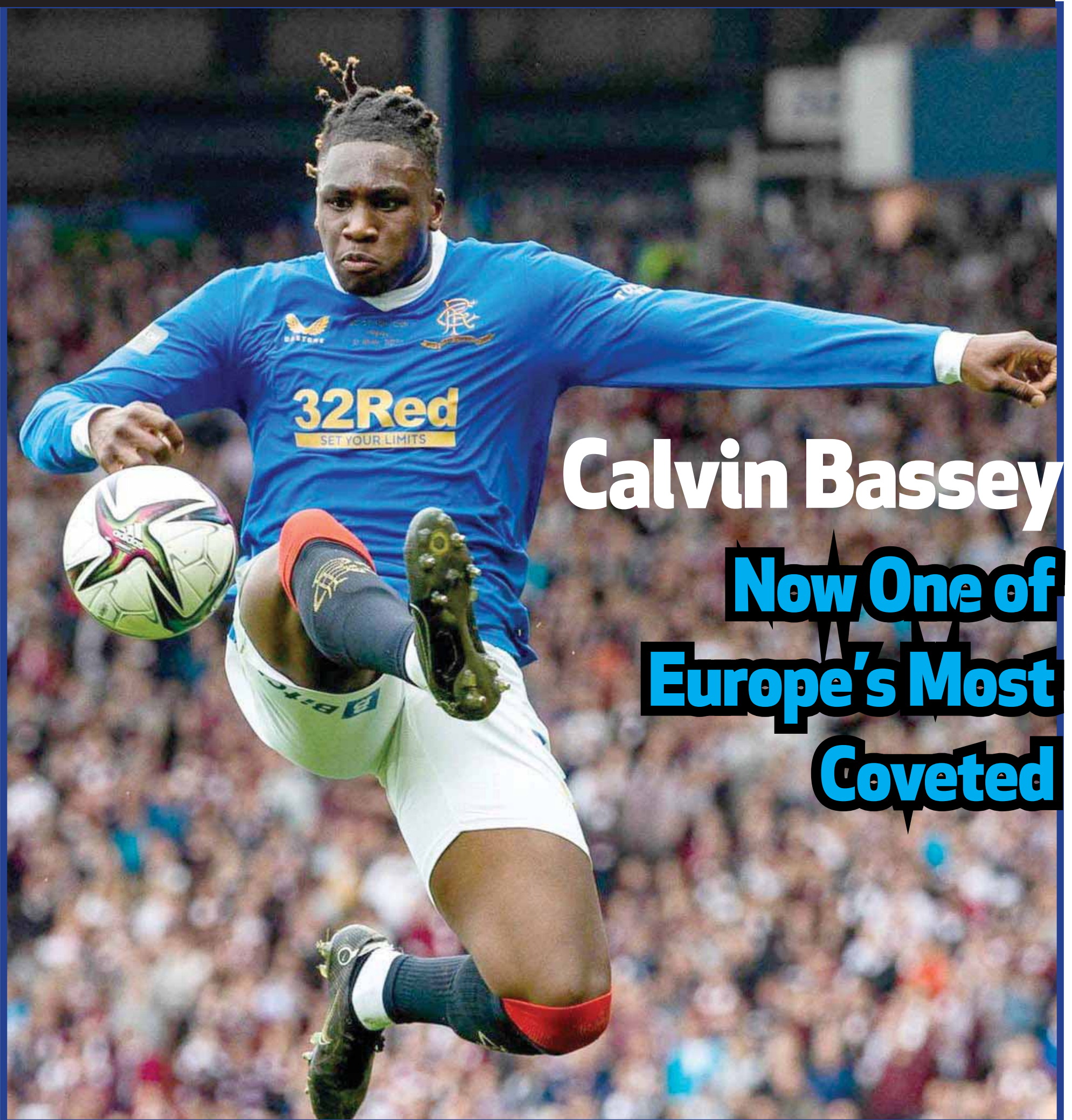


GOING FOR BROKE

A **THIS DAY** WEEKLY PULL-OUT

28.5.2022

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**Calvin Bassey**  
**Now One of**  
**Europe's Most**  
**Coveted**

## GLOBAL SOCCER

# Calvin Bassey

## Now One of Europe's Most Coveted

After an impressive season for Glasgow Rangers in the Scottish Cup, the Premiership and the Europa League where he made the Team of the Season, Calvin Bassey is now one of the most sought-after players in Europe



Calvin Bassey recovered from a slip to stop Eintracht Frankfurt's Rafael Borre during the final of the Europa League

If reports emanating from London Daily Record is anything to go by, Super Eagles defender, Calvin Bassey will be plying his football trade in the Premier League next season as interest is growing in one of Nigeria's outstanding performers in Europe this season, with the Brentford and the Wolves the latest clubs linked to a move.

English Premier League clubs, Wolves, Brentford, and newly promoted side, Fulham have shown interest in signing the Super Eagles defender.

Bassey has been building a solid profile over the past five months after impressing for Glasgow Rangers in the Scottish Cup, the Premiership, and the Europa League.

The 22-year-old shot himself to the top of every major club's shopping list after a great week that saw him excel in the Europa League and Scottish Cup finals.

Rangers lost to German foes, Eintracht Frankfurt in Seville, but Bassey was outstanding at centre-back and he subsequently made the competition's Team of the Season.

A few days later, the versatile Super Eagles defender claimed the Man-of-the-Match award playing at left full-back as the Light Blues defeated Hearts at Hampden to lift the Scottish Cup.

Several clubs have been alerted by the youngster's excellent showings, with Chelsea and Bayern Munich already mentioned with interest. Steven Gerrard, who took Bassey to Rangers from the Leicester City reserve team, is also reportedly keen on reuniting with the Nigerian at Aston Villa.

It is increasingly looking like it will take a club-record sale from Rangers to prise Bassey away from Ibrox.

Bassey was a couple of months short of his 18th birthday when he first got the chance to sample Ibrox Stadium and the young Leicester City kid left his mark in more ways than one in that 6-1 rout against the Rangers development squad.

Former Ibrox striker Ryan Hardie felt the full force of his physicality as he was "barged off his feet and the ball", inside the box by Bassey.

However, it was Bassey's ability to recover that left Hardie in awe as he stood in the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium to watch his old club last week in the Europa League final.

Bassey recovered from a slip to make a last-ditch recovery tackle to deny Eintracht Frankfurt's Rafael Borre.

Hardie was amazed at the 22-year-old's desire as he kept going to the bitter end despite the stifling Seville heat.

Also, in the stadium that night was another player—Conor Tee, who featured in that game five years ago and upstaged his good friend and team-mate.

And he beamed with pride after travelling to Seville to join the tens of thousands of Rangers fans to watch his old roommate on one of the biggest stages of all.

Tee recalled that game in September 2017 but believes a return match a couple of years later was the one that really convinced the Ibrox side, by then managed by Gerrard, to make a move. But Bassey did enough to impress with 'B' team boss David McCallum an instant admirer and the wheels were set in motion for the eventual transfer a short time later.

Bassey was picked up for around £300,000 as they took advantage of the cross-border compensation rule and that is proving a bargain with every man of the match display with some claiming he's now in the £25 million bracket.

Tee told Record Sport: "I went to watch Calvin in Seville and I was buzzing for him because he's my best mate. "It was surreal watching him in Seville on that big stage. It was a proud feeling for us and his family watching.

"I returned to Glasgow and spent some time with him there. There's no question he's

good enough for the English Premier League but it's about getting the move that suits him.

"He'll know what's best for him and his career. There's no rush, Rangers is a huge club and he's just 22 and played in a European final.

"When I was in Seville a few people asked me how I got tickets and when I told them my mate was Calvin Bassey they said, 'Oh my God!'

"I told him the feelings the fans have for him but he's not big headed. He's just the same Calvin. "He's not shy to be fair, he's a bubbly guy but such a great guy and down to earth and he deserves everything he achieves.

"I moved to South Shields a season after he moved to Rangers and he's planning on coming to watch me as well but our games always clashed.

"I didn't even get the chance to see him until the Europa League final but I caught up with him a few times in Glasgow on non-matchdays.

"I joined Leicester City at Under-12s and he joined at Under-16 level and we became good friends. "We lived with each other in digs when we both got a scholarship and we've been mates ever since.

"I can still remember his first training session and he was good but I would say he improved rapidly.



Real Madrid Karim Benzema waltzes through the trio of Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk, Jordan Henderson and Georginio Wijnaldum

# Liverpool, Madrid Go for Broke in Today's Champions League Final

Two of the most decorated clubs in European football history—Real Madrid and Liverpool, will today go head-to-head at the Stade de France Stadium in Paris. It is expected to be one hell of a spectacle, with so much talent on show and two fantastic coaches in the dugout, but the English side seems to have the edge—at least on paper

**F**orty-one years on from their inaugural battle in the beautiful city of Paris, Liverpool and Real Madrid reconvene just north of the French capital, Saint-Denis for the 2021-22 Champions League final today.

The Reds have a seventh title in Europe's primary competition in their sights today, while continental veterans Los Blancos are aiming to get their hands on the trophy for a record-extending 14th time.

Inter Milan, Benfica and Villarreal have been sent packing by Jurgen Klopp's side en route to the Stade de France, while Carlo Ancelotti's men have dumped out a trio of heavyweights in Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City.

While Man City were busy being rocked to the core by Aston Villa and Steven Gerrard - hoping to help his former club achieve something that he never did during his days in the red jersey - a plucky Wolverhampton Wanderers side would frustrate Klopp's side and their disgruntled supporters.

The double cup winners ultimately did what they needed to do with a 3-1 success, but the Citizens' astounding turnaround against Villa ensured that the Premier League crown would remain in the grip of Pep Guardiola and leave Liverpool to rue what could have been.

Ending such a promising campaign with only two cups in the cabinet would not prove to satiate the travelling Liverpool party, and they were forced to navigate a scare against European specialist, Unai Emery and his giant-killing Villarreal side in the semi-finals, but no white flags were waved at La Ceramica.

Today's encounter will mark the 10th time that Liverpool have appeared in the final of the European Cup/Champions League, and some may argue that they have enjoyed a relatively favourable run to the showpiece event, but as Klopp will surely stress, there are no easy fixtures in this competition.

While Inter Milan did shut out the Reds in a 1-0 Anfield win that ended up proving inconsequential, Liverpool have scored at

least twice in the rest of their Champions League fixtures this term - no mean feat amid the unforgiving schedule that Klopp always had plenty to say about.

Furthermore, that loss to the Nerazzurri represents the Reds' last defeat in any competition, with Klopp going on to oversee an 18-game unbeaten run in all tournaments since that defeat on March 8, including 10 wins from their last 11.

Numerous members of the current Liverpool crop collected runners-up medals in 2018 after that fateful night in Kyiv against Real Madrid, and revenge is firmly on the agenda for some of them - none more so than Mohammed Salah following his injury and tearful substitution.

Klopp has affirmed that the need for vengeance is not playing heavily on his mind, but a 33 per cent win percentage against Real Madrid represents the German's worst against a single opponent, and ending that hoodoo today would certainly help make up for the quadruple dream failing to turn into a reality. His opposite number, however, knows how to win a Champions League.

Overtaking a two-goal deficit against serial Champions League underachievers PSG is one thing. Dumping out the reigning champions after going 3-0 down at the Bernabeu is another. Overcoming Manchester City after letting in four goals at the Etihad? Carlo Ancelotti, take a bow.

Possessing a striker as lethal as Karim Benzema and a winger fulfilling his bags of potential in Vinicius Junior has propelled Los Blancos to the unlikely of comebacks in this season's tournament, but the contributions of another Brazilian starlet cannot be forgotten either.

Seemingly down and out after 90 minutes against Man City, who moved into a 5-3 aggregate lead in the semi-finals thanks to Riyad Mahrez's smart finish, Rodrygo netted twice in the space of two minutes to force extra time and leave the home supporters who exited early with egg on their faces.

Fans' attempts to return to their seats for

the extra-time period proved fruitless, but Real's efforts to reach the final did not, as record-breaker Benzema's penalty - not a Panenka one this time - ensured that the Spanish champions would board the plane to France and keep their continental campaign going right to the final whistle.

Understandably taking their foot off the gas slightly in La Liga having wrapped up the title with weeks to spare, Real only managed to win one of their final four top-flight fixtures in 2021-22, and their matchday 38 ended in a dull goalless stalemate with Real Betis in the capital.

One should certainly not take Real's recent results at face value, with Ancelotti not afraid to rest and rotate his resources ahead of Saturday's final, in which the most successful team in European history will aim to lift the trophy for a 14th time and end a four-year drought in the competition.

Los Blancos have suffered plenty of scares along the way, but their European pedigree is not up for debate, especially seeing as they have won each of their last seven European Cup/Champions League finals since going down 1-0 to Liverpool in 1981 - potentially a good omen for those in red.

Ancelotti will also be wary of the fact that his side have failed to keep a single

## PAST WINNERS

Season	Winners
2021-22	???
2020-21	Chelsea
2019-20	Bayern
2018-19	Liverpool
2017-18	Real Madrid
2016-17	Real Madrid
2015-16	Real Madrid
2014-15	Barcelona
2013-14	Real Madrid
2012-13	Bayern Munich
2011-12	Chelsea
2010-11	Barcelona
2009-10	Internazionale
2008-09	Barcelona
2007-08	Man Utd
2006-07	Milan
2005-06	Barcelona
2004-05	Liverpool
2003-04	Porto
2002-03	Milan
2001-02	Real Madrid
2000-01	Bayern
1999-20	Real Madrid
1998-99	Man Utd
1997-98	Real Madrid
1996-97	Borussia Dortmund
1995-96	Juventus
1994-95	Ajax
1993-94	Milan
1992-93	Marseille
1991-92	Barcelona
1990-91	Red Star Belgrade
1989-90	Milan
1988-89	Milan
1987-88	PSV
1986-87	Porto
1985-86	Steaua Bucuresti
1984-85	Juventus
1983-84	Liverpool
1982-83	Hamburg
1981-82	Aston Villa
1980-81	Liverpool
1979-80	N'ham Forest
1978-79	N'ham Forest
1977-78	Liverpool
1976-77	Liverpool
1975-76	Bayern Munich
1974-75	Bayern Munich
1973-74	Bayern Munich
1972-73	Ajax
1971-72	Ajax
1970-71	Ajax
1969-70	Feyenoord
1968-69	Milan
1967-68	Man Utd
1966-67	Celtic
1965-66	Real Madrid
1964-65	Internazionale
1963-64	Internazionale
1962-63	Milan
1961-62	Benfica
1960-61	Benfica
1959-60	Real Madrid
1958-59	Real Madrid
1957-58	Real Madrid
1956-57	Real Madrid
1955-56	Real Madrid

clean sheet in this season's Champions League knockout stages - albeit while scoring 14 of their own in their last five continental matches - and the wily Italian will aim to complete his own quadruple against Liverpool in Saint-Denis.

Indeed, the Real boss would become the most successful manager in Champions League history with a fourth success in the tournament - leaving Zinedine Zidane and Bob Paisley in his wake - but Klopp travels to the Stade de France fully intent on taking a leaf out of the latter's book.

## UCL Final Clash Airs on GOtv's Pop-up Channel 38

GOtv customers can look forward to European football action from the 2021/22 UEFA Champions League Final match between Liverpool and Real Madrid on a dedicated pop-up channel come Saturday night.

The Pay-TV giant introduced a pop-up channel to enable its customers subscribed to the GOtv Supa and GOtv Max packages to have access to content from Europe's premier competition all-day long.

The channel, which has been live from May 26 and close

on May 30, will broadcast the much-anticipated showdown between the two giants set to be played at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, France.

Real Madrid could add a record-extending 14th Champions League title to its rich collection of European trophies if it could see off the challenge from the Merseyside team. Los Blancos to have access to content from Europe's premier competition all-day long.

to that list

Liverpool are currently tied with Bayern Munich as joint-third on the list of highest winners of the Champions League trophy with six trophies apiece. If the English giant defeats Real Madrid, it would move up on the list and become joint-second with AC Milan on seven trophies.

To enjoy access to the pop-up channel 38, customers can download the MyGOtv app to subscribe or upgrade or set up Auto-Renewal to stay connected without interruptions.

# GLOBAL SOCCER



Super Eagles in a training session

## Peseiro Starts Super Eagles' Journey as Nigeria Try Mexico for Size

Nigeria will take to the pitch for the first time since March's World Cup qualification heartbreak when they go head-to-head with Mexico a friendly matchup at the AT&T Stadium tonight.

The North Americans, meanwhile, head into the game unbeaten in each of their last seven outings across all competitions and will look to keep this fine run alive and kicking.

Mexico will be one of 32 nations vying for glory at the World Cup in November after a sensational run in the qualifiers, where they finished second in the CONCACAF qualification standings.

Mexico head into the weekend off the back of a somewhat disappointing goalless draw with Guatemala on April 28 when the two nations locked horns at the Camping World Stadium in the first of their four friendly fixtures ahead of their CONCACAF Nations League opener against Suriname on June 12.

Gerardo Martino's men are now unbeaten in each of their last eight outings across all competitions, picking up four wins and four draws since a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Canada in November 2021.

Nigeria, on the other hand, were last in action on March 29, when they played out a 1-1 draw with rivals and fellow West Africans Ghana — a result which saw the Black Stars beat them to a place in the World Cup courtesy of the away goals rule.

This followed a similarly heartbreaking run in the Africa Cup of Nations, where the Super Eagles picked up maximum points in the group stages before

they were sent packing in the round of 16 courtesy of a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Tunisia on January 23.

While Nigeria will be looking to quickly get those two disappointments behind them and return to winning ways, they head into the weekend without a win in any of their last nine friendly outings, losing four and picking up five draws in that time.

Meanwhile, Coach José Santos Peseiro has opted for positivity and pragmatism as he starts his managerial stint with Nigeria having to deal with the forced absence of a number of key players, including Captain Ahmed Musa, from the prestige friendly games against Mexico and Ecuador in the United States of America.

Musa, as well as goalkeeper, Maduka Okoye, defenders Zaidu Sanusi and Abdullahi Shehu, midfielders Oghenekaro Etebo, Azubuike Okwachukwu, Alhassan Yusuf and Samson Tijani, and forwards Samuel Chukwueze and Sadiq Umar were unable to make it to the United States as a combination of factors including visa hitches, injuries and career concerns took their toll.

"You have to be practical and face the challenges when they come this way or any other way. We would have loved to have everyone here and see how well they have put the World Cup miss behind them and forged on. But what we have is what we have. I have chosen to be positive and I have resolved to work hard to use the resources available to make Nigeria great again.

"I am happy we have such an excellent pool of players who are committed and ready to give their all every

time. This situation was not something they created; challenges do turn up that way. We have a number of options who have been told to rise up to the occasion. Every player who gets the chance to wear the Nigeria jersey should be proud of that opportunity and give their all."

However, deputy captain William Ekong, Moses Simon and Alex Iwobi are in the famous city in the State of Texas as the Eagles are set for the clash with the Mexicans tonight. Goalkeeper Francis Uzoho, defenders Olaoluwa Aina and Chidozie Awaziem, midfielders Joseph Ayodele-Arifo and Innocent Bonke, and forwards Cyril Dessers and Terem Moffi are also part of the party.

Eight home-based professionals, including Olorunleke Ojo, Ibrahim Buhari, Chiamaka Madu, Victor Mbaoma and Ishaq Kayode Rafiu are also in the US to fight for shirts.

After the clash with El Tri, the Super Eagles' contingent will fly into the State of New Jersey on May 29, for their scheduled friendly against Ecuador at the Red Bull Arena in Harrison on June 2.

The two matches have been designed as physical, mental and psychological reawakening for the Eagles ahead of next month's 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying duels with Sierra Leone and Mauritius in Abuja and St. Pierre respectively.

Nigeria host Sierra Leone at the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja on June 9, before flying to St. Pierre for their encounter with the Les Dodos at the Cote D'Or National Sports Complex, St. Pierre as from 1pm Mauritius time (10am Nigeria) on June 13.



Prince Yemi Ajibola accepting trophy on behalf of Dr. Vitus Ezenwa, Mr. Norden Thurston of Pepsi, Egnr. Simbi Wabote of NCDMB & Peter Eben-Spiff of Dulux Paints, Winners of WCGC 2022

## Dulux Paint Wins 2022 World Corporate Golf Challenge Nigeria Finals

The national finals of the famed World Corporate Golf Challenge (WCGC) came to a thrilling end at the Lakowe Lakes Golf and Country Estate in Lagos on Sunday with team Dulux Paint emerging the overall winner.

Represented by Peter Eben-Spiff and Vitus Ezenwa, the duo grossed a total of 45 stable-ford points to win the competition by 1 point over the hard-fighting team of Eko Support 1, represented by Okey Ananaba and Remi Edu at 44 points.

The pair of Mohammed Suleiman and Jumai Abdulahi representing NCDMB-3 from IBB International Golf and Country Club, Abuja came third with a score of 41 stable-ford points, beating Chidi Momah and Julius Fadairo who represented Julius Fadairo and Co. on countback.

Completing the top five winners in the keenly contested encounter is the team of Oregon & Omars represented by Abiye Amakri and Peter Omoruaye.

Though the players were originally expected to be scored over 36-holes, the weather disrupted the opening round thereby forcing the organisers to score participants over the closing 18-holes.

Satisfied with the outcome of the competition, the Chief Executive Officer of Falcon Golf Development Company, Remi Olukoya expressed appreciation to the players and attendees, saying he will continue to work to improve on the quality of the tournament.

He also thanked the sponsors for their support saying their backing would bolster the quality of the tournament.

"Falcon Golf Development company would like to express our appreciation to NCDMB for their support over the years. We also express our gratitude towards Pepsi, Guinness, Banwo & Ighodalo, Henley & Partners, First E&P, OVH Energy, PwC, Geregu Power, Dulux Paints, Dradrock Real Estate, Mixta Africa, Mainstream Power, Lagoon Hospital, Rwanda Airlines, Singleton, 2sure, Dubic Malt, Captain Morgan, DO Bowls & Kia Motors for the success of this event," he said.

For winning the competition, team Dulux will be sponsored to participate in the World Finals of WCGC at the Island of Tenerife, Spain in October 17-21, 2022. Supporters are welcome to participate in the guest event and can contact Falcon Golf Development Company by email to reserve a spot.

## Heineken Champions League Climaxes as Cubana Hosts Liverpool, Madrid Finals

Fans and loyal consumers of Heineken in and around Lagos are set for a memorable Champions League final experience as the international premium brand is set to light up the Centre of Excellence with its magic.

Though today's final clash between Liverpool and Real Madrid is taking place thousands of miles away at the Stade de France, Heineken will be relieving the eclectic atmosphere in Paris at Cubana in the heart of the Lagos State capital, Ikeja.

Having provided premium

and peerless experiences for its consumers all through this season's Champions League run, Heineken will be going a notch higher for today's final.

Aside from the guaranteed unique match viewing experience on giant screens in a first-class lounge, Heineken has promised instant giveaways to fans and loyal customers alike.

In the usual Heineken style of mixing football action with A-class entertainment, there would be DJs on the ground led by DJ CrowdKontroller.

Senior Brand Manager, Heineken, Chinwe Greg-

Egu described this season's Champions League as a worthy journey deserving of a classic final.

She said: "Though it has been a hectic run, we are set for an epic final and thanks to Heineken, the fans have an extra reason to look forward to Saturday as we will be providing everything that would make the night an unforgettable one"

With its 'Cheers to all fans' campaign, Heineken has created a strong bond among fans regardless of their various club affiliations.

## GOTVBOXINGNIGHT25

### Expect Defeat, Ibadan Boxers Tell Lagos-based Opponents

Two Ibadan-based boxers, Azeez Ayobami, and Ademola Ibrahim, have issued a warning to their Lagos-based opponents to expect defeat when they step into the ring at GOTV Boxing Night 25 on June 4, at the Old Gymnasium of Obafemi Awolowo Stadium, Ibadan.

Speaking in separate interviews, the two boxers claimed that Lagos-based boxers are given a superiority complex and look down on those based in Ibadan. Ayobami will fight Sadiq Oyakojo in one of the two lightweight challenge bouts at the event, while Ibrahim will clash with Segun Adeyemi in a welterweight challenge bout.

According to Ayobami, the trend of Lagos-based boxers

winning in Ibadan has come to an end.

"They've won almost every time they have fought in Ibadan. I think that has made them believe they're naturally better than boxers in Ibadan. But that will end. In fact, it has ended. Sadiq Oyakojo will go down like a stone dropped in a river. Tell him 'Ibadan nor be Lagos.' I will win. No doubt about that," he raved.

On his part, Ibrahim said he will beat Adeyemi and dedicate his victory to the memory of the late Akeem "Dodo" Sadiku, who was the undisputed star in the Ibadan boxing circuit. He also stated that Lagos-based boxers are arrogant and view those based in Ibadan

as inferior.

"War (Adeyemi) is an opponent I've wanted to fight for long and I'm happy that the opportunity has come. I'm confident of beating him and help to prove that Ibadan boxers are not inferior to those from Lagos. My victory will be dedicated to the memory of Dodo, who was the main man in Ibadan boxing. My opponent calls himself 'War', but he does not know what war is. He will see real war when we get into the ring," he boasted.

Earlier in the week, another Ibadan-based boxer, Samuel "Apata Roro" Moses, urged boxing fans in the city to troop out and cheer him when he fights Wale Anifowose at GOTV Boxing Night 25.

## Djokovic, Nadal French Open Last 16 Place

Roland defending champion Novak Djokovic produced another outstanding display as he reached the French Open fourth round without having dropped a set all week.

Serbia's Djokovic, 34, won 6-3 6-3 6-2 - saving one break point in the third set - against Slovenia's Aljaz Bedene.

The top seed remains on course for a potential quarter-final meeting with Spain's 13-time champion Rafael Nadal.

Nadal, 35, also moved into the last 16 yesterday with a 6-3 6-2 6-4 win over Dutch opponent Botic van de Zandschulp.

Nadal, who was beaten by Djokovic in a gripping semi-final last year, will face Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime in Paris on Sunday.

An intriguing element to that match is Toni Nadal - Rafael's uncle, who coached him to 16 of his 21 major titles - is part of Auger-Aliassime's team in Paris.

Ninth seed Auger-Aliassime earned his spot in the last 16 with a 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-2) 7-5 win against Serbia's Filip Krajinovic.

Nadal secured his victory over 26th seed Van de Zandschulp when he saw off a break point before serving out the win.

Standing between Djokovic and the possibility of a 59th career meeting with Nadal is Argentine 15th seed Diego Schwartzman, his last-16 opponent.

# Dapo Afolayan Dreams Super Eagles Place



He has never hidden his desire to star for the country of his father even at the age-grade level. Now 24-years, and despite having played a game for the England Team C, Oladapo Afolayan cannot resist an opportunity to play for the Super Eagles

**B**olton Wanderers winger, Dapo Afolayan has expressed his desire to represent Nigeria internationally despite having played a game for the England Team C.

The 24-year-old is growing into a cult hero at the University of Bolton Stadium, drawing a comparison with the legendary Nigerian playmaking wizard

The Harrow-born forward is, however, aware that his chances are presently slim, with the quality of attackers that are in the Super Eagles' ranks.

For this month's international friendly against Mexico, the national team handlers invited nine forwards, including Feyenoord's Cyriel Dessers, Leicester City's Ademola Lookman, Almeria's Umar Sadiq, and Villarreal's Samuel Chukwueze.

Notable among those who missed out are Napoli's Victor Osimhen, Genk's Paul Onuachu, Leicester City's Kelechi Iheanacho, and Union Berlin's Taiwo Awoniyi.

It would take something special for any player in England's League One to earn a Super Eagles call-up at the moment.

However, Afolayan is evidently unique, and the former Chelsea schoolboy is not losing hope.

Blessed with great pace, silky skills, and a knack for scoring goals, Afolayan has been regularly compared with Super Eagles' great Austin Jay-Jay Okocha by many Bolton Wanderers fans.

The 24-year-old recently confessed, in a chat with FourFourTwo (via Manchester Evening News), that it is an honour to be mentioned in the same breathe as one of the greatest Bolton players of all time.

He said: "I've always been a dribbler. I like to think I can glide past players and make decisions instinctively—it's something I enjoy doing, especially when I can draw fouls and move us up the pitch."

"My family is Nigerian and I see myself as

Nigerian, so Jay-Jay Okocha is someone I've looked up to my entire life – it was incredible to meet him when he visited this season. To be compared to him is an honour."

Afolayan has stepped up his game even more this term, scoring 14 goals to scoop Bolton's top goalscorer and Player of the Year awards.

And the former West Ham star's attentions have expectedly turned to the international scene.

Afolayan reveals he had discussions with the Nigeria Football Federation when he was much younger regarding playing for one of the country's youth teams.

He now has his eyes set on the Super Eagles, but he is the first to admit it would not be an easy task to get selected when the team is littered with elite attackers.

But Afolayan is convinced that persistence and hard work can open international doors for him in the not-too-distant future.

"I haven't spoken to them (the NFF) recently but when I was at West Ham we talked for a bit about the younger age groups but it is one of those; there are a lot of top, top players out there," Afolayan told Manchester Evening News.

"You look at the forwards that Nigeria have and they are all playing Serie A, Premier League, Bundesliga, La Liga, so hopefully my time will come but until then, I just have to keep working hard." Afolayan joined Bolton Wanderers from West Ham United on a free transfer last year after first impressing on a loan spell.

Afolayan looked back on his first year as an official Wanderer and admitted it was a perfect time to join the club.

Twelve months ago, the twinkle-toed winger agreed a permanent move from West Ham, having already helped the Whites to promotion from League Two.

It has proved the perfect move as the 24-year-old rattled in 14 goals last season to earn himself

the club's player of the year award.

Looking back at the decision to leave the Hammers and find regular football last summer, Afolayan said things could hardly have gone better.

"For my age it was the right time to go—I'd felt it for a few years," he said of the moving away from the London Stadium.

"When I joined West Ham, I was 20 and came from Solihull Moors in the National League and my ambition was always to play first team football. "It didn't work out for a number of reasons, injuries, manager changes, all sorts, but again I just wanted to play first team and every window I was looking to get out on loan.

"When the opportunity to come to Bolton arrived I'd spoken to the manager about two or three days before the window closed and in my head it was done and dusted. I was buzzing because of everything I knew about the club, I just wanted to get here, play games, especially because when I arrived they were thick and fast.

"We went on an incredible run and then to come and build on it again, especially with the fans because we only saw a little bit of them towards the end of last year when we were almost up and had pockets of them at some games.

"It has been unreal this season, so for me, it was the perfect time to come here."

Scottish Premiership outfit Rangers are currently keeping tabs on Afolayan ahead of the summer window.

The 24-year-old has enjoyed a successful first season as a permanent player for the Trotters, playing a huge part in their top-half finish this term following their promotion from League Two at the end of the 2020/21 campaign.

His progress hasn't gone under the radar though with both Cardiff City and Fulham also thought to be monitoring his situation at this stage, though a move to the former seems

unlikely considering Steve Morison is set to be working within a limited budget this summer. Bottom of Form

The £1.5m-rated player may be in the Cottagers' and Giovanni van Bronckhorst's side's reach though if Ian Evatt's side are prepared to let him go for a fee in that region, though that remains to be seen with the ex-West Ham man still having two years left on his contract at the University of Bolton Stadium.

For the player, this could be a great move because it will allow him to perform on a bigger stage, potentially enabling him to catch the eye of other sides across the UK and potentially Europe too, depending on how well he performs.

<b>GLOBAL SOCCER</b>
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# TRIBUTE

## Dapo Abiodun at 62: A Bountiful Harvest of Blessings, Evolvment

Funmi Branco

To be 62 anywhere in the world, let alone in a clime where life expectancy is only slightly above 55 years, offers exciting memories. It offers lessons for the future. For Dapo Abiodun, the fifth democratically elected governor of Ogun, Nigeria's Gateway State, May 29 isn't just inauguration day; it is his birth date. He is a man of destiny, the man for this season when the business of governing Nigeria's most educationally advanced and increasingly the most industrialized state (in large part due to his genius) demands a seasoned administrator and matchless manager of men and materials. Today, Prince Dapo Abiodun is marking his third anniversary as governor, and his 62nd birthday, and the celebrations have been richly deserved. Let the drums roll out, and let voices of praise be lifted up on high...

The celebrations are in order not just because they are inevitable; they are in order because of sheer grace, God's grace. Because for the Iperu-born prince, it has been, as the motto of the Royal Air Force says, "through difficulty to the stars." In particular, the last few months have been nothing but a recreation of his pre-inauguration tribulation by the mindless mob of political adversaries. He has been robed in the garb of a villain and tarred with the acerbic brush of naysayers. He has been labeled a fraudster, a jailbird, an illiterate, a drunkard and just any tag the evil imagination of the critics, many of them brandishing fake names and addresses to evade justice while perpetrating incitement to chaos, can conjure. Unable to withstand him on the political or mental turf, they have resorted to character assassination. They have mocked him for being bereaved of a son at a stage in his life—their vile politicking would not even let the dead rest in peace—and for refusing to trade off the Ogun patrimony for political patronage. But he has kept his pledge while being sworn-in as governor of Ogun State on May 29, 2019 in mind: "You will always find in me, the conduct of Omoluwabi expected of Omo Teacher! I will govern with character. I will serve you diligently and sincerely. I will make your interests the core of governance. I will neither personalize nor abuse the mandate. I will not betray your trust."

Just like they did when he first signified interest in the Oke Mosan Government House race, political adversaries have wearied themselves hiring mercenary writers to denigrate him, thinking this is the only way they would stand any chance at the 2023 general election. They have published no manifesto: hate is all they purvey. They came up with all kinds of junk to distract him but he has remained undistracted, having passed through that thorny road before. He knows that with the help of God he will overcome. It will not be a bed of roses—the adversaries are still on the loose—but just as his name implies, God will continue to be glorified in whatever he does. In the last couple of months he has passed through fire. But it is fire that purges gold to make it more refined. He has become more experienced, more enlightened and more prepared to wage war against poverty and all indices of underdevelopment in Ogun. In the face of mudslinging, he has remained focused. Believing that all power belongs to God, he has not gone out of his way to malign or attack anyone. He has demonstrated his Omoluabi qualities time and again.

This May 29 is therefore the stuff of legend. Prince Abiodun is on his way to a landslide win next year while the critics for whom mischief comes naturally keep themselves



Abiodun

busy with vile abuse. That is actually a wonderful formula: you bellyache, I move forward. Governor Abiodun has cause to be thankful for what God has done for Ogun State. Ogun is now Nigeria's top investment destination. He has built more infrastructure than previous administrations put together. Evidence of strategic thinking targeted at lifting Ogun State into a development highway is massive, and by reason of space constraints we can here only provide snippets.

Take the Olokola Free Trade Zone which for many years was mere artifice. It is now a giant reality, and the Ogun State government's recent signing of a \$400m Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a foreign firm, Arise Integrated In-

dustrial Platform, on the development of the Olokola Free Trade Zone (FTZ) and the Remo Agro Processing Zone could not have been more strategic. With about 25,000 jobs guaranteed willy-nilly, the project approaches a revolution in literally turning the corridor into an industrial hub: a power plant exists through which gas can be accessed. It has been said that a free trade zone hosting property, automobile, agriculture and manufacturing industries and complemented by an agro-allied airport is an unbeatable economic prospect for Ogun State, and one cannot agree more.

There's no space to mention agriculture, a sector in which Prince Abiodun has been winning gongs back to back at

the Nigeria Agricultural Award (NAA). The panel of assessors noted the integrated approach to production, processing and marketing through land provisions/inputs distribution, processing and marketing with individuals and corporate organizations; the support for 40,000 smallholder farmers with inputs such as seeds, cassava cutting, insecticide and herbicide during the 2020 planting season, the fertilizers palliatives given to 10,000 farmers and continued support across the state; the support given to young farmers with over 900 hectares of land preparations in 17 locations, with some 2,500 unemployed youths and farmers engaging in cassava production; the setting up strategic partnerships with international development partners and farmers in large-scale cultivation of rice and cassava in 36 locations in 11 local government areas, among many other innovations, including the Ogun/Kebbi Joint Commission on Rice Production. They also noted technological innovations and support to farming and related activities, including technical backstopping, demonstration farms and enterprise development. Ogun is very competitive in arable crops like cassava, yam, maize, sweet potato, and cash crops like cocoa, oil palm, timbre, kolanut, cashew and rubber, and the agro-allied airport in Ilishan-Remo is nearing completion.

When President Muhammadu Buhari visited Ogun State in January, it was to inaugurate landmark projects, including the Ijebu-Ode-Epe road, an arterial road that, among other benefits, links the Lekki / Epe corridor of Lagos State to the eastern corridor of Ogun State at Ijebu-Ode and provides a ready alternative to the Lagos/Ibadan expressway for those going to Lekki and adjoining areas; the 42 km Sagamu Interchange-Abeokuta road, the main arterial road that leads to the state capital and comes with a dual carriageway with streetlights, median and other road furniture; the Gateway City Gate, an architectural masterpiece made of composite materials towering to a height of 27m and warmly welcoming visitors to the state; and the two Housing Estates for low, medium and high income earners at Kobape and Oke-Mosan. The president then promised to rehabilitate dilapidated federal roads in the state.

Governor Abiodun has done wonderful things in the health sector. He has built new hospitals and refurbished existing ones, making the state Teaching Hospitals world class with massive provision of facilities and the recruitment of specialists. Recall that while some governors slumbered in the thick of the Covid-19 crisis, he worked hard, as affirmed by the Presidency. President Buhari turned down the request for N5 billion by the Kano State government, saying that he gave that sum to Ogun and Lagos because he saw their sincerity of purpose in tackling the scourge.

Ogun under Abiodun has become an industrial hub. Industries and estates are springing up everywhere. And the improvement in IGR is massive. With good road networks, enabling environment peace and stability, development is inevitable. And this is why the awards have trooped in. Only last week, Abiodun emerged the Vanguard Governor of the Year. Recall that Daily Independent gave him the ICT Governor of the Year gong. The New Telegraph previously honoured him. His life is one of achievements.

At 62, Prince Abiodun knows that people who do not want to be smeared don't go into politics. He knows he will continue to be the victims of concocted and distorted information. But he has a very good story to tell about his first term in office, and he will have one to tell about the second. Happy Birthday to the people's governor.

Branco contributed this piece through [funmibranco@naver.com](mailto:funmibranco@naver.com)

**Governor Abiodun has done wonderful things in the health sector. He has built new hospitals and refurbished existing ones, making the state Teaching Hospitals world class with massive provision of facilities and the recruitment of specialists. Recall that while some governors slumbered in the thick of the Covid-19 crisis, he worked hard, as affirmed by the Presidency. President Buhari turned down the request for N5 billion by the Kano State government, saying that he gave that sum to Ogun and Lagos because he saw their sincerity of purpose in tackling the scourge**

EXPRESSION

# Marching Orders, Not 'Order'

**N**IGERIAN TRIBUNE of May 10 leads the pack of foibles today: "... there are still some honest Nigerians with very strong moral fibre capable of resisting the temptation to be dishonest and fraudulent even when it would appear save (safe) to do so."

Still on the above edition: "Twenty-five years is enough for wastages... backbitting..." Spell-check: backbiting. Back to basics. There is a difference in usage between 'condole' and 'console': the former takes 'with' as a phrasal verb while the latter stands alone.

Next on the line-up is THE NATION of May 10: "Motor dealer arrested over (for) death of his 15-year-old boy in Ibadan"

"...like (as) I have always said..." "...a raging demand for the implementation of the government White Paper on the immediate past administration." Truth in defence of freedom: 'White Papers' are exclusively issued by governments! It is like writing 'obituary announcement' when 'obituary' on its own covers 'announcement'.

"Old boys assures quality education" Why the discord and who did they assure?

"One question that readily comes to mind is what does Amaechi stands (stand) to lose if..." (Source: as above)

DAILY INDEPENDENT of May 9 contributed the next three errors: "The dictates of democracy is (are) anchored on the wishes..."

"Ikpeba denies gang up against Yekini" Get it right: 'gang-up'. Still on Yekini who scored Nigeria's first World Cup goal: enough of the crocodile tears for Yekini

who was abandoned by everyone when it mattered most!

"We all want good things and for these good things to come we must all contribute our own quota (quota)..." (THE NATION, May 9)

Again, from the preceding medium: "Internment follows thereafter." (Full-page Announcement by Edo State Government) Spell-check: interment.

"Murder of South East politician: IGP gets Presidential marching order" (National Accord, May 24) Get it right: marching orders.

Please note that 'flag off' is now generally and authoritatively accepted as a phrasal verb.

Retrospect: "Aregbesola commends Oyinlola over (for/on) mineral exploration" It is equally commendable that a former serving governor deemed it fit to appreciate his predecessor—it is rare in our convoluted country. Thumbs up for Engr. Rauf Aregbesola who passionately gave rudderless PDP sleepless nights by his inimitable leadership distinction in The State of Osun not too long ago.

"THE GUARDIAN ON SUNDAY of May 22 did not live up to its reputation as a scholarly publication: "Rotimi Jacobs, principal prosecutor to the EFCC, gives thumb (thumbs) down to..."

"Setting standards for sustainable business practices that; (sic) unleash the talents of our employees..." (Access Bank's Mission) A passion for excellence: the semi-colon in the excerpt is otiose and breaks the flow of an otherwise well-written statement.

"We regret to announce the untimely death of our friends, colleagues and comrades in a ghastly motor accident on Saturday, May 21, 2022 (another comma) along (on) the Afuze-Auchi

road." (Full-page obituary by... advertiser's name withheld for potentially-fatalistic reasons!) This mishap was fatal. The media officials should have known better and not allow their governor to sign a bad copy for public consumption!

THE NATION ON SUNDAY of May 22 typically circulated six improprieties: "US lawmakers write Buhari, demand action against sect" The legislators wrote to Buhari (not wrote Buhari)... in formal/standard environments.

"Gov. mourns lawmaker's late wife" Truth in defence of freedom: do we mourn people who are alive? Common sense: the man mourned the lawmaker's wife.

"According to him, he was the last journalist to interview the late Major-Gen. Johnson Aguiyi-Ironsi alive." Again, I ask: is it possible to interview a dead man?

"...he has made remarkable progress towards cleaning the Aegean stable (sic) in the sector..." Business Intelligence: Aegean stables.

"Nigeria, one of top 10 gas flaring nations—World Bank" (National News, May 3) National News: gas-flaring nations.

"OAU alumni honours members, launch N500m Alumni Centre" (Nigerian Tribune, May 3) Why the discrepancy (honour)?

"This strike is taking heavy tool (toll) on public..." (THE NATION, May 4)

"He advocates for a proper..." Delete 'for'.

"Nigeria's soccer house set to take the bull by the horn and change the face of the game." Sport Today: take the bull by the horns.

"Almost 80 per cent of police stations



MEDIA GAFFES

EBERE WABARA

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were either razed to the ground or ransacked" Obviously, when a property is razed, it crumbles to the ground. Got the hang? This is different from a section or sections of it being burned.

"The wretched has (have) no voice." "...the victim is a specie (species) from among the wretched of the earth."

"We could do nothing against such formidable odds giving (given) the worthless tools at our disposal."

"Within few months of his administration, the crime rate in the state ostensibly reduced to the barest minimum." What is the function of 'ostensibly' here?

"The congestion on our roads are (is) very unhealthy for the economic sector."

"A further review of the performance of the major currencies of Nigeria's trading partners also indicate (indicates) that the Euro..."

"A planned rally by students... was aborted yesterday in Lagos as heavily armed policemen took over the Yaba bus stop..." Something can only be aborted when the process had begun. The rally never kicked off as it was still at the planning stage.

"An association comprising of Great Britain and its former colonies..." Gently take out 'of'.

"The strappy look is now the vogue." 'Vogue' connotes currency. 'Now' again? ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THIS addendum is in appreciation of recent interventions by Dr. Stanley Nduagu and Pastor N. E. Ijachi from Aba, Abia State and Otukpo, Benue State, respectively. I will address the issues raised shortly.

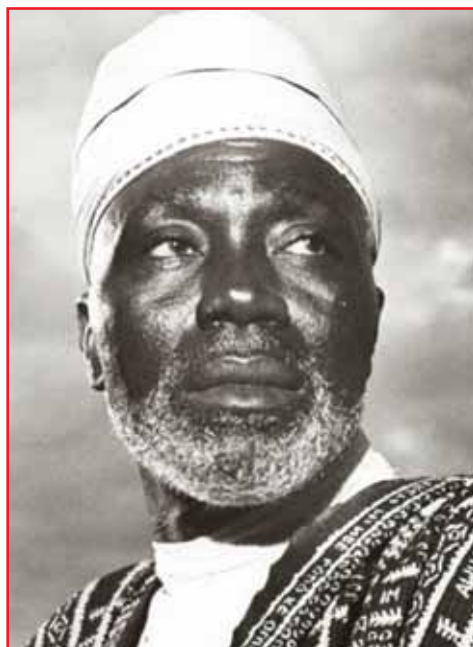
# Memorialising Orlando Martins

**I**n these cloudy and pregnant times, when the soul, spirit and sovereignty of Nigeria are prone to the extremities of human greed, desperation and destitution, we must find some sort of catharsis to vent our haplessness, and derive some emotional and psychological balance within the ugly vortex of repulsive and insensitive politicking swirling around us. For some of us, a trip down the illustrious pathways to historic and majestic 'ancestry' is a heartwarming distraction. Such is the life and story of Pa Orlando Martins, MON.

Though he died on September 25, 1985 in Lagos, a few months before his 86th birthday, in the context of the burgeoning stagecraft and the evolution of motion-pictures in Nigeria, Lagos-born Orlando Martins is a reference and a rarity in the Nigerian and African artistic pantheon. He is the one that can be described as the "ancestry" of the Nigerian dramatic contingent, even on the continent.

While today's finest actors bang their heads on the doors of Hollywood for a peep-hole, Martins was a big attraction at the Big Apple of the 40s and 50s! Hollywood star and later 40th President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan, shared credits with Orlando Martins in The Hasty Heart (1949) where he played Blossom, the African warrior. He also starred alongside Jomo Kenyatta (who later became a much revered President of Kenya) in an earlier film, Sanders of the River (1935). One other interesting thing about this black and white film directed by a Hungarian (Zoltán Korda) and which plot was about a Nigerian expedition of a British colonialist (Leslie Banks as Capt. Sanders), the two lead roles were played by African-Americans, the popular Paul Robeson and Nina Mae McKinney.

But the beginning was not this auspicious for Orlando Martins, nowhere near the more glorious 50s.



Orlando Martins

He was driven by a passion for revenge against the background of atrocities suffered by his grandmother in the hands of German soldiers who seized the Cameroons during the First World War (1914 - 1918). A year after leaving Eko Boys High School, Lagos, Martins travelled abroad with the angry intention to join the British Navy, and deal with the Germans who held his Grandma as a prisoner of war. He left Lagos at 18 for England in 1917 on a Liverpool-bound ship as a deck boy.

Two years later, the war was over. He needed to survive, and skills were limited. In most part of the 1920s, degrading came the way of the man who would later become Africa's pioneer Hollywood superstar: he performed in the circus as a snake-charmer, worked as a porter at a fish market, as a wrestler

(the 'Black Butcher Johnson'); he was a night guard, kitchen attendant, road sweeper, and an extra in silent films, beginning with 'If Youth But Knew' in 1926.

Many regrettable roles later, Orlando Martins plowed his way into the hearts and soul of the British film establishment with stage plays alongside Paul Robeson in Stevedore (1935) and Toussaint L'Ouverture (1936). Then, the second World War (1939-1945) came, and off he went to add his kobo to the British war efforts.

His glorious era came as soon as the war ended. His electric stage performances as Blossom, the Basuto warrior in The Hasty Heart; as Brigadier Jeremiah in The Man From Morocco (1945) and as Magole, the witch doctor in Men of Two Worlds (1946) stopped the media in their tracks. Whipped by his ardour and dexterity, the following quotes epitomize the thawing constrictive conscience of the British society to the emerging profundity of black thespians. Notable author, Peter Noble was quoted eulogizing the unique persona and position of 1948 Orlando Martins, in a book, Black in the British Frame, thus: "A tall, powerful figure of a man with a deep bass voice, friendly, hospitable and with a grand sense of humour... He is keenly interested in the foundation of a Negro Theatre in London... If this ever comes into being it will mean not only that Negro talent in every theatre can be shown to the world, but a continuity of employment for this talent which is now going sadly to waste."

Whether Noble was prophetic or hyperbolic, Orlando Martins, acclaimed and inspirational, went on to dazzle and marvel his audiences in several films and plays as a prominent and leading actor. In fact, a 1947 poll, of now unidentifiable source, named Martins as one of 15 top British exports to the fast-growing Hollywood world.

Before he returned home to Lagos in 1959 (47 years after as a 60-year old) he



COUNTERPOINT

FEMI AKINTUNDE-JOHNSON

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had posted stout credits in: Heart of the Matter (1953), West of Zanzibar (1954), Simba (1955), Safari (1956), Tarzan and the Lost Safari (1957), Sapphire (1959); and in such stage plays as Cry, the Beloved Country (1954), and The Member of the Wedding (1957 - with the Royal Court Theatre), etc.

Even while in semi-retirement, reconnecting with his ancestral home, Orlando Martins still logged impressive credits in: Killers of Kilimanjaro (1960), Call Me Bwana (1963), Mister Moses (1965), and Kongi's Harvest (1970 - Nigeria's first home-grown film adaptation). It was screen-played and led by Wole Soyinka, adapted from his 1965 book of the same title. Martins played Segi's father with hardly any make up. He was 70). Fittingly, Orlando Martins' last work was starring as Obierika in the 1972 mesh of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart and No Longer At Ease, entitled Bullfrog in the Sun. He retired from active filmmaking at 72.

By the way, Martins was born Emmanuel Alhandu Martins at Okesuna Street, Lagos Island (incidentally, the same street where yours truly was also born many decades later) to a father who was a PWD official, and a petty-trader mother from the Soares family. His famous first name was smuggled into his status as a result of constant usage of his nickname, 'Orlando Frigado' by classmates at Eko Boys High School, to the chagrin of his father, Akinola Martins.

Orlando Martins, honoured at home and abroad, put an end to the journey which began on December 8, 1899 in Lagos, and ended as the legendary, and shining "western" star of the African continent, on September 25, 1985, also in Lagos. Unarguably, he is the chief unquenchable emblem of African acting excellence globally.

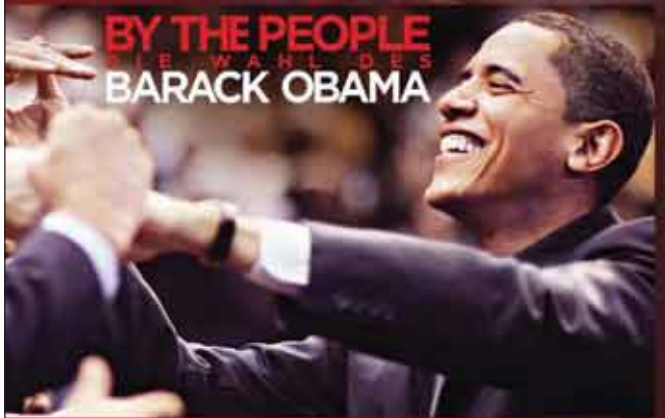


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**93  
DAYS**



**BY THE PEOPLE  
THE ELECTION OF  
BARACK OBAMA**



**LIFE STORIES**

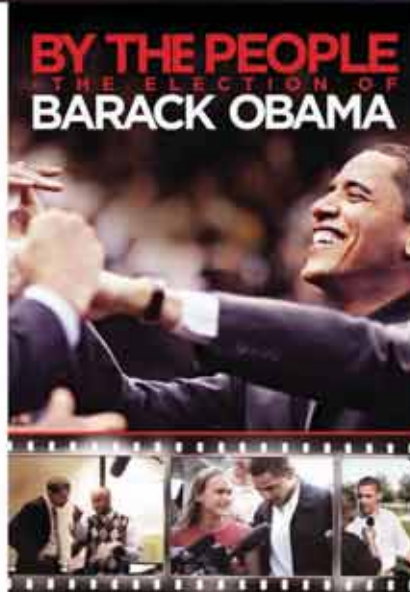


**23 TO 29 MAY 2022: LIFE STORIES**

Movies of all genres do their utmost to tug at the hearts of their viewers. This is especially true in the case of documentaries and films that discuss true life stories. These are real stories about real people in real places who face real tragedies. A life story movie or documentary strives to influence people's conscience, and perhaps inspire a change in society. It may also wish to depict an untold story from a different and unexpected perspective that the audience is not aware of.

**BY THE PEOPLE - THE ELECTION OF BARACK OBAMA**

A 2009 documentary film which follows Barack Obama and various members of his presidential campaign team, through the two years leading up to the United States presidential election on November 4, 2008. As a result of a hard-fought campaign, Obama successfully captures the nation's imagination, becoming the first African-American president in US history. Publicists prefer to portray "By the People" as a historical document. In its core, it is a film about community organizing.



**AFRICA AND BRITAIN: A FORGOTTEN HISTORY (BBC) - 4 EPISODES**

A four-part BBC documentary series written and presented by David Olusoga. The series is retelling the story of black people in the UK and reclaiming voices that have been silent for too long. The documentary explores national archives and personal documents and travel to the United States, Jamaica, South Africa, Sierra Leone and Ghana. In a new light, forgotten art vaults are unlocked, old records are examined and historic artifacts are rediscovered. Twenty Black History plaques, commemorating key historical moments, are unveiled to the public.



**93 DAYS (NOLLYWOOD)**

Steve Gukas is the director of 93 Days, a 2016 Nigerian drama thriller film. Based on a true story of events leading to a successful containment of the Ebola virus outbreak in Nigeria in 2014. This film tells the story of sacrifice, control and selfless efforts by individuals that ensured the virus was contained and Nigeria was declared Ebola-free within 93 days. Ebola killed eight people out of 20 cases, four of the eight were staff of First Consultant Hospital, where the index case was hosted. The World Health Organization called it a "spectacular success story." Nigeria was faced with a challenge like this for the first time in a long time, but the people featured in 93 Days helped her succeed.



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Dear Delegates to the National Convention of our great party, the All Progressives Congress (APC).

This is another moment of decision for our party and for our beloved country, Nigeria. Because whatever choice we make at this Presidential Primary will definitely affect the future of the country.

As you are much aware, I am offering myself to serve as the flag bearer of our party in the 2023 presidential election.

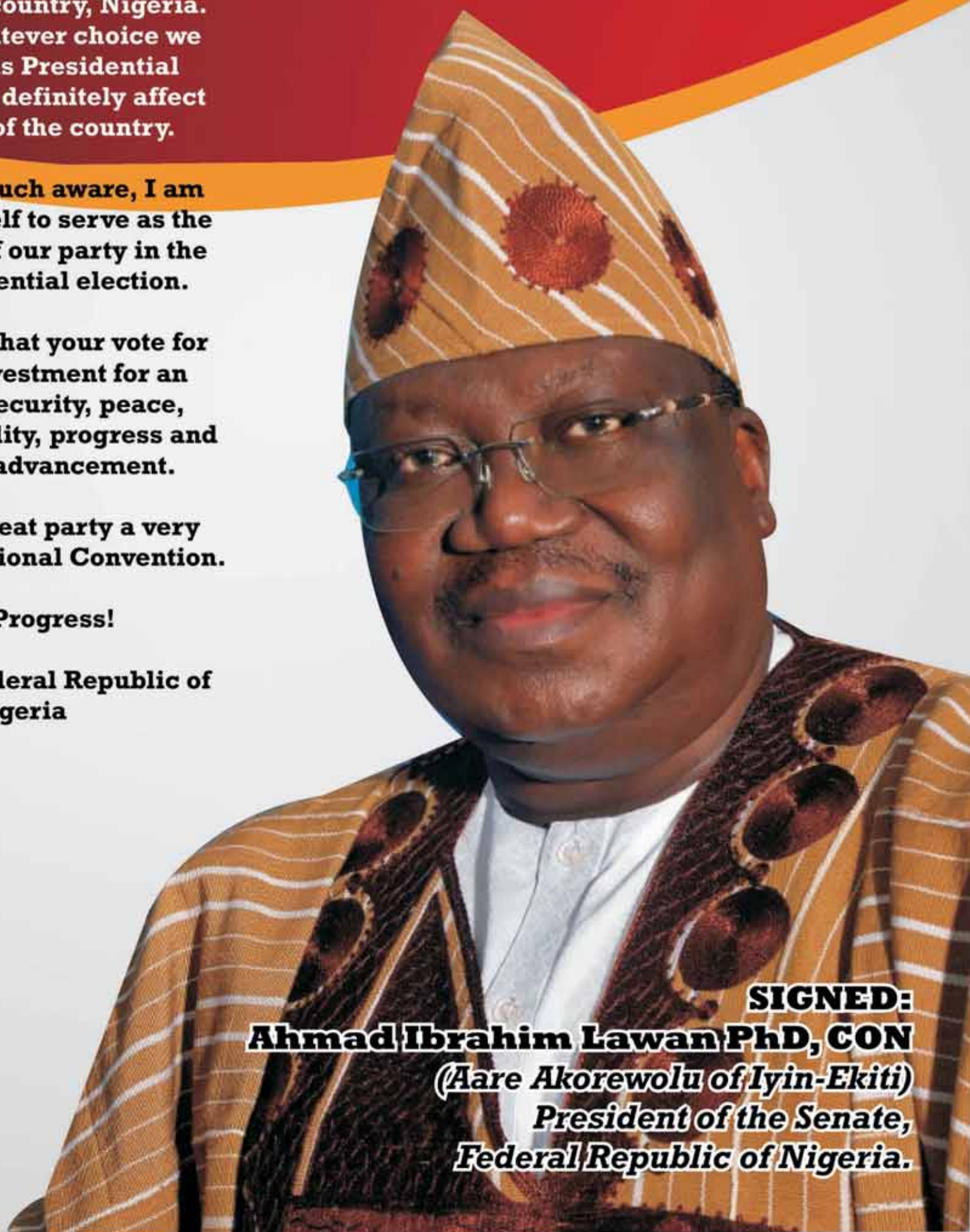
I assure you that your vote for me is an investment for an improved security, peace, national stability, progress and economic advancement.

I wish our great party a very successful National Convention.

**APC, Progress!**

**Long live, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**✓OTE for...**  
**PEACE, PROGRESS AND STABILITY**



**SIGNED:**  
**Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan PhD, CON**  
*(Aare Akorewolu of Iyin-Ekiti)*  
*President of the Senate,*  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria.*



Presenting

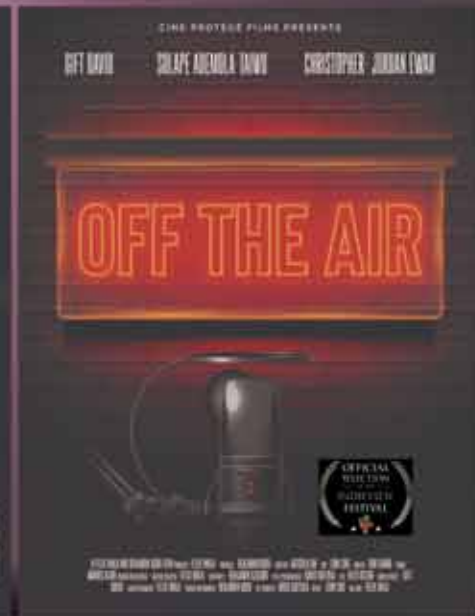
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## FAQS FOR N-POWER

### 1. When can applicants proceed with bio-metrics capture?

**ANSWER:** Applicants should verify that they have been shortlisted before proceeding with the Bio-metrics capture.

### 2. After Biometrics capture what is the next stage of the program.

**ANSWER:** Selected applicants will receive a message for physical verification. Applicants can also view the venue for physical verification on their self-service portal.

### 3. Applicants that are yet to receive an email from N-POWER for shortlisting.

**ANSWER:** Kindly login to the portal [www.nasims.gov.ng](http://www.nasims.gov.ng) to view the status.

### 4. How can applicants update their profiles?

**ANSWER:** Login to the NASIMS portal [www.nasims.gov.ng](http://www.nasims.gov.ng), click on the edit button, and follow the instructions.

### 5. Applicants that cannot remember their NASIMS ID/ email used during registration or password

**ANSWER:** Kindly contact our support center at 092203102, 018888148.

### 6. What to do when LGIs are asking for BVN print out, utility bills, and PPA Letter

**ANSWER:** Applicants/LGIs should note that the ONLY documentation required for physical verification are as follows:

- I. ID Card
- II. Academic Credentials (Graduates)
- III. N-POWER Reference Number (to hand)

### 7. Applicants whose DOB on their BVN or Valid ID does not match with DOB provided during the physical verification.

**ANSWER:** Beneficiaries are to be verified if both DOB Provided, indicate the applicant is UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE

### 8. Applicants whose verification center keeps changing, how will they know their real location for the physical verification exercise.

**ANSWER:** For Physical Verification location, applicants may utilize the following channels

- I. NASIMS Self-service portal
- II. Support Centre 092203102

### 9. How do applicants posted to insurgency locations report to their Place of primary assignment (PPA)

**ANSWER:** All applicants in areas with security challenges as confirmed by State Focal Persons are not required to undergo physical verification or PPA resumption until further instructed.

### 10. Can beneficiaries without a physical verification

center on their dashboard go to their nearest verification center for the exercise.

**ANSWER:** All applicants MUST attend the designated physical verification center as indicated on their self-service portal. Applicants who are unsure of their venue should call the dedicated beneficiary support line on 092203102

### 11. Can applicants apply for a change of program.

**ANSWER:** Applicants can not apply for a change of program

### 12. Can applicants with disability carry out their physical verification.

**ANSWER:** Provisions have been made to pass applicants with a disability.

### 13. How can applicants apply for redeployment?

**ANSWER:** For Intra-state redeployment within the same LGA, applicants should apply on the self-service portal on the Deployment Tab.

For inter-state redeployment, applicants should send a mail to [redemption.npower@nasims.gov.ng](mailto:redemption.npower@nasims.gov.ng)

### 14. PPA is far from the beneficiary's place of residence.

**ANSWER:** Beneficiaries can apply for redeployment on the self-service portal on the Deployment Tab.

### 15. What is PPA?

**ANSWER:** Place of Primary Assignment.

### 16. How long does it take for a change of PPA to be considered?

**ANSWER:** It takes about 24 hours before approval or a change of PPA.

### 17. When can beneficiaries apply for redeployment or relocation?

**ANSWER:** Only beneficiaries who have been assigned to a PPA can apply for redeployment or relocation.

### 18. N-AGRO beneficiaries are seeing 10,000 naira as their stipends instead of 15,000 naira as stated at the beginning of the program.

**ANSWER:** Beneficiaries are to note that N-AGRO is a GRADUATE ONLY program with a stipend of N30,000.00 per month.

### 19. What can be done when an LGI has issues with the Biometrics application installation?

**ANSWER:** LGI personnel with any technical challenges should call the dedicated NASIMS support line on 018880332.

### 20. When will verification venues with insecurity issues do their physical verification.

**ANSWER:** All applicants in areas with insecurity challenges or confirmed by state Focal Persons are not required to undergo physical verification or PPA resumption until further instructed.

For additional information check

N-Power Social Media Handles and Contact:

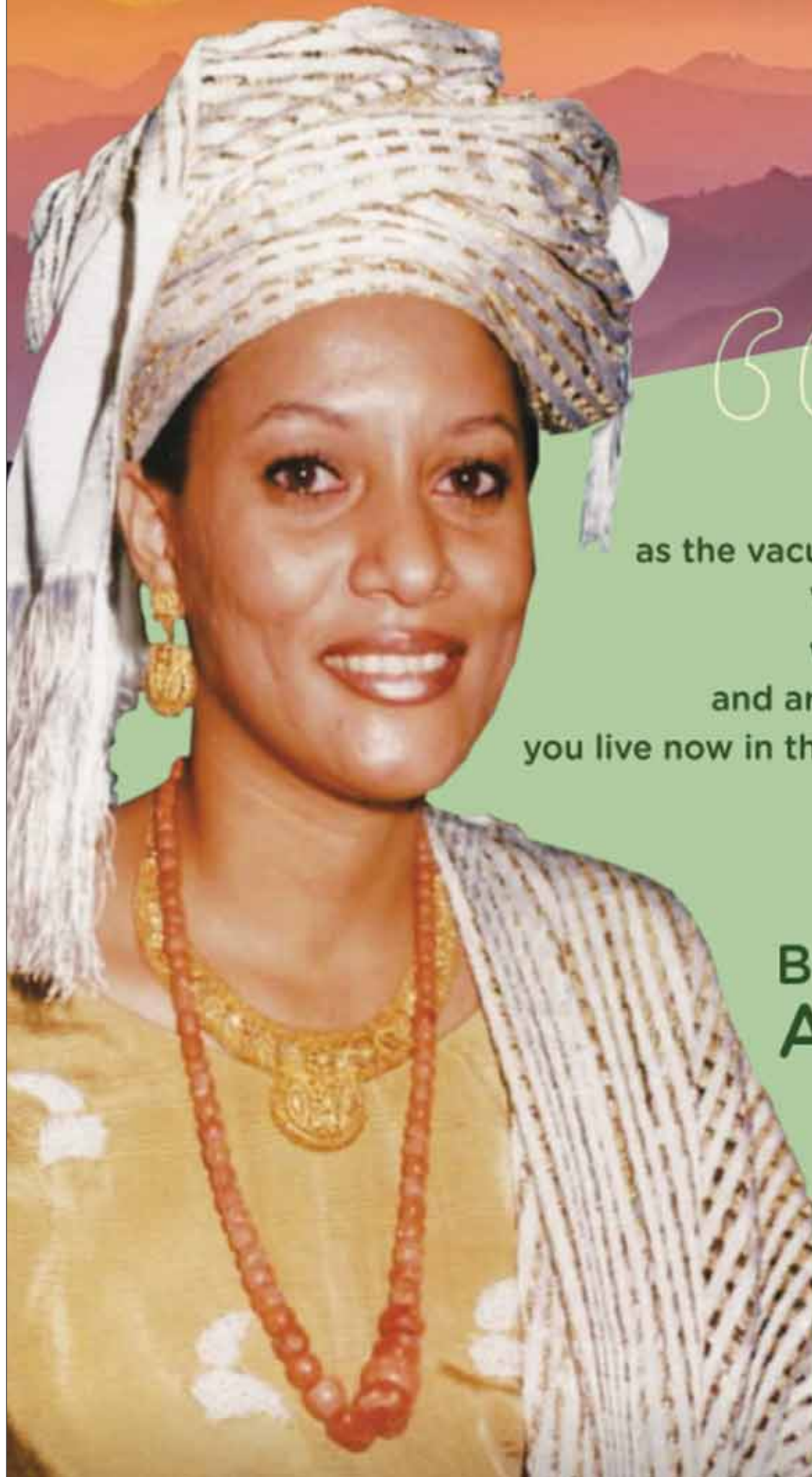
Facebook: [npowerng](https://www.facebook.com/npowerng)

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Contact: 018888148

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we do that every day.  
Missing you is the hard part  
as the vacuum you left cannot be filled.  
We are warmed by your light  
which shines on in our hearts  
and are comforted by the New Life  
you live now in the bosom of God our Father.

Barr. (Mrs) Omonike  
**Akinjide** (1969 - 2017)

*Courtesy:*  
(Husband) Abayomi Akinjide MA, LL.M (Cantab)  
(Children) Tiwa, Demi and Dunni

# MARKET PLACE

with Omolabake Fasogbon... 08155131874



L-R: Programme Consultant, Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), Mr. Paul Adeyeye; Director, Macroeconomic Stability and Multilateral Surveillance, ECOWAS Commission, Dr Abel Essien; Director-General, Debt Management Office of Nigeria (DMO), Mrs. Patience Oniha; and Chairman, Debt Management Roundtable (DMR), Mr. Taiwo Oyedele, at the Formal Presentation of the DMR Report on Debt Management, Restructuring and Sustainability in ECOWAS to the DMO in Abuja...recently



L-R: Head stylist, NaturalBeauty, Mrs Funke Folarin; Director, Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB), Julius Awoyera; Founder, Elegant Twins institute of Cosmetology, Dr Elizabeth Osinsanya; CEO, Crosswave Services, Ape Taiwo and CEO of TechIT, Sunday Ape at the second edition of Youth in Beauty Business Conference, held at Presken Hotels, Ikeja, Lagos...recently

## QShop Simplifies Digital Market Place for SMEs

Technology-driven e-commerce platform, QShop says it is strengthening its platform to improve growth opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs in Nigeria.

The organisation which made this known at a virtual press briefing stated that the move was necessary, given the shifting regulatory and operating environments affecting MSMEs globally.

The founder of QShop, Tarebi Alebiosu stated that current situation required operators in the sector to up their game and embrace innovation to adapt to a changing business terrain, largely influenced by technology.

To this end, Alebiosu explained that Qshop is offering an affordable e-commerce solution by which operators can achieve business objectives, while also contributing to economic growth.

“During the pandemic, we found that technology was one of the major factors that helped many small businesses survive. However, many struggled to navigate the complexity of integrating technology into their businesses’ day-to-day running. Therefore, we developed QShop, a mobile-first solution in late 2020 to make e-commerce technology adoption for small businesses affordable. Simply put, we are helping small businesses to sell online and scale easily. QShop is deeply integrated with social media allowing for a seamless and easy setup; most stores are up and running in two minutes or less.”

Alebiosu explained further that the organisation is in partnership with payment platforms like Stripe, Flutterwave, Paystack and Providus to make payment seamless for merchants in any currency.

“Businesses are also sure to receive store credit for transactions in as little as one hour. We are also supporting technology integration with Facebook Pixel, Instagram, and Google Analytics. This allows merchants to set up their stores in minutes, improve consumer engagement and measure growth”, she added.

Commenting further, Head of Technology at QShop, Harrison Hammond, said, “We want to help customers grow from zero to a hundred with technology. We serve as the middle man to bring all the tools- websites, inventory, payment channels, and logistics to one place. SMEs currently inundated with the complexity of technological integrations can start with QShop. Our long term growth plan is underpinned by a focus on boosting growth for retail-focused businesses.

## Expert Seeks Improved Synergy between IT, Finance

Financial expert, Chidi Alabi has stressed the need for a strengthened synergy between technology providers and financial institutions in the country.

According to him, the move was expedient given the growth and stronger influence of technology, with many organisations yet to adjust their operational model to fit with modern realities.

Alabi in particular stressed the need for Accounting and Finance professionals to be in constant talk with technology providers in order to be abreast of trends in practice globally.

He urged the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), to take advantage of seasoned fintech players in the country, like SystemSpecs to be able to enhance Accounting profession in the country.

He said, “The accounting and finance disciplines are consistently being transformed through innovations in automation, cloud-based services, artificial intelligence and unprecedented access to data. Indeed, technology in accounting and financial planning has transformed the sector with newer and

advanced software, and its ability to ensure accuracy and reduce errors, which helps businesses avoid tax penalties and other issues. Furthermore, it is now much easier to organise audits in a highly efficient manner.

“In Nigeria, the rising impact of technology on accounting processes is illustrated in the emergence of innovative financial management systems such as the federal government’s Treasury Single Account (TSA) and the rise of the booming fintech sector which has provided thousands of jobs for Nigerians and helped millions of organisations and individuals process financial transactions more efficiently.

“Today, Nigeria has become the leading fintech hub in Africa with several products like Remita, Opay e.t.c, providing innovative solutions servicing millions of people in diverse sectors.

He urged financial regulators to maximize the leverage provided by fintech and other digital technology solutions to stimulate efficiency and fast track business growth in a tough, highly competitive, and rapidly changing market.

## Crosswave Upskills Beauticians, Harps on Standard in Sector

A consultancy firm, Crosswave Service has sought for compliance to globally acceptable standards at a summit organised for apprentice and operators across the beauty sector.

Participants at the summit were also charged on continuous learning to remain relevant in an industry described to be dynamic and fast growing.

The summit which was held in partnership with African Youth Focus Initiative (AFRYFI) had experts and veterans from different subsectors of the beauty industry who carefully engaged participants on trends and professional practice in the sector.

Managing Director and organisers of the programme, Taiwo Ape explained the rationale behind the programme in connection with the alarming level

of unprofessionalism among operators, a situation which he considered to be threatening sector’s prospects.

While addressing participants, one of the resource persons and Founder of Elegant Twins School of Cosmetology and Clinic, Dr. (Mrs.) Elizabeth Osinsanya admonished participants to subject themselves to continuous learning to become authority on the field.

Osinsanya lamented insufficient stakeholders support for the industry and urged operators not to be discouraged by present situation but work towards professionalism and impact.

On her part, CEO of Avi Beauty Smith, Kofoworola Martins stressed the importance of skills acquisition as one of the drivers of the economy.

She also urged addressees to commit

themselves to continuous learning to a level that commands value and respect.

She said, “Both the informal and formal sectors cannot survive exclusively of one another. As a matter of fact, the thinking now is that after a formal education, you are better off having a skill. We have lawyers who are shoemakers and doctors who are now tailor. The beautiful thing about skill is that you can set to work immediately from the corner of your room.

“However, while acquiring skills, it is important to learn to the level of excellence so as to be at the cutting edge of your profession and for such skills to command value and reward.”

Ape also stressed the need for operators to be tech savvy while educating them on how to harness technology tools to grow their craft and business.

## ICAN Elects new District Chairman, Other Executives

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has elected Prof. Godwin Oyedokun as the Chairman of its Ilupeju/Gbagada & District Society (IGDS), Lagos

Oyedokun was elected alongside other executives at the first Annual General Meeting of the district that held in Lagos recently.

The new executives are expected to pilot the affairs of the institute in another one year.

Oyedokun is a sought-after intellectual and multidisciplinary professional with over 22 years’ experience.

He has presented over 450 technical/seminar papers in various conferences, trainings and seminars. Oyedokun is an examiner to several professional bodies, both in Nigeria and abroad. He is currently a Professor of Management & Accounting in the Department of Management & Accounting, Lead City University Ibadan, Nigeria.

He is the founder of OGE Group and the

Principal Partner at Oyedokun Godwin Emmanuel & Co (A Firm of Chartered Accountants, Tax Practitioners & Forensic Auditors), his experience also span across Human Capital Development and has taught in all levels of education.

In his remark, the outgoing and Pioneer Chairman of IGDS, Gbenga Omidiji counselled district members to remain committed to the ideals of accounting profession.

Specifically, he urged them not to lose track of the district goals and mandate, adding that the institute expects from them a lot of commitment and integrity as well as service to bring in new and young members.

He expressed confidence in the leadership of the new chairman to lead the district to enviable heights.

He said, “The executives were elected based on their capability, performance and contributions to the institution at the district levels and the community.”

## New Report Proposes Innovative Tools to Monitor Learning Progress

A new report has faulted the country’s method of education assessment which it claimed not to have captured COVID-19 learning losses.

The report released by T4 Education in collaboration with EdTech Hub, frowned at the pressure placed on teachers in connection with learning gap.

It suggested for an adoption of effective EdTech tools and techniques to monitor learning progress in an online environment.

According to the report, which was a discovery of a study conducted in Nigeria and other low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), tech limitations, particularly high cost of data, and education assessment methods did not accurately gauge student progress as well as learning losses created by COVID-19.

The study was conducted in six countries, including Nigeria, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Philippines, and South Africa, employing focus group discussions with teachers and school leaders

in each country.

Themed, ‘Effective Assessment and Progress Monitoring in an Online Environment’, the report further provided insight into how tools and techniques for monitoring progress can be improved on, stressing its importance to addressing learning gaps widened during the pandemic.

Speaking on the report, Executive Director of EdTech Hub, Verna Lalbeharié stated that the study was undertaken to understand how teachers and school leaders in Nigeria and other LMICs approached progress assessment when students were learning remotely during the pandemic.

“The report highlights how consistent access to electricity proved a big challenge for teaching students and tracking their progress during the pandemic, as was a lack of access to devices.

The cost of data was also widely cited by study participants as an issue students and teachers had to contend with. Cheaper data rates at night meant students often had to work later in the evenings”.

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## MISSILE

### CAN to IPOB

"IPOB must stop criminalities in the pretext of fighting for independence. Are they fighting for a country for the dead or the living?"  
-The Christian Association of Nigeria chastising the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) over killings in the South-east.

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# Obi Versus Federal Republic of Nigeria

The action of former governor Peter Obi, the only governor who left substantial savings for his successor in office, confirms his genuine interest in doing what is right for Nigeria, instead just desiring to be called the country's president. He took the only reasonable step a person who does not like palm wine would take when he is invited to a drinking competition in a Palm Wine Drinkers' Club. He declined. He walked out and walked away. Indications are that he has found a new business address for his brand of politicking.

Nigerians were already very excited about Obi before the latest developments. The argument, or line of thought, is this: You need a competent person for every job. You do not ask a bicycle repairer to help you solve an eye problem. You do not employ a palm wine tapper to paint your house, because people like him and also because he occasionally gives free palmy to children in the neighbourhood, what will you tell the person? Our people say, when it comes to ensuring that things are done properly: "E kere oru eke" (tasks are allotted based on what people are good at). Butbour politics of today will have none of that.

The PDP, like the APC and most of the other parties, lacks the developmental and committed leadership templates for a 21st Century World. Shamelessness, promoting falsehood, irresponsible behaviour and impunity cannot move a nation forward. As opposition party, the PDP demonstrated such extreme incompetence that it might just as well be given an award for it.

Our people say that a serial failure does not tender his record of disastrous performance as "relevant experience" for promotion. You do not ask a groundnut seller who has difficulty calculating the correct change to give his customers to manage your finances. Mbanu!

But look at the PDP today. Serving governors who have no control over 40% of the spaces they are supposed to be in charge of, and whose record in every index of good governance is below 30%, are angling to become president. They are even telling us that their miserable service records on all fronts do not matter. That they must become president in order to rescue Nigeria. Oh, wait a minute! The very people we need to be saved from? Do you save yourself from mosquito bites by inviting the elders of the World Mosquito Council to spend the weekend with you? Mbanu! Unless, of course, you want to just fall "kpokorom" on the ground and die afterwards.

Peter Obi is trending today and Labour Party is the better for it. What do you find when you take the candidates one by one and, considering that they have



Obi

all held various offices over the last twenty years and check their records? What do you see? Look at integrity of the institutions they managed. Look at the states they managed, or are still managing. Look at social cohesion under their watch. Consider fiscal discipline, their sense of personal dignity and even simple good manners.

Yet, they are all over the place as front runners in this business of becoming president, simply because they can pay N100 or a little less for a piece of paper. To hell with competence, the PDP, APC and others are telling us. Well, Peter Obi has just said "to hell" with stupidity. He has had enough of people who appear committed to maintaining a chummy relationship with mkpuru nmiri, the new-fangled, brain teasing drug that does violence to people's sanity.

There was once an article on Peter Obi in June 2012, titled "El'Rufai's Impressive Misrepresentations". It was a reaction to a miserably uninformed article written Mallam Nasir El'Rufai about Anambra State when Peter Obi was governor. The rejoinder to El'Rufai opened with this statement: "Mallam Nasir El'Rufai's analysis of Anambra State's 2012 budget lacked the objectivity and attention to available evidence needed for believable conclusions. His claims about poverty in Anambra State is the exact opposite of the truth. This is evident in the Poverty Profile Report of the National Bureau of Statistics, published in the Punch Newspaper of February 14, 2012. Dr. Magnus Kpakol, as head of the national poverty eradication programme, said as much on December 31, 2010 during the flag-off of the payment of the Poverty Reduction Accelerator Investment and second phase of the Care of the

People (COPE) programme, when he urged other state governors to emulate Anambra. El-Rufai's statistics shows Anambra to be poorer than Yobe, Taraba and Sokoto States." But we are digressing.

As the aforementioned piece said, then: "Peter Obi was the only governor who met regularly with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) while in office. At his meeting with the Enugu and Ebonyi state chapters of MAN, on May 22, 2012, the Chairman, Dr Chile Obidigbo, confirmed that Anambra State had performed beyond their expectations in its promise to encourage and empower indigenous manufacturers."

Peter Obi, had "...special funds in the Bank of Industry (BoI) for manufacturers". He "laid the foundation stone for the construction of Innoson Motor Manufacturing Company, built the road leading to the factory and invited President Goodluck Jonathan to inaugurate it." Cutic cable, in Nnewi, has a related story and there is close interface with firms like Chikason, Orange Drugs and other manufacturing companies in the state.

It is also a matter of record, as stated in the 2012 article, that "Anambra State has more bank branches (2022) than the entire South-east put together and that the number of branches doubled under Obi's tenure." Question and answer: (1) Is this proof of development of indigenous entrepreneurial capacity, job creation, reflation of the local economy, etc.? The answer is yes.

The article said, further: "The Ambassadors of USA, EU, China, Canada hosted the Ambassadors of the US, Canada and South Africa, among others, visited Anambra State; each concluding some investment conversation before leaving." Development Partners quadrupled their interventions in the state at the time. As also said then: "Anambra, under Peter Obi, showed a prioritization of economically impactful road networks, targeting roads that will enable farmers get their goods to the market; and link communities needing economies of scale by leveraging their areas of strength. Local governments like Anambra East, Anambra West, Ogbaru and Ayamelum got roads for the first time under Peter Obi".

Through the Anambra State Youth reorientation and Empowerment Programme (ANSYREP) of governor Peter Obi, there emerged "New, and thriving, fish farms, and poultry houses, newly trained floor tilers, electricians, painters, hair dressers, barbers, roofing, ceding P.O.P service providers, tailors, confectioners, etc. were the deliberate beneficiaries of the programme." Many of the beneficiaries of the programme are now employers of labour today. Others, back then, actually "used the ANSYREP leverage to better prepare themselves

for the YouWIN programme of the Federal government" and were among the limited number of beneficiaries who received up to twenty million Naira, to power and drive new businesses. For the record, governor Peter Obi's youth empowerment programmes always had a values reorientation component.

Peter Obi's approach to security was rather peculiar. As stated on this page, back then, "There has been no bank robbery in Anambra for the better half of a year (in 2012). The state chose to equip the police, which has so got over 300 vehicles, communication gadgets and offered other forms of logistical support. The data on crime rate exists, for reference".

In May 2012, the Peter Obi government announced the Community Patrol initiative. It was "facilitated with security vehicles for each of the 177 communities in the state". That government made a regular monthly allowance of five hundred thousand naira available to each of the communities as Security Vote. Crime and criminality were on retreat.

"Anambra was among the very few states actually paying the new national minimum wage and was the first to pay it in the South East." In the area of education, this is what was said, then: "Anambra State celebrated school handover to their former owners last year, along with money for equipment and rehabilitation. There is N6 billion in the bank for the four years salaries of teachers. This is in addition to a public apology for the rude takeover of schools without compensation 40 years ago and an. Open admission that government takeover of schools was responsible for the collapse of morals and standards." The article added: "Anambra has consistently remained among the first three states with the highest number of JAMB applicants".

There was no accredited health institution in Anambra State before Peter Obi became governor. Several modern hospitals, including a teaching hospital, were accredited under him. The college of Health technology in Obosi, College of Nursing and Midwifery in Nkpor, School of Nursing in Iyieniu, and others, were accredited under him.

He ensured that the gricultural sector was private-sector focused. The state secured N1 billion loan for farmers. "Close to N1 billion is committed to the FADAMA project and Anambra's FADAMA III is regarded as the best in the country by the World Bank." That government was also working simultaneously on over 27 erosion sites.

The case between Peter Obi and the Federal Republic of Nigeria is one that the people will decide. Obi, like many other competent people, has no business outside the leadership of this country.