Omicron: Obasanjo, Uganda's Former VP, in Joint Article, Lambast Western World for Red Listing African Countries

Our Correspondents

Former president Olusegun Obasanjo and the former vice-president of Uganda, Specioza Wandira-Kazibwe, have condemned the travel ban on African countries over concerns relating to the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

A number of countries in Europe banned travel from countries in Africa following the discovery of the variant by South African scientists.

Obasanjo is a member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, while Wandira-Kazibwe, the immediate past chair of the African Union Panel of the Wise, was the first female in Africa to become vice-president of a sovereign nation.

Speaking on the development regarding Omicron, the duo, in a joint article published yesterday in The Africa Report, expressed concern over the actions taken to shut out certain countries.

"What message was being sent? That each country by unilaterally bolting its gates will be able to hold back the tide of a pandemic, alone? That contributing to our global understanding of the evolution of a world plague, by sharing the fruits of years of genomic capabilities development,

Continued on page 5

Jolted by Unending Killings, President Sends NSA, IG, Three Others to Sokoto, Katsina… Page 5

THISDAY

TRUTH & REASON

Saturday 11 December, 2021
Vol 26. No 9742

www.thisdaylive.com

N250

N69bn Debt: Appeal Court Dismisses Jimoh Ibrahim's Suit to Recover Asset

Wale Igbintade

The Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, yesterday dismissed two appeals filed by the Chairman of Global Fleet Group, Jimoh Ibrahim, challenging the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria's seizure of his assets and freezing of his bank accounts over his alleged N69.4 billion debt.

The appellate court upheld the November 4, 2020 order of Justice Rilwan Aikawa of the Federal High Court, Lagos which authorised AMCON to take over Ibrahim's assets.

In a unanimous decision, the panel of justices upheld the arguments of AMCON's lead counsel, Dr. Kemi Pinheiro SAN, who prayed the court to dismiss Ibrahim's application because it was incompetent.

Chief Niyi Akintola, SAN, is the counsel to the 1st defendant Jimoh Ibrahim, while Chief Bolaji Ayorinde, SAN, is for 2nd Defendant, Global Fleet Group.

AMCON had on November 4, 2020 through Pinheiro obtained an ex-parte order

Continued on page 5

At Biden's Forum, Buhari Promises Free, Fair Elections, Transfer of Power to Winners in 2023

'we remain committed to putting in place and strengthening all necessary mechanisms to ensure that Nigeria will not only record another peaceful transfer of power to an elected democratic government but will also ensure that the elections are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner'

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

With barely 18 months to the end of his eight-year rule, President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday assured the international community of the readiness of his government to hand over power to winners of free and fair general election in 2023.

He also lamented that democratic rule in the West African sub-region "is currently being threatened by undemocratic takeover of government by the military."

Speaking at a Virtual Summit on Democracy organised by President Joe Biden of the United States, President Buhari said necessary mechanisms would be strengthened to ensure that Nigeria witnessed another peaceful transfer of power by May 29, 2023.

He said: "As we countdown to our next general elections

Continued on page 5



BUILDING FOR THE LORD…

L-R: Senator Jonah Jang; former President Goodluck Jonathan; Wife of Host, Ngo Talatu Jang; and the Senator representing Plateau North, Istifanus Gyang, during the dedication of the "Ten Commandments Prayer Altar" built by Yeshua Kingdom Foundation International, in Jos, Plateau State…yesterday

In Tit for Tat, Emirates Suspends Flights to Nigeria… Page 6



GTCO
Guaranty Trust Bank Ltd

More fingerprint options for you



Withdraw cash, transfer money and check your account balance using your fingerprint at all GTBank ATMs nationwide.

Just press any key, select Fingerprint Withdrawal and follow the prompts.



No debit card required

GTCONNECT 24 HR CONTACT CENTRE
+234 700 GTCONNECT (+234 700 48266328) | +234 701 697 4894 (WhatsApp only)
+234 1 448 0000 | +234 803 900 3900 | +234 802 900 2900

Connect with us

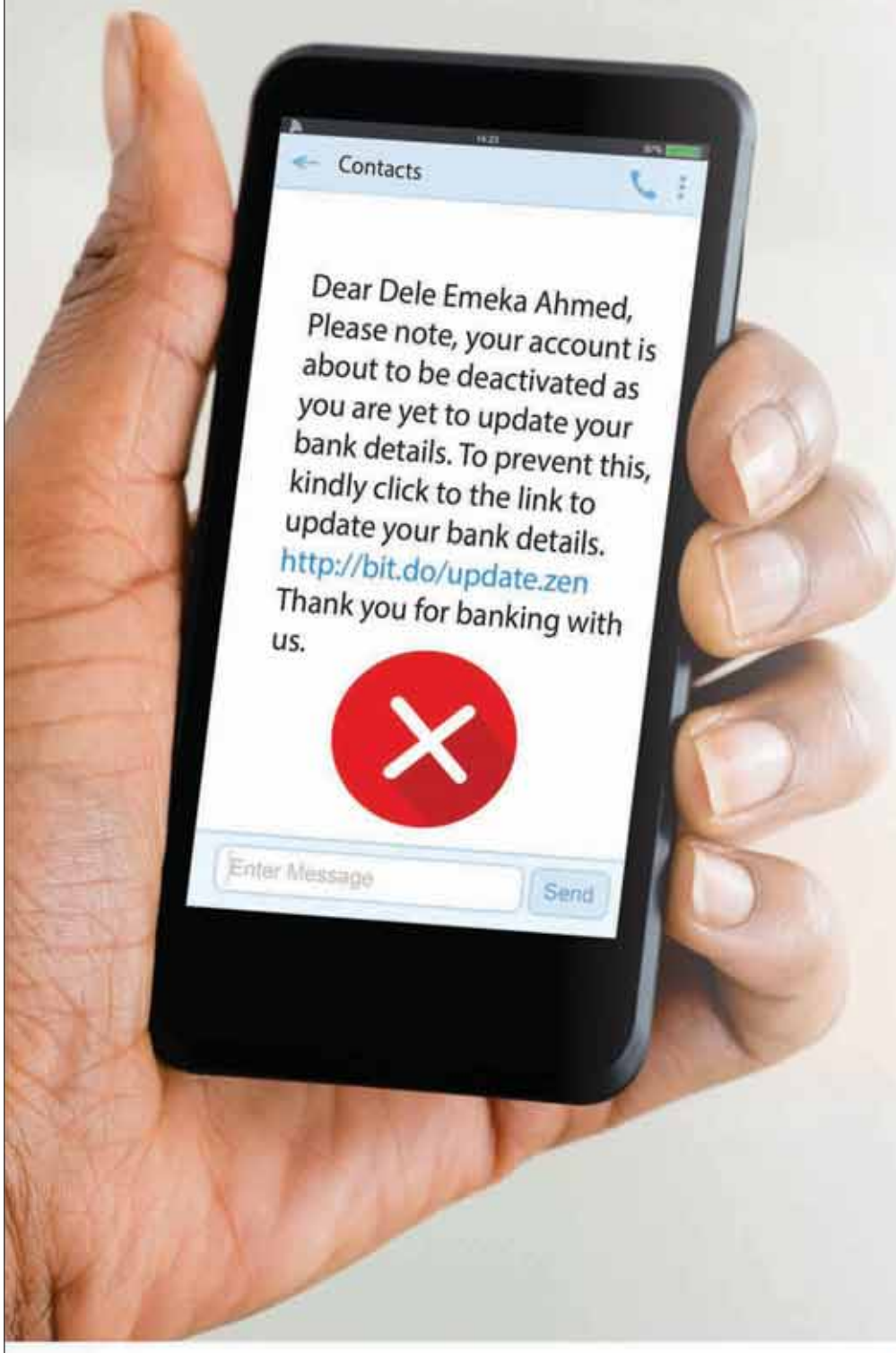
Cote d'Ivoire • Gambia • Ghana • Kenya • Liberia • Nigeria • Rwanda • Sierra Leone • Tanzania • Uganda • UK

Proudly African, Truly International

ZENITH



Safeguard Your Account



Dear Valued Customer,

Zenith Bank would **NEVER** call, SMS or e-mail requesting for your card details, PIN, Token codes, Mobile/Internet Banking login details or other account related information.

We would also **NEVER** ask you to click on a link to update your bank information or activate your account.

If you receive such messages, please **DO NOT** respond and immediately contact Zenith Direct on +234 1 2787000, or 0700ZENITHBANK.

Thank you for banking with us.

Zenith Bank Plc.

Bank the Eazy way with *966# NO DATA REQUIRED
EazyBanking

For enquiries and feedback, kindly contact ***ZenithDirect,*** our 24hr interactive Contact Centre:



+234 1 278 7000, 0904 085 7000, 0700ZENITHBANK
zenithdirect@zenithbank.com
Zenith Intelligent Virtual Assistant (ZiVA) - 0704 000 4422 (WhatsApp)
www.zenithbank.com

Diamond Xtra 13
SEASON THIRTEEN

MEGA DRAW

On Christmas day, 2 lucky customers will walk away with

Salary4life

cash prize ₦10,000,000

Simply dial *901*5# to open a DiamondXtra account and fund up to ₦50,000 to get a ticket in the mega draw. Open to new and existing customers

The more you save, the more your chances of winning!

Terms and Conditions apply

Banking with Access: branch | ATM | online | mobile | contact centre

More information:
0700-300-0000
accessbankplc.com

Facebook.com/accessbankplc | twitter.com/accessbankplc
gplus.id.com/accessbankplc | youtube/user/accessbankplc
accessbankplc.blogspot.com

access

more than banking

PAGE FIVE

Jolted by Unending Killings, President Sends NSA, IG, Three Others to Sokoto, Katsina

Demands immediate situation report • Hundreds protest in Kano over massacres in the North

Deji Elumoye in Abuja, **Ibrahim Shuaibu** in Kano and **Francis Sardauna** in Katsina

Apparently jolted by recent killings in Sokoto and Katsina states by terrorists, President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday dispatched a high-level five-man security delegation, made up of the heads of the nation's intelligence and security services, to the two states, with a mandate for quick recommendations on how to end the carnage.

On the same day, hundreds of youths stormed the streets of Kano State, with banners and placards, protesting mass killings in Northern Nigeria.

According to a statement issued by presidential spokesman, Garba Shehu, the Buhari delegation, led by the National Security Adviser (NSA), Major General Babagana Munguno (rtd) was sent to Sokoto and Katsina states in response to the spike in activities of terrorists.

Other members of the delegation are the Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba; the Director-General of the DSS, Yusuf Magaji Bichi; the Director-General, National Intelligence Agency, Ambassador Ahmed Rufa'i Abubakar and the Chief of Defence Intelligence, Major General Samuel Adebayo.

The President is expecting an immediate situation report and recommendations on actions to follow to effectively deal with the worrisome situation.

Sokoto Killings

Terrorists have been ravaging Sokoto State for almost three years, with several local government areas under the control of the outlaws. Daily, scores are killed, many abducted and houses burnt in these places.

Last Thursday, three people were killed by extremists who invaded Kurawa village in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The attack occurred hours after Governor Aminu Tambuwal visited the area on a condolence visit to the families of travellers burnt to death by terrorists last Sunday.

Just last Monday, scores were killed when the terrorists struck in Gidan Bawa village, Isa Local Government Area of the state.

During the attack, the terrorists burnt 23 travellers in a bus heading to Kaduna.

Katsina Killings

In Katsina State, the terrorists are active in virtually all the local government areas. Worst hit are Kurfi, Dutsinma, Matazu, Musawa, Malumfashi, Dandume, Bakori, Funtua, Kafur and Danja.

Last Wednesday, the Katsina State Commissioner of Science and Technology, Dr. Rabe Nasir, was killed in his House located at Fatima Shema Quarters, Katsina.

One of the residents, who does not want his name in print, said: "The gunmen stormed the house at night and attacked him. They killed him and locked his corpse up in one of the rooms where we discovered it today (Thursday)."

Nasir, 61, a former member of the House of Representatives, was also a former official of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

The Katsina State Governor, Aminu Bello Masari, has persistently expressed worries about the security challenges bedeviling the state, noting that 10 out of 34 local government areas of the state are under persistent attacks by bandits and kidnappers.

He affirmed that the deteriorating spate of banditry, kidnapping, rape and armed robbery were clogs in his government's effort at restoring peace and normalcy in the state.

During a recent visit to the state by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya, he said: "We here in Katsina, if we say we are very happy, we are not being honest. We are disturbed with this issue of banditry accompanied with kidnapping, raping of innocent women, armed robbery on our highways. I want technology to be properly deployed to bring these activities under control.

"Ten out of 34 local governments in Katsina State are under severe bandits' attacks daily. So, with that in mind, there is no way we can sleep. Our phones are permanently on to hear what is happening in local governments. Before breakfast, I am briefed about what happened last night. So, General, we are not in a very comfortable situation but we thank God."

Buhari Vows to Bring Killers of Katsina Commissioner to Justice

President Buhari yesterday expressed sadness over the gruesome killing of Nasir, vowing to bring the culprits to justice. He has ordered a manhunt for those behind the murder.

He said death of the commissioner had illuminated the need for all and sundry, agencies, organisations and institutions to understand the gravity of the security challenges and the need to forestall future occurrence of such incidents.

The president's security delegation, led by Monguno, condoled with the government and people of the state over the incident.

Monguno noted that the nation had been gripped by the news of the tragic incident and that efforts were on to arrest and bring the perpetrators to justice.

He said: "The gruesome murder of Dr. Rabe Nasir, a serving commissioner in Katsina State, is a great loss, not only to Katsina State, but also to the entire nation.

"Mr. President has the confidence that the Nigeria Police Force will uncover those who perpetrated the crime and the proper criminal justice and the process of the law will take place and these people will be brought to book.

"This has illuminated the need for all of us in this country, whatever agency, organisation or institution to understand the gravity of this sought of incident and to ensure not only to forestall such incidents in the future but to actually reach an end stage."

He added: "Mr. President wants me and the members of our delegation to reassure you of his commitment to ensure safety and security of individuals and institutions. Mr. President is deeply touched and shocked over this sort of assassination."

Responding, Masari, challenged security agencies to arrest the perpetrators of the act in order to face the wrath of the law.

Kano Youths Protest over Killings in the North

Hundreds of youths yesterday in Kano besieged the government house roundabout with banners and placards in peaceful protest over mass killings in Northern Nigeria.

The protesters carried placards with different inscriptions, asking President Buhari to act immediately.

They marched from Audu Bako secretariat to Kano Government House, where security operatives received the group of protesters, listened to them and promised to take the matter further to the appropriate quarters.

The Convener of the protest, Zainab Naseer Ahmad, lamented how insecurity was threatening the lives and livelihood of Nigerians.

"We come to share our concern and send a message to our leaders; we are tired of the worsening state of insecurity in the country."

The protesters, chanting songs of peace, called on President Buhari and the governors to show more interest in tackling insecurity.

OMICRON: OBASANJO, UGANDA'S FORMER VP, IN JOINT ARTICLE, LAMBAST WESTERN WORLD FOR RED LISTING AFRICAN COUNTRIES

should lead to a country being ostracised?" they asked.

They also wondered how countries gather annually in New York to address injustice "and yet refuse to align on how to make quicker progress on a host of issues, from labour rights to agricultural subsidies and healthcare related patents."

According to them, rather than issue travel bans, what the world needs "in these Omicron times is smart multilateralism.

"Even after we had learnt that shutting the doors made no sense at this point, the emotive comfort of locking out the other proved too tempting to resist," they said.

The two leaders continued: "Yet, to run effective contact tracing in a time of rapid global physical connectivity, information and goodwill is required from countries far and near to plot the trajectory of a virus moving at the speed of flight. Detecting a variant in a person who happens to be from or at point A on the globe says nothing about all the other places the variant may have touched before eventually slipping into the cells of the unfortunate carrier.

"A very different form of global hyper-cooperation is required to match the pace of such a fast spreading virus. We in Africa have learnt the hard way that we are in an age where the old models of multilateralism have run their full course.

"Marked by slow bureaucracy and symbolisms of comity rather than pragmatic trust and modern instruments, this old multilateralism has frozen attempts to reform global trade to serve the people rather than corporations.

"It has hobbled efforts to turn the energy transition into a moment to balance the obscene imbalances in population and consumption. And it has led to a world where annually we assemble in New York to address injustice and yet refuse to align on how to make quicker progress on a host of issues, from labour rights to agricultural subsidies and healthcare-related patents.

"When COVID-19 threatened to disrupt Africa's biggest multilateral endeavour in half a century – the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) – 'radical agility' became our only path forward.

"Africa's embrace of smart multilateralism is manifest in being the first continent to agree on a common digital platform for bio-surveillance and biosecurity. Absolutely convinced that the each-for-herself idea embodied in border closures has serious limits, we set out to work with the private and civil society sectors to create both institutional and technological innovations to keep the borders open but the virus out.

"Through a combination of skillful compromises and modern technologies, we pressed on and ensured that the timeline for start of trading would be maintained. It was as clear as noonday to those of us championing African multilateralism that retreating behind the walls of nationalist survival would be continental suicide. It would also be generational suicide because COVID and AfCFTA are both once in a lifetime opportunities.

"This is smart multilateralism at work. It is the only way forward for a continent like ours that has long been marginalised in the global scheme of things. But the more we look at the state of globalisation in the world today, the more convinced we are that it is the whole world that needs smart multilateralism and not just Africa."

N69BN DEBT: APPEAL COURT DISMISSES JIMOH IBRAHIM'S SUIT TO RECOVER ASSET

against NICON Investment Limited, Global Fleet Oil and Gas Limited and Jimoh Ibrahim, freezing their accounts in various banks, as well as attaching various properties of the companies.

The Properties include the building of NICON Investment Limited at Plot 242, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Central Business District, Abuja; NICON Hotels Limited building at Plot 557, Port Harcourt Crescent, off Gimbiya Street, Abuja and the building of NICON Lekki Limited at No. 5, Customs Street, Lagos.

Other properties are the building of Abuja International Hotels Limited located at No. 3, Hospital Road, Lagos; another property at Plot 242, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Abuja; the former Allied Bank Building on Mile 2, Oshodi Expressway, Apapa Road, Lagos; Energy House located on No. 94, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos; NICON Building at No. 40, Madeira Street, Maitama, Abuja; a Residential Apartment at Road 2, House A14, Victoria Garden City, Lagos; NICON Hotels Building at Plot 3, Road 3, Victoria Garden City, Lagos, as well as the NICON Luxury Hotel's Building, Garki I, FCT, Abuja.

Following the execution of the order, Nicon Investment Limited, Global Fleet Oil and Gas Limited and Jimoh Ibrahim, through Akintola, filed a motion at the Federal High Court dated November 19, 2020, seeking to discharge/set aside Justice Aikawa's order.

Some other entities which AMCON alleged were linked to Ibrahim, including Nicon Insurance Limited, Nigerian-Re-Insurance Limited, Abuja Hotel Limited and Nicon Hotels Limited also filed an application asking the judge to discharge the said order.

After hearing the two applications and the arguments canvassed by parties through their respective counsel, Justice Aikawa dismissed both applications by his ruling of February 16, 2021.

In addition to the takeover of the properties, the court also ordered the freezing of all accounts belonging to Ibrahim and his companies, including Global Fleet Oil & Gas Limited and NICON Investment Limited all of whom are defendants in the Suit.

Dissatisfied, both applicants filed separate appeals, which were all thrown out yesterday.

AMCON was represented in the appeals by Pinheiro, while the first set of Appellants was represented by Akintola and the second set by Ayorinde.

At the hearing of the appeals on September 30, 2021, Pinheiro raised a preliminary objection to the appeal, contending that the appeal was incompetent because the Appellants failed to seek leave prior to the filing of the appeal.

In a unanimous decision yesterday, the Court of Appeal upheld the preliminary objection of AMCON and accordingly dismissed both appeals.

The implication of this is that AMCON remains in possession of the properties attached by the order of Justice Aikawa on November 4, 2021.

AT BIDEN'S FORUM, BUHARI PROMISES FREE, FAIR ELECTIONS, TRANSFER OF POWER TO WINNERS IN 2023

in 2023, we remain committed to putting in place and strengthening all necessary mechanisms to ensure that Nigeria will not only record another peaceful transfer of power to an elected democratic government, but will also ensure that the elections are conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner.

"I am proud to state that Nigeria has had over two decades of uninterrupted democratic governance and has unequivocally remained committed to upholding the core values and principles of democracy.

"Since assuming office in 2015, we have been able to introduce mechanisms to ensure free, fair and credible elections. We have strengthened our key anti-corruption agencies in collaboration with international partners and have undertaken several anti-corruption measures and initiatives."

According to him, Nigeria continues to face security challenges which pose a threat to democracy, and therefore called on global partners to support Nigeria's efforts in tackling insurgency and terrorism.

President Buhari thanked President Biden, government and people of the United States for hosting the summit.

"As you are aware, democracy has remained the most popular and universally recognised way of governance thus far. It is one governance system that guarantees freedom of speech, rule of law, respect for human rights and inclusiveness in governance. It also promotes social justice, economic and social development and national and global peace.

"However, in spite of these laudable qualities, more is required from us as members of democratic societies, particularly in ensuring that democratic institutions and processes are strengthened, particularly during this period of a global pandemic which has threatened social cohesion in most democracies.

"We, therefore, must remain resolute and enhance cooperation, so that together, we build back better democratic institutions and sustainable democratic values," the President said.

He also noted that the summit was taking place at a time when democratic institutions around the world were facing several challenges.

"This event will help promote a positive agenda for democratic renewal by focusing on some of the major challenges faced by democracies today. It is hoped that through our collective action, we can safeguard democratic values and principles," he said.

The President said the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had made it impossible to convene the meeting face to face, had taken a heavy toll on economies, health and democratic processes around the world.

"Nevertheless, we have witnessed the resilience of democratic institutions in many countries that have held free, fair and transparent democratic elections under very challenging conditions."

While pledging Nigeria's support for democratic governance in West Africa, Buhari, however, expressed concern about the threat of undemocratic take-over of government in the sub region.

He said: "Nigeria will continue to actively support the democratisation processes in our region West Africa and the African continent at large. But regrettably, our democratic gains of the past decades are under threats of unconstitutional takeover of power.

"This unwholesome trend, sometimes in reaction to unilateral amendments of constitutions by some leaders, must not be tolerated by the international community. Nigeria fully supports the efforts by ECOWAS to address this growing challenge and appreciates the support of both the African Union and the United Nations."

NEWS

News Editor **Charles Ajunwa**
09157401421 (sms only) Email charles.ajunwa@thisdaylive.com

In Tit for Tat, Emirates Suspends Flights to Nigeria

NCAA explains why it reduced airline's frequencies

Chinedu Eze

In reaction to the federal government's withdrawal of its flight frequencies, except one, to Nigeria, Emirates Airlines has announced that it has suspended operations to the country till further notice.

Emirates on its website yesterday announced that it would suspend its flights to Nigeria from December 13, 2021 until the two countries reach an amicable resolution on the matter.

The statement said, "With the recently imposed directive limiting Emirates to operate one flight per week to Nigeria via Abuja, Emirates will be suspending its flights between Nigeria and Dubai from 13 December 2021, until the UAE and Nigerian authorities work on a solution to the ongoing issue.

"The last flights to operate on 12 December 2021are EK 783/784 to/from Lagos and EK 785/786 to/from Abuja.

"Customers holding tickets with the final destinations Lagos and Abuja will not be accepted at the point of origin," it stated.

The airline also said that affected customers do not need to call Emirates immediately for rebooking, adding that customers can simply hold on to their Emirates ticket and when flights resume, get in touch with their travel agent or booking office to make new travel plans and expressed regrets what this may have caused its customers in Nigeria.

"Emirates is committed to its operations in Nigeria, and we stand ready to reinstate services once restrictions are lifted by the Nigerian authorities, ensuring travellers have more choice and access to trade and tourism opportunities in Dubai, and beyond to our network of over 120 destinations," the airline added.

However, the Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Captain Musa Nuhu, explained to aviation correspondents in Lagos yesterday that the government decided to respond to the way United Arab Emirates (UAE) treated Nigerian airline, Air Peace, saying that it is the responsibility of government to protect Nigerian businesses.

UAE reduced Air Peace request for three times weekly flight to one, claiming it did not have enough slots for the airline.

Nuhu said that NCAA withdrew the approval to Emirates following the refusal of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of UAE to grant equal rights to the sole Nigerian carrier, Air Peace flying to Dubai via Sharjah.

The NCAA boss explained that the Minister of Aviation, Senator Hadi Sirika, had graciously granted Emirates Airlines 21 frequencies weekly to two major airports in Nigeria; Lagos, 14 and Abuja, seven.

He regretted that despite this approval, the GCAA refused to grant Air Peace three weekly frequencies to Sharjah, which the airline requested for, but rather approved just one frequency weekly.

According to him, the GCAA had attributed its refusal to grant the three frequencies to the airline to inadequate slots in Sharjah airport, stressing that the government would continue to protect Nigeria's businesses.

"The Nigerian Government was gracious to grant Emirates Airlines 21 frequencies it requested for. The airline wants to operate 14 weekly flights to Lagos and another seven weekly to Abuja airports.

Ayu Assumes Office, Promises to Restore PDP

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

The former Senate president and three-time minister, Dr. Iyorchia, yesterday assumed office as the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with the promise to restore the party back to the people.

He also accused the All Progressives Congress (APC) of pushing Nigeria and Nigerians into a debtor nation with over $90 billion debt, while lamenting that Nigeria has become a failed state due to increasing rate of insecurity and poverty in the country.

In his acceptance speech yesterday after being sworn-in, Ayu said, "Our task at this auspicious moment is to return the party to the people. But to do that, the party needs to be reinvigorated, reinvented and repositioned. We are not unmindful of our missed steps and actions in the past, but we have learnt our lessons, both in government and in opposition."

According to Ayu, the PDP is the only organic political party in Nigeria that has remained a credible, tested, tasted and trusted mass movement since the return of democracy in 1999, adding that other political parties had either fizzled away or merged with others.

He said that other political parties had mutated into a contraption like the ruling All Progressives Congress, without any clear ideology or a coherent programme of action, adding that this contraption seduced Nigerians with propaganda in 2015.

According to him, Nigerians today have seen the limit of propaganda and demagoguery "as the only thing the APC is doing successfully is irresponsible borrowing."

However, he said that the PDP on the other hand, has a history of performance and legacy achievements in its 16 years while in power.

"We not only gave Nigerians good governance, we also strengthened democratic institutions to add value to the people. In an unprecedented move, we stabilised our democracy by sanitising the armed forces of politically exposed officers.



CONDOLENCE VISIT…

L-R: Presidential Spokesman, Femi Adesina; Arc Tayo Babalakin; Mrs Gbolahan Babalakin; Chairman, Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited and first son of late Justice Bolarinwa Babalakin, Dr. Wale Babalakin; Works Minister, Babatunde Fashola; and the Minister of Sports, Sunday Dare; when a federal government delegation visited the Bi-Courtney Chairman, to condole with him over the death of his father… yesterday.

Former Governor Igbinedion's Mother Buried in Edo

Adibe Emenyonu in Benin City

The remains of the mother of ex-governor of Edo State, Mrs. Maria Igbinedion, were yesterday laid to rest in Benin City, Edo State.

Mrs. Maria Igbinedion died on December 2, 2021.

At a requim mass held in her honour at St. Augstine Catholic Church in Benin City, her eldest son and former governor of the state, Chief Lucky Igbinedion, said his family was not grieving over the death of their mother but only heartbroken because of the godly life she led.

The two-time ex-governor of Edo State, explained that the entire household of Igbinedion had no reason to mourn their departed mother because she led a fulfilled life and in a better place with her maker.

He said: "We are heartbroken but we are not grieving because we know she lived a good life. And I will not say much else about her because Reverend Father Moses Iyara, has captured everything eloquently in his homily.

"So, I sincerely want to thank Father Iyara for his eloquent homily on Mama and what she truly stands for.

"I know she is in a better place as we speak. So, on behalf of our patriarch and the children of the house of Igbinedion, we sincerely want to thank you."

Earlier in his homily, Reverend Father Moses Iyara, said the Bible lessons reassured that the souls of the righteous were in the hands of God like that of Maria Igbinedion who was passionate about communion and has an unquenchable love for the Eucharist.

He said she was a woman who had a boundless charity and generosity not only to her children but to organisations with the climax being the support of all Catholic cultural festivals.

Buhari Mourns Justice Bolarinwa Babalakin

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

President Muhammadu Buhari has described the late former Justice of the Supreme Court, Bolarinwa Babalakin, as a public servant of repute, who lived a remarkable life.

The President also yesterday dispatched a three-man delegation led by former Lagos State Governor and Minister of Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, to the Lagos home of the Babalakins, to express his condolences.

Other members of the team were Chief Sunday Dare, Minister of Youth and Sports Development, and Mr. Femi Adesina, Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity.

Delivering the President's message, Fashola said: "We are here to convey Mr. President's message on the passage of your father, grandfather, and an outstanding family man, a great man, a public servant of repute.

"Nigeria is diminished by his passing, but his legacy will be appreciated for many generations to come. May you find comfort and solace in his truly remarkable life."

The federal government team was received by renowned lawyer and captain of industry, Dr. Wale Babalakin, and other family members.

Dr. Babalakin, who spoke on behalf of the children, grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren of the departed jurist, who died at 94, expressed profound gratitude to President Buhari "for deeming it fit to send a condolence team to a man who left public service 29 years ago. It's a mark of great honor."

He further said: "We are greatly consoled by how my father prepared for his final departure. He had absolute belief in his faith, and always said his final day was in the hands of Almighty Allah.

"When he turned 80, he had joked that he was already staying overtime. He was extremely grateful to God for the time he got."

Chancellor Makes Case for Entrepreneurship Studies in Tertiary Schools

James Sowole in Abeokuta

The Chancellor, Chrisland University, Abeokuta, Dr. Winifred Awosika, has advocated that entrepreneurship studies should be made compulsory for students in tertiary institutions in the country.

Awosika stated this while delivering her address at the Third Convocation Ceremony of the institution in Abeokuta, Ogun State, saying such a move would contribute to national development.

The chancellor, who is also the founder of the university, explained that it was important for graduating students to blend academics and entrepreneurship skills, to make them viable for industries and in tune with various governmental policies.

She stressed the need for tertiary institutions, to produce men and women who would not only be academically sound, but economically sufficient.

Awosika explained that Chrisland University was leaving no stone unturned by making entrepreneurship a composite part and parcel of courses learnt.

She noted that the institution, which started with seven students, had continued to grow despite the prevailing circumstances from just to over 700 students at present.

She said, "As the proprietor, I am determined to provide the required support both physical and material resources which would engender quality research, teaching in partnership with reputable and world class institution's," she said.

In her speech, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Chinedum Babalola, noted that Miss Kave Martha from the Department of Criminology and Security Studies emerged overall best graduating student with 4.85 CGPA.

The vice chancellor explained that 44 students graduated with five of them bagging first class, saying that all the students had all excelled in learning and character.

Babalola urged the graduating students to continue to be a good ambassador of the school.

The Guest Speaker, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, urged the graduands to seek internship opportunities, saying it would prepare them for their dream job, saying they should also start thinking of post graduate education.

Firstmonie Wallet

DECEMBER

FirstBank Since 1894

Chop **awuf** on **Firstmonie Wallet**



Win amazing prizes such as an iPhone 12, LED Television, Air Conditioners, Generators, Bags of Rice, cash prizes, and much more on Firstmonie Wallet. Download the Firstmonie Wallet App or dial *894*1#, start transacting and win.

Remember to tell other people, promo runs till 22 January 2022

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

All money, now on Firstmonie.

Terms and conditions apply



#ThisDecember
DON'T BE SCAMMED!

FIRSTBANK IS AN FBN HOLDINGS COMPANY

PREMIUM BOARD LISTED

You First

Contact us: 01-4485500; 0700-34778-2668228 / firstcontact@firstbanknigeria.com / complaints@firstbanknigeria.com / RC 6290

NEWS

FG Raises Hope on 25,000mw Siemens Power Deal, Says Project on Course

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The federal government has dismissed insinuations that its deal with Siemens of Germany, which would see Nigeria's total electricity generation capacity rise from 4,500mw to 25,000mw, had failed.

In July last year, the Federal Executive Council (FEC), approved the payment of €15.21m offshore and N1.708 billion onshore as part of Nigeria's counterpart funding for the deal, which had somehow stalled since then.

About 18 months after Nigeria and Siemens signed the necessary papers, nothing concrete was done by the German firm. Their engineers are not even on ground in Nigeria. The 10 months for the first phase of the power project had also elapsed.

But Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu, who spoke at a workshop organised by the Power Correspondents Association of Nigeria (PCAN), in Abuja, noted that the project, which industry experts regard as a game-changer, remains fully on course.

Aliyu, who was represented by the Minister of State, Power, Goddy Jedy-Agba, stressed that the project "has the capacity to expand Nigeria's electricity supply system."

He stated that the Siemens Presidential Power Initiative (PPI) "is in three phases" and that it is estimated for completion in 2025, adding that these phases cover the upgrading and expansion of the transmission networks and the Distribution Companies' (Discos) networks.

In addition, Aliyu noted that the project would improve access to affordable, efficient and reliable electricity and provide support for industrial and economic growth in the country.

He added: "This first phase, which began in 2021, will go on for a period of 10 months with the end goal of pushing to 7,000mw. So far, there has been no hitch, as the team is currently on the pre-engineering phase.

"The second phase will raise the availability to 11,000mw and the third phase will raise the availability to 25,000mw. Given Siemens AG's accomplishment of a similar plan in Egypt and also its reputation as an international giant in the power sector-related engagements, it is strongly believed that the Nigeria Electricity Roadmap (NER) is possible and achievable."

The minister also explained that government was currently evaluating the procurement process and was confident that a positive outcome would emerge, saying that the project had reached an advanced stage of activities in line with the Siemens project implementation plan.

However, he argued that sustainable growth in the power sector could only be achieved by adding renewable sources to the energy mix, noting that today, 80 per cent of Nigeria's energy comes from gas-fired plants.

"Government is driving the change to increase the quantum of renewable energy sources using solar, wind and hydro across the nation. We are encouraging investments in renewable sources in areas with comparative advantages," he said.

While stressing that mini-grids remained a unique solution model that would increase the renewable energy penetration in Nigeria, Aliyu noted that they were already being deployed in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the country.

Speaking in his own right, Jedy-Agba who was the Chairman of the occasion, noted that the theme of the workshop: "Moving the Power Sector Beyond the Transition Electricity Market" was carefully selected to expand the discussion on moving from absolute government-controlled structure to a private sector driven competitive market.

"As a government, we will continue to create an enabling environment for private investors to thrive in the power sector. We understand that government can't do it all, this is why we've opened the vista for more people to invest in the sector," he stated.

Jedy-Agba stressed that no meaningful development could be achieved without the support of the media, stressing that journalists owe it a duty to factually project the "reformation" going on in the power sector.

In his welcome address, Chairman of PCAN, Mr. Obas Esiedesa assured the minister that journalists covering the sector would continue to remain neutral in their reports, stressing that the growth of the sector was paramount to all Nigerians.

Also present at the event were: representative of the Market Operator, Mr Edmund Eje; representatives of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC), Prof. Steve Ogaji and Mr Emmanuel Ojor; as well as representative of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Abba Terab.



REWARDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP…

L-R: Sola Okunseinde, Adebisi Olaotan, Olanrewaju Apantaku, Yetunde Emiola (Beauty and Make up Entrepreneur of the Year), Titi Fagbote, Bolanle Adegbemi, Khadijat Kazeem and Bukola Akinyan at the Lagos Young Entrepreneur' Awards that took place recently at Lagos Travel Inn, Ikeja.

Kidnapped Imo Traditional Ruler Found Dead

The traditional ruler of Atta community, Njaba Local Government Area of Imo State, Edwin Azike, who was kidnapped last Thursday has been murdered by his assailants.

The body of the late monarch was found at the market square yesterday morning, a development that was confirmed to journalists by Imo State's Police Public Relations Officer, Michael Abattam.

He said the murder was being investigated and that those responsible would be found and dealt with according to the law of the land.

Traditional rulers in Imo State have described the spate of kidnap and murder among their ranks as worrisome and have pleaded for government's protection.

The murder of HRH Azike is coming barely 24 hours after a traditional ruler in a community in Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area of the state, Damian Nwaigwe, was kidnapped, and has not been released as at press time yesterday.

Three traditional rulers were killed in October, this year, when gunmen invaded Nnenasa community in Njaba Local Government Area of the state. The monarchs were among others said to be holding a meeting when the gunmen struck.

Raedial Farms Raises N1.1bn from Capital Market for Expansion Plans

Raedial Farms Limited (RFL) has closed a deal to raise additional N1.1 billion 15 per cent Series II Senior Secured Fixed Rate Medium-term Bond from the Nigerian Capital Market.

The fund, according to a statement, is to be used as working capital to optimise production at their 1,500 hectares of Oil Palm Farm dedicated to seedling, planting, and processing Fresh Fruit Bunches of palms to produce sustainable Crude Palm Oil (CPO) and Palm Kernel Oil (PKO).

The current funding from the Nigerian capital market was facilitated by the team at Boston Advisory with a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the Nigerian Debt Capital Market.

They also facilitated the fundraising of N2 billion early in the year for Raedial Farms Limited, which Raedial Farms used to expand the existing oil palm farms and milling capacity.

Speaking at the sign-off ceremony, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO) of Raedial Farms Limited, Mr. Uwadiale Agenmonmen, described how much potential exists in the agricultural value chain of the country and explained that, with the right decisions and right backing from the government, "we can create economic value not only for players in the industry but for the host communities via employment opportunities, increased trading activities and create value for the state through tax payments."

Raedial Farms Limited is a fast-growing agricultural company that has become a leader in the oil palm sector of Nigeria within a decade of existence. With operational offices in Port Harcourt and Benin, Raedial Farms prides itself on being backed by only the latest technological innovation and a dedicated workforce of over 500 people.

NCC Concludes 3.5GHz Spectrum Mock Auction, Holds Main Auction Monday

Emma Okonji

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has successfully carried out a mock session for the 3.5 gigahertz (GHz) spectrum auction for the deployment of the Fifth Generation (5G) network in the country.

The simulated auction, which took place yesterday, at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, was preparatory to the main auction scheduled to take place on Monday, December 13, 2021 at same venue.

The conduct of the simulation exercise was in line with the requirements stipulated in the Information Memorandum (IM) for 3.5 GHz spectrum auction. The IM is a document that defines the process for the licensing of the 3.5 GHz spectrum band earlier published in the commission's website at the inception of the auction process.

Using the Ascending Clock Auction System for the mock session, the three qualified bidders for the 3.5 GHz spectrum, namely MTN Nigeria, Mafab Communications Ltd, and Airtel Networks Ltd, participated in the software-based simulated auction exercise.

The mock auction was witnessed by the Chairman, Board of Commissioners, NCC, Prof. Adeolu Akande; the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta; Executive Commissioner, Technical Services, Ubale Maska and the Executive Commissioner, Stakeholder Management, Adeleke Adewolu.

Others, who witnessed the mock auction include representatives from the bidding companies, senior management staff from relevant departments of the commission, technical consultants, software consultants, legal consultants and other external observers.

Following the successful mock auction, the stage is set for the commission to license two slots in the 3.5 GHz spectrum band expected to be picked by successful bidders at the end of the Main Auction on Monday, December 13, 2021.

According to statement released yesterday by NCC and signed by its Director, Public Affairs, Dr. Ikechukwu Adinde, the auction on Monday would mark a turning point in Nigeria's determination to harness the benefits of 5G for the nation's socio-economic growth as concrete roll-out of 5G commences in 2022.

Otedola Acquires Additional 2.5% Stake in FBN Holdings, Awaits NGX Affirmation

Our Correspondents

Billionaire businessman, Femi Otedola, has acquired an additional 2.5 per cent in FBN Holdings Plc, thus, set to become the single largest shareholder in the company, once the new acquisitions are affirmed by the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) next Monday.

FBN Holdings is the parent company of First Bank of Nigeria (FBN). The new acquisitions has now placed Otedola's stake far above the controversial partitioned shares of Tunde Hassan-Odukale, another shareholder.

Hassan-Odukale's indirect shares were partitioned into two - 4.16 per cent and 1.20 per cent – the last being what the National Pension Commission (PenCom) described as funds belonging to retirement savings account (RSA) holders.

Sources said Otedola had spent the last few weeks acquiring more shares in order to become the chairman of the bank, as the single largest shareholder.

Based on the new acquisitions, the equity stake of Otedola is now 7.57 per cent of the issued shares capital of FBNH.

After regulatory approvals, Otedola will now nominate more directors, having nominated two before - one into FBN and the other into the HoldCo.

EFCC Arrests 22 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Asaba

Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said yesterday that operatives of its Port Harcourt Zonal Command arrested 22 suspected internet fraudsters in an early morning sting operation in Asaba, the Delta State capital.

A statement by the commission said the suspects were arrested at different locations in the Asaba metropolis based on verified intelligence on their suspicious internet-related criminal activities.

The suspects are Saviour Francis; Samuel Okonkwo; Justice Onokeya; Christian Addeh; Collins Addeh; Ifeanyichukwu Ramsey; Kingsley Ikechukwu Nnubia; Great Unuafe Ogaga; Chibuike Chukwuka, Dominic Chukwuka and Precious Omvnogor.

Others include Oreva Ferife; Stephen Kwushue; Emmanuel Daniel; Paul Ugwu; Ochuko Zion; Shedrack Godshelp; Barnabas Ossai; Ekwere Joseph Onyeka; Andrew Ochei, Kelechi Uwaegbu and Ifeanyi Afoma

Items recovered from them are 16 vehicles comprising eight Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV) and eight cars of different brands, 48 phones of different brands and nine laptops.

Others include four international passports, four drivers licences, one printer, four wrist watches; two automated teller machine cards, four tokens and one Point of Sales (POS) machine.


ARISE kids
BBC STUDIOS
NEW TITLES AVAILABLE TO
STREAM NOW
EXCLUSIVELY ON ARISEPLAY
BBC
Dave Cooper's
The BAGEL and BECKY SHOW
JOIN A BOLD NEW WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT
WWW.ARISEPLAY.COM

NEWS

Army Chief Tells Troops to Prepare for More Security Threats Next Year

Bennett Oghifo

Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya, has charged commanders and troops to prepare for more security threats next year.

Gen. Yahaya stated this yesterday at the closing ceremony of the COAS annual conference in Abuja, tasking the commanders to plan for the possible increase in scope and dimension of the activities of violent state actors in the coming year.

In an obvious move to stem the high level of casualty sustained in the fight against terrorists, and other outlaws, the Chief of Army Staff directed the commanders to ensure that troops master the art of night operations and anti-ambush drills.

He said emphasis would be placed on individual and unit training to enhance teamwork and professionalism, adding that commanders must plan for the possible increase in scope and dimension of the activities of violent state actors in 2022.

Yahaya said, "In the course of the conference, we discussed vigorously salient issues affecting the performance of our constitutional roles and the sustenance of professionalism.

"We have equally considered the various security issues plaguing our nation. Consequently, our focus for the coming year would be on developing capacities for improved performances across board.

"Emphasis will be placed on both individual and unit training that will enhance teamwork and professionalism.

"Furthermore, commanders must ensure that their troops master the art of night operations and anti-ambush drills by engaging in effective night operations and anti-ambush drill training.

"We must take the fight to the adversary in order to neutralise and defeat them.

"Commanders are also urged to develop contingency plans to ensure our forces always retain the initiative in all our theatres of operation.

"In that vein, commanders must plan for the possible increase in scope and dimension of the activities of violent state actors in the coming year."

According to him, "commanders must also look at the possibilities of conducting a wide range of operations against bandits and insurgents."

NAN reports that Yahaya said he expects the Army to endeavour to resolutely defeat the enemies in all theatres of operations with "the improved support troops have in terms of logistics and other key combat enablers."



FOR YOUR RECORDS…

L-R: Former Ogun State Governor, Chief Segun Osoba and former Interim Chairman, APC, Chief Bisi Akande, presenting a copy of his book, 'My Participation' at Osoba's Ikoyi residence … yesterday

Crisis May Erupt in Two Oil Rich Akwa Ibom LGAs Over Siting of BUA Refinery

Okon Bassey in Uyo

Crisis may erupt between the people of two rich oil local government areas, Eket and Ibeno of Akwa Ibom State over the siting of the proposed BUA refinery in the area.

Last week, the people of Eket and Esit Eket Local Government Areas of the state issued a quit notice to the BUA Refinery claiming that the land allocated for the proposed refinery belongs to the Ekid people.

But in a reaction, the people of Ibeno Local Government Area warned that no part of their land especially where the refinery is to be sited belongs to Eket and they will not tolerate any trespass to its land.

Addressing journalists, the people of Ibeno warned that BUA refinery is to be located in Ibeno and they will defend BUA activities, its personnel both local and expatriates to ensure its successful operations in the area.

The press conference was addressed by the Joint Council of Mpono Nnito Ibeno and Ulok Ulok People Assembly, and the speech signed by Chief Ikoedem Ekong, Joint Council Chairman and Pastor Tom Samuel Afia, Joint Council Secretary in Upenekang, the LGA headquarters.

"Ibeno will never take up arms against Eket, but we will not fold our arms and watch the activities of miscreants in our land. If one leaf is taken from Ibeno into Eket, we will enter and collect 12 leaves.

"We will equally not permit one BUA personnel to be hurt or killed by Eket in the course of carrying out their legitimate construction work in Ibeno which will be a blessing to Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria as a whole.

Sylvester Oromoni: Cultism, Bullying in Schools Must End, Says Gov Sanwo-Olu

Segun James

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday said that cultism and bullying by fellow students must be eradicated, saying the entrenched practices are having negative effects on the nation's educational system.

Governor Sanwo-Olu made the call at the inauguration of a newly built female hostel and 12 classroom blocks at the Lagos State Model College, Igbokuta, Lagos.

The governor's call is coming on the heels of the death of Sylvester Oromoni Jnr, a student of Dowen College, a private school in Lekki area of Lagos, who was allegedly bullied by senior students in his hostel and died in the process after sustaining fatal injuries.

Sanwo-Olu said the projects reflect his administration's continued dedication to quality and equitable education and unwavering commitment to the provision of a conducive learning and teaching environment.

The governor, who decried the menace of cultism and acts of bullying among students, urged victims to speak up whenever they are being bullied and oppressed in the school.

Kidnapping: Court to Deliver Judgment on Evans Feb. 25

Wale Igbintade

A Lagos State High Court in Ikeja yesterday fixed February 25, 2022, to deliver judgment in the case of alleged kidnap kingpin, Chukwudimeme Onwuamadike also known as Evans and five others charged with conspiracy and kidnapping.

Justices Hakeem Oshodi fixed the date after lawyers to Evans and his co-defendants argued and adopted their final written addresses yesterday.

The Lagos State Government had arraigned Evans alongside Uche Amadi, Okwuchukwu Nwachukwu, Ogechi Uchechukwu, Chilaka Ifeanyi and Victor Aduba for allegedly kidnapping the Managing Director of Maydon Pharmaceuticals Limited, Donatus Dunu on February 14, 2017.

Evans is also facing similar charges before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo and Justice Adedayo Akintoye of the same court.

All the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges.

While arguing his final written address, Evans's lawyer, Victor Opara urged the court to discharge and acquit his client of the crimes.

Emergency Digest to Reward 'Humanitarian Journalism' at SAEMA 2021

Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja

The forthcoming Security and Emergency Management Awards (SAEMA 2021) event, billed to hold on December 18 at NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja, will have as a staple Humanitarian Journalism Award.

The award which was instituted in 2019 is an initiative of Emergency Digest, a sister publication of PRNigeria.

The annual event is hosted in partnership with the Centre for Crisis Communication and CISLAC to recognise the immeasurable and invaluable contribution to the security, peace and development of Nigeria by the military, security, intelligence and response agencies, their management and personnel and other institutions and individuals.

The originator of SAEMA, Yushau A. Shuaib, said the Awards celebrate the best of the bests in security and response agencies in Nigeria.

He said the recurrence of both man-made and natural disasters has over time precipitated insecurity and humanitarian consequences in the country, adding these tragic occurrences have placed the activities and operations of agencies and departments saddled with the responsibility of managing security and emergencies in the front burner.

He said the decision to introduce Humanitarian Journalism Award into the mix centred on the realisation that humanitarian journalism is the production of factual accounts about crises and issues that affect human welfare by providing early emergency warnings, raising awareness and on support and monitoring the treatment of citizens.

He said a humanitarian journalist provides information as essential as the benefit of water, food, medicine or shelter for humanity and goes beyond the routine of traditional reporting of disaster and crises by providing accurate, timely and reliable Information that helps people in and from humanitarian crises.

Popular Broadcaster Rapes 19-Year-Old Pregnant Lady Inside Church

Fidelis David in Akure

The Ondo State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of a popular Radio Presenter and self-acclaimed pastor for allegedly raping a five-month pregnant lady inside his Celestial Church of Christ (CCC) in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

THISDAY gathered that the suspect was arrested after the 19-year-old lady identified as Bukola was allegedly raped when she came for deliverance at the church of the pastor.

THISDAY learnt that the popular broadcaster was alleged to have used his manhood to apply 'anointed oil' inside the woman's private part.

The presenter is very popular with human angle stories he presents on radio stations.

The Radio Presenter (name withheld) was arrested by men of Nigeria Police after the woman complained of a strange situation with her pregnancy.

Narrating her ordeal to reporters at the Police Headquarters in Igbatoro Road, in Akure, the victim said the suspect used 'anointing' oil to rub her private part before he dipped his manhood on her.

She said: "In the morning, I went to the hospital to register. We usually have a programme every Wednesday. On that fateful day, I went to church but unfortunately, they have ended the service.

"He collected the list I brought from the hospital. He said the items in the list given to me were too much, he later said I should go and make a photocopy which I did. After I had done it, he said I should take it to the altar, he said he will pray on the list. While sitting down, he started pressing my stomach, he asked me how many months is my pregnancy? I said it is five months.

Glo Shines at 2021 LAIF Awards With 10 Medals, Bags Loeries Craft Certificate

Digital solutions provider, Globacom, has once again reaffirmed its position as the leader in creative communication in the nation's telecommunications industry as it carted home ten awards, including five silver and five bronze medals, at the just concluded 2021 Lagos Advertising and Ideas Festival (LAIF AWARDS) which celebrates creative excellence.

At the ceremony which was held at Landmark Event Centre in Lagos last week, Globacom bagged the awards for excellent works in Creative Television Commercials, Press Advertisements, Outdoor and best use of Digital and Social Media Content.

Globacom's Children's Day Press Advertisement won silver medals in two categories. The first was Press Craft Original Photography award which celebrates the quality of photograph used in the press advertisement, while the second was Telecom Product Services Award.

In the same vein, Globacom Roaming Advertisement also clinched two silver medals in Press LAIF Telecom Product and Services as well as Outdoor LAIF Telecom Product and Services respectively.

In the television commercial category, Globacom's Biker Mechanic, featuring film actor and comedian, Kelechi Udegbe, and actress Eriata Ese where the reliability of Glo 4G LTE was showcased won two bronze medals in Film LAIF Telecom Product and Services and in Digital and Mobile LAIF Telecom Product and Services awards. Also in Outdoor LAIF Telecom Product and Services category, Globacom's Feed Your Eyes won a bronze medal.

POLARIS BANK

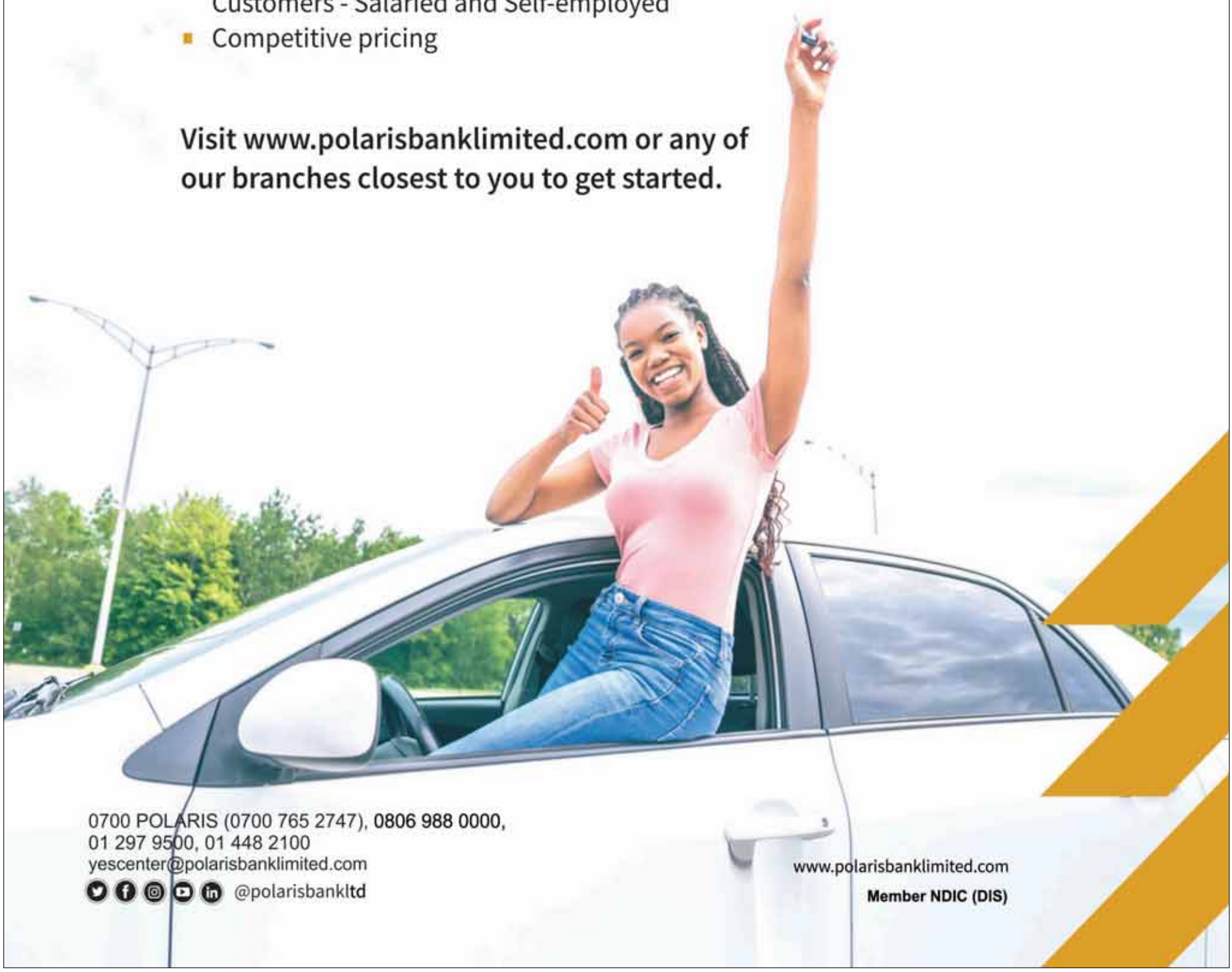
You Deserve A Brand New Car This Season

Ride in style with **Polaris Auto Loan**

Benefits include:

- Flexible repayment plan
- Minimum down payment
- Available to Polaris and Non-Polaris Bank Customers - Salaried and Self-employed
- Competitive pricing

Visit www.polarisbanklimited.com or any of our branches closest to you to get started.



0700 POLARIS (0700 765 2747), **0806 988 0000,**
01 297 9500, 01 448 2100
yescenter@polarisbanklimited.com
@polarisbankltd

www.polarisbanklimited.com
Member NDIC (DIS)

COMMENTARY

Chukwuma Soludo: Great Expectations

Chika Ezeanya Esiobu reviews the strategies likely to be adopted by the Anambra State governor-elect

Professor Chukwuma Soludo's book, Our Continent Our Future: African Perspectives on Structural Adjustment, authored with the late renowned Malawian economist and public intellectual, Thandika Mkandawire, is a bold effort at a Pan African analysis of the crushingly devastating effects of the externally imposed Structural Adjustment programs on African countries. Owing to the scope of his contributions to Africa's development narrative, there are expectations on Soludo's administration domestically and internationally, especially as it has to do with economic transformation of his state. In his strategic plan for Anambra State contained in his manifesto, Professor Soludo divides the priorities of his administration into four segments: first, Economic Transformation, second, Social Agenda, third, Governance, Rule of Law and Value System and finally, Environment. Here, we shall examine the possibilities Professor Soludo's manifesto holds for a deeply impactful and sustainable Pan African based transformation of Anambra State.

From a Pan African lens, Professor Soludo's Economic transformation agenda ought to focus on the numerous traditional knowledge based resources of Anambra State as foundational in transforming the state's economic situation. Professor Soludo displays this understanding under agriculture, where he stated that "investments will be made in research to invent improved varieties and accelerate the mass production of endangered lgbo -specific products such as ukwa, efi lgbo, okuko lgbo, okpa, ogili, uda, uziza, utazi, etc" Indeed, Africa's indigenous food systems, though much more nutritious and cost effective than their western counterparts run the risks of being lost without active policy backing. Professor Soludo's emphasis on revolutionalizing palm production, not necessarily through huge palm plantation projects, but by empowering farmers and households, shows a deep understanding of community and grassroots based growth model which is foundational for other forms of advancement to occur in Africa.

In the area of tourism, Professor Soludo may add to his plans, the revitalization and promotion of Anambra's traditional markets, dances, food, community festivals, architecture, as well as the Igbo language.

Under road construction, Soludo seems to rely almost exclusively on collaboration with private sector. He notes that if elected, his administration will "deploy alternative models/Technology of building durable roads in collaboration with the Private Sector." If so, it means that his administration will omit alternative sources of labor within the state, especially community and grassroots involvement in road building and repairs. Professor Soludo who understands Africa's debt trap will also know to be careful with a private sector- led development model. Although Soludo did not state clearly what alternative sources of technology he hopes to utilize, it is hoped that, in collaboration with universities and research institutions within the state, indigenous minerals and hard rocks in Anambra State will be the focus.

Education is on top of Soludo's social agenda. He rightly identifies that sector as being foundational to Anambra State's sustainable prosperity. He listed numerous strategies to ensure quality teaching and learning. From a Pan African perspective, Professor Soludo's agenda for education does need some expansion. Two areas will be stated here. First, Professor Soludo identifies that 60% of pupils in Anambra State are in private schools. Drawing from Soludo's earlier referenced work, which talks about the effects of the SAP induced privatization of education on Africa, one can confidently say that the professor is aware that the stated statistics is detrimental to the growth of the state. In fact, most middle income young Nigerians who have emigrated to Canada and other nations cite the high cost of private education as the reason for their emigration. They love Nigeria, they want to stay and contribute their quota to national advancement, however, they also want the best for their children, and they would rather go abroad where public education is good and free.



SOLUDO'S PAN AFRICAN PERSUASIONS ARE CLEARLY ELUCIDATED WHICH PROPOSES TO GO ON SOCIAL EVANGELISM TO RESTORE COMMUNALISM AND RESPECT FOR VALUES AMONG ANAMBRA PEOPLE RATHER THAN RESPECT FOR MONEY. ONE WAY SOLUDO CAN ACHIEVE THIS NOBLE AIM IS BY MAKING EDUCATION FREE AND OF QUALITY STANDARD IN THE STATE, AS WELL AS INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN THE EDUCATION CURRICULA ACROSS THE STATE

Secondly, the gap and social distance between the haves and have-nots have greatly increased in Nigeria and in many other African countries as a result of the privatization of education. The rate of crime has gone up as well, since many criminals will justify their actions as necessary in order to pay school fees for their children. Other criminals are products of the uncaring, ill-equipped public school system.

Professor Soludo should consider the 60% enrollment of students in Anambra State private schools a gross misnomer and should passionately pursue a revitalization of Anambra's public school system. Indeed, a lot of Anambrarians in the diaspora in Lagos, Abuja and other states will return to Anambra State if they are sure of quality, public education for their children.

Second, Soludo's plan for education, from a Pan Africanist viewpoint will need to work to overturn the colonially bequeathed curricular that still thrives across the state and the rest of Nigeria. As argued by many scholars, indigenous knowledge is foundational for advancement in any society. The Western world today advanced by a respect and acknowledgement of their indigenous knowledge and Africa can only grow if the continent's indigenous knowledge is mainstreamed in teaching, learning and other sectors.

Professor Soludo presents a robust manifesto for healthcare in Anambra State. From a Pan African perspective, however, it makes no mention of supporting the growth of the state's traditional medical sector. Anambra State is dense with traditional pharmacology some of which Soludo who grew up in the rural area should be aware of. There is need to strongly support the growth of indigenous medical practice in the state. Under Sports development, Soludo pledges among others, to, "develop modern sports facilities (football, basketball, track &. field) across all local governments to harness talent and develop future Olympic champions and global sports champions." As a Pan Africanist who is also interested in promoting tourism in Anambra State, Professor Soludo needs to do a lot more to promote traditional sports in Anambra State, sports such as traditional wrestling, climbing and other such indigenous sports should be on top of his agenda.

Soludo's Pan African persuasions are clearly elucidated which proposes to go on social evangelism to restore communalism and respect for values among Anambra people rather than respect for money. One way Soludo can achieve this noble aim is by making education free and of quality standard in the state, as well as incorporating indigenous knowledge in the education curricula across the state. If Anambrarians get to see that Professor Soludo care so much about the children of the poor that investments in their education is prioritized, then his administration is inadvertently letting citizens know that poverty is not a crime and that poor people are valued and respected.

Dr. Esiobu can be reached on social media @drchikaesiobu and through her website www.chikaforafrica.com

Farewell, Joseph Wayas

Gboyega Amoboye pays tribute to Joseph Wayas, former President of the Senate

If taste, fame and power were to determine life, Joseph Wayas would be spared death. He loved taste and taste loved him. He loved life and life loved him. He loved power, power loved him. He loved his wine. Who would blame him, a young man of 38, rich and handsome, returning from America to become the President of the Senate? Of course he loved himself; the way he picked his words, his phonetics, carriage, his power charged looks, etc. For every brand of wine, he had a registered cup. He would scold his house help for using a wrong glass for another brand of wine. As a youth, he was always organizing disco nights for National Assembly Correspondents in his house. Some of the correspondents are Eric Teniola (Punch), Toye Akiode (Vanguard), Labake Adebiyi, (National Concord), Vera Ifudu (NTA), Olugbayo Ogunleye, Clement Akintonde, late Bolu Oni both of the FRCN; Isaac Olaleye, Bolaji, Niyi Adekeye all of Herald, Feyi Smith, late Bolaji Macaulay (Punch), Wale Oshodi, Yinka Guerdon (New Nigerian), late Tony Idigo (NAN), late Richard Amayo, Remi Ajayi (Observer), Ronke Akinsete, late Ughoani Anene (Daily Times), Tayo Adigun (Radio Lagos).

When Prof. Ambrose Alli as governor of Bendel State on the platform of Unity Party of Nigeria shut the gate of the State against the visiting President Shehu Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria in 1980, Wayas told me that Shagari was too gentle. He spoke in Yoruba "To ba je emin ni Shagari , Ambrose Alli a ma gbon ni and repeated it with all emphasis. That is," If I were Shagari, Ambrose Alli would be shaking in regrets. After all, I control the Police; I control the purse, I control the security". The governor had declared a public holiday and asked everybody to stay indoors. Shagari arrived an empty airport, and streets forcing him to ask rhetorically, "Where are my people"?

Dr. Wayas would be remembered for his celebrated rosy cheeks but above all, he led a purposeful Senate and indeed National Assembly as chairman, joint sitting. Having been a Senate correspondent spanning across third and fourth republic, I could rate the Senate under his leadership as the most purposeful. Though very few bills were passed into law compared with volumes by subsequent Senates, the few bills passed provided employment, relative comfort, food, housing, education, peace and stability. While the focus of that Senate was the people others after him were personal aggrandizement, constituency allowance, newspaper allowance, toilet roll allowance, budget padding, contract award, anticipatory approvals, first line charge of payment of personal emoluments, etc.

A former Minister of Finance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala once said that billons of Naira were paid as bribe for budget. But bribe for budget under Wayas never existed. There was no Salah ram or Christmas goat. The Senate saw the National Assembly as just an arm of the three tiers of government. Dr. Wayas carried himself with the dignity befitting that office. He had no house or was he eager to build one or commandeer one of the mansions at the mercy of the NPN in FESTAC Town. While in power, the' Senate abstained from contract award; everything, even up to consumables were supplied by the ministry of works. Owing to non-diversion of budget from government priorities to constituency allowance, projects were more easily financed. While that Senate was part time to save cost, subsequent ones have been fulltime even though seats are most always empty.

Dr. Wayas attributed his success to guidance by some experienced legislators that returned from the first republic. They included Alhaji Jalo Waziri from Bauchi (first republic Speaker, House of Representatives), Chief Jonathan Odebiyi (Unity Party of Nigeria, Senate leader), Dr Jaja Wachukwu (Senate leader of the Nigeria Peoples Party), Senator Obi Wali (NPP), Idrisa Kadi (GNPP). There was also the invaluable service of the Clerk of the National Assembly, Gidad Idris who had been on ground since 1978 as the Clerk Designate as well as a Director, Political Affairs Office, Cabinet Office, now Presidency; Mrs. Omobola Onajide who had coordinated series of international trainings for incoming staff.

Wayas had told the press in 1983 that he could "face any tribunal any day" and that he would be the first to be cleared should the Army come to power. He claimed that his four years in office had witnessed a successful operation of the new Presidential system of government in the Senate. But when the Army struck on the eve of 1984, Wayas was not around to face any of General Muhammadu Buhari's tribunals that were jailing his co-political office holders 300years, including the Governor of Kano State, Sabo Barkin Zuwo who said, "keep on jailing me" for "keeping government money in government house" while Shagari was taking refuge in the house of the late Ciroma Keffi, Mohammed Hassan in Keffi,Nasarawa State. Wayas returned to the country after Buhari was overthrown in 1985 but was immediately arrested and clamped into detention at Kirikiri maximum prison where he became a born again Christian and the Bible, his best companion.

Surprisingly on my routine visit to Senator Mamud Waziri at Louis Solomon Close Victoria Island on February 21, 1988, guess what, I was face -to- face with Wayas who had been released two days earlier. The next day the front page exclusive lead of the National Concord was, "WAYAS RELEASED." According to the report, ''At face- to- face with National Concord yesterday, Dr. Wayas, clad in immaculate white long sleeve caftan and highly polished ox blood shoes spotted a fresh haircut. It was a relaxed home setting interrupted by the occasional entrance of well-wishers with whom the former Senate President though less robust than before, exchanged pleasantries. He said there was no difference between how detainees and convicts were treated and cited as an example the indiscriminating bites of mosquitoes at Kirikiri."

Our interaction was to blossom again on my transfer to Abuja by Concord Press in1996. I was a regular visitor to his rented house along Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse Zone 4. He had started building a mansion at the end of John Kadiya street, Asokoro which he was supervising, being an engineer himself…

Wayas could be said to have had it all; power, fame, happiness and contentment. He was released from detention on February 21, 1988 at 50. After power, he lived a modest life. He did not build a house until early 2000s. His modest house at his country home, Obalinku, Cross River State was a reflection of the modest life he lived. I visited him there around 2006. The neat bungalow and compound was unintimidating of the neighborhood. He shunned every effort to appoint him a minister explaining that having presided over screening of ministers, he could not go down to become one. I knew he was racing against life the moment he could no longer recognize me the last time I visited him in Abuja. Shortly afterwards, he was flown abroad for medical treatment. He never returned alive. He died at 80. May his soul rest in peace.

Gboyega Amoboye, a media consultant based in Lagos, can be reached via mail on gboyegaamoboye@gmail.com

INSIGHT



Bullying is evil...

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**. 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** along with the email address and phone numbers of the writer.

Terrorism is Blood Money

Nigerians have always suspected that Boko Haram, ISWAP and other terrorist groups which have been devastating the country for years are well-heeled.

This suspicion was recently confirmed by a chilling report which established that one of the terror groups moved about N18b ($36m) through the Nigerian financial system in the last year.

According to its 2021 Mutual Evaluation Report, the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, also known as GIABA which was established by the Economic Authority of Heads of State and Government in 2000, Boko Haram splinter group, Islamic State West Africa Province, moved about N18bn ($36m) generated from trading and taxing communities in the Lake Chad region, through the Nigerian financial system.

It is little wonder.

For more than a decade now, terrorism has taken a firm foothold in Nigeria, leaving its bold, bloody footprints across many states especially in northern Nigeria. Hitherto sprawling communities have been sacked and then razed; thousands have been slaughtered; markets, farms and other such places where people`s livelihoods thrive have been reduced to dust; schools have been bombed and students abducted in just a few instances of how forceful the terrorists have been.

The swell in Nigeria`s IDP camps and the casualties occasioned to Nigeria` security personnel bear testimony to the sheer potency of terror. In the face of this existential threat to Nigeria`s sovereignty and unity, what has the government done?

Opinions are sharply divided. While the government prays for patience and cooperation, pleading that it is doing its best and citing countries which have been battling terrorism for years to demonstrate its enduring challenge, many Nigerians think the government is big on noise but small on music.

For those Nigerians, because there is sympathy in the highest places for some of those complicit in terrorist activities against Nigerians, there has been no incentive to crush them. Of course, many Nigerians remember how allegations swirled not long ago of how billions earmarked for the battle against insurgency ended up in private pockets. That scandalous chapter is yet to close.

As Boko Haram and ISWAP have sought to take over states in Northern Nigeria, they have faced a formidable force in Nigeria`s security forces, especially the Nigerian Army.

Many terrorists have been killed, their weapons recovered and their terror networks dismantled. Many of them have been cowed into surrendering to the Nigerian state even if their rehabilitation and deradicalization at the instance of the Nigerian Army continues to be a lightning rod for controversy.

However, Nigeria`s forceful response to terror pushed by the gallant men of the Nigerian Army has not come without steep prices. Gallant officers have been caught down in their prime, sophisticated military equipment have fallen into the hands of the terrorists and many security operations have been compromised by sabotage.

All through the war against Nigeria`s mortal enemies, it has always appeared that the terrorists are well-funded.

This has now been confirmed by the humongous amount cited in the report. Most of the fund is said to have come from trading activities by the terrorists and taxation in the Lake Chad region. But Nigerians know that there is more to it than meets the eyes.

Many Nigerians know that were terrorism not well sponsored and coordinated in Nigeria, it would have been long defeated. Nigerians also know that because the crude terrorists are at best crude traders and clumsy tax collectors, they rely heavily on their shadowy collaborators to raise the money they need to fund the deaths of thousands.

Kene Obiezu, keneobiezu@gmail.com

Is Port Harcourt Still The Garden City?

I always shudder to believe that Port Harcourt was once given the moniker "the Garden City". When I see historical evidence of the lush green big gardens that once inundated the streets of Port Harcourt, and juxtaposing that with the current pollution of soot, all my brain can process is an illusionary mirage. Then the next question will be, what happened to Port Harcourt?

Prior to the 1956 discovery of oil in Oloibiri, Port Harcourt was a heartland for another kind of oil trade, this time it was palm oil, that was shipped in mass quantities abroad to produce lubricants. Hence the name "Oil River". It has lush mangrove and rich palm trees which the Royal Niger Company and some other foreign interest traded in. It was finally named after Lord Harcourt. Lewis Vernon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt PC (born Reginald Vernon Harcourt (31 January 1863 – 24 February 1922), was a British Liberal Party politician who held the Cabinet post of Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1910 to 1915. Lord Harcourt's nickname was "Loulou".

The historical trade of oil palm and then crude oil brought development to Port Harcourt and the influx could be seen in the green gardens and the well-kept streets. BP British Petroleum, set up refinery there in the 60s, other establishments followed. The oil trade has also brought its own nefarious effect to the garden city. The illegal trade in oil and creation of all forms of illegal refinery has polluted the environment in the Garden City. Port Harcourt has become a soot city and this has greatly hampered livability as people now die from lung disease and other pollutants. Today in terms of air quality index, Port Harcourt fails terribly. Now it is the most polluted city in Nigeria. The shocking narrative is how did the Garden City become the most polluted city? I dare say "the Nigerian factor".

My concern is the air pollution and the government must work hard to reduce it by clamping down on those illegal activities and hold the oil majors accountable. The situation is so bad that recently I visited Port Harcourt and I came back with a bad cough. I saw firsthand, how the floor was cleaned and minutes after dust particles were seen on the same floor. The particulate matter of dust is intense in Port Harcourt.

The people that live in that city are living in a danger zone, akin to living in Chernobyl. I dare say, this is the problem across the Niger Delta too. The People in Nembe are also suffering as we speak. Their Christmas has been truncated by the gold sputtering of oil and gas from the Christmas Tree. While the game of musical chairs goes on in Abuja, pollution is destroying lives and livelihoods. It is time to save the Garden City.

Rufai Oseni, rufaioseni@gmail.com

THE SATURDAY NEWSPAPER
EDITOR YEMI ADEBOWALE
DEPUTY EDITOR AHAMEFULA OGBU
MANAGING DIRECTOR ENIOLA BELLO
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR ISRAEL IWEGBU
CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL BOARD OLUSEGUN ADENIYI
EDITOR NATION'S CAPITAL IYOBOSA UWUGIAREN
MANAGING EDITOR BOLAJI ADEBIYI
THE OMBUDSMAN KAYODE KOMOLAFE

THISDAY

THISDAY NEWSPAPERS LIMITED
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/CHAIRMAN NDUKA OBAIGBENA
GROUP EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ENIOLA BELLO, KAYODE KOMOLAFE, ISRAEL IWEGBU, IJEOMA NWOGWUGWU, EMMANUEL EFENI
DIVISIONAL DIRECTORS SHAKA MOMODU, PETER IWEGBU, ANTHONY OGEDENGBE
DEPUTY DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR OJOGUN VICTOR DANBOYI
SNR. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ERIC OJEH
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR PATRICK EIMIUHI
CONTROLLERS ABIMBOLA TAIWO, UCHENNA DIBIAGWU, NDUKA MOSERI
DIRECTOR, PRINTING PRODUCTION CHUKS ONWUDINJO

TO SEND EMAIL: first name.surname@thisdaylive.com

Letter to Nigerian Ambassador to Italy

We refer to your mail of December 7, 2021 wherein you said to us that: 'The Embassy, has been doing all it could to attend to Nigerians in Italian jails and ensure fair justice and adequate treatment within the limits of law".

Arising from this, we request for a compendium of Nigerians in Italian jails, that is, the actual numbers, the jails they are being held and charges against these Nigerians.

We are interested in this number because there are allegations that these Nigerians, totaling over 4,000 in Italian jails have been locked up over a great period of time without access to their families, access to legal representation and fair hearing. While we appreciate your passion in working to get out people illegally clamped in jails in Italy, we must remind you that there is no need to throw a blanket of privacy and personal data issues over this matter.

Bob MajiriOghene Etemiku, majirioghene@protonmail.com

NEWS



PEACE THROUGH CULTURE…

L-R: MP, Foreign Minister, Bangladesh, Member Organising Committee,Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen; MP, Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament and Chair, Organising Committee; Dr. Shirin Sharmin Churdhurin; and Director General, National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) and President, World Craft Council, African Region, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, at the International Peace Conference with the theme: Advancing Peace Through Social Inclusion at Dhaka, Bangladesh…recently

Runsewe Urges World Leaders to Embrace Peace as a Heritage

Worried by the rise in local and global strifes and conflicts, occasioned by socio-economic and political exclusion, President, World Craft Council (WCC), Otunba Segun Runsewe, has called for special attention to be paid on culture and religious heritage saying they are drivers of peace.

Runsewe, who is also the Director General of National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC), made the call as special guest at the World Peace Conference hosted by People's Republic of Bangladesh.

He told the gathering of eminent political and business moguls from all over the world that culture apart from religion, is a potent weapon in engendering peace and unity.

"We must revisit culture as a veritable tool of ensuring the Unity, peace and development of the society, hence every government and nation must strive towards the preservation of their heritage as means of collective identity," Runsewe explained.

Showcasing the impact of Nigeria's iconic cultural festival, National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST), Runsewe disclosed that the yearly celebration of the festival in Nigeria, has sustained the unification of the Nigerian people despite the huge diversities, noting that the festival helps celebrate what unifies Nigerians and not what divides them.

Alleged Invasion: Court Summons GOC 81 Division, Commandant

Wale Igbintade

A federal High Court sitting in Lagos has summoned the General Officer Commander (GOC) 81 Division and the Commandant 65 Battalion of the Nigerian Army to appear before the court over alleged continuous harassment and intimidation of a businessman, Alhaji Yunus Adedokun.

Justice Peter Lifu made the order in a fundamental human rights enforcement application filed by Alhaji Yunus Adedokun over the alleged invasion of his landed property situated along Anna Mbachu Street, Oke Arin Village, in Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State.

The applicant in a Motion Exparte filed by his lawyer, Mr. Olusola Salawu had sought an interim order directing the Nigeria Army, General Officer Commander, GOC 81 Division, and the Commandant 65 Battalion to stop the threat to his life and vacate his property.

The applicant is also praying the court to declare that the continuous harassment by soldiers from the Nigerian Army 65 Battalion Bonny Camp, Lagos unconstitutional and a breach of his fundamental rights to life and human dignity as guaranteed by Section 33 and 34 of the constitution.

He is also demanding a sum of N200 million as exemplary damages against the respondents for alleged breach of his fundamental human rights to life and human dignity.

Ruling on the application, Justice Lifu ordered the respondents to appear in court and show cause why the prayers sought in the applicant's motion should not be granted.

The court held "The respondents are hereby directed to come forthwith before this court and show cause within three days from the date of the service of this order on them why the prayers sought in the Applicant's Motion dated 16th November 2021 and filed on 18th November 2021 should not be granted.

Vaccination: Stakeholders Must Dispel Rumours to Tackle Low Response, Says Expert

Omon-Julius Onabu in Asaba and **Blessing Ibunge** in Port-Harcourt

The low COVID-19 vaccines coverage for Africa, and particularly Nigeria, has been described as abysmal with a call on all stakeholders to join the efforts to reverse the trend by getting more Nigerians to get vaccinated.

Dr. Obasi Chikezie of the Community Health Department, Enugu State University Teaching Hospital, Enugu, gave the charge at a one day media dialogue on COVID-19 vaccination, theories and uptake held yesterday in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, organized by UNICEF.

He said it was common knowledge that several baseless rumours and myths about the available COVID-19 vaccines were discouraging Nigerians from taking the vaccines, noting that attempts in some quarters to tie the issue to the alleged poor distribution of the palliatives from the Federal Government during the resultant lockdown was unnecessary.

Dr Chikezie said, "We have seen that the vaccination has actually helped in many places where the level of the ravaging COVID-19 was high before the introduction of vaccines; and, it has been effective in cutting down the rate with which the virus spreads.

"This is also to clear the rumour that the issue of magnet is not true, the issue of putting chips to destroy your DNA is not correct. I think I was the second person that took the vaccine in Enugu State and since March to this December I am still kicking fine. Today, my family members have taken the vaccine,. including my parent.

"So, all the myth we have been hearing about the vaccine is not true and we want people to debunk it and we need to vaccinate ourselves to get this covid out of our way and continue the way the world was going before.

"It is unfortunate that we have such a low vaccine coverage in Africa. It is abysmal, it's certainly not acceptable.

Obi: My Idea of Public Life is Service, Donates 2m to Hospital

The Vice Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 2019 elections, Mr. Peter Obi, has stated that serving humanity and helping society, especially in times of crisis, is his own understanding of public life.

Obi made the remarks at The Good Shepherd Specialist Hospital, Enugu, where he gave a donation of N2 million to the hospital as his contribution to better healthcare delivery. He revealed that one cannot be a public office holder and still prioritise his personal aggrandisement.

"Whether by appointment or by election, we must understand that the life of every public office holder should be a life of service. We as public office holders need to start prioritising societal development over personal aggrandisement, and more so, contributing our personal resources to the 3 critical sectors of economic development: education, health and support for small businesses," Obi said.

While presenting the cheque of N2 million to the Proprietor of The Good Shepherd Specialist Hospital and Bishop of Enugu Diocese, Anglican Communion, The Rt. Reverend Emmanuel Chukwuma, Obi appreciated the church for partnering with the government on societal development.

Midwestern Oil Targets 6,000 in Free Medical Outreach to Host Communities

Omon-Julius Onabu in Asaba

Midwestern Oil and Gas Company Limited, has disclosed that at least 6,000 persons will benefit from its 2021 Free Medical Outreach for its host communities.

The company disclosed this when it flagged off the exercise at Kwale, the administrative headquarters of Ndokwa West Local Government Area of Delta State.

Head, External Affairs, Midwestern Oil and Gas Company, Mrs. Mercy Max-Ebibai, stated this yesterday while addressing different community members at the Utagba-Ogbe Grammar School, Kwale, venue of the flag-off of the free medical exercise.

More than 3,000 free medical optical lenses will be issued and free medications dispensed to beneficiaries diagnosed by the team of medical personnel on ground for the exercise, she said.

"The well-being of our people in our host communities is paount to us and fulfills our core values hinged on teamwork, integrity, accountability, respect and value creation especially.

"As a company, we understand that the good health of our host communities, who always support us to make a success of our business, creates value.

Canada-based Medical Practitioner Advocates Traditions that Promote Peace in Africa

An Associate Professor of Medicine and Family Health, Dr. Rukevwe Ugwumba, has stressed the need to encourage customs and traditions that promote peace, unity, progress and development in African communities.

Dr. Ugwumba, a one time Special Adviser on Health Matters to former Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan, and President Jesu Marie Empowerment Foundation (JMEF), stated this while speaking with journalists shortly after being conferred with the chieftaincy title 'Oboresiri of Ughievwen Kingdom' in Ughelli South Local Government Area of Delta State.

The Uwheru-born philanthropist and politician averred that some of the values and norms that bind the people together were being neglected and emphasised the need for government at all levels to continue to accord the traditional institutions due respect and recognition.

Ugwumba congratulated the Okobaro of Ughievwen Kingdom, HRM Mathew Egbi, Owahwa II, on his 10th coronation anniversary, stressing that the 10 years reign of the monarch had brought peace and development to the kingdom.

The elated Canada-based medical practitioner also expressed profound gratitude to the Ughievwen king for honouring her with a chieftaincy title in recognition of her commitment to uplifting the standard of life in the society.



Ugwumba

Chief Nwanayobi Ude for Burial December 17

Philanthropist, successful businessman and a community leader, Chief Nwanayobi Loveday Ude, 58, fondly called 'Achom Case' by admirers will be buried on December 17, 2021. A statement signed by his eldest son, Mr. Kelvin Chidera Ukaegbu, said as part of the burial arrangement the Late Ude's body would leave City Gate Mortuary Umuahia at 7a.m. on Friday, December 17 for a brief stop at his residence at Old Timber Road, to Freeman Chapel Archbishop Court Ugwuunchara Umuahia, at 7:30a.m. body proceeds to his maternal home Umuezehiri Umuagu in Umuahia North LGA, at 8:30a.m. body lies in state at his compound in Umutu Umuoshi Umuekwule in Ohuhu Umuahia, Abia State, and at 10a.m. funeral service would be held at Methodist Church Umuekwule Afugiri (Ohuhu Circuit) Umuahia, Abia State. His remains would be interred after the church service.



Late Ude

Aunt Landa Set to Empower 5,000 Widows, Less Privileged at 2021 Free Market Square

Humanitarian, Dr. Yolanda N. George-David, also known as Aunt Landa has announced plans for the ninth edition of Aunt Landa Market Square tagged 'Joy Edition' which will take place at CPM International Egbe, No.1 Akindeinde Close, behind Union Bank by CPM Bus-Stop Egbe, Lagos, on Saturday December 18, 2021.

The Aunt Landa Market Square is the only market square in the world where the needy get to buy food, clothes, medicine and almost every other thing they need to survive for free at the price of the "Aunt Landa Love Currency (Zero Naira wrapped in God's love).

Speaking on this year's market square, she remarked that, "Life as we know it is no more for everyone, so you can imagine how bad things are for the less-privileged. They have struggled all year and we have a chance to reach the unreached this season, empower and put smiles on the faces of thousands because love is an action word but like last year a lot of restructuring has been put in place to make the Aunt Landa's Market Square COVID-19 safe."

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and addressed as **ALADE SIKIRU KAYODE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BALOGUN ORIJA BOLA.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS EKWUNIFE UKAMAKA JUSTINA,** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS UKAMAKA JUSTINA UDOCHUKWU ORIAKU.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **SALIMONU ISMAILA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SALMON ISMAILA OLAIDE.** All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, ABIDOGUN-ZENSU DANIEL PAUL, is same and one person as **ZENSU PAUL DANIEL** and my correct DoB is **10th November 1965. All former documents** remain valid, the general public should please take note.

RingTrue

08054699539 yemi.adebowale@thisdaylive.com

Yemi Adebowale



British Government Messed up on Omicron

The response of the British High Commissioner, Catriona Laing, to criticisms trailing the red-listing of Nigeria by her country over the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is repulsive. The red list, which came into effect on December 6, means Nigerians without UK citizenship or residence permit can no longer travel to the country until the advisory is revised. Laing said Britain took the decision, "to protect the public health of its people while the government tries to understand the new variant."

Laing did not think deeply before her response. What the British envoy is telling us is that citizens of 46 countries outside Africa, where the Omicron variant had been discovered, and are not red-listed, are not a threat to Britain's public health; that Nigerians with UK citizenship or residence permit can safely enter UK, without being a threat to Britain's public health; that Britons can safely come to "Omicron endemic" Nigeria and return to their country without being a threat to Britain's public health. My dear Laing, this is absurd. With just six cases as at yesterday, the Omicron variant is not endemic in Nigeria. This country is also among those with the lowest cases of COVID-19 in the world.

Also, there is nothing like generalised or community transmission of the Omicron variant in Nigeria. The cases so far detected in Nigeria were in persons with recent travel history to South Africa. The British government has also detected only seven cases of travellers from Nigeria with the Omicron variant. It is indeed the UK that is experiencing increasing numbers of Omicron cases, and the Nigerian government has been prioritising the sequencing of COVID-19 positive samples in travellers with history of trips to the UK, without banning travels to Nigeria. Britain's hammer was evidently not driven by science.

It is also pertinent to note that the Omicron strain cannot be treated as deadly because no single death has so far been recorded across the world from it. So, the hammer on Nigerians by the British Government is racist, highhanded, discriminatory and misguided. The decision has thrown a lot of Nigerian families and businesses into disarray.

Likewise, the travel notice issued by the British High Commission to Nigerian travellers on the Omicron policy was unfeeling. It said: "If you apply for a visit visa in a red list country and you meet the UK immigration rules, your application will be paused. You will not receive a decision on your visit visa application whilst red list travel restrictions remain in place. You will not be able to request a refund of your visa fee once you have given your biometrics at a Visa Application Centre. If you already hold a valid visit visa and are intending to travel to England as a visitor from a red list country, you will not be allowed to enter." This is cruelty by a country that claims to be civil.



Laing

By yesterday, there were 57 countries that had reported cases of Omicron, with 11 of them in Africa. Britain has dubiously decided to red-list just Nigeria and 10 other African countries. Evidence shows that Nigeria and the African countries are not the source of Omicron. Africa is not an originator. This killer punch from Britain is unwarranted. Saudi Arabia also joined this inglorious club last Wednesday by banning flights from Nigeria due to Omicron.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Justin Welby was apt when he described the inclusion of Nigeria and other African countries in UK's red list as "travel apartheid." He correctly said it was without justification and urged the UK government to abolish what he labeled as the "morally wrong and self-defeating" red list.

The Archbishop wrote: "With #Omicron set to become the dominant variant in the UK, I appeal to the British government to remove Nigeria and South Africa from the red list – together with all other countries currently on it. We must find fair and effective approaches for those who are vaccinated and tested to enter the UK. I agree with the Nigerian High Commissioner to the UK. We cannot have 'travel apartheid'. It is also morally wrong and self-defeating, effectively to punish other nations for being transparent when they discover new COVID-19 variants, as @ArchbishopThabo of Cape Town has said."

One other fact the British government must note is that blanket travel bans will not stop the spread of the Omicron variant or any other COVID-19 variant and could potentially discourage countries from reporting and sharing important data on Coronavirus.

Britain obviously took the drastic action against Africans without being sensitive to the diplomatic relationship between them. I challenge UK to immediately jettison this discriminatory policy against Africans, allow people in all categories to enter the country and be subjected to the same conditions of COVID-19 testing and quarantine. This should be the standard. Besides, all countries should focus on collaboration rather than shutting out foreigners.

For me, the Nigerian Government has so far been very timid in its response to the draconian British policy. Nigeria should have swiftly replied by also banning UK citizens from entering this country. I'm shocked this has not happened several days after the prickly British policy.

The world must end COVID-19 restrictions and allow us get on with our lives. I can still clearly remember the Director-General of the World Health Organisation, Tedros Ghebreyesus, telling the world that Coronavirus will remain with us for a long time. "Make no mistake; we have a long way to go," Ghebreyesus said last year. He admitted that people in countries with stay-at-home orders are understandably frustrated with being confined to their homes for weeks on end and that people, understandably, want to get on with their lives.

Restrictions, lockdowns, curfew and government-induced anxiety must end. These measures have inflicted unprecedented pain on many. Governments have already created a monster with these restraints and we will be creating a bigger one if they persist. There is hunger, unemployment, violence and frustration across the world, all induced by useless restrictions. Many businesses may never return. It is pertinent to balance the risk of this virus against other monsters. We need our lives backs, with a "new normal" that will pragmatically contain the spread of the virus.

For me, vaccination is one big scam. Fully vaccinated people are also contracting the virus; some even joining the death list. Suddenly, we are being told to go for booster jabs. Before we digest this, we were further told that we would need a third and fourth jab to contain Omicron. What rubbish! Western pharmaceutical companies are making a kill from this disaster. I believe, just like Malaria, emphasis should be on drugs to treat this virus, not vaccines.

I find nauseating moves by governments to make this languid COVID-19 vaccination compulsory for citizens. It's already happening in Nigeria. The last time I checked, the vaccine is only capable of reducing risk of contracting the virus. It cannot totally bar the virus. In practical terms, so many fully vaccinated people still contract the virus daily. Also, vaccination can only reduce the risk of hospitalisation and death from the virus. It's incapable of fully preventing hospitalisation and death. Sadly, every day, fully vaccinated people also die all over the world from COVID-19.

The vaccine is still work in progress; so, why the move to make it mandatory? Has the FG done an impact analysis of making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory? Nothing has been done in this direction. Will the government be responsible for any adverse effect on citizens? No response so far to this.

I say no to vaccine mandates for Nigerians. Those of us unconvinced about the usefulness of the vaccine must also be respected. Concerns about the safety of the vaccine are still very much there. We don't even know the future implications for those that have taken the jabs. Those against being used as human guinea pigs should be left alone.

We must all rise against coercion in the drive to get more people to take the suspicious COVID-19 vaccine. I expect our human rights lawyers to drag the federal government to court immediately. If we don't move very fast against them, the option of positive test results might also be removed.

The "new normal" should be one in which testing, isolation and treatment will be free and fully decentralised. Government-induced fear must end. There has been too much COVID-19 hyping by government and its agencies across the world. Let's not deny the fact that Coronavirus is real. At the same time, let's not make our lives useless. Emphasis should be curative drugs. Of course, the use of local herbs (they are evidently preventive and curative) should also be encouraged.

Let's stop restricting this country to only the Western approach to managing Coronavirus. The effect on the black man is evidently different. We have to add local things to our methodology. COVID-19 manifests all the symptoms of what is called Ako Iba (high fever) in South-west Nigeria. They have been tackling it for years in that part of this country with herbs. I concur with the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, who strongly suggested that we look inward and focus on our traditional herbs for the war against COVID 19.

Social distancing is equally questionable, with a former WHO doctor, Professor Karol Sikora, saying the excruciating social distancing rule was needless. He rubbished the rule put in place by most governments, saying it should be scrapped as it has no scientific backing. Sikora, an Oncologist added: "The way we use our drugs and the way we do investigations have bases in science, but this two-metre rule has nothing. The politicians are lost because they get conflicted advice. There is no science about the separation."

The long and the short of my epistle is that while the war against COVID-19 is on, countries should stop shutting out foreigners. Nigerians should stay cool, avoid unnecessary tension/panic and behave responsibly. We must all learn to resist fear and tension, because they destroy body immunity. Strong body immunity helps to resist Coronavirus. The virus slips into bodies with weak immunity. So, let's repel fear and tension. Let's embrace hope and act responsibly.

Malaria is the Real Killer in Nigeria

No fewer than 167,000 Nigerians were killed by Malaria last year and this is according to the World Health Organisation, WHO. While the Nigerian government, like others around the world, was making noise about COVID-19, the scourge of Malaria was ignored. This country ingloriously contributed the largest malaria deaths in 2020 in Africa and globally while COVID-19 that took less than 2000 lives last year is getting all the attention.

The global health body reported last Monday that the world was on the verge of a potential malaria crisis. It noted that COVID-19 had reversed progress against the mosquito-borne disease, which was already reaching its plateau before the pandemic struck.

WHO said, "There were an estimated 241 million cases worldwide in 2020; 14 million more than a year earlier and the once rapidly falling death toll swelled to 627,000 last year, jumping by 69,000. Approximately, two thirds of those additional deaths were linked to disruptions in the provision of malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment during the pandemic."

According to the report, "About 96 per cent of malaria deaths globally were in 29 countries. Six countries – Nigeria (27 per cent); the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12 per cent); Uganda (5 per cent); Mozambique (4 per cent); Angola (3 per cent) and Burkina Faso (3 per cent) – accounted for over half of all malaria deaths globally in 2020."

In the data provided, the WHO noted that while Africa had a total of 602,000 deaths out of the estimated 627,000, Nigeria accounted for 31.9 per cent of the malaria deaths on the planet.

Malaria remains the biggest killer in the continent; not COVID-19. The Nigerian government and other African regimes must revive its prevention, diagnosis and treatment.



Ehanire

PERSPECTIVE

Insecurity: Effects and Implications for Nigerian Women, Girls

Angela Nkwo

Security, equality, and elimination of violence against women top the agenda as about 350 women converged on Abuja for the 2nd WVL Nigeria Annual National Women's conference. The conference with the theme, "Women, peace and society; perspective on inclusion, issues and progress" was an offshoot of the Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria project, and targeted civil society organisations promoting the rights of women across Nigeria.

It was funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by ActionAid Nigeria. Setting the agenda for the conference, the Country Director of ActionAid Nigeria, Ene Obi, called on President Muhammadu Buhari to fulfil his campaign promise to comply with the 35 per cent Affirmative Action as part of efforts to enhance the inclusion of women in the nation's leadership. Obi said the conference was an opportunity for deeper reflection on gender perspective of the rising insecurity which threatens, not just our national unity, but our individual and collective peace.

She said: "We continue to see conflicts fought on women bodies. We have seen women used as weapons and targets of violence. The disproportionate impact of insecurity on women and girls including children cannot be ignored."

"We therefore, must act as fast as possible to stop this expanding insecurity in Nigeria. Acting requires Nigeria to operationalise, in all regions of the country, the provisions of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which enjoins all states to facilitate women's participation and leadership in peace and security, and which Nigeria committed herself to.

"Acting requires Nigeria, not to be doing this in piece meal, but to be holistic in her response. This implies ensuring that all states are prepared to domesticate and implement the action plans.

"Therefore, the time to act is now. There is no better time than now to enthrone peace. And without women and girls sitting on the table and being part of the peace processes, there will be no advancement in peace and security in the nation."

"ActionAid Nigeria is therefore, calling on all actors – state and non-state - to rethink our security architecture, and to ensure women's inclusion in the peace processes so that this epidemic that is upon is eradicated," Obi said.



Ene Obi

In a keynote address to the gathering, the Acting High Commissioner of Canada in Nigeria, Kevin Tokar, argued that gender inequality and lack of respect for women's rights account for growing levels of violence, conflict, and instability in Nigeria.

"I am sure all of you here today would agree that finding solutions to these problems will depend on Nigeria's ability to involve more women in decision-making processes, whether in National or State Assemblies, in the policing and justice systems, in community-level peace building and governance, and in the highest levels of the business world."

"So much progress has already been made, thanks to your collective efforts. Yet, we know that societal changes take time. But history has shown us time and time again that once the wheels start moving — and they undoubtedly have in Nigeria — they will not stop," Tokar said.

In order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by 2030 in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal Five, precise circumstances of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict states must be addressed. Nigeria is one of the countries where the manifestations of violent conflicts and crimes have heightened the spate of insecurity. Women and girls have been at the receiving end of these crimes. To review the impact of insecurity as it affects Nigerian women within the past seven years, a study was commissioned in 12 Nigerian states namely Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Ebonyi, Imo, Kaduna, Kebbi, Lagos, Niger, Ondo and Rivers State. The report of this study was presented at the conference for participants to digest and to articulate plans of action to protect women from violent crimes. The report found that Nigeria women and girls in conflict and post conflict situations "suffer from horrendous violence and abuse, and double deprivations that increase mortality rate and vulnerability to exploitation."

The report further revealed that the outbreak and persistence of violent conflicts and crimes such as banditry, insurgency, militancy, herdsmen attacks, ritual killings and separatist agitations have negatively impacted on the security and wellbeing of women in varying ways. These include displacement, injury, death, loss of livelihood, psychological trauma and mental stress. Shockingly, both state and non-state actors were largely responsible for the violations of the rights of women. One of the key recommendations from the report is that government authorities, development partners, and civil society organisations should mainstream gender perspectives in conflict analyses and monitoring. Another recommendation is that civil society organisations and development partners should lobby government and traditional authorities to include more women in peace negotiation processes and agreements. Economically, there is an urgent need to empower women. This will improve their capacity and resilience to recover from insecurity and contribute to inclusive governance in post-conflict communities. One of the realities that came to light at the conference was that the future of women is in the hands of women themselves. Enough of waiting upon men to empower them. They are now determined to take the gauntlets and assert their rights. Among other decisions, the women agreed to embrace leadership and support one another in politics. They agreed that it was high time women stopped bemoaning their situation and started taking action by encouraging more women to register to vote and to mobilise support for women vying for political offices.

They said: "Women should always support women, avoid being judgmental and stop amplifying the weaknesses of women or yielding as tools to perpetrate violence against other women and girls."

They called for more research on gender-based violence, inclusion of women and girls in peace processes to understand the context of issues and evolve lasting solutions. Included was the call to identify women living with disability and ensure their inclusion in peace, security, and empowerment activities.

Engagement with their male counterparts was not totally ruled out as they recognise the role of men in achieving gender equality. They also emphasised the need to strengthen engagement with the media, security agencies and involve more women in security and peace actions such as setting up community-based women security groups.

Mental Health: Disruptions and Solutions

Ugonna Orji

Many people all over the world are grappling with mental health issues. The World Health Organisation estimates that 450 million people worldwide have a mental disorder and that 25% of the population will suffer from mental illness at some point in their lives. According to the Organisation, "Mental Health is a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community".

Mental health is not just about the absence of mental disorders or disabilities, it is not only about avoiding active conditions but also looking after ongoing wellness and happiness.

However, there are several factors that could disrupt this "state of well-being" and lead to mental disorders. Such factors as stress, depression and anxiety are usually the culprits. These could arise from socio-economic factors wherein long periods of financial constraints, poverty and less than desirable living conditions play major parts in disrupting one's mental health.

On the social side, a lack of acceptance of an individual by social groups or belonging to an oppressed ethnic group could affect one's mental health. There are also biological factors where certain genes and gene variants are passed down to a person; genes with links to a mental health disorder such as depression or schizophrenia are usually the commonest. Stress, depression, and anxiety may also develop due to underlying, life changing physical health problems such as cancer, diabetes, and chronic pain. Other common forms of mental disorder include anxiety disorders, panic disorders, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), mood disorders, and schizophrenia disorders.

There are some early signs which might indicate that an individual is suffering from a form of mental illness or the other. Such early signs include withdrawing from friends, family and colleagues, avoiding activities that they would normally enjoy, sleeping too much or too little, eating too much or too little, feeling hopeless, displaying negative emotions, using mood-altering substances like alcohol and nicotine more frequently; experiencing delusions, hearing voices, thinking of causing physical harm to themselves or others etc.

One step one can take to avoid slipping into, checkmating, and solving mental health disruptions is talking about one's feelings. Talking about how one feels makes one feel better especially when the listener is supportive. Talking can really be a way to cope with problems.

Also, keeping active can help one avoid or solve mental health issues. Regular exercises have ways of making one feel better, boost self esteem and can help one to concentrate, look and feel better.

Eating well can equally help one to maintain a good mental health. Eating sufficient foods with lots of fruits and vegetables, wholegrain cereals, oily fish, dairy products and plenty of water can be helpful. This is so because whatever food is good for the body also positively impacts one's mental health.

Drinking sensibly rather than heavily is recommended for a balanced mental health. Drinking heavily as a way of dealing with fear, loneliness or similar conditions will only provide temporary relief but will leave one feeling worse after the effect wears off.

Keeping in touch with friends and family members can help one ease the stresses of life and deal with mental health issues. This is because friends and family can help one feel loved and cared for and offer different views to situations of life that can help one see the positive side of things.

Asking for help is another way to deal with mental health issues. No one is a superhuman. There is no shame in asking for help. If things are becoming too overwhelming, one should ask for help. Apart from asking for help from family and friends, one can also join support groups, consult a counsellor etc.

Taking a break is another way to deal with mental health challenges. It could just be a five-minute pause from cleaning the house, a half-hour lunch break from work, or a weekend exploring somewhere new etc. This helps to relax the mind.

Doing something one is good at gives a sense of enjoyment. This helps one dwell on the positives of life as (s)he goes about enjoying himself/herself and relieves stress in the process.

Lastly, dwelling on negative occurrences does not help the cause of mental health. Accept who you are, get a sense of fulfilment by caring for others because in doing so, one usually gets a sense of usefulness and other issues affecting mental health are checked.

There are solutions for those who are already battling with mental health issues. Treatments are available and can be administered in different forms. However, treatments may differ from person to person as what works for one may not work for another person.

Taking therapies is one of several ways to treat mental illness. Such therapies could include cognitive behavioural therapy, exposure therapy, and dialectical behaviour therapy. Psychologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists and some primary care physicians carry out this type of treatment.

Prescribed medications like antidepressants, antipsychotics, and anxiolytic drugs can help, too. Even though these cannot cure mental disorders, they help in improving symptoms and patients can resume normal social interactions while they continue to work on their mental health difficulties.

Finally, self-help is key in treating mental health challenges. One struggling with mental health conditions can help him/herself by reducing alcohol intake, exercising, eating balanced diets and engaging in a change of other of their lifestyle to facilitate wellness.

In conclusion, while cases of mental health might persist in society because of the conditions already stated above, it is not a death sentence and cannot only be controlled but also treated. Those undergoing one form of stress, anxiety or depression should be willing to reach out, speak up and seek help. This way, the challenge can be successfully combated.

Ferdinand Ekechukwu **08035011394**
Email: **ferdi_adthisday@yahoo.com**



Abayomi Alvin, Rachel Oniga (late), and Efa Iwara in a scene from the movie

'A Naija Christmas' Set to Thrill

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

It sure appears a simple request when a Nigerian mother, unimpressed by the refusal of her sons to get married and give her grandchildren, demands that they bring home their partners. As a matter of fact, it is an easy enough request to fulfill as her sons will do everything to make her happy. So, to that, she decided to offer the family mansion to any of her son's that settles down and marries first. With the clock ticking already, then began the dramatic chase to find the love of their lives.

But there is a snag; the women they brought aren't good enough for marriage. Or rather, aren't ready for marriage. But are the boys themselves ready for marriage? So what then happens? Well, you can find that out in 'A Naija Christmas', a Netflix original produced and directed by Kunle Afolayan. The global streaming platform recently released the exciting trailer for this hilarious comedy starring Rachael Oniga in her last appearance before she passed on in July. "When are you boys bringing the women?" A scene shows her asking her boys.

In unison they all chorused "Christmas - eh Christmas?!" 'A Naija Christmas' follows three sons on their quest to make their mother's Christmas wish for daughters-in-law come true. The release also announced that 'A Naija Christmas' will launch on December 16, 2021. Netflix had earlier unveiled a first-look teaser for its quintessential Naija Christmas movie. For the first-look at the comedy then, Afolayan wrote on Instagram: "We have kept this under wrap but now it's ready! The first Christmas Movie of its kind!!!

With a sterling cast of Nollywood stars including Kunle Remi, Efa Iwara, Abayomi Alvin, Uzoamaka Aniunoh, Segilola Ogidan, Jude Chukwuka, and Joseph Jaiyeoba, Netflix and Kunle Afolayan is set to give Nigerians even more for the season. Set in Lagos, 'A Naija Christmas' was shot in July, starring other popular Nollywood actors like Mercy Johnson, Lateef Adedimeji, and Carol King in supporting roles.

There may be other Christmas flick this season, 'A Naija Christmas' is sure the definitive, with its feel good scenes and settings seen from the colourful trailer for the movie. To Kunle Afolayan, 'A Naija Christmas' is the must see film this season. "The movie is real, original, funny and the first Christmas movie of its kind", he said. "Working with the late, great Rachel Oniga was massive honour, and her heartwarming performance is typical of her flawless artistry."

Jay Pizzle Out with Debut EP Dubbed 'Voltage'

Ferdinand Ekechukwu

"Recently, I did a song for CDQ 'Vibes Lifestyle'. I also did one with Wande Coal 'Rocking'. These are my latest productions that I like. But so far, my favorite wasn't added to the album by CDQ." That's Joshua Osajiokwoeh, better known as Jay Pizzle, recounting some of his favourite music projects. Such experience would have saddened him when he started his career, but it feels normal to encounter. For the 32-year-old artiste cum music-producer, his recently released debut EP dubbed 'Voltage' is such that crystalizes his artiste side and projects him as a template for success via hard work and consistency.

On 'Voltage', Jay Pizzle taps industry eccentrics such as CDQ, Fiokee, Majeed, Jobaa, and Logos, to create a groovy Afro Street pop/Pop-heavy sound piece. While the EP presents a laid-back, easy going youthful bop, it glows for its masterful Amapiano undertone. And that is a testament of Jay Pizzle's creative dexterity, laced with several charms. The solid 4-track EP, which a close associate sees as quite surprising, was inspired during the Covid-19 lockdown. He was in London then and got the idea and sent it to some artistes to work on it.

It wasn't planned at all. It was borne out of boredom. "It was named Voltage because of the sound. I wanted the sound to have a bang; an electro sound. We can say that it's because of the energy it brings", he adds. "But I've dropped singles in the past." Music for him is inborn. Back in his school and church days, Jay Pizzle loved creating and experimenting with sound. Working with Terry G on his 2012 smash hit 'Run Mad' paved way for him from his experimental expedition.

The record went viral shortly after production and gave him his first break. People started calling him. That song brought a lot of recordings his way. "From this, I have learnt to do what I am passionate about without thinking about the money. Once the work is well done, the money will come", he enthused. So far, Jay Pizzle has worked with a lot of artistes, including Kizz Daniel and Major Lazer's song, 'Loyal', which appears his most challenging collaborative.

However, having worked with A-List stars, the Lagos based music creative looks forward to working with Oxlade, Bad Boy Tims and other trending artistes because he believes something good would come out of it. While Jay Pizzle's creative trademark has been infectious, groovy melodies, he ironically draws inspiration from Loneliness. "What inspires me the most is loneliness; I become extremely creative when I'm alone and when I'm happy but when I'm not in my best mood, I wouldn't be able to do anything or if I do, it wouldn't come out well."

If he wasn't into production, he would have become a sailor. That was his ambition going to Marine School earlier in his life. Moving on, Jay Pizzle declares his vision as a big one. He explains: "My vision is a big one. I am looking forward to foreign collaborations; working with Wizkid, Burna Boy, the pacesetters in this industry. CKay too; I look forward to working with him."

On his private side, Jay Pizzle is a very quiet person. He loves cooking, watching movies and playing video games.



Jay Pizzle

SHOWBIZFLAIR

R2Bees Features Wizkid, Stonebwoy, Mr Eazi in New Album

Ferdinand Ekechukwu



R2Bees

On a recent Saturday night at the Purple Pub in Ghana's capital Accra, even the pandemic and an official shutdown of bars and clubs could not stop the music. Early revelers laze on plastic chairs emptying local beers as speakers reeled to full volume drown out their voices. After midnight, the chairs empty, whether it is Sarkodie, Stonebwoy or R2Bees, the kings of Ghanaian Afrobeats soon have the whole street swinging.

Although today's new wave Afrobeats music scene has been strongly dominated by West African giant Nigeria, neighbouring sister country Ghana has been steadily emerging. Over the years, the continent has witnessed artistes from both nations come together to make some of the best music from the African soundscape. Among other things, music has been the one thing both nations agree on just as much the thriving pop culture in Ghana and the tumultuous Nigerian environment has paved the way for Nigerian artistes to make Ghana home.

The result of this development is good collaboration made manifest among artistes from both countries. The latest of this musical union is the Ghanaian iconic duo R2Bees features which has Nigerian superstar acts like Wizkid, Mr Eazi, Joeboy, and Ghanaian King Promise, Stonebwoy, Gyakie, and Darkovibes, in new stellar 15-track afro-fusion album titled "Back 2 Basics". The Ghanaian hip hop and hip-life duo, Faisal Hakeem (Omah Sterling) and Rashid Mugeez (Mugeez) who are together known as R2Bees have been in the game for over a decade.

The award-winning duo, R2Bees, offers an ambience of enchanting Afrobeats atmosphere. The numbers are mostly delivered in a signature layered native Twi and Pidgin-English language, blessing the album with an expansive range of appeal. They kicked off the year with the set's lead single "Fine Wine", prior to this release, the group had achieved commercial success with their previous release titled "Yawa" featuring Sarkodie released in the month of October 2020. The group's eminent readability was proclaimed with "Fine Wine" which surged up the charts within a few days of release.

Succeeding this accomplishment with "Eboso", a precursor to "Back 2 Basics", R2Bees' fourth studio album, "Eboso" built anticipation towards the body of work, garnering traction online especially from the rave of comments from music enthusiasts and critics. A Ghanaian hip hop and hip-life duo from Tema, R2bees is made up of two cousins, Faisal Hakeem (Paedae da Pralem/Omar Sterling) and Rashid Mugeez (Mugeez). Omar Sterling is the CEO and leader of the group, whilst Mugeez is the lead vocalist.

The two cousins have been together their whole life, lived in the same house and also attended the same primary, junior and senior secondary school in Tema. Interestingly, the album listening which was held on November 24, 2021, in Accra, hosted several celebrities including Efya, Efia Odo, Kelvin Bwoy King Promise, Mona4reall, Gyakie, Yaw Tog, MzVee, Kidi, Fameye, K O D, and many more. Before the release of 'Back 2 Basics', the duo had released their 3rd album, 'Site 15' which was released in 2019, a few weeks to lock down all around the world.

Africaine Sets Mark with 'One Chance'

Ferdinand Ekechukwu



Africaine

With musical influences from the likes of Alicia Keys, Burna Boy, Teni, and to the more recent, The Cavemen, fast rising Nigerian singer, Chinanu Onuoha who goes by the prodigious stage name, Africaine is stepping into the chunk of the new generation of young female artistes to reckon with. She has released her song titled 'One Chance' as well as the acoustic version, as the lead. The two-pack single was released on November 26, 2021. The song is a prequel to Africaine's first project which will be released early next year.

Africaine hopes to make her mark in the music industry with this new single and the subsequent full project in the works. She chose her name after discovering that it signified "African Woman" in French, a perfect description for a singer who is constantly inspired by and pulls influence from Africa. She admires artistes with a different approach to music, who truly work on their craft and treat music as an art, as that is how she herself envisions the music process.

The 21-year-old independent artiste residing in Massachusetts, USA draws her bigger inspiration from the more established acts. Although she was raised in a Christian conservative background which saw her primarily listening to gospel music in her early years, her discovery of artistes such as Wizkid, Wande Coal, and the legendary Fela awakened her romance with Afrobeats.

Her choir background resulted in her being compelled to learning the piano, which educated her on musical structure, while also giving her a profound understanding of composure, patterns, and lyricism. While working as a backup singer for a gospel artiste, Africaine crossed paths with a producer who encouraged her out of her shell, launching her career as a solo artiste. In 2019, Africaine, who went by the name 'Chi' at that time, released her debut single, 'Love for Free'; an RnB track which saw the singer experiment with her vocals.

However, due to difficulties with some of the people she was working with, she found herself back at square one in January 2020. She started from scratch: invested in equipment, learnt how to record, taught herself to produce by watching YouTube videos. Africaine was born from this period of struggle and self-discovery, as she ditched RnB to follow her true musical passion for Afro-fusion. Her passion is to merge soul and afrobeat into its own unique genre and become the next new face of African music at large. Her single 'Jaiye', an electrical and sultry afro RnB track, released in February/2021, is a feel good song about experiencing love for the first time. 'Jaiye' is the Yoruba word for "enjoyment", and that's the feeling the song cultivates. Africaine embodies vintage nostalgic vibe throughout the song, using soulful elements like tribal percussion and lead guitar.

IMAGES

On Wednesday December 8th, 2021 the management of Lagos State Education District lV, comprising Sabo Yaba, Apapa, Mainland and Surulere rolled out the drum to celebrate their own at the end of the year party and last year in office of retirees from the district who are majorly school principals who had served meritoriously for over 30 years. The colourful event held inside the Molade-Okoya Thomas Indoor Sports Hall, Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere Lagos paraded dignitaries who came out in large number to rejoice with the outgoing civil servants. Here are a few guests at the ceremony.



L-R: Director, Administration/Human Resources, Education District lV, Mr. Ayodeji Dosunmu, Director, Co-Curricular, Science and Technology, Education District lV, Mrs. Olubajo Ayodeji, Chairman, All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Lagos Mainland Zone, Dr. Shola Adenekan and Chairman, Ibeji Foundation, Alhaji Rafiu Adisa Ebiti



L-R: Retired Permanent Secretary District lV, Otunba Ayobade Obajimi, representative of the Head of Service Lagos State (Hakeem Muri Okunola) and Director, Office of Education Quality Assurance, Mrs. Abiola Seriki and ANCOPSS President, Lagos State Chapter, Mrs. Moronkeji Folashade



L-R: Comrade Hassan Abiodun and Mr. Abioro Adeyemi



L-R: Mrs. Folake Kosoko and Mr. Olumide Erinle



L-R: Mr. Abolade Gbayi and Mr. Amosun Akeem



L-R: Mr. Owolabi Badru (representing Hon. Desmond Elliot), Sheikh Shakiru Ayinde Abdul Gafar and Dr. Jami Abdul Quadri



Cross section of school principals: L-R: Hajia Abdul Lateef Bilikisi, Mrs. Idowu Celestine, Mrs. Toyin Makinde and Mrs. Aderonke Atoyebi



Cross section of school principals: L–R: Mrs. Folahan Oyawoye, Mrs. Foluke Olla and Mrs. Adeola Ademiju



Cross section of school principals: L-R Mrs. Adepeju Sanni, Mrs. Mosunmola Oresanya and Mrs. Sade Aderibigbe



Cross section of retirees R-L: Mrs. Akindele Olayinka, Mr. Emmanuel Ogunlade and Mr. Ogunkanmi Bisi



Cross section of retirees: Mrs. Quaitey Olukemi, Mrs. Lovette Afolabi-Ogunbiyi and Mrs. Omolara Akintunde



R-L: Mr. Ojeamiren John, Mrs. Titi Okeowo and Mrs. Racheal Ajayi



L-R: Mr. Joseph Ibitayo and Mr. Yusuf Olokodana



L-R: Mr. Muyideen Apatira Adeola and Mrs. Bola Tawa

White Money

Life Before BBNaija was Horrible, I Literally Begged for Everything

Big Brother Naija 'Shine Ya Eye' Season 6 winner, White Money – real name Hazel Oyeze Onou – recently hosted BBNaija stars and other top celebrities in the industry to a listening party for his new single "Selense". The reality TV star, singer and actor, prior to the party, had a session with select arts and entertainment journalists where he shared his grass to grace story, the inspiration behind the song, events before, during and after the BBNaija 2021, plus his plans moving forward. **Ferdinand Ekechukwu** who was part of the session captured the moments



White Money

When you were going into the BBNaija house, what was on your mind?

What was on my mind basically was to get myself out of poverty; to help my family. I went there not as a single person but as a human representing an entity of people. So, I went there not just for myself, but for my friends, my family and my neighborhood, my community.

When you were also in the house, you showed a lot of humility, where is it coming from?

Humility is of the Lord. If you are a believer, and if you believe in God, you should know that the first thing to getting God's favour is humility. The bible counts countless places of being humble, being humble and how pride can ruin a man. So, humility is something that everyman should have. Especially ones you have the understanding that the life that you live is not yours, it's a borrowed

A Lot of Guys Have Used My Name to Have Girlfriends

time; you can die anything so why being proud? There's no pride in the grave.

Can you tell us a little bit about life before the house?

Life before the house was very, very horrible situation. It was not funny. I literally begged for everything. You understand. I hustled too hard; too, too hard. Like working in the street trading, hawking, driving people's car, fixing people's generators, driving okada, barbing, name it. I did it all. So it was not really pleasant one. It was just struggling point of life for me.

What kept pushing you; what was the driving force?

The fact that I'm an Igbo boy, that's number one. The blood of an Igbo man flows in me. You need to make it before you can stand out. And the fact that you know if you don't have money you are nobody in the society. Nobody listens to you. You can't even have a good girlfriend, can't live a life of luxury. You need money to keep that lot going. That's the least you can even do. So even when you come out, you go to parties and everything you can go out because you look good but you don't have money. People call you to do something and you are there and you are well dressed but you don't have money to represent your name and your name is White Money, so where's the money?!

Now that you have money are you saying you are going to have lots of girlfriends?

Now that I have money, I'm going to have potential women who want to be girlfriends and so help me God. I'm a pre-descendant of Solomon anything can happen.

Compare post BBNaija life in contrast to before. Apart from money, what's the major difference?

Fame. It open doors; you know my name open doors. People use my name in doing things now and I just laugh. A lot of guys have used my name to have girlfriends. I have seen that happen. I travelled to Enugu I saw that. So the name is opening doors in relationship side making things happen. Even business opportunities; it make things easy like I don't have to be queuing up.

But there are some things fame can rub you off; you can't do now with fame…

Freedom; it rubs me off of freedom of some certain kinds of foods I would want to eat…, like ewa agoin road side, street side food, street side boli…Not that I cannot do that but it's risky... But I don't care, it doesn't affect my brand; my brand is a street brand. But I just can't access it easily the way it used to be.

Did winning the Big Brother Naija show give you any sense of fulfillment?

It gave me a sense of belonging. Because prior to that, I have seen people who won, I have seen lifestyles, I have seen everything. These are things you want to become. You want to be among the top people, you want to mingle among the high class and everything but you cannot because you don't have that status, you understand… because you don't have that name. Going into the house is one thing, winning is another thing on a different level.

Was there a time in the house it crossed your mind or you thought you were going to win?

There was never. You can never enter that place with a map. It's not a script. It did not cross my mind. It did not go. And it can never cross. The best way to survive in that house is to go through every week. If you make it every week, be grateful. But you can never know. A lot of people who left the house early didn't see they were leaving.

So what was that unique selling point that made you win?

It's called Grace because everybody was very unique. So Grace no be juju; it's there it's there. I just believe it's the grace of God; this is what stood me out.

Tell us some of the memorable moments for you in the house?

Memorable moments, first was entering the house, that was a very memorable moment. That's number one. Number two was hearing Big Brother call my name; that was interesting. Number three was winning the Lipton Ice contest. Yeah because I didn't see that coming, even the Revolution Plus challenge I didn't see that coming. Then the most memorable moment was eating those foods the last day, Jesus…those foods were amazing.

I have been a hustler from a very young age. It wasn't easy but it was all a process because if the things I have now God gave it to me two years ago, I would have died, because I wouldn't know how to handle it. But most times God delays your blessings for you to have the maturity to handle the things He's bringing your way

Tell us about your love for food and cooking

My love for food is amazing because food is part of life…the way to my heart is food. For me it's not a strategy, it's a lifestyle. It's not something that I do every time. It is something that God, my mother has put inside of me. It's a talent. Like most of the things we cook in the house, I had to device them, you know, with the little ingredient we have.

Tell us about your growing up

My growing up was a beautiful one and rough. I was born with a silver spoon, diamond spoon, and a golden spoon in my mouth at the same time. But growing up I lost it along the way; all the spoons. I went into the street from a very young age. But to God be the glory I never smoked, drink or did anything the street does.

The only thing the street helped me was to define my life and helped me be a better man. So I have been a hustler from a very young age. It wasn't easy but it was all a process because if the things I have now God gave it to me two years ago, I would have died, because I wouldn't know how to handle it. But most times God delays your blessings for you to have the maturity to handle the things He's bringing your way.

What has been your biggest mistake in life and what did you learn from it?

Biggest mistake in life has been not doing the proper evangelism when I had the opportunity to do it. Now I'm going to do that well with everything in my body. I'm not a man of God; I'm a child of God. So I want to use my lifestyle and everything to bring people to quest in my own way. My music, everything that I do…you mustn't be a pastor. But like I said, I'm a musician you understand. So music to me is diverse. I can sing about women, I can sing about love, and everything and that's what makes you a musician. I'm not a secular artiste, I'm not a worldly artiste, and neither I'm a gospel artiste. But I can perform in the mosque and in the church.



White Money

Some say that you are a good cook; they suggest that you can do well having a restaurant as a chef instead of doing music?

Oh there are plans of having my own restaurant big time. But trust me the food business is not something you dabble into. A cooking show and a restaurant itself definitely I'm going to do. You don't just move into it because you want to standout. You don't just do rice and beans.

How did that name White Money come into being?

It was given to me by the Holy Spirit believe it or not…because I prayed for it. I have different kinds of names. So one day I told myself I need a name that will cause controversy that when I call it people will marvel. So I slept. Believe it or not the way you wake up with songs in your mouth was the way I wake up with 'White Money' on my lips. I didn't know what it was I was thinking is it going to be a name nor is it going to be a song title. I just felt this should be a name and I told my guys in the saloon to start calling me White Money and it stuck. It became a household name.

Is what you are doing now what you had wanted to do?

Oh it is and more! This is one month and three weeks I guess that I have been outside the house and in one month and three weeks I'm an ambassador, an honourable, I'm a high Chief, not the normal regular Chief, a high one, first of its kind in my state, the youngest. Also I was also inducted into the Actors Guild of Nigeria. I have bills that I have not mentioned. Those three things are major achievements…And I dropped a single yesterday.

Tell us about the single you dropped

'Selense', it's an amazing music, the song I wrote when I was quite young. I think about 18 or 22 I think. I wrote that song then during the space of those years. It's a very inspirational song. Funny enough, I had recorded the song before but I didn't release it. It was just in a CD plate and 5000 copies of that song with other songs like an EP but I burnt it out of depression. I burnt them, 5000 copies out of depression. No helper, no sponsor, no nothing. I was just new in Lagos that was about 2012. So basically I got into the house as God will have it the talent came back. The music thing everything just started coming back. The house brought back the better side of me. So while I was coming out of the house, I'm a songwriter, I have too many songs, I said Holy Spirit direct me what song to release first that will announce to the world and the world will know… Someone that really helped me to really put the song out was Pere (housemate) because I just sang it to him and Cross in the kitchen and we left. Before you know, he was singing it unconsciously and then Cross tapped me and said 'ah see Pere dey sing your song'. That was when I know that 'okay this is the song to put out'. If you listen to the song, you will see a lot of message and depth in it. It will tell you it will show you how, it will tell you the story of my life.

You just dropped a single, how soon are you going to drop the next one, any album in the making and also what genre is your music?

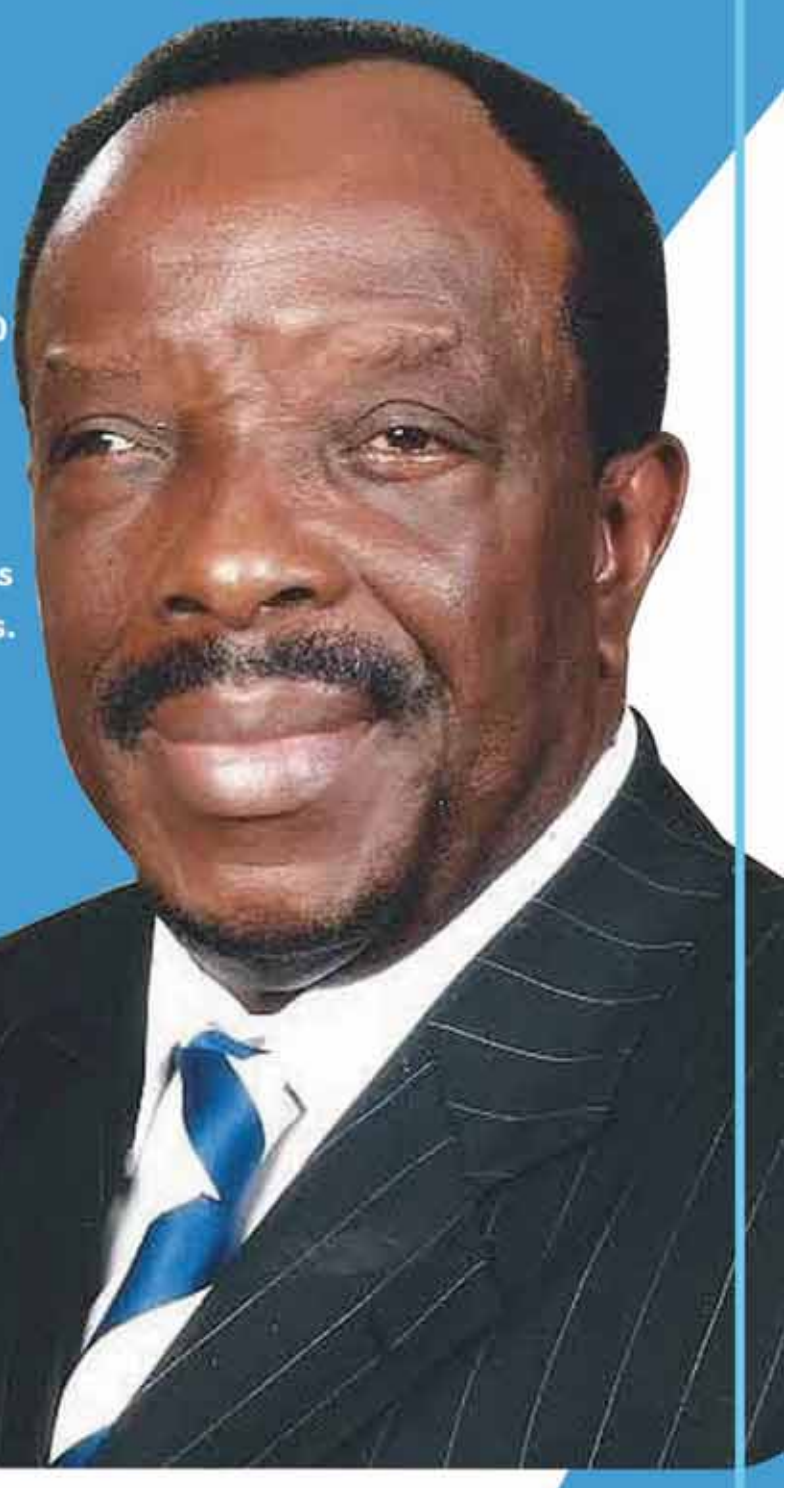
I just dropped the single 'Selense' on the 3rd (December, 2021) produced by Masterkraft, Fiokee and mixed by Selebobo. It's a banger if you have not heard it, with the video and everything dropped the same day. So it's a project that is very dear to me. January, by God's Grace ending of January between February (2022) I should drop another one, a follow-up. I wouldn't be doing an album now; I would be doing an EP because my schedule is very tight. But this is just one song that is bringing this kind of people together. What happens when my EP comes out? My genre of music is called CUM-CUM – Cool United Melodies. It's melodies that are united. That's my kind of songs.

The Board of Trustees, The President and the Executive Committee, On behalf of all members of the King's College Old Boys' Association, congratulate its past President and Member of the Board of Trustees - The Olor'ogun Dr. Sonny Folorunsho Kuku OFR. on emerging the winner of the **Hallmarks of Labour Role Model Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Medicine.**

King's College, Lagos
(Founded in 1909)

The Olor'ogun Dr. Sonny Folorunsho Kuku, OFR.

- Consultant Physician and Endocrinologist
- Co-Founder and Co-Chairman at the Eko Hospital (Eko Corp. Plc), which he co-founded since 1978
- Recipient of the First Distinguished Alumnus Award of University of Lagos in 1991
- Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR) 2003
- First African Master of American College of Physicians 2005
- President of King's College Old Boys' Association from 2005 to 2010
- Chairman of Ecobank Nigeria Limited from 2010 till recently
- Past President, West Africa's College of Physicians
- Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Science
- Chairman Board of Trustees, Academy of Medical Specialists.
- Chairman of the Committee of Pro-Chancellors of State Universities
- Chairman Committee of Chairmen of the Federal Tertiary Hospitals.
- Trustee of the National postgraduate Medical College, Nigerian and West African College of Physicians.
- Ambassador of Goodwill Award City of Freetown.
- Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa
- Current Chairman Governing Council of the University of Benin



Service to the Living....

FLOREAT COLLEGIUM!

Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam
PRESIDENT KCOBA
For The Association

Honour Well Deserved

We rejoice with our friend and colleague,

Ibrahim Eddy Mark, Esq.

(Life Bencher)

on his installation as the Eze Igo of Omagwa Kingdom, Ikwerre LGA, Rivers State.

We are indeed proud to associate with you on the occasion of this well deserved honour.

This honour bestowed on you is in recognition of the legacies and worthy achievements you have recorded.

May Almighty God continue to guide and protect you in your service to your community in particular and humanity in general.

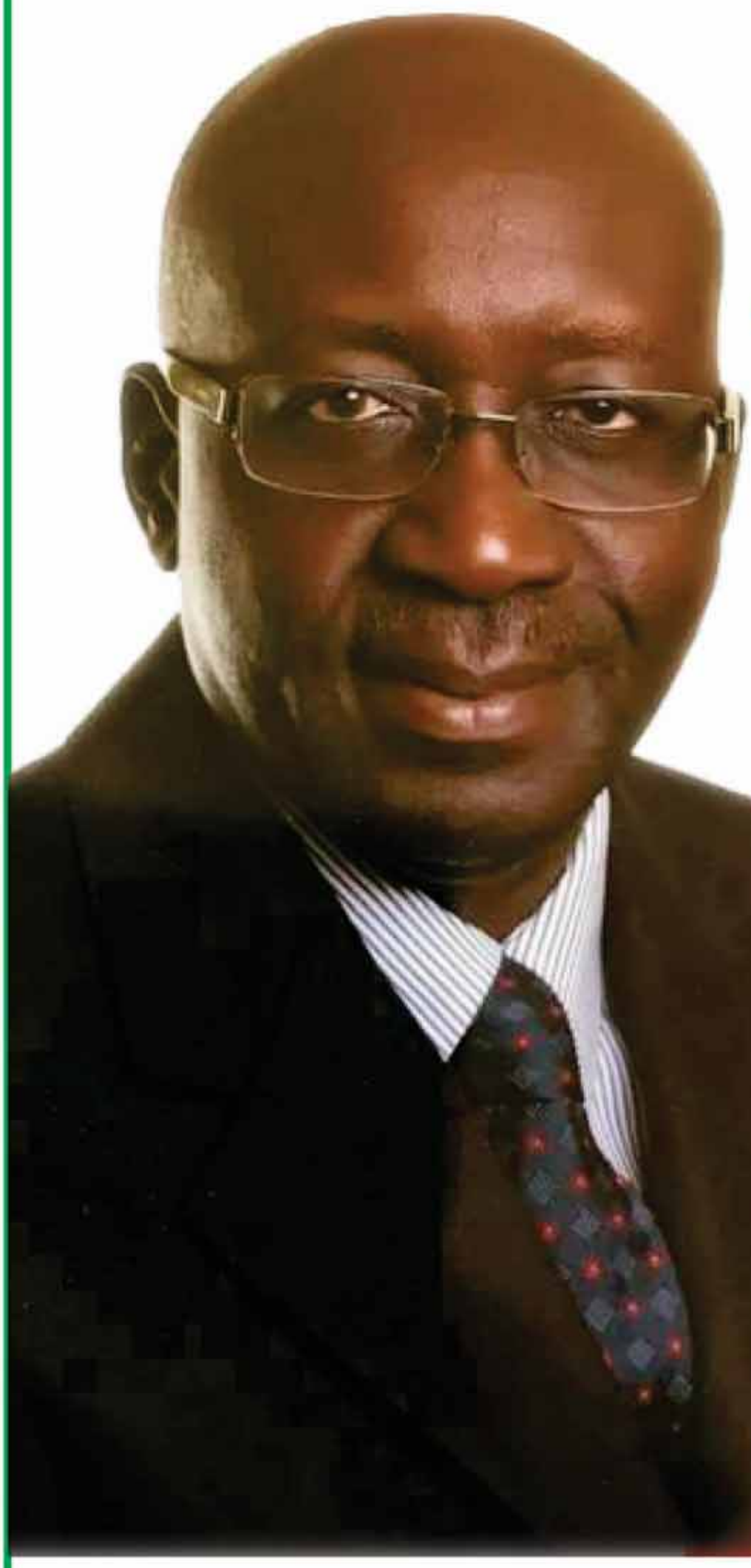


Congratulations!

The EZE IGO of Omagwa Kingdom

S. I. Ameh, SAN
Dr Garba Tetengi SAN
Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro,SAN
J. S. Okutepa SAN
P. H. Ogbole SAN
Adeola Adewara, Esq.

Okey Ajunwa,Esq.
Abimbola M. Kayode,Esq.
Paul M. Kasim, Esq.
Kola J. Omotinugbon, Esq .
Steve O. Emelieze, Esq
Afam O. Okeke, Esq



PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY
PDP
Power to the People

Congratulations

The **PDP North Central Caucus in the 9th House of Representatives** congratulates the newly inaugurated **National Chairman of our great party, His Excellency, Senator (Dr.) Iyorchia Ayu** and the National Working committee as well as the entire PDP family on a successful inauguration of our Party's NWC. We firmly believe that under your leadership and watch, the People's Democratic Party will return Nigeria to Her place of greatness in the comity of Nations.

Senator (Dr.)
IYORCHIA
AYU

Signed:

1. Rt. Hon Engr.Solomon Maren
2. Hon Benjamin B.Mzondu
3. Rt. Hon. Beni lar
4. Rt. Hon Mark Terseer Gbillah
5. Rt. Hon. Samson Okwu.
6. Hon Richard Gbande.
7. Hon. Kpam Jimin Sokpo
8. Hon. Robert Tyough
9. Hon Otta Francis Agbo
10. Rt. Hon. Teejay yusuf
11. Hon Shaba Ibrahim
12. Hon.Usman Abdulkarim
13. Hon Jiba Micah.
14. Hon. Sokodabo Hassan
15. Hon Dachung Musa Bagos
16. Hon Simon Mwadkwon

Congratulatory Message



His Excellency

SEN. HOPE UZODINMA

Governor, Imo State

The All Progressives Congress, APC, Imo State chapter ably led by Hon. Macdonald Kelechi Ebere, PhD, KSJI, heartily felicitates with our ebullient governor and phenomenal leader, His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodimma (Onwa) on the occasion of his 63rd birthday anniversary and official book presentation.

We are delighted, Your Excellency, to join your family, friends and associates as well as the good people of Imo State to rejoice with you on these remarkable milestones.

Congratulations Onwa Oyoko!

Signed:
CAJETAN DUKE AKUTA
State Publicity Secretary.



HON. MACDONALD
KELECHI EBERE Ph.D, KSJI
STATE CHAIRMAN
APC, IMO STATE

Dowen College: Time to Ask Critical Questions (1)

Smart Okotie Jnr

The parents of late Sylvester Oromoni's deserve the sympathy and kindness of the Nigerian people. The world needs to know the facts and the truths of this case. We need to know who is lying and who is actually liable!

A range of key questions pop-up as objectivity scans available details of the sad and unfortunate experience. It is pertinent to confirm if late Sylvester actually played football with his friends. The authorities of Dowen College say he did: Who are the boys he played football with? Have the boys been identified by the school authorities? If yes, where are they?

Interestingly, a student of the school is said to have admitted that he was the person who collided with Sylvester in the course of the soccer game: Who was this particular boy? What is his name? Where is he?

Late Sylvester is said to have visited the school's medical facility for medical attention. As one probes this case deeper, the need to investigate this aspect of the widely circulating story about the sad incident stands out.

Sylvester Oromoni Junior is said to have been bullied (gang-beaten) by a group of senior students, and that he mentioned names of the seniors before his sudden and painful passing: Were there bruises or injuries on late Sylvester's body suggesting that he was gang-beaten? What about his sored lips? We hear the gang that beat him forced a substance down his throat!

Going by the story that a substance was forced into late Sylvester's throat after the gang-beating, it goes to say that there was a struggle in the process – Sylvester resisted! Did the struggle cause part of the substance to spill on any part of



Sylvester Oromoni

his body other than his lips? Was there or is there any of such sign on Sylvester's body suggesting a spill of the corrosive substance?

A credible, non-biased autopsy is capable of answering this particular question and more, in relation to the substance that was said to have been forced into his guts.

In addition, the general public was told that the authorities of Dowen College called Sylvester's parents to come take him home for medical attention. Nigerians need to know the name and location of the medical outfit that Sylvester's parents took him to for medical attention. What was the finding of the medical outfit he was taken to?

We hear an X-ray was done on Sylvester based on the tough pains he said he was feeling in his waists and in other parts of his bone-structure. According to Dowen College in its Press Release, late Sylvester's guardian took him (Sylvester) for an X-ray and informed the management of the school that the result of the X-ray revealed that no part of his body was broken or injured.

Where did the severe body pain that late Sylvester suffered before his death come from? What is the name of the medical outfit that conducted the X-ray on Sylvester? Where is it located? Does the medical outfit not owe this case and the general Nigerian public an explanation?

The medical facility that did the X-ray needs to tell the world its observations and findings independent of what late Sylvester's guardian is said to have told the school authorities of Dowen College.

This case should be made to serve as a deterrent to ill-treatment of students in our schools. There is no gainsaying that the students lodged in the boarding facilities of Dowen College are a breathing testimony to the existence of a Contract between the school and the students' parents.

Did late Sylvester lose his life to bullying? To remote complications from injuries incurred from a game of soccer? Or to some other action or inaction not yet told to the public?

The facts and truths of this case deserve to be known. Continuing …

• Smart Okotie Jnr, a Public Affairs Commentator wrote from Lagos.

Young Nigerian Economist Wins UK Commonwealth Scholarship

A young and brilliant Nigerian Economist, Kawthar Olawunmi and graduate of Fountain university, oshogbo, has bagged the United Kingdom's Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Award, availing her the rare opportunity of studying at the University of London, UK.

The Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Award is a yearly award sponsored by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom, for candidates from least developed and lower middle income Commonwealth countries to study a full-time Master's degree on selected courses, jointly supported by UK universities.

Sharing her success story through her Linkedin profile, Kawthar Olawunmi who had earlier being awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Fountain University, Nigeria, was pleased to have been awarded the opportunity to study for her Masters Degree in Development Economics at the University of London.



PHOTO NEWS



L-R: Customer Service Manager, Access Bank Plc, Tejuoso Branch, Oluwakemi Jacob; 1st Daimondxtra Mega Draw Winner, Maryjane Okonkwo; and Account Officer of Access Bank Branch, Kizito Ezetendu, during the presentation of One Million Naira cheque to the first winner of the DiamondXtra 13 Promo,in Yaba, Lagos.



L-R: Relationship Manager, Fund Raising, Nigeria Solidarity Support Fund. Rafiu Abdullahi ; Marketing Manager, Adebola Adeyinka; General Manager/CEO, Dr. Fejiro Chinye-Nwoko; and Program Manager, Dr. Franco Apiyanteide at the media briefing to formally unveil the WeNaija Photography Contest organised by the Nigeria Solidarity Support Fun in Lagos…recently SUNDAY ADIGUN



L-R: Immediate Past President, Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), Dame Gladys Olajumoke Simplice;Special Guest of Honour, Chief Norteh Barizaage; President, CITN, Mr. Adesina Adedayo; Deputy Vice President, Mr. Innocent Ohagwa;and Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Simon Kato, at the 45th induction ceremony of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria in Lagos recently ETOP UKUTT



L-R: Hero Lager Brand ambassador, Owoh Chimaobi Chrismathner aka Zoro; Trade Master, Ugene Ezeowu; Apprentice from Alaba Int. Mkt and Grand Prize winner, Christopher Nwaniliwu; Marketing Director, International Breweries Plc (IBPLC), Tolulope Adedeji, and Sales Director, IBPLC, Carlos Coutinho, at the Hero Igba Boi Grand Finale Event in Lagos.

GLOBAL SOCCER

A THISDAY WEEKLY PULL-OUT

11. 12.2021



GRIP ON THE TITLE

PAGE. 29

VICTOR MOSES

Can He Still Lead Nigeria Across the Red Sea?



GLOBAL SOCCER



Can He Still Lead Nigeria Across the Red Sea?

With the spate of injuries to some Super Eagles players, most especially Victor Osimhen, Nigeria's dream of a fourth AFCON trophy is already in doubt. While fans are agonising over these absentees, Victor Moses, who left the national team after the 2018 World Cup in Russia, is set for a return to the Super Eagles. The big question however remains if he still holds the rod to part the Red Sea

There are strong indications that Victor Moses will return big to the Super Eagles three years after he quit to concentrate on his club career.

The 30-year-old former Chelsea wing back who has regained his form and doing well with Russian Spartak Moscow last played for Nigeria against Argentina's Albiceleste in final group game at the St. Petersburg Stadium during the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Moses scored from the spot in that game Nigeria lost 1-2 to the Lionel Messi inspired Argentina and failed to progress to the second round.

Nigerian football agent based in Europe, Drew Uyi, confirmed Moses' plan to accept invite to the AFCON bound Eagles.

Uyi has confirmed that the Spartak Moscow winger will return to the senior national team three years after announcing his retirement from international football.

The former Chelsea winger is primed for a return to the team for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations as well as the 2022 World Cup qualifiers play off. Uyi said although Moses wasn't overtly excited over a return to the team he has however agreed to play for the team for a year. He also said Moses decision to quit the team cost him an endorsement deal. "He will come back, but he's not fussy about it," sports agent Uyi told The Football Show on YouTube. He could come for a year. "He is a professional, he will always deliver. "I remember I got him an endorsement around the time he quit the Super Eagles and because the deal was tied to the national team, they pulled the plug on it."

The 30-year-old called time on his Nigeria career after winning 37 caps for the Super Eagles.

Moses scored 12 goals for his country over a six-year period and was part of the squad that won the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations in South Africa.

He also played every minute of Nigeria's World Cup campaign in Russia, which ended in a group-stage exit.

"I would like to announce that after much thought I have made the decision to retire from playing international football," Moses wrote on social media then.

"I have experienced some of the best moments of my life wearing the Super Eagles shirt and have memories with me that will last a lifetime.

"Nothing will ever compete to what it felt like to represent Nigeria on behalf of our country.

"However, I feel that now is the right time to step away in order to be able to focus fully on club career and my young family as well as to allow the next generation of Super Eagles stars the opportunity to step up and to flourish.

"We are blessed as a nation to have so many exciting young players coming through and now is their time.

"I have already spoken to the manager by telephone and would like to say thank you to him and his staff, the NFF and all of my teammates for all of their support over the years.

"Most importantly, I would like to say thank you to the Nigerian people for believing in me and supporting me over the years. It's meant the world to me and my family and I will always be a proud Nigerian supporting the team.

"Thank you for the memories and good luck to the team for the future," Moses had said three years ago.

Meanwhile, Super Eagles Manager, Gernot Rohr and the President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Amaju Pinnick have always been optimistic that Moses still have a place in the national team.

Rohr has severally stated that he would welcome Moses with open arms if he reverses his decision.

He said, "Victor Moses is a very good player for Nigeria. I believe it was too early for such a good player to stop international football when he did but we have to respect his decisions.

"If he changes his mind we will welcome him but he has to find that motivation within himself to come back and be ready to give his 100 per cent at all time as we know he can.

"Then of course, it is important that he gets back to playing regularly at his club and get his sharpness back."

Moses attended Stanley Technical High School, now known as the Harris Academy, in South Norwood. Scouted playing football in the local Tandridge League for Cosmos 90 FC Crystal Palace approached him, with the club's Selhurst Park stadium just streets away from his school.

Moses first came to prominence at 14 after scoring 50 goals for Palace's under-14s side. Playing for three years at both Whitgift and Palace, Moses scored over 100 goals as well as helping Whitgift win many School Cups, including a National Cup where he scored all five goals in the final against Healing School of Grimsby at the Walkers Stadium, Leicester.

Moses was born in Nigeria, before moving to England at an early age and he represented the European country's youth teams at U-16, U-17, U-19 and U-21 levels.

However, Moses opted to play for Nigeria as opposed to being fully capped for England. He made his debut for the Nigerian senior team in 2012; earned 38 caps and scored 12 times before retiring from international matches in 2018.

He played in Nigeria's winning campaign at the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations, as well as the campaign in the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Man City Set for Firm Top Grip with Wolves' Visit

Top of the league Manchester City can put some early pressure on Liverpool and Chelsea by beating Wolverhampton Wanderers at the Etihad Stadium today. While their defeat away at RB Leipzig was undoubtedly disappointing, City have been in fine fettle in a league context of late, winning the five games since their surprising loss to Crystal Palace last month



Man City's Kevin De Bruyne brought down in the penalty box by a Wolves defender

Having seen their seven-game unbeaten run come to an abrupt end midweek, Manchester City welcome Wolverhampton Wanderers to the Etihad Stadium today in the Premier League.

Pep Guardiola's men went down 2-1 to RB Leipzig in midweek, while the visitors were undone by a late Liverpool winner at Molineux last weekend.

Man City's status as Champions League Group A winners was already confirmed before they travelled to RB Leipzig for an inconsequential clash on the final matchday, with the German side benefitting from that new manager bounce following Jesse Marsch's dismissal.

The Bundesliga outfit under the tutelage of Achim Beierlorzer ended City's seven-game winning run in all competitions thanks to strikes from Dominik Szoboszlai and Andre Silva, with Riyad Mahrez's header not enough to threaten a late comeback.

However, City's 3-1 victory over Watford - thanks in no small part to an astounding Bernardo Silva performance saw them take advantage of Chelsea's defeat to West Ham United and reclaim top spot in the Premier League table - one point clear of second-placed Liverpool.

The reigning English champions have now prevailed five times in a row in the top flight - scoring at least two goals in each game and even at this stage of the season, their title destiny is already in their own hands ahead of a hectic winter period.

Guardiola's side have been far from perfect on their own patch this term, but they welcome Wolves to the Etihad on a four-game winning streak on home soil and in no mood to let their midweek defeat sour their fortunes domestically.

Wolves became the latest victims of a last-minute Divock Origi winner last weekend, but Bruno Lage must have thought his luck was in when Diogo Jota somehow blasted the ball at Conor Coady when he otherwise had the whole of the goal to aim at.

However, Origi came off the bench to smash home Liverpool's winner in the fourth minute of second-half injury time, which represented Wolves' third game without a win or a goal in the Premier League as their European dream took yet another hit.

Having now overseen a bitter downturn in fortunes with just one win from their last five in the top flight, Lage has work to do to pull his side back into top-six contention as they sit eighth in the standings - two points behind seventh-placed Arsenal and three behind Manchester United.

A paltry tally of just one goal from their last five games highlights where the problems lie for this Wolves side - who have not had many problems shutting up shop in defence - although only one of their last six away games has ended in defeat.

Man City comfortably saw off Wolves 4-1 at the Etihad last term after claiming a 3-1 win at Molineux a few months before, and this week's visitors to Manchester have lost six of their last nine visits to the Citizens' headquarters.

Meanwhile, Chelsea will aim to bounce back from a difficult week when they welcome Leeds United to Stamford Bridge for today's Premier League fixture.

The Blues have now dropped to third in the table, while Marcelo Bielsa's side occupy 15th spot after drawing 2-2 with Brentford last time.

Having been knocked off their perch both domestically and continentally in recent weeks, Chelsea's stellar start to the campaign has since plateaued with just one win from their last four games in all competitions, and even then Watford gave them a good run for their money.

Before throwing away the lead twice in a 3-3 thriller with Zenit St Petersburg - which saw them forced to settle for second in Champions League Group H - Chelsea conceded another trio of goals in the capital as West Ham United ran out 3-2 winners in a pulsating London derby.

Manchester City and Liverpool both took advantage of the Blues' slip-ups to usurp them in the table, with Chelsea now two points behind the table-topping Citizens and one behind Liverpool as they occupy third spot in the rankings.

The Zenit thriller marked the fifth game in six that Chelsea have managed to net at least two goals, but Tuchel pulled no punches at the final whistle, seemingly angered by his side's 'change in behaviour' when holding onto a slender lead.

Chelsea have also been held to draws by Burnley and Manchester United in their most recent Premier League home games, but not since the days of Guus Hiddink have they played out three consecutive top-flight stalemates on their own turf.

Leeds may not be losing as many games in the Premier League now, but their affinity for stalemates continues to bedevil them, and they had to rely on the last-minute heroics of Patrick Bamford to rescue a point against Brentford at Elland Road.

After Shandon Baptiste and Sergi Canos had cancelled out Tyler Roberts's opener, Bamford - making his first top-flight appearance in nearly three months due to a serious ankle injury - was in the right place at the right time to prod home and send the home crowd into delirium.

That point has not done much good for Leeds' prospects of pulling themselves away from danger, though, as the Whites occupy 15th place in the table on 16 points - six clear of Burnley having played a game more than the 18th-placed outfit.

Bielsa's side have now lost just one of their last seven Premier League matches - although that did come away to a London club in Tottenham Hotspur - and not since 1980 have Leeds managed to get one over the side boasting the tag of European champions.

Leeds did manage to hold Chelsea to a 0-0 draw at Elland Road last season, but they lost 3-1 at Stamford Bridge in December 2020 and have only won one of their last 10 meetings with the Blues, which came back in the 2002-03 Premier League season.

Premiership Table

Man City	15	23	35
Liverpool	15	32	34
Chelsea	15	26	33
West Ham	15	9	27
Tottenham	14	-1	25
Man Utd	15	1	24
Arsenal	15	-4	23
Wolves	15	-1	21
Brighton	15	-2	20
Aston Villa	15	-3	19
Leicester	15	-4	19
Everton	15	-6	18
Brentford	15	-2	17
Crystal Palace	15	-2	16
Leeds	15	-7	16
Southampton	15	-7	16
Watford	15	-9	13
Burnley	14	-7	10
Newcastle	15	-13	10
Norwich	15	-23	10

PREMIER LEAGUE

TODAY

Man City	v	Wolves	12:30
Arsenal	v	Southampton	15:00
Chelsea	v	Leeds Utd	15:00
Liverpool	v	Aston Villa	15:00
Norwich City	v	Man Utd	17:30

SUNDAY

Brighton	v	Tottenham	14:00
Burnley	v	West Ham	14:00
Leicester	v	Newcastle	14:00
Crystal Palace	v	Everton	16:30

La Liga

TODAY

Espanyol	v	Levante	13:00
Alavés	v	Getafe	15:15
Valencia	v	Elche	17:30
Bilbao	v	Sevilla	20:00

SUNDAY

Villarreal	v	Vallecano	13:00
Osasuna	v	Barcelona	15:15
Real Betis	v	Sociedad	17:30
Madrid	v	Atlético	20:00

MONDAY

Cádiz	v	Granada	20:00

GLOBAL SOCCER



Emmanuel Dennis celebrates one of his goals



The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ismaila Abubakar (middle) and other stakeholders

GOtv Boxing Night 24

'You Won't Beat Me Again in My Wife's Presence,' Infiniti Tells Emirate

Ahead of their national cruiserweight boxing title clash, Abiodun "Infiniti" Afinni, has warned his opponent, Michael "Emirate" Godwin, to forget about beating him again in the presence of his wife and children when they meet on December 24 at GOtv Boxing Night 24.

The six-bout event will hold at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Lagos, venue of their last encounter, which Emirate won via a fourth-round knockout.

The previous fight, which had Infiniti's wife and children among the crowd, by Infiniti's own admission, still leaves a bitter taste in his mouth. The light-skinned boxer said he still feels pained by the defeat and will seek to avenge the disgrace the defeat brought him in the presence of his wife and children, who watched him fight for the first time.

"Emirate should forget that he will win again. I've not lived down the outcome of the last fight, as I was knocked out in front of my wife and children, who saw me fight for the first time ever. It has been difficult to cope with being floored in the presence of my wife and children. Nobody wants that to happen. So, this time, I'm going to do everything legitimate to win and prove to my family that I'm a real man," said Infiniti.

The contest is one of the six bouts slated to hold at the event, which will see Zanku Records act, Jamopyper, perform live and broadcast live on SuperSport Select 2 (GOtv Channel 34) and SuperSport Variety 4 (DStv Channel 209).

The event will be headlined by the World Boxing Federation (WBF) International title defence between Nigeria's Rilwan "Baby Face" Babatunde, reigning champion, and Ghana's Justice "Qwick Action". It will also feature the national lightweight title duel between Segun "Success" Olanrewaju and Adewale "Masevex" Masebinu. Like Infiniti, Masevex also carries a grudge arising from his defeat two years ago by Olanrewaju.

Two welterweight match-ups and one in the lightweight division are also lined up. In the former, Semiu "Jagaban" Olapade will face Taiwo "Gentle Boy" Olowu, while Willian "Kaki" Amosu will battle Segun "War" Adeyemi. The latter is a newbie clash between Saheed "Eagle" Azeez and Aminu "Lucky Boy" Akintayo.

The best boxer of the night will win the N1million cash prize attached to the Mojisola Ogunsanya Memorial Trophy

Nigeria's Football TV Magazine Show, SuperPicks Debuts on GOtv

MultiChoice Group has announced that the successful SuperPicks football magazine show will now be broadcast across GOtv in Africa Thursday nights from 9pm on SuperSport La Liga (GOtv channel 32).

CEO of MultiChoice Nigeria, John Ugbe, commented: "Our mission is not only to produce compelling content but to make that content widely accessible to our customers. The roll out of the SuperPicks magazine show onto GOtv reflects the unprecedented popularity of the TV show since its launch in August and our commitment to making ground-breaking content available to our customers."

The SuperPicks Magazine show debuted on SuperSport La Liga (DStv channel 204) in Nigeria in August and since then has grown from strength to strength in terms of audience reach.

Hosted by Neil Andrews, the show comprises a star line up made up of Wofai Egu Ewa, celebrity host Chuey Chu, stats expert Chisom Ezeoke and one of Africa's most respected pundits 'Da GreyBoss' Mozez Praiz, an eclectic ensemble of the witty, the elegant, the pidgin and the posh.

From the streets of Lagos to the hallowed fields of Old Trafford, SuperPicks resonates with fans at every level. As its name suggests, the TV show features the fast growing free-to-play sports predictor app, SuperPicks, with a weekly jackpot of N50m.

Available to play for free at superpicks.com, SuperPicks gives anyone in Nigeria over the age of 18 the chance to win a weekly jackpot of 50,000,000 by simply predicting the scores of six football fixtures each weekend. There is also a guaranteed prize of 1,000,000 for the player with the closest set of predictions each week.

So far there have been over 20 winners on SuperPicks. And there will be one guaranteed winner of the N50m jackpot on December 19th, SuperSunday.

SuperSunday promises to be the biggest winner day yet when the N50m jackpot is guaranteed to be won by one lucky winner, even if they don't match all 6 scores correctly.

To join in the fun, sign-up, sign-in and become one of Naija's latest multi-millionaires. SuperPicks is available at www.superpicks.com

Dennis Loses Player of the Month to Alexander-Arnold

Super Eagles star Emmanuel Dennis has missed out on the November Premier League player of the month award, losing to Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Dennis was one of the seven players nominated for their performances in November. The former Club Brugge star has been a hit at Vicarage road since he signed for Watford from Club Brugge in the summer.

Dennis has scored six goals and produced five assists in 14 league appearances for the Hornets, with two of the goals coming in November.

But it was not enough to earn him the POTM award as Arnold won the prize after scoring one goal and registering four assists for Liverpool.

Had Dennis won, he would have become the fifth Nigerian after Austin Jay-Jay Okocha, Peter Odemwingie (2), Odion Ighalo and Kelechi Iheanacho to win the award.

Nonetheless, he can take consolation from the fact that he won Watford's player and goal of the month.

South East Zone Set for Tennis Championship

The South East Zone is set to close the curtain of the Nigerian tennis season as plans have been concluded to host a championship around the yuletide.

Chief Kingsley Uduh, the zone's representative in the board of the Nigeria Tennis Federation disclosed that modalities for the tournament was almost finalised and what was needed is just an approval dates by the federation.

"We already got a sponsor but bearing in mind that immediately after the Rainoil tournament, there's another tournament in Abuja next week which means we can have the tournament around the yuletide or early January," he said.

Uduh added that the programme was part of fulfilling his electoral promises of reviving tennis in the South East as the zone's representative in the NTF.

He stated, "This will be the revival of the game of tennis as far as the South East is concerned.

"We have the players, we have the resources and we are determined to achieve success."

Uduh expressed delight at the constant rise of some of the zone's players in the NTF rankings pointing that the likes of Uche Oparaoji, Chima Michael, Nonso Madueke, Tochukwu Eze, Stella Udokwelu among others had been doing very well, stressing that with adequate support they would reach their full potential.

La Liga, Serie A Continues this Weekend on DStv, GOtv

DStv and GOtv customers look forward to extended action from La Liga and Serie A, with matches running from yesterday to Monday December 13.

In the La Liga, where the top match for this round is the Madrid derby between Real and Atletico at Estadio Santiago Bernabeu on the evening of Sunday at 9pm on SuperSport La Liga, SuperSport Maximo 2 and SuperSport GOtv La Liga.

This round of La Liga action also sees Sevilla face a tricky test with a trip to the Basque region to face Athletic Bilbao, whose coach Marcelino is hoping to see more ruthlessness from his team if they are to climb the table and challenge for a European spot. The match will air live at 9pm on SuperSport La Liga and SuperSport GOtv La Liga.

Other games to watch from Spain's top flight this round includes Barcelona visiting Osasuna on Sunday at 4:15pm on SuperSport La Liga and SuperSport GOtv La Liga and looking to continue their progress under new boss Xavi; Real Sociedad looking to keep up their title challenge with a tricky clash away to Real Betis at 6:30pm on SuperSport La Liga and SuperSport GOtv La Liga; and a Monday-night relegation six-pointer between Cadiz and Granada at9pm on SuperSport La Liga and SuperSport Football to close out Matchday 17.

Today sees heavyweights Juventus and Milan chasing away wins over Venezia and Udinese respectively, while Fiorentina could produce another thrilling performance when they welcome Salernitana to Stadio Artemio Franchi at 3pm on SuperSport Football and SuperSport GOtv Select 1.

La Viola will look to the striking exploits of Dusan Vlahovic, who is regarded as the hottest property on the transfer market ahead of January's window.

Sunday sees Napoli and Internazionale looking to keep up their title pushes with matches at home to Empoli and Cagliari respectively at 6pm and 8:45pm on SuperSport Football and SuperSport GOtv Select 1.

CCC 2021/22 Season Kicks Off Today

Sixteen teams comprising of nine from Division 1 and seven from Division 2 will be competing for the Gbolahan Olusegun Yishawu trophy as the 2021/22 Club Cricket Committee league season kicks off on December 11.

The organisers at a press conference at the boardroom of the Nigeria Cricket Federation, Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval, Race Course on Sunday said the league which would be taking place at two centres-University of Lagos, Akoka and CMS Grammar School, Bariga will run from December 11 to April 2022.

According to the Chairman, Lagos State Cricket Association, Kofi Sagoe, the organisers were looking forward to a keen competition among the clubs, while fair play on and off the field of play was expected from participants.

"Cricket is a game of gentlemen, and the league has been organised in such a way that it would encourage the sponsor, Gbolahan Yishawu to do more," Sagoe said.

For the Chairman of the CCC League, Akin Denton, an exciting game of cricket awaits lovers of the game with over a hundred games expected to be played.

Like it is the standard practices the world over, the league would take the T 20 format.

In his words, the national team coach, Asanka Gurusinha said, 'I have heard a lot about the Lagos League and we hope to identify the right talent at the end of the league. With over 100 games to be played it would go a long way in developing Nigeria's cricket. "

Some of the participating teams include, Rocks of Abeokuta Cricket Club, Government College Ibadan Old Boys Association, Foundation Cricket club, St. Gregory's Cricket Club 1 and 2, Igbobi College Cricket Club amongst others.



Onyekuru Monao

Henry Onyekuru

Another Missionary Journey to Galatasaray Looms

Less than six months after he moved to Olympiacos, Super Eagles forward Henry Onyekuru may be on the move again after he failed to impress with the Turkish side

According to Greek media, as per Mynet, Henry Onyekuru will be leaving Olympiacos in the January transfer season after failing to make much positive impact during his first six months at the club.

Onyekuru only moved to Olympiacos in August after the Greek champions secured his signing on a four-year deal for an undisclosed fee believed to be in the region of four-and-a-half million euros. The Greek giants beat Fenerbahce, Galatasaray, and Besiktas to his signature in the summer.

But the 24-year-old forward has found it hard to settle down in Greece, and he is yet to produce his best form.

The Nigerian international has not registered a goal in nine league appearances and has just one assist in five Europa League games for the Red-Whites.

According to the reports, Onyekuru has his eyes set on returning to Galatasaray, where he has previously spent three different loan spells.

Aside from his remarkable breakthrough period at Eupen, Onyekuru has only been excellent at Galatasaray, with spells at Monaco, Anderlecht, and Olympiacos not as productive.

The Super Eagles star grabbed 22 goals and 12 assists in 71 matches with the yellow-reds, winning the Super Lig and Turkish Cup double in 2019.

However, Galatasaray are not interested in signing Onyekuru outright, with the Fatih Terim-tutored side preparing a loan deal until the end of the season.

An exciting player who can hurt opponents in a variety of ways with his explosive, game-changing set of attributes, he's certainly a nightmare for defenders to come up against.

Blessed with scintillating pace, acceleration and agility, these characteristics ensure he's such a threat with and without the ball. Firstly, when embarking on his runs, he does so in a thoughtful fashion, as he times, angles and directs his run smartly to get the edge on his adversaries. So quick and aware when a teammate is in a position to pinpoint him, he gets on his bike swiftly to give himself every chance to latch onto through balls first.

The way he uses little hesitation moves, double movements, zig-zags, wicked out-to-in diagonal runs, pins markers and exploits the blindside of his marker adds to his menace.

In addition, when bursting into the box, the way he attacks the six-yard box, knows when to go to the near or far post and has the presence of mind to hold his runs as the defence collapses is a bonus.

Meanwhile, when it comes to his work with the ball at his feet, Onyekuru poses a very unpredictable and elusive proposition. On top of his aforementioned athleticism, his mazy dribbling ensures he can breeze by his man with his sheer pace, cut infield in an instant or beat his man with feints, shoulder drops, stepovers or searing changes of pace and direction. Moreover, the fact he's so dangerous on the ball often attracts multiple markers, which has the key byproduct of freeing up space for teammates and destabilising his foes' shape.

His close control when dribbling at speed notably places doubt in defenders minds, for if they step in he can quickly shift the ball to outfox them or draw a foul, thus making him an even more challenging adversary.

It must be said, however, that he can overdo it sometimes on the dribble, which means he gets cornered or fails to see a teammate in a better position. But in all, any negatives are outweighed by the big positives attached to his confident and eye-catching work here.

While it's not really his game to create chances or orchestrate passing moves, there's been some signs of his aptitude here, as he can combine nicely in around the box, calmly recycle possession and play the odd splitting through ball if the option is there. Probably the most effective tool in this regard is how he plays some slick one-twos which help unlock deep sitting defences while allowing him to receive the return pass in a goal facing posture so he can continue his momentum.

Onyekuru's finishing complements his intriguing game nicely, for this ever-improving area of his armoury allows him to reward all his good work. Instinctive and with a keen eye for goal, the man who finished sixth in the Turkish Super League scoring charts despite playing predominantly as a winger, can crucially score in a variety of ways.

Onyekuru has four years to run on his contract with Monaco, whom he joined from Everton last summer.

The 24-year-old has capped 11 times for Nigeria and was part of the Super Eagles team that clinched bronze at the last Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Onyekuru began his football career with the Aspire Academy in 2010, and graduated in 2015 joining their partner club, KAS Eupen and helped the team get promotion to the Belgium First Division A in his debut season.

After a successful season in the Belgium first division, Onyekuru finished as one of the top scorers in the league, attracting the attention of various big teams in Europe. He finished the 2016/2017 season as joint top-scorer with 22 goals, but the trophy was handed to his rival as he scored more away goals than Onyekuru.

He made his senior debut for Nigeria in a 3-0 friendly win over Togo last year's July.

GLOBAL SOCCER

ASSISTANT EDITOR
KUNLE ADEWALE

THISDAY ON SATURDAY
EDITOR
YEMI ADEBOWALE
DEPUTY EDITOR
AHAMIFULA OGBU

THISDAY NEWSPAPERS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/CHAIRMAN
NDUKA OBAIGBENA

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ENIOLA BELLO

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
ISRAEL IWEGBU

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE; CUSTOM, EXCISE & TARIFF; AND TRADE & INVESTMENT

INVITATION TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON FINANCE BILL, 2021

The Chairmen and Members of the Senate Committees on Finance; Custom, Excise & Tariff; Trade & Investment; cordially invites Stakeholders and the General Public to the Public Hearing on the amendment of the following Acts:

- Capital Gains Tax Act;
- Companies Income Tax Act;
- Customs, Exercise Tariff, etc (Consolidated) Act;
- Federal Inland Revenue Service Establishment Act;
- Personal Income Tax;
- Stamp Duties Act;
- Value Added Tax Act;
- Insurance Act;
- Nigerian Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act;
- National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act;
- Finance (Control and Management) Act;
- Fiscal Responsibility Act;

The Public Hearing is scheduled to hold as follows:
DATE: Tuesday, 14th December, 2021
TIME: 11:00 am
VENUE: Conference Hall 231, Senate New Building, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

Consequently, the under listed Stakeholders are expected to make presentation at the Public Hearing:

1. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget & National Planning;
2. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment;
3. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Justice;
4. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources;
5. The Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Communication & Digital Economy;
6. The Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN);
7. The Accountant General, Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF);
8. The Group Managing Director, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC);
9. The Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS);
10. The Comptroller General, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS);
11. The Registrar, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
12. The Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND);
13. The Acting Chairman, Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC);
14. The Director General, Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP);
15. The Director, Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR);
16. The Managing Director, Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA);
17. The Managing Director, Oil & Gas Free Trade Zone Authority (OGFZA);
18. The Director General, Debt Management Office (DMO);
19. The President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN);
20. The Commissioner for Insurance, National Insurance Commission (NAICOM);
21. The Chief Executive Officer, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC);
22. The Chairman, Body of Bank CEOs;
23. The Managing Director, Bank Of Industry (BOI);
24. The Managing Director, Bank Of Agriculture (BOA);
25. The President, Chartered Institute Of Bankers Of Nigeria;
26. The President, Institute Of Chartered Accountants Of Nigeria (ICAN);
27. The President, Association Of National Accountants Of Nigeria (ANAN);
28. The Director General, Securities And Exchange Commission (SEC);
29. The Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE);
30. The President, Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC);
31. The President, Trade Union Congress (TUC);
32. The President, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA);
33. The President, National Union Of Banks, Insurance And Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFE);
34. The Managing Director, Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation;
35. The President, Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria;
36. The President, Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA);
37. Shareholders Association of Nigeria;
38. The President, Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN);
39. All Corporate Organizations and Financial Institutions; and
40. Other Interested Persons/Organizations.

Other Stakeholders and Interested Persons/ Organizations who wish to make presentation should submit their Memorandum on or before **Monday, 13th December, 2021 to the Joint Committee's Secretariat in Room SG23, Zero Floor, White House, National Assembly Complex, Abuja.**

In adherence to COVID-19 safety guidelines, only invited stakeholders and persons/organizations that have indicated interest with the Secretariat to make presentations are to appear at the Public Hearing and all established protocols will be strictly adhered to.

For further enquiries, Contact the Joint Committee Clerk on **08174364772.**

Sen. Solomon Olamilekan Adeola, *FCA, FCTI*
Chairman, Joint Committee
Announcer

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

A Money Bill [Act] to amend relevant tax, excises and duty statutes in line with the macroeconomic policy reforms of the Federal Government; to amend and to make further provisions in specific laws in connection with the public financial management of the Federation.

CONTENTS

PART I

Capital Gains Tax Act
1. *Stocks and shares*

Companies Income Tax Act
2. *Charge of tax*
3. *Nigerian companies*
4. *Cable Undertakings*
5. *Insurance companies*
6. *Profits of a company from certain dividends*
7. *Profits exempted*
8. *Board's power to assess and charge on turn-over of trade or business*
9. *Total profits from all sources*
10. *Payment of minimum tax*
11. *Gas utilisation (downstream operations)*
12. *Time within which tax (including provisional tax) is to be paid*
13. *Deduction of tax from interest, etc.*
14. *Deduction of tax at source*
15. *Interpretation*

Customs, Excise Tariff, Etc. (Consolidation) Act
16. *Goods and Services Liable to Tax*

Federal Inland Revenue Service Establishment Act
17. *Administration of tax laws*
18. *Information to be delivered by bankers*
19. *Tax Investigations*
20. *Official secrecy and confidentiality*
21. *Precedence over other laws in relation to administration, assessment, collection and accounting for taxes and other revenue due to the Federation*

Personal Income Tax
22. *Personal relief and relief for children, dependants*
23. *Power to call for returns, books, documents and information*
24. *Information to be delivered by Bankers*
25. *Offences and Penalties*

Stamp Duties Act
26. *Electronic Money Transfer Levy*

Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment, Etc.) Act
27. *Assessment and collection of tax*

Value Added Tax Act
28. *Registration by non-resident companies*
29. *Collection of tax by Taxable person*
30. *Taxable person to render returns*

PART II

Insurance Act
31. *Requirements as to minimum paid-up share capital*
32. *Share capital to be deposited with the Central Bank*
33. *Interpretation*

Nigerian Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act
34. *Sources of the Trust Fund*

National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act
35. *Fund of the Agency*

Finance (Control and Management) Act
36. *Legislative Control and Management of the Public Finance*
37. *Minister's instructions to be complied with and powers to inspect etc*

Fiscal Responsibility Act
38. *Framework for Debt Management*

PART III

General
Citation & Commencement Date
39. *Citation & Commencement Date*

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

Section	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Justification	Committee's comment
		Part I ***Capital Gains Tax Act***		
1. Section 30 *Stocks and shares, etc.*	(1) *Gains accruing to a person from a disposal by him of Nigerian government securities, stocks and shares shall not be chargeable gains under this Act* (2) *In this section, "Nigerian government securities" include Nigerian treasury bonds, savings certificates and premium bonds issued under the Savings Bonds and Certificates Act.*	Section 30 of the Capital Gains Tax Act is amended by replacing the section with a new section as follows:– *(1) Gains accruing to a person from a disposal by it of Nigerian government securities shall not be chargeable gains under this Act.* *(2) Without prejudice to any other applicable law, the gains accruing to a person on disposal of its shares in any Nigerian company registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act shall be chargeable gains under this Act except where:-* *(a) the proceeds from such disposal are reinvested within the same year of assessment in the acquisition of shares in the same or other Nigerian companies* *Provided that tax shall accrue proportionately on the portion of the proceeds which are not reinvested in the manner stipulated in this subsection;* *(b) the disposal proceeds, in aggregate, is less than N500,000,000.00in any twelve consecutive months, provided that the person making the disposals shall render appropriate returns to the Service on an annual basis; or* *(c) the shares are transferred between an approved Borrower and Lender in a regulated Securities Lending Transaction as defined in the Companies Income Tax Act.* *(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of Section 2 of this Act, the rate of capital gains on disposal of shares pursuant to this Section shall be five per cent.* *(4) The tax due in respect of a disposal under this section shall be paid:* *(a) For individuals, to the relevant tax authority in line with the provisions of the Personal Income Tax Act; and* *(b) For companies, to the Federal Inland Revenue Service.* *(5) In this section:-* *"Nigerian government securities" include Nigerian treasury bonds, savings certificates, premium bonds issued under the Savings Bonds and Certificates Act or any other long-term security issued by the Nigerian government.* *"Regulated Securities Lending Transaction" shall have the meaning provided under the Companies Income Tax Act.*	*To clarify that capital gains arising from disposal of Nigerian stocks and shares over and above 500million naira shall be liable to capital gains tax* *To clarify that this section will not apply to Federal government bonds which should have been issued under the applicable law/legislation*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation***
		Companies Income Tax Act ('CITA')		
2. Section 9 *Charge of tax*	(9)(d) (ii) *"Dividend includes compensating payments received by a lender from its approved agent or borrower in a Regulated Securities Lending Transaction, if the underlying transaction giving rise to the compensating payment is a receipt of dividends by a borrower on any shares or securities received from its approved agent or a lender in a Regulated Securities Lending Transaction"*	Section 9 of the CITA (as amended by Finance Act 2019) is further amended by substituting for Subsection (9)(1)(d)(ii), a new Subsection (9)(1)(d)(ii) – *(ii)"Dividends includes compensating payments received by a lender from its approved agent or borrower in a Regulated Securities Lending Transaction."*	*To implement recommendations by the Securities & Exchange Commission ('SEC')&capital markets' consultative group to remove requirement for a borrower to directly receive dividend as a condition for enjoying tax benefits. This modification will allow market participants who trade, and consequently do not receive dividends directly, qualify for the securities lending tax regime.*	***Policy Anchor: Tax Equity***
3. Section 13 *Nigerian companies*	*The profits of a company other than a Nigerian company from any trade or business shall be deemed to be derived from or taxable in Nigeria-* *(a) if that company has a fixed base of business in Nigeria to the extent that the profit is attributable to the fixed base;* *(b) if it does not have such a fixed base in Nigeria but habitually operates a trade or business through a person in Nigeria authorised to conduct on its behalf or on behalf of some other companies controlled by it or which have a controlling interest in it; or habitually maintains a stock of goods or merchandise in Nigeria from which deliveries are regularly made by a person on behalf of the company, to the extent that the profit is attributable to the business or trade or activities carried on through that person;* *(c) if it transmits, emits or receives signals, sounds, messages, images or data of any kind by cable, radio, electromagnetic systems or any other electronic or wireless apparatus to Nigeria in respect of any activity, including electronic commerce, application store, high frequency trading, electronic data storage, online adverts, participative network platform, online payments and so on, to the extent that the company has significant economic presence in Nigeria and profit can be attributable to such activity* *(d) if that trade or business or activities involves a single contract for surveys, deliveries, installations or construction, the profit from that contract; and* *(e) If the trade or business comprises the furnishing of technical, management, consultancy or professional services outside of Nigeria to a person resident in Nigeria to the extent that the company has significant economic presence in Nigeria:* *Provided that the withholding tax applicable to the income under this paragraph shall be the final tax on the income of a non-resident recipient who does not otherwise fall within the scope of subsection (2) (a)-(d).* *(f) where the trade or business or activities is between the company and another person controlled by it or which has a controlling interest in it and conditions are made or imposed between the company and such person in their commercial or financial relations which in the opinion of the Service is deemed to be artificial or fictitious, so much of the profit adjusted by the Service to reflect arm's length transaction*	Section 13 of the CITA is amended by repealing subsection (2) and re-enacting a new subsection (2) as follows – *"(2) The profits of a company other than a Nigerian company from any trade or business shall be deemed to be derived from or taxable in Nigeria where:* *(a) that company has a fixed base of business in Nigeria to the extent that the profit is attributable to the fixed base;* *(b) it does not have such a fixed base in Nigeria but habitually operates a trade or business through a person in Nigeria authorised to conduct on its behalf or on behalf of some other companies controlled by it or which have a controlling interest in it; or habitually maintains a stock of goods or merchandise in Nigeria from which deliveries are regularly made by a person on behalf of the company, to the extent that the profit is attributable to the business or trade or activities carried on through that person;* *(c) it transmits, emits or receives signals, sounds, messages, images or data of any kind by cable, radio, electromagnetic systems or any other electronic or wireless apparatus to Nigeria in respect of any activity, including electronic commerce, application store, high frequency trading, electronic data storage, online adverts, participative network platform, online payments and so on, to the extent that the company has significant economic presence in Nigeria and profit can be attributable to such activity;* *(d) that trade or business or activities involves a single contract for surveys, deliveries, installations or construction, the profit from that contract;* *(e) the trade or business comprises the furnishing of technical, management, consultancy or professional services outside of Nigeria to a person resident in Nigeria to the extent that the company has significant economic presence in Nigeria;* *Provided that the withholding tax applicable to the income under this paragraph shall be the final tax on the income of a non-resident recipient who does not otherwise fall within the scope of subsection 2(a) – (d); and* *(f) the trade or business or activities is between the company and another person controlled by it or which has a controlling interest in it and conditions are made or imposed between the company and such person in their commercial or financial relations which in the opinion of the Board is deemed to be artificial or fictitious, so much of the profit adjusted by the Board to reflect arm's length transaction."*	*To correct numbering error caused by amendments introduced by Finance Acts of 2019 and 2020.*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting***
4. Section 15 *Cable undertakings*	*N/A*	Section 15 of the CITA is amended by – (a) Replacing the title of this section with a new title *"Cable undertakings and Lottery and gaming business"* (b) Numbering the current paragraph as subsection 1 (c) Inserting after subsection 1, a new subsection 2 – *"(2)Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law, the taxation of Lottery and Gaming businesses shall, in addition to the general provisions of this Act, be as follows:* *(a) The gaming revenue of a company derived from a gaming or lottery business shall be taxed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.*	*To clarify that the income of a company engaged in gaming and lottery business shall be taxable under the provisions of the CITA which apply to all companies registered in Nigeria, in line with extant laws.*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation***

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

		Provided that any non-gaming income earned by a company undertaking Lottery and Gaming business shall remain taxable under the provisions of this Act. *(b) In determining the assessable profits of Lottery and Gaming businesses, the following deductions shall be allowed:* *(i) Any amount paid as winnings, prizes or any similar payment from the relevant Prize Fund or contributions to the Lottery Trust Fund, as may be applicable* *(ii) Agent Commissions expense incurred* *(iii) Taxes and levies paidto relevant regulatory and government authorities as contained in relevant federal and state laws.* *(iv) Deductions in line with the Second Schedule of this Act* *(v) Other allowable deductions as contained under Section 24 of this Act.* *(c) For the purposes of this section-* ***Gaming** includes gambling, wagering, video poker, roulette, craps, bingo, slot machine, gaming machine and the likes.* ***"Lottery" or "lotteries"** includes any betting, game, scheme, arrangement, system, plan, promotional competition or device for the distribution of prizes by lot or chance, or as a result of the exercise of skill and chance or based on the outcome of real or virtual sporting events, or any other game, scheme, arrangement, system, plan, competition or device, which the President may by notice in the Gazette declare to be lottery and which shall be operated accordingly* ***Lottery Trust Fund** refers to the Lottery Trust Fund created pursuant to the National Lottery Act or any other enactment that replaced it"*		
5. Section 16 *Insurance companies*	*(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, insurance business shall be taxed as-* *(a) an insurance company, whether proprietary or mutual, other than a life insurance company; or* *(b) a Nigerian company whose profit accrued in part outside Nigeria the profit on which tax may be imposed, shall be ascertained by taking the gross premium interest and other income receivable in Nigeria less reinsurance and deducting from the balance so arrived at, a reserve fund for unexpired risks at the percentage consistently adopted by the company in relation to its operation as a whole for such risks at the end of the period for which the profits are being ascertained, subject to the limitation imposed in subsection (8) (a) of this section.* *(2) The profits on which tax may be imposed in an insurance company is a life insurance company, whether proprietary or mutual, other than a Nigerian company which carries on business through a permanent establishment in Nigeria shall-* *(a) be the investment income less the management expenses, including commission, subject to the limitation imposed in subsection (8) (b) of this section; and* *(b) where the profits of the company accrue in part outside Nigeria, be that proportion of the total investment income of the company as the premium earned whether received or receivable, less the agency expenses of the head office of the company but where the insurance company has its head office outside Nigeria the Service may substitute some basis other than that prescribed in this paragraph for ascertaining the required proportion or the total investment income.* *(3) Any amount distributed in any form as dividend from an actuarial revaluation of unexpired risks or from any other revaluation shall be deemed to be part of the total profits of the company for tax purposes* *(4) Not more than three months after an actuarial revaluation of unexpired risks or from any other revaluation shall be deemed to be part of the total profits of the company for tax purposes* *(5) The profits on which tax may be imposed* *(a) in a general Nigerian insurance company, shall be ascertained in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1) of this section as though the whole premium and investment incomes of the company were derived from Nigeria; and* *(b) in a Nigerian life insurance company, shall be ascertained in accordance with the provisions of subsections (2), (3) and (4) of this section as though the whole investment and other incomes were received in Nigeria and all the expenses and other outgoings of the company were incurred in Nigeria* *(6) Where an insurance company carries on a life class and a general class insurance business, the funds and books of accounts of one class shall be kept separate from the other as though one class does not relate to the other class, and the annual tax returns of the two classes of insurance businesses shall be made separately.* *(7) Each class of insurance shall be assessed separately as "life insurance assessment" and "nonlife (other) insurance assessment" and in respect of each class of insurance business where there are more than one type of insurance and in the same class, they form one type of business and shall not be allowed against the income from another type of insurance business but the loss shall be available to be carried forward against profits from the same class of insurance business.* *(8) An insurance company, other than a life insurance company, shall be allowed as deductions from its premium the following reserves for tax purposes-* *(a) Reserve for unexpired risks, calculated on a time apportionment basis of the risks accepted in the year;* *(b) For outstanding claims and outgoings, an amount equal to the total estimated amount of all outstanding claims and outgoings,*	Section 16 of the CITA is amended by repealing Section 16 and re-enacting a new Section (16) - *"(1) An insurance business shall be taxed as –* *(a) A general insurance company, whether proprietary or mutual, other than a life insurance company; or* *(b) a life insurance company,* *(c) Generally, the profits on which tax may be imposed for an insurance business shall be in line with Section 13 of this Act.* *(2) For a general insurance company, the profit on which tax may be imposed, shall be ascertained by taking the gross premium and other income receivable, less reinsurance, and deducting from the balance so arrived at, a reserve for unexpired risks, determined in line with subsection (10)(a), of this section.* *(3) For a life insurance company, the profits on which tax may be imposed shall be the investment income less the management expenses, including commission.* *(4) Any amount distributed in any form as dividend from an actuarial revaluation of unexpired risks or from any other revaluation shall be deemed to be part of the total profits of the company for tax purposes.* *(5) Not more than three months after an actuarial revaluation of unexpired risks or any other revaluation has taken place, the Company shall provide the Service with full particulars of the revaluation carried out, including a copy of the actuary's revaluation certificate.* *(6) The profits on which tax may be imposed-* *(a) in a general Nigerian insurance company, shall be ascertained in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section as though the whole premium and investment incomes of the company were derived from Nigeria; and* *(b) in a Nigerian life insurance company, shall be ascertained in accordance with the provisions of subsections (3), (4) and (5) of this section as though the whole investment and other incomes were received in Nigeria and all the expenses and other outgoings of the company were incurred in Nigeria.* *(7) Investment income for the purpose of taxation of a life insurance company under this section means income derived from investment of shareholders' funds.* *(8) Where an insurance company carries on a life class and a general or non-life class insurance business, the funds and books of accounts of one class shall be kept separate from the other as though one class does not relate to the other class, and the annual tax returns of the two classes of insurance businesses shall be made separately.* *(9) Each class of insurance shall be assessed separately as "life insurance assessment" and "non-life (other) insurance assessment" and in respect of each class of insurance business where there are more than one type of insurance and in the same class, they form one type of business and shall not be allowed against the income from another type of insurance business but the loss shall be available to be carried forward against profits from the same class of insurance business.* *(10)An insurance company, other than a life insurance company, shall be allowed as deductions from its premium the following reserves for tax purposes –* *(a) Reserve for unexpired risks, calculated on a time apportionment basis of the risks accepted in the year;* *(b) For outstanding claims and outgoings, an amount equal to the total estimated amount of all outstanding claims and outgoings, provided that any amount not utilised towards settlement of claims and outgoings shall be added to the total profits of the following year.* *(11)An insurance company, in respect of its life insurance business shall be allowed the following deductions from its investment incomes and other incomes –* *(a) an amount which makes a general reserve and fund equal to the net liabilities on policies in force at the time of an actuarial valuation;* *(b) an amount which is equal to 1 percent of gross premium earned or 10 percent of profits (whichever is greater) to a special reserve fund and accommodation until it becomes the amount of the statutory minimum paid-up capital;* *(c) all normal allowable business outgoing.* *(12) A reinsurance company shall be allowed the following deductions from its gross profit to be credited to a general reserve fund –* *(a) an amount not more than 50 percent of the gross profits of the reinsurer for the year where the general reserve fund is less than the initial statutory minimum authorised share capital; or* *(b) an amount not more than 25 percent of the gross profits of the reinsurer for the year, where the fund is equal to or exceeds the initial statutory minimum authorised share capital.* *(13) An insurance company that engages the services of an insurance agent, a loss adjuster and an insurance broker shall include in its annual tax returns, a schedule showing the name and address of that agent, loss adjuster and insurance broker, the date their services were employed and terminated, as applicable, and payments made to each such agent, loss*	*To clarify ambiguity in the numbering and layout of Section 16 following amendments in Finance Act 2019 and Finance Act 2020 by re-enacting the section* *To introduce "other income" in the computation of minimum tax for non-life businesses.* *To correctly implement the minimum tax rebate granted in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation, Tax Equity & Legislative Drafting***

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

	provided that any amount not utilised towards settlement of claims and outgoings shall be added to the total profits of the following year. *(9) An insurance company, in respect of its life insurance business shall be allowed the following deductions from its investment incomes and other incomes-* *(a) an amount which makes a general reserve and fund equal to the net liabilities on policies in force at the time of an actuarial valuation;* *(b) an amount which is equal to 1 percent of gross premium or 10 percent of profits (whichever is greater) to a special reserve fund and accommodation until it becomes the amount of the statutory minimum paid-up capital;* *(c) all normal allowable business outgoing.* *(10) A reinsurance company shall be allowed the following deductions from its gross profit to be credited to a general reserve fund-* *(a) an amount not more than 50 percent of the gross profits of the reinsurer for the year where the general reserve fund is less than the initial statutory minimum authorised share capital; or* *(b) an amount not more than 25 percent of the gross profits of the reinsurer for the year, where the fund is equal to or exceeds the initial statutory minimum authorised share capital.* *(11) An insurance company that engages the services of an insurance agent, a loss adjuster and an insurance broker shall include in its annual tax returns, a schedule showing the name and address of that agent, loss adjuster and insurance broker, the date their services were employed and terminated, as applicable, and payments made to each such agent, loss adjuster and insurance broker for the period covered by the tax returns.* *(12) For the purpose of this section, the tax payable by any insurance company for any year of assessment shall not be less than-* *(a) 0.5% of the gross premium for non-life insurance business,* *(b) 0.5% of the gross income for life insurance business-* *Provided, that the applicable minimum tax under this section shall be reduced to 0.25% for tax returns prepared and filed for any year of assessment falling due on any date between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2021, both days inclusive.* *(13) For the purpose of subsection (12)-* ***"gross premium"** means the total premiums written, received and receivable excluding unearned premium and premiums returned to the insured; and* ***"gross income"** means total income earned by a life insurance business including all investment income(excluding franked investment income), fees, commission and income from other assets but excluding premiums received and claims paid by re-insurers.*	*adjuster and insurance broker for the period covered by the tax returns.* *(14) The provisions on minimum tax in Section 33 of this Act shall apply to insurance business, provided that "gross turnover" shall mean "gross premium and other income", in the case of non-life insurance business and "gross income", in the case of life insurance business.* *(15)For the purpose of subsection (14)-* *"gross premium" means the total premiums written, received and receivable excluding unearned premium and premiums returned to the insured;* *"gross income" means total income earned by a life insurance business including all investment income (excluding franked investment income), fees, commission and income from other assets but excluding premiums received and claims paid by re-insurers; and* *"Other income", for the purposes of non-life insurance businesses shall be taken to refer to all the income of the non- life insurance business other than gross premium (excluding franked investment income).*		
6. Section 18 *Profits of a company from certain dividends*	*(iii)If the company is chargeable to tax under the provisions of the Petroleum Profits Tax Act, out of any profits to which section 60 of that Act applies*	Section 18 of the CITA is amended by deleting paragraph (c) (iii).	*To clarify that dividend paid by companies operating in the petroleum industry will be liable to companies' income tax. This is to align with the changes introduced by Finance Act of 2019.*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation & Legislative Drafting***
7. Section 23 *Profits exempted*	*(1) There shall be exempt from the tax-* *(a) the profits of any company being a statutory or registered friendly society, in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such society.* *(b) the profits of any company being a co-operative society registered under any enactment or law relating to co-operative societies, not being profits from any trade or business carried on by that company other than co-operative activities solely carried out with its members or from any share or other interest possessed by that company in a trade or business in Nigeria carried on by some other persons or authority;* *(c) the profits of any company engaged in ecclesiastical, charitable or educational activities of a public character in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such company;* *(d) the profits of any company formed for the purpose of promoting sporting activities where such profits are wholly expendable for such purpose, subject to such conditions as the Service may prescribe;* *(e) the profits of any company being a trade union registered under the Trade Unions Act in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such trade union;* *(f) dividend distributed by Unit Trust;* *(g) the profits of any company being a body corporate established by or under any Local Government Law or Edict in force in any State in Nigeria;* *(h) the profits of any body corporate being a purchasing authority established by an enactment and empowered to acquire any commodity for export from Nigeria from the purchase and sale (whether for the purposes of export or otherwise) of that commodity;* *(i) the profits of any company or any corporation established by the law of a State for the purpose of fostering the economic development of that State, not being profits derived from any trade or business carried on by that corporation or from any share or other interest possessed by that corporation in a trade or business in Nigeria carried on by some other person or authority;* *(j) any profits of a company other than a Nigerian company which, but for this paragraph, would be*	Section 23 of the CITA is amended by – (a) repealing and re-enacting subsection 1 as follows – *"(1) there shall be exempt from tax -* *(a) the profits of any company being a statutory or registered friendly society, in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such society;* *(b) the profits of any company being a co-operative society registered under any enactment or law relating to co-operative societies, not being profits from any trade or business carried on by that company other than co-operative activities solely carried out with its members or from any share or other interest possessed by that company in a trade or business in Nigeria carried on by some other persons or authority;* *(c) the profits of any company engaged in ecclesiastical, charitable or educational activities of a public character in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such company;* *(d) the profits of any company formed for the purpose of promoting sporting activities where such profits are wholly expendable for such purpose, subject to such conditions as the Service may prescribe;* *(e) the profits of any company being a trade union registered under the Trade Unions Act in so far as such profits are not derived from a trade or business carried on by such trade union;* *(f) dividend distributed by Unit Trust;* *(g) the profits of any company being a body corporate established by or under any Local Government Law or Edict in force in any State in Nigeria;* *(h) the profits of any body corporate being a purchasing authority established by an enactment and empowered to acquire any commodity for export from Nigeria from the purchase and sale (whether for the purposes of export or otherwise) of that commodity;* *(i) the profits of any company or any corporation established by the law of a State for the purpose of fostering the economic development of that State, not being profits derived from any trade or business carried on by that corporation or from any share or other interest possessed by that corporation in a trade or business in Nigeria*	*To correct numbering error caused by amendments introduced by Finance Acts of 2019 and 2020* *To avoid a situation whereby companies involved in petroleum operations that should otherwise pay CIT are not subject to CIT following the enactment of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021.*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation & Legislative Drafting***

	chargeable to tax by reason solely of their being brought into or received in Nigeria; (k) dividend, interest, rent, or royalty derived by a company from a country outside Nigeria and brought into Nigeria through Government approved channels. For the purpose of this subsection, **"Government approved channels"**, means the Central Bank of Nigeria, any bank or other corporate body appointed by the Minister as authorised dealer under the Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act or any enactment replacing that Act; (l) the interest on deposit accounts of a foreign non-resident company: Provided that the deposits into the account are transfers wholly of foreign currencies to Nigeria on or after I January 1990 through Government approved channels; (m) the interest on foreign currency domiciliary account in Nigeria accruing on or after 1 January 1990; (o) The profits of a small company in a relevant year of assessment: Provided that- (i) such company shall, without prejudice to this exemption, comply with the tax registration and tax return filing stipulations of this Act and be subject to the provisions as regards time of filing, penalties for breach of statutory duties and all other provisions of this Act in all respects during the period which its profits are below the tax paying threshold, or (ii) they are dividends received from small companies in the manufacturing sector in the first five years of their operations; (p) dividend received from investments in wholly export-oriented businesses; (q) the profits of any Nigerian company in respect of goods exported from Nigeria, if the proceeds of such exports are used for the purchase of raw materials, plant equipment and spare parts: Provided that tax shall accrue proportionately on the portion of such proceeds which are not utilised in the manner prescribed. (r) the profits of a company whose supplies are exclusively inputs to the manufacturing of products for export, provided that the exporter shall give a certificate of purchase of the inputs of the exportable goods to the seller of the supplies; (s) the dividend and rental income received by a real estate investment company on behalf of its shareholders provided that- (i) a minimum 75% of dividend and rental income is distributed, and (ii) such distribution is made within 12 months of the end of the financial year in which the dividend or rental income was earned; (t) the compensating payments, which qualify as dividends under section 9(1)(c) of this Act, received by a lender from its approved agent or a borrower in a Regulated Securities Lending Transaction, such payments are deemed to be franked investment income and shall not be subjected to further tax in the hands of the Lender; (u) the compensating payments, which qualify as dividends or interest under section 9(1)(c) of this Act, received by an approved agent from a borrower or lender on behalf of a lender or borrower in a Regulated Lending Transaction; (v) the profit of a company established within an export processing zone or free trade zone: Provided that 100 percent production of such company is for export otherwise tax shall accrue proportionately on the profits of the company. (1A) Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt from deduction at source, the tax which a company making payments is to deduct under sections 78, 79 or 80 of this Act, such that the provisions of sections 78, 79 and 80 of this Act shall apply to a dividend, interest, rent or royalty paid by a company exempted from tax under subsection (1) (a) to (e), (h) to (l), (o), (q), (r) and (t).	carried on by some other person or authority; (j) any profits of a company other than a Nigerian company which, but for this paragraph, would be chargeable to tax by reason solely of their being brought into or received in Nigeria; (k) dividend, interest, rent, or royalty derived by a company from a country outside Nigeria and brought into Nigeria through Government approved channels. For the purpose of this subsection, "Government approved channels", means the Central Bank of Nigeria, any bank or other corporate body appointed by the Minister as authorised dealer under the Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act or any enactment replacing that Act; (l) the interest on deposit accounts of a foreign non-resident company: Provided that the deposits into the account are transfers wholly of foreign currencies to Nigeria on or after I January 1990 through Government approved channels; (m) the interest on foreign currency domiciliary account in Nigeria accruing on or after 1 January, 1990; (n) The profits of a small company in a relevant year of assessment: Provided thatsuch company shall, without prejudice to this exemption, comply with the tax registration and tax return filing stipulations of this Act and be subject to the provisions as regards time of filing, penalties for breach of statutory duties and all other provisions of this Act in all respects during the period which its profits are below the tax paying threshold; (o) Dividends received from small companies in the manufacturing sector in the first five years of their operations; (p) dividend received from investments in wholly export-oriented businesses; (q) The profits of any Nigerian company (other than companies engaged in the Upstream, Midstream or Downstream Petroleum operations) in respect of goods exported from Nigeria, if the proceeds of such exports are used for the purchase of raw materials, plant, equipment and spare parts: Provided that tax shall accrue proportionately on the portion of such proceeds which are not utilised in the manner prescribed. (r) the profits of a company whose supplies are exclusively inputs to the manufacturing of products for export, provided that the exporter shall give a certificate of purchase of the inputs of the exportable goods to the seller of the supplies; (s) the dividend and rental income received by a real estate investment company on behalf of its shareholders provided that- a minimum 75% of dividend and rental income is distributed, and such distribution is made within 12 months of the end of the financial year in which the dividend or rental income was earned. (t) the compensating payments, which qualify as dividends under section 9(1)(c) of this Act, received by a lender from its approved agent or a borrower in a Regulated Securities Lending Transaction, such payments are deemed to be franked investment income and shall not be subjected to further tax in the hands of the Lender; (u) the compensating payments, which qualify as dividends or interest under section 9(1)(c) of this Act, received by an approved agent from a borrower or lender on behalf of a lender or borrower in a Regulated Securities Lending Transaction; (v) the profit of a company established within an export processing zone or free trade zone: Provided that 100 percent production of such company is for export otherwise tax shall accrue proportionately on the profits of the company. (b) Substituting for Section 1(A), a new Section 1(A) - "(1A) Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt from deduction at source, the tax which a company making payments is to deduct under sections 78, 79 or 80 of this Act, such that the provisions of sections 78, 79 and 80 of this Act shall apply to a dividend, interest, rent or royalty paid by a company exempted from tax under subsection (1) (a) to (e), (h) to (l), (n), (p), (q) and (s)."		
8. Section 30 Board's power to assess and charge on turn-over of trade or business	N/A	Section 30 of the CITA is amended by – (a) inserting after sub paragraph 30(b)(ii), a new subparagraph 30(b) (iii) – "30(b)(iii) That company transmits, emits or receives signals, sounds, messages, images or data of any kind by cable, radio, electromagnetic systems or any other electronic or wireless apparatus to Nigeria in respect of any activity, including electronic commerce, application store, high frequency trading, electronic data storage, online adverts, participative network platform, online payments and so on, to the extent that the company has significant economic presence in Nigeria, assess and charge that company for that year of assessment on such fair and reasonable percentage of that part of the turnover attributable to that presence;" (b) Renumbering the paragraphs accordingly	To amend section 30 of the CITA to give the FIRS powers to assess a non-resident company to income tax on a percentage of the profits it earns from providing digital services to Nigerian customers, in line with ongoing reforms to International Taxation policies and best practices	**Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation & Legislative Drafting**

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

9. Section 31 *Total profits from all sources*	*N/A*	Section 31 of the CITA is amended by – (a) Inserting after subsection 1, new Subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5) - "*(2) The deduction to be allowed in accordance with the provisions of the Second Schedule, referred to in subsection (1) of this Section, shall be the amount relating to the qualifying capital expenditure incurred in generating the assessable profits.* *(3) Where the qualifying capital expenditure is in relation to an asset that is only partially utilized in generating the taxable income such qualifying capital expenditure shall be pro-rated and only the portion relating to the taxable income shall be allowable as a deduction.* *Provided that the provisions of this subsection shall apply only where the proportion of non-taxable income constitutes greater than 20% of the total income of the company.* *(4) For the purposes of this Section and the Second Schedule to this Act, the capital allowance for any assessment year in which a company is considered asa small company or a medium company shall be computed in accordance to the provisions of the Second Schedule, and the amount so computed together with any unabsorbed allowances brought forward from previous years shall be deemed to have been made and consumed by such company in each such year of assessment and the residue carried forward into subsequent years.* *(5) The provisions of subsection (2), (3) and (4) of this section shall not apply to a company that enjoys pioneer status under the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act"* *(b)* Renumbering appropriately	*To provide clarity that QCE incurred in generating tax exempt income would not be tax deductible from taxable profit. This is to guard against double dipping.* *To provide a framework for small companies that incurred qualifying capital expenditure to claim capital allowances in the years when they start paying income taxes.* *To clarify that pioneer companies will still be guided by the provisions of the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act with respect to deduction of capital allowances*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation & Legislative Drafting***
10. Section 33 *Payment of minimum tax*	*(2)For the purpose of subsection (1), the minimum tax to be levied and paid shall be 0.5% of gross turnover of the company less franked investment income-* *Provided, that the applicable minimum tax is reduced to 0.25% for tax returns prepared and filed for any year of assessment falling due on any date between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021, both days inclusive.*	Section 33 of the CITA (as amended by Finance Act 2020) is further amended by substituting for Subsection (2), a new Subsection (2) - "*(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the minimum tax to be levied and paid shall be 0.5% of gross turnover of the company less franked investment income -* *Provided, that the applicable minimum tax is reduced to 0.25% for tax returns prepared and filed for any two accounting periods ending on any date between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2021, both days inclusive.* *For the purpose of this subsection, the application of the reduced rate shall be available for only two accounting periods either from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020 or from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, as may be determined by the taxpayer."*	*To clarify the application of the reduced minimum tax rate introduced by Finance Act, 2020 & grant taxpayersrights of election for the application of reduced minimum tax rate. Executive Version provided for "financial years" but NASS' Version changed this to a more expansive "any year of assessment falling due on any date between 1/1/2020 & 31/12/2021". This cannot be reversed as under Nigerian Criminal, Administrative & Constitutional law (see §36[8] of the 1999 CFRN), it is unconstitutional to pass retroactive tax legislation (punishable by criminal law) to reverse vested interests legitimately accruing to taxpayers that complied with the Finance Act, 2020 as passed by NASS.*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
11. Section 39 *Gas utilisation (downstream operations)*	*(1) (a) an initial tax-free period of three years which may, subject to the satisfactory performance of the business, be renewed for an additional period of two year*	Section 39 is amended by - (a) Substituting for paragraph (a) of subsection (1) a new paragraph (a) as follows - "*(1)(a) An initial tax-free period of three years which may, subject to the satisfactory performance of the business, be renewed for an additional period of two years;* *Provided that:* *(i) this incentive is claimable not more than once by the same company.* *(ii) any company formed from reorganisation, restructuring, buy-back or other similar schemes out of a company which has already enjoyed this incentive shall not be entitled to it.* *(iii) this incentive shall not apply to any company that has claimed an incentive for trade or business of gas utilization under any law in Nigeria, including the Petroleum Profits Tax Act or the incentives under the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act."* (b) Delete subsection (3) and renumber the sections accordingly.	*To remove ambiguity and curb aggressive tax planning which results to huge revenue loss.*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation & Legislative Drafting***
12. Section 77 *Time within which tax (including provisional tax) is to be paid*	*(1) [Deleted by 2019 No. 1, s. 18]* *(2) Tax charged by any assessment which is not or has not been the subject of an objection or appeal by the company shall be payable (after the deduction of any amount to be set-off for the purposes of collection under any provision of this Act) at the place stated in the notice of assessment within 30 days after service of such notice upon the company:* *Provided that-* *(a) if such period of two months expires after the 14th day of December within the year of assessment for which the tax has been charged and the aggregate tax to be set-off, and of any tax paid for that year within such period, then payment of any balance of such tax may be made not later than that day;* *(b) where the assessment notice is served on the company within the approved period of payment of provisional tax, the tax shall be paid within two months after the end of the approved period, but if such period of two months expires after the 14th day of December within the year of assessment for which the tax has been charged, then the payment of any balance of such tax may be made not later than that day;* *(c) the Service in its discretion may extend the time within which payment is to be made.* *(3) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of section 74 of this Act, collection of tax in any case where notice of an objection or appeal has been given by the company shall remain in abeyance until such objection or appeal is determined, save that the company shall have paid the provisional tax as provided in subsection (1) of this section or the tax not in dispute, whichever is higher.* *(4) Upon the determination of an objection or appeal, the Service shall serve upon the company a notice of the tax payable as so determined, and that tax shall be payable within one month of the date of service of such notice upon the company:* *Provided that if such period of one month expires after the 14th day of December within the year of assessment for which the tax has*	Section 77 of CITA is amended by repealing and re-enacting the entire section as follows – "*(1) Tax charged by any assessment which is not or has not been the subject of an objection or appeal by the company shall be payable (after the deduction of any amount to be set-off for the purposes of collection under any provision of this Act) at the place stated in the notice of assessment within 30 days after service of such notice upon the company:* *Provided that the Service, in its discretion, may extend the time within which payment is to be made.* *(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3) of section 69 of this Act, collection of tax in any case where notice of an objection or appeal has been given by the company shall remain in abeyance until such objection or appeal is determined, save that the company shall have paid the tax which is not or has not been the subject of an objection or appeal as provided in sub-section (1) of this section.* *(3) Upon the determination of an objection or appeal, the Service shall serve upon the company a notice of the tax payable as so determined, and that tax shall be payable within one month of the date of service of such notice upon the company.* *(4) Every Company shall make payment of tax due on or before the due date of filing, in one lump sum or in instalments:* *Provided that the final instalments must be paid on or before the due date of filing.* *(5) Where a company pays its tax 90 days before the due date as provided under Section 55 of this Act, such company shall be entitled to a bonus of—* *(a) 2% if such company is a medium-sized company; and* *(b) 1% for any other company;* *on the amount of tax paid, which shall be available as a credit against its future taxes.* *(6) Any balance of taxes unpaid as at the due date shall attract interest and penalties as provided in this Act or any other relevant law for failure to pay on the due date.* *(7) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law, income tax payable under sections 52, 53 and 55 of this Act shall be paid to the Service in the currency in which the income giving rise to the tax was derived and paid to the company making the return."*	*To correct numbering error caused by amendments introduced by Finance Act of 2019. To delete provisions relating to provisional tax* *To delete provisions relating to payment of tax (on assessments) on or before the 14th of December of each year. This is to align with the changes introduced by Finance Acts of 2019 and 2020*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***

	been charged and the condition specified in proviso (a) to subsection (2) of this section are satisfied with respect to the amount of the tax charged as so determined, then any balance of the tax payable may be paid not later than that day. (5) Every Company shall make payment of tax due on or before the due date of filing, in one lump sum or in instalments: Provided that, where the taxpayer pays in instalments- (a) the taxpayer shall first write, with evidence of payment of the first instalment, and obtain the approval of the Service to pay in such number of instalments as may be approved by the Service; (b) the final instalment must be paid on or before the due date of filing. (5A) Where a company pays its tax 90 days before the due date as provided under Section 55 of this Act, such company shall be entitled to a bonus of- (a) 2%, if such company is a medium-sized company; and (b) 1% for any other company; on the amount of tax paid, which shall be available as a credit against its future taxes. (5B) Any balance of taxes unpaid as at the due date shall attract interest and penalties as provided in this Act or any other relevant law for failure to pay on the due date in accordance. (6) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law, income tax payable under sections 52, 53 and 55 of this Act shall be paid to the Service in the currency in which the income giving rise to the tax was derived and paid to the company making the return.			
13. Section 78 Deduction of tax from interest, etc.	4. The tax, when paid over to the Service, shall be the final tax due from a non-resident recipient of the payment	Section 78 of the CITA is amended by – (a) Substituting for subsection 4, a new subsection 4 – "(4) The tax, when paid over to the Service, shall be the final tax due from - (a) a non-resident recipient of the payment; and (b) a unit trust recipient of the payment"	To clarify that the WHT deducted from payments to a unit trust shall be the final tax on such income	**Policy Anchor: Tax Equity & Legislative Drafting**
14. Section 81 Deduction of tax at source	(1) Income tax assessable on any company, whether or not an assessment has been made, shall, if the Service so directs, be recoverable from any payments made by any person to such company. (2) Any such direction may apply to any person or class of persons specified in such direction, either with respect to all companies or a company or class of companies, liable to payment of income tax: Provided that in the case of road, bridges, building and power plant construction contract, the rate shall not exceed two and a half percent. (3) Any direction under subsection (1) of this section shall be in writing addressed to the person or be published in the Federal Gazette and shall specify the nature of payments and the rate at which tax is to be deducted. (4) In determining the rate of tax to be applied to any payments made to a company, the Service may take into account- (a) any assessable profits of that company for the year arising from any other source chargeable to income tax under this Act; and (b) any income tax or arrears of tax payable by that company for any of the six preceding years of assessment. (5) Income tax recovered under the provisions of this section by deduction from payments made to a company shall be set off for the purpose of collection against tax charged on such company by an assessment. (6) Every person required under any provisions of this Act to make any deduction from payments made to any company shall account to the Service in such manner as the Service may prescribe for the deduction so made. (7) Any excess payment arising from compliance with sections 60, 61, 62 and 63 of this Act over the assessment under section 25 of this Act shall be refunded by the Service within 90 days of the assessment if duly filed with the option to set off against future taxes. (8) The Minister of Finance on the advice of the Service may make regulations for the carrying out of the provisions of this section. (9) The provisions of this section shall not apply to compensating payments made under a Registered Securities Lending Transaction.	Section 81 of the CITA is amended by repealing and re-enacting the entire section as follows – "1. Income tax assessable on any company, whether or not an assessment has been made, shall, if the Service so directs, be recoverable from any payments made by any person to such company. 2. Any such direction may apply to any person or class of persons specified in such direction, either with respect to all companies or a company or class of companies, liable to payment of income tax Provided that in the case of road, bridges, building and power plant construction contract, the rate shall not exceed two and a half percent. 3. Any direction under subsection (1) of this section shall be in writing addressed to the person or be published in the Federal Gazette and shall specify the nature of payments and the rate at which tax is to be deducted. 4. In determining the rate of tax to be applied to any payments made to a company, the Service may take into account- (a) any assessable profits of that company for the year arising from any other source chargeable to income tax under this Act; and (b) any income tax or arrears of tax payable by that company for any of the six preceding years of assessment 5. Income tax recovered under the provisions of this section by deduction from payments made to a company shall be set off for the purpose of collection against tax charged on such company by an assessment 6. Every person required under any provisions of this Act to make any deduction from payments made to any company shall account to the Service in such manner as the Service may prescribe for the deduction so made 7. Any excess payment arising from compliance with sections 78, 79, 80 and 81 of this Act over the assessment under section 65 of this Act shall be refunded by the Service within ninety days of the assessment if duly filed with the option to set off against future taxes 8. The provisions of this section shall not apply to compensating payments made under a Registered Securities Lending Transaction 9. The Minister of Finance on the advice of the Service may make regulations for the carrying out of the provisions of this section."	To correct numbering error caused by amendments introduced by Finance Act of 2019 To correct a referencing error in subsection (7)	**Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration**
15. Section 105 Interpretation	**"Real Estate Investment Company"** means for the purpose of this Act, a Company duly approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission as a Real Estate Investment Scheme in Nigeria."	Section 105 of the CITA is amended by substituting for the definition of Real Estate Investment Company, a new definition – "Real Estate Investment Company" means for the purpose of this Act, a Company (including a Real Estate Unit Trust) duly approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission as a Real Estate Investment Scheme in Nigeria."	To clarify the applicability of the REIT provisions to REITS set up as unit trusts, pursuant to ongoing reforms by the SEC and the capital markets' consultative group	**Policy Anchor: Tax Equity & Legislative Drafting**
Customs, Excise Tariffs, Etc.(Consolidation) Act ('CETECA')				
		Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act ('FIRSEA')		
16. Section 25 Administration of tax laws	(6) The Service may deploy proprietary technology to automate the tax administration process including tax assessment and information gathering provided it gives 30 days' notice to the taxpayer	Section 25 of the FIRSEA is amended by – (a) Substituting for subsection (4), a new subsection"(4)The Service may deploy proprietary or third party technology to automate the tax administration process including tax assessment and information gathering provided it gives 30 days' notice to the taxpayer" (b) Inserting after subsection (4) a new subsection (5) and (6) - "(5) The Service may, upon written request from a taxpayer who has demonstrated good cause, withdraw or grant extension to the notice referred to in subsection (4).	To grant the FIRS powers to sanction taxpayers who refuse to provide the Service access to their IT system for ease of tax administration, in line with the FIRS' ongoing and critical automation reforms. To also grant taxpayers power to request an extension or total withdrawal of the notice to access their IT systems for tax	**Policy Anchor: Tax Administration**

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

		(6) Any person who fails to grant access to the Service after 30 days of receipt of the notice specified in subsection (4) or the extension granted under subsection (5), is liable to an administrative penalty of N50,000 and N25,000 for each day that it fails to grant access." *(c)* Renumbering the Sections appropriately	*administration purposes*	
17. Section 28 *Information to be delivered by bankers*	*(3) Any bank that contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding N500,000 on corporate customers and not exceeding N50,000 in the case of an individual customer.*	Section 28 of the FIRSEA is amended by – (a) Substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection (3) – *"(3) Any bank that contravenes the provisions of this section is liable to a penalty of N2,000,000 for each of the returns or information not provided or incorrect returns or information provided."* (b) Inserting after subsection (3), a new subsection (4) - *"(4) For the purpose of subsection (3), the penalty shall be payable in respect of each quarterly return not filed by the bank."*	*To clarify the penalty for non-filing of returns by a bank* *To clarify that this penalty is with respect to quarterly returns not filed*	***Policy Anchor: Tax Administration***
18. Section 35 *Tax Investigations*	*(4) "Where any investigation under this section reveals the commission of any offence or an attempt to commit an offence , the service shall, pursuant to Section 48 of this Act, undertake the prosecution of the offences"*	Section 35(4) of the FIRSEA is amended by replacing the number "48" after the word "Section" with the number "47" as follows: *"Where any investigation under this section reveals the commission of any offence or an attempt to commit an offence, the service shall, pursuant to Section 47 of this Act, undertake the prosecution of the offences"*	*To correct referencing error in the FIRSEA. The prosecution power of the Service is provided in Section 47 and not 48 erroneously referred to in Section 35(4), then the need to align the investigative power to the prosecution power under the Act.*	***Policy Anchor: Tax Administration***
19. Section 50 *Official secrecy and confidentiality*	*(1) Every person in an official duty or being employed in the administration of this Act shall regard and deal with all documents, information, returns, assessment list and copies of such list relating to the profits or items of profits of any company, as secret and confidential*	Section 50 of the FIRSEA is amended by substituting for Subsection (1), a new Subsection (1) – *"(1) Every person in an official duty or being employed for the administration of this Act or otherwise, that has access to taxpayer information shall regard and deal with such information as secret and confidential"*	*To implement the recommendation provided under the review of Nigeria's Confidentiality and Data Safeguard, as a requirement for the implementation of common reporting standards and CbCR.*	***Policy Anchor: Tax Administration***
20. Section 68 *Precedence over other laws in relation to administration, assessment, collection and accounting for taxes and other revenue due to the Federation*	*(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, the relevant provisions of all existing enactments including, but not limited to, the laws in the First Schedule shall be read with such modifications as to bring them into conformity with the provisions of this Act* *(2) If the provisions of any other law, including the enactments in the First Schedule are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, the provisions of this Act shall prevail and the provisions of that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void*	Section 68 of the FIRSEA is amended by replacing the section with a new section 68 as follows – *"(1) This Act and the laws listed in the First Schedule to this Act shall take precedence over any other laws with regards to the administration, assessment, collection, accounting and enforcement of taxes and levies due to the Federal Government or Federation in Nigeria and if the provisions of any other law, including the enactments in the First Schedule are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, the provisions of this Act shall prevail and the provisions of that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void* *(2)Notwithstanding any other law imposing taxes or levies in Nigeria, the Service shall be the primary agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria responsible for the administration, assessment, collection, accounting and enforcement of taxes and levies due to the Federation and the Federal Government or any of its agencies, except as may be authorised by the Minister responsible for Finance by regulation* *(3) It shall be an offence for any person to carry out or authorise another to carry out the function of administering, assessment, collection, accounting or enforcement of taxes and levies due to the Federation and the Federal Government of Nigeria, except as may be provided under this Act or any of the laws listed in the First Schedule to this Act or as authorised by the Minister responsible for Finance by regulation* *(4) For the purposes of enforcing compliance with the provisions of the relevant tax laws and preventing tax revenue loss, the Service may collaborate with relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies or institutions of the Federal Government* *(5) Any person or agency of the Federal Government that becomes aware of any incidence requiring tax investigation, enforcement or compliance, in the course of the performance of its functions, shall refer same to the Service for necessary action and the Service may in accordance with the provisions of this Act collaborate with such person or agency in carrying out required investigation, enforcement or compliance measures* *(6) Any person who commits an offence under this section or contravenes any of the provisions of the section is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to a fine of [ten million naira] [N10,000,000] or to both such imprisonment and fine"*	*To reinforce the precedence of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act over other laws in respect of administration, assessment, collection and accounting for tax and other revenue and impose a penalty regime for contravention of the relevant provisions.*	***Policy Anchor: Domestic Revenue Generation & Tax Administration***
		Personal Income Tax Act ('PITA')		
21. Section 33 *Personal relief and relief for children, dependants*	*(3) There shall be allowed a deduction of the annual amount of any premium paid by the individual during the year preceding the year of assessment to an insurance company in respect of insurance on his life or the life of his spouse, or of a contract for a deferred annuity on his own life or the life of his spouse.*	Section 33 of the PITA is amended by substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection (3) as follows- *"(3) There shall be allowed a deduction of the annual amount of any premium paid by the individual during the year preceding the year of assessment to an insurance company in respect of insurance on his life or the life of his spouse."*	*To prevent tax abuse and planning inadvertently caused by the amendment of Finance Act 2020*	***Policy Anchor: Domestic Revenue Generation, Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
22. Section 47 *Power to call for returns, books, documents and information*	*(2) For the purpose of paragraphs (a) to (d) of subsection (1) of this section, the time limited by a notice shall not be less than seven days from the date of service of the notice, so however that an officer of the relevant tax authority not below the rank of a Chief Inspector of Taxes may act in any of the cases stipulated in subsection (1) (c) or (d) of this section, without giving any of the required notices set out in this section* *(3) A person engaged in banking in Nigeria who contravenes the provisions of this section is, in respect of each offence, liable on conviction to a fine of ₦500,000 in the case of a body corporate, and a fine of ₦50,000 in the case of an individual.*	Section 47 of the Personal Income Tax (PIT) Act is amended by – (a) substituting for subsection (2), a new subsection (2) *"(2) For the purpose of paragraphs (a) to (d) of subsection (1) of this section, the time limited by a notice shall not be less than seven days from the date of service of the notice, so however that an officer of the relevant tax authority not below the rank of a Senior Manager or Grade Level 14 equivalent may act in any of the cases stipulated in subsection (1) (c) or (d) of this section, without giving any of the required notices set out in this section."* (b) substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection (3) - *"(3) Any bank that contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable to a penalty of N2,000,000 for each of the returns or information not provided or incorrect returns or information provided"*	*To correct the designation of tax officer from "Chief Inspector of Taxes" to "Senior Manager or Grade Level 14 equivalent". This is to align with the current designations in the State Boards of Internal Revenue Services* *To align the penalty for failure of banks to deliver information in the PITA to the FIRS Establishment Act.*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
23. Section 49 *Information to be delivered by Bankers*	*(2) Without prejudice to section 48 of this Act, a person engaged in banking shall prepare a return at the end of each month specifying the names and addresses of new customers of the bank and shall not later than the seventh day of the next following month deliver the return to a tax authority of the area where the bank operates, or where such customer is a company, to the Federal Inland Revenue Service.* *(4) A person engaged in banking in Nigeria who contravenes the provisions of this section is, in respect of each offense, liable on conviction to a fine of N500,000 in the case of a body corporate, and a fine of N50,000 in the case of an individual.*	Section 49 of the PITA is amended as follows - (a) Substituting the words *"a return at the end of each month"* in subsection (2), with the words *"quarterly returns"* (b) Substituting for subsection (4), a new subsection (4) *"(4) Any bank that contravenes the provisions of this section is liable to a penalty of N2,000,000 for each of the returns not provided or incorrect returns provided."* (c) Inserting after subsection (4), a new subsection (5) *"(5) For the purpose of subsection (4), the penalty shall be payable in respect of each quarterly return not filed by the bank."* (d) Renumbering appropriately	*To align the penalty for failure of banks to deliver information in the PITA to the FIRS Establishment Act.*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
24. Section 94 *Offences and Penalties*	*(1) A person guilty of an offence under this Act, or a person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder for which no other penalty is specifically provided, shall be liable on conviction to a fine of ₦5,000 and where the offence is the*	Section 94 of the PITA is amended by substituting for subsection (1), a new subsection (1) as follows– *"(1) A person guilty of an offence under this Act, or a person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Act or any rule or regulation made thereunder for which no other penalty is specifically provided, shall be liable on conviction to a fine of ₦20,000 and where the offence is the failure to furnish a return,*	*To align the penalty regime with current realities*	***Policy Anchor: Tax Administration***

	failure to furnish a return, statement or information or to keep records required, a further sum of one hundred naira for every day during which the failure continues, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for six months, and the liability to such further sum shall commence from the day following the conviction, or from such other day thereafter as the Court may order	*statement or information or to keep records required, a further sum of two thousand naira for every day during which the failure continues, and, in default of payment, to imprisonment for six months, and the liability to such further sum shall commence from the day following the conviction, or from such other day thereafter as the Court may order"*		
		Stamp Duties Act		
25. Section 89 *Electronic money transfer levy*	*(3) The Minister of Finance shall, subject to the approval of the National Assembly, make regulations for the imposition, administration, collection and remittance of the Levy*	Section 89 of the Stamp duties Act is amended by substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection 3 – *"(3) The Minister of Finance shall, subject to the approval of the National Assembly, make regulations for the imposition, administration, collection and remittance of the Levy, including regulations relating to the auditing, accounting, allocation and distribution of arrears of the relevant stamp duties and Electronic Money Transfer Levies collected between 2015 and 2019 fiscal years."*	*To clarify the powers of the Minister of Finance with respect to the administration of the Stamp Duties Levy*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
		Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment, Etc.) Act (TETFEA)		
26. Section 2 *Assessment and collection of tax*	*(2) The tax imposed by this Act shall be due and payable within 60 days after the Service has served notice of the assessment on a company.*	Section 2(2) of the TETFEA is amended by replacing the words "60 days" with "30 days"	*To align with due date of payment pursuant tothe relevant provisions of the CITA and PPTA.*	***Policy Anchor: Tax Administration***
		Value Added Tax Act ('VATA')		
27. Section 10 *Registration by non-resident companies.*	*(1) For the purpose of this Act, a non-resident person that makes a taxable supply of goods or services to Nigeria shall register for tax with the Service and obtain Tax Identification Number (TIN).* *(2) A non-resident person shall include the tax on its invoice for all taxable goods or services.* *(3) The taxable person to whom the supply of taxable goods or services are made in Nigeria or such other person as may be appointed by the Service shall withhold and remit the tax to the Service in the currency of the transaction.* *(4) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1) of this section, a non-resident person that makes a supply of taxable goods or services in Nigeria may appoint a representative, for the purposes of its tax obligations.* *(5) The Service may issue a guideline for the purposes of giving effect to the provisions of this section.*	Section 10 of the VATA is amended by substituting for section 10, a new section 10 - *"(1) For the purposes of this Act, a non-resident person that makes a taxable supply to Nigeria, shall register for tax with the Service and obtain a Tax Identification Number.* *(2) A non-resident person shall include the tax on its invoice for all taxable supplies.* *(3) The taxable person to whom a taxable supply is made in Nigeria, or such other person as may be appointed by the Service shall withhold or collect the tax, as the case may be, and remit same to the Service.* *(4) Where a person appointed pursuant to subsection(3) of this section has made a taxable supply to a taxable person in Nigeria, the taxable person shall not have the obligation to withhold the tax, except where the person so appointed has failed to collect the tax.* *(5) A non-resident person that makes a taxable supply to Nigeria may appoint a representative to help in compliance with its tax obligations.* *(6) The Service may issue a guideline for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this section, including the form, time and procedure for filing returns and payment by non-resident suppliers appointed by the Service pursuant to subsection (3) of this Section."*	*To reduce ambiguities and restrict VAT obligations to mostly Digital NRCs (who supply services to individuals that cannot self-account for the VAT). It will also reduce compliance burden on other non-resident persons (such as foreign suppliers of goods and TPMC services) who do not need to register for VAT in Nigeria.*	***Policy Anchor: Domestic Revenue Generation, Tax Administration & International Taxation***
28. Section 14 *Collection of tax by taxable person*	*(3) A non-resident company shall include the tax in its invoice and the person to whom the goods or services are supplied in Nigeria shall remit the tax in the currency of the transaction*	Section 14 of the VATA is amended by substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection (3) as follows: *"(3) The Service may appoint any person to withhold or collect the tax, and the person so appointed shall, on or before the 21st day of the following month, remit the tax so withheld or collected to the Service in the currency of the transaction."*	*To clarify that the Service may appoint any person for the purpose of tax collection*	***Policy Anchor: Domestic Revenue Generation, Tax Administration & International Taxation***
29. Section 15 *Taxable person to render returns*	*(2) In determining whether a person meets the threshold in subsection (1), the value of the following taxable supplies shall be excluded-* *(a) a taxable supply of a capital asset of the person; and* *(b) a taxable supply made solely as a consequence of the person selling the whole or a part of its business or permanently ceasing to carry on business:* *Provided that any person that does not fall within the threshold in subsection (1) is exempt from the provisions of section 8(2), 13, 29, 34 and 35 of this Act.*	Section 15 of the VATA is amended by – (a) Replacing the word "13" with "13A" in the proviso to section 15(2) (b) Inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection (3) – *"(3)The exemption provided for in subsection (2) of this section, shall not apply to companies engaged in upstream petroleum operations as described in the Petroleum Industry Act and Petroleum Profits Tax Act"*	*To correct referencing errors introduced by Finance Act of 2019.* *To clarify that companies operating in the oil and gas industry who have not met the 25million naira threshold may still be required to withhold VAT on payments to vendors.*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
		Part II ***Insurance Act***		
30. Section 9 *Requirements as to minimum paid-up share capital*	*(1) No insurer shall carry on insurance business in Nigeria unless the insurer has and maintained, while carrying on that business, a paid-up share capital of the following amounts as the case may require, in the case of-* *(a) life insurance business, not less than N150,000,000;* *(b) general insurance, not less than N200,000.00;* *(c) composite insurance business, not less than N350,000,000; or* *(d) reinsurance business, not less than N350,000,000.00.* *(2) The paid-up share capital stipulated in subsection (1) of this section in the case of existing insurer-* *(a) shall come into force on the expiration of a period of nine months from the date of commencement of this Act; and (b) may be subscribed to by the capitalisation of undistributed profits as approved by the Commission.* *(3) The Commission shall- (a) cancel the registration of any insurer or reinsurer that fails to satisfy the provisions of subsection (1) of this section as it relates to the category of operation of such insurer or reinsurer; and (b) not later than 30 days after expiry of the period specified in subsection (2) of this section publish a list of all insurers and reinsurers that have complied with the provisions of this section.* *(4) The Commission may increase from time to time the amount of minimum paid-up share capital stated in subsection (1).*	Section 9 of the Insurance Act is hereby amended by substituting the term "paid-up share capital" with the term "Capital requirement" wherever it appears.	*To implement recommendations from the National Insurance Commission('NAICOM') by providing a definition for share capital (capital requirement) in determining the minimum share capital for the issuance industry*	***Policy Anchor: Financial Sector Reforms***
31. Section 10 *Share capital to be deposited with the Central Bank*	*1) An insurer intending to commence insurance business in Nigeria after the commencement of this Act shall deposit the equivalent of 50 percent of the paid-up share capital referred to in section 9 of this Act (in this Act referred to as the "Statutory Deposit") with the Central Bank.* *(2) Upon registration as an insurer, 80 percent of the statutory deposit shall be returned with interest not later than 60 days after registration.* *(3) In the case of existing companies an equivalent of 10 per centum of the minimum*	Section 10 (3) of the Insurance Act is hereby amended by substituting the term "paid-up share capital" with the term "Capital Requirement," wherever it appears.	*To implement recommendations from NAICOM and the insurance sector consultative group by providing a definition for share capital (capital requirement) in determining the minimum share capital for the issuance industry*	***Policy Anchor: Financial Sector Reforms***

PROPOSED FINANCE BILL, 2021

	paid-up share capital stipulated in section 9 shall be deposited with the Central Bank. *(4) Any statutory deposit made under subsection (1) of this section shall attract interest at the minimum lending rate by the Central Bank on every 1st January of each year.* *(5) Any withdrawal from the statutory deposit shall be made good within 30 days,* *failure of which shall constitutes a ground for suspension from business and such suspension shall be published in the newspapers.* *(6) Failure to deposit the statutory deposit shall constitute a ground for cancellation of the certificate of registration.*			
32. Section 102 *Interpretation*	*N/A*	Section 102 of the Insurance Act is amended by inserting after the definition of "Board" a definition for Capital Requirement – *"Capital Requirement" as specified in this Act shall –* (a) *in case of existing company consist of –* *the excess of admissible assets over liabilities, less the amount of own shares held by the company; and* *subordinated liabilities subject to approval by the Commission; and* *any other financial instrument as prescribed by the Commission from time to time.* *For the purpose of this section, Admissible Assets are defined as Share Capital, Share Premium, Retained Earnings, Contingency Reserves, and any other admissible assets will be subject to the approval of the Commission.* (b) *in the case of a new company consist of –* *Government Bonds and Treasury Bills;* *Cash and Bank balances; and* *Cash and cash equivalent.*	*To provide a definition for Capital Requirement, as approved by NAICOMand the insurance consultative forum.*	***Policy Anchor: Financial Sector Reforms***
		Nigerian Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act ('NPTFEA')		
33. Section 4 *Sources of the Trust Fund*	*N/A*	Section 4 of the NPTFEA is amended by Inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection 3 as follows: *"(3)The Federal Inland Revenue Service shall assess, collect, account and enforce the payment of the levy imposed by subsection (1)(b) and the provisions of the Companies Income Tax Act Cap. C21 LFN 2004 (as amended) and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act 2007 shall apply to the administration, assessment, collection, accounting, returns and enforcement of the levy".*	*To provide a framework for the administration of the fund*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***
		National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act ('NASENI Act')		
34. Section 20 *Fund of the Agency*	*1) The Agency shall establish a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure* *incurred by the Agency for the purposes of this Act.* *(2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund-* *(a) 1 per cent of the Federation Account in the first instance, to be increased to 3 per cent by the year 2000;* *(b) levy on income or turn-over of commercial companies and firms with turn-over of N4 million and above, which shall be-* *at the rate of 1/4 per cent in the first instance;* *collected by the Federal Board of Inland Revenue or by any other suitable means as may be specified by the Agency; and* *credited to the account of the Agency;* *(c) contributions from the organised private sector;* *(d) foreign aid and assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies;* *(e) fees charged for services rendered by the Agency;* *(f) all sums accruing to the Agency by way of gifts, endowments, bequest or other voluntary contributions by persons and organisations.*	Section 20(2)of the NASENI Act is amended as follows: (1) substituting for subsection 2(a), a new subsection 2(a): *"1 per cent of the Federation Account in the first instance."* (2) *By deleting subparagraph "(b)"*	*To align with the current reality and make the NASENI Act implementable.*	***Policy Anchor: Revenue Generation***
		Finance (Control and Management) Act		
35. Section 3 *Legislative Control and Management of the Public Finance*	*N/A*	Section 3 of the Finance (Control and Management) Act is amended – (a) by numbering the existing paragraph as subsection (1) (b) by including a new subsection (2) and (3) as follows- *"(2)In the discharge of their powers to collect taxes, levies, fees and all other revenue accruable to the Federation, all Ministries, Departments, Agencies and other institutions of the Federal Government shall comply with Sections 59, 80 and 81 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the effect that all revenues or other moneys raised or received by the Federation (not being revenues or other moneys payable under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a Statutory Transfer or other such payment that is not required by any law to be payable into any fund before being first paid into the into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and then subsequently transferred into that other fund or account) shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.* *(3)No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation or any other public fund except to meet expenditure that is charged upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund or other public fund by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or where the issue of those moneys has been authorized by an Appropriation Act, Supplementary Appropriation Act or an Act passed in pursuance of section 81 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or authorised by any other Act of the National Assembly"*	*To reinforce constitutional provisions relating to management of public finances and the collection and accounting for revenue due to the Federation*	***Policy Anchor: Public Financial Management Reforms***
36. Section 4 *Minister's instructions to be complied with and powers to inspect etc.*	*(1) Every person concerned in or responsible for the collection, receipt, custody, issue or payment of public moneys, stores, stamps, investments, securities, or negotiable instruments, whether the property of Government or on deposit with or entrusted to Government or any public officer in his official capacity either alone or jointly with any public officer or any other person, shall obey all instructions that may, from time to time, be issued by the Minister or by direction of the Minister in respect to the custody and handling of the same and accounting therefore*	Section 4 of the Finance (Control and Management) Act is amended by – *(a)* substituting for the existing subsection (1), a new subsection (1) *"(1)Every Ministry, Department, Agency, official or other persons concerned in or responsible for the collection, receipt, custody, issue or payment of public moneys, stores, stamps, investments, securities, or negotiable instruments, whether the property of Government or on deposit with or entrusted to Government or any public officer in his official capacity either alone or jointly with any public officer or any other person, shall comply with all rules, regulations, guidelines and other instructions that may, from time to time, be issued by or under the direction of the Minister responsible for Finance in respect to the custody and handling of the same and accounting therefore"* (b) inserting new subsections (2) and (3) as follows - *"(2) All taxes, levies, revenues or other moneys raised or received by the Federation, the Federal Government of Nigeria or any agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria shall be paid in gross into the Federation Account, the Consolidated Revenue Fund or relevant Special Purpose Account as provided by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria or the enabling Act of the National Assembly as the case may be;* *(3) Any person, who being an officer of any Federal Ministry, Department or Agency or institution of Government to which this Section refers to, who fails to pay or authorise the payment of any part of any taxes, levies and other revenues collected on behalf of the Federation, Federal Government of Nigeria or any Ministry, Department, Agency or institution of the Federal Government of Nigeria to any person before the balance is paid into the Federation Account or the Consolidated Revenue Fund, as the case may be, except as authorised by the National Assembly or Minister responsible for Finance, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to a fine of [five million naira] [N5,000,000] or to both such imprisonment and fine"* (c) renumbering the sections accordingly		***Policy Anchor: Public Financial Management Reforms***
		Fiscal Responsibility Act		
37. Section 41 *Framework for debt management.*	*(1) The framework for debt management during the financial year shall be based on the following rules* *(a) Government at all tiers shall only borrow for capital expenditure and human development, provided that, such borrowing shall be on concessional terms with low interest rate and with a reasonably long amortization period subject to the approval of the appropriate legislative body where necessary; and-* *(c) Government shall ensure that the level of public debt as a proportion of national income is held at a sustainable level as prescribed by the National Assembly from time to time on the advice of the Minister*	Section 41 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act is amended by substituting for subsection 1, a new subsection 1 – *"(1) The framework for debt management during the financial year shall be based on the following rules:* *Government at all tiers shall only borrow for capital expenditure, human development and to undertake critical reforms of significant national impact, provided that, such borrowing shall be on concessional terms or at relatively low interest rates and with a reasonably long amortization period subject to the approval of the appropriate legislative body where necessary; and* *Government shall ensure that the level of public debt as a proportion of national income is held at a sustainable level as prescribed by the National Assembly from time to time on the advice of the Minister"*	*To clarify the objectives of government borrowing.*	***Policy Anchor: Public Financial Management Reforms***
		Part III ***General***		
38. Citation & Commencement Date		(1) This Bill may be cited as the Finance Bill, 2021 (2) The provisions of this Finance Bill, 2021 shall take effect from [Day] [Month] [Year] or such other date that shall be indicated by the National Assembly by law [or by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by assent or order].	*To clarify that [Day] [Month] [Year] is the commencement date of this Bill*	***Policy Anchor: Legislative Drafting & Tax Administration***

MARKET PLACE

with Omolabake Fasogbon... 08155131874



L-R: Director, Beauty Therapy Institute (BTI) Dr Eyitope Ibare Jones; former Big Brother Naija housemate, Bisola Aiyeola; MD/Principal of BTI, Dr Ifeoma Abajue; Founder, The Nail Bar,Ameera Abraham and Founder, Beauty in Lagos, Ezinne Alfa during Beauty Needs Education seminar/ BTI graduation ceremony in Lagos....recently



L-R: The newly Inaugurated Members of Institute of Leadership Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance (INSLEC), Mr. Tijani Abdulsanni; Prof. Iyabode Adekemi Kehinde; President/Chairman of Council, INSLEC, Prof. Gabriel Ngozi Emecheta; and Olorogun O'tega Emerhor, at the inauguration in Lagos....recently

Unilever, Lafarge Donate 80-bed Isolation Centre to Ogun

The Ogun State Government has taken delivery of 80-bed isolation centre donated by Unilever Nigeria Plc and Lafarge Africa Plc. The donation was part the donors' effort to strengthen the fight against COVID-19 in Ogun State.

Commissioning the centre recently, Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun commended the companies for their doggedness and renewed fight against COVID-19.

Abiodun who was represented by his deputy, Engr. Noimot Salako-Oyedele promised that the centre would be manned by qualified health personnel, expressing that the gesture would nip the spread of COVID-19 in the bud in the state.

Also commenting, Ogun State Commissioner for Health, Dr Tomi Coker expressed delight at the intervention. He said, "Through our strategic engagements, we were able to collaborate to deliver this facility for managing cases of COVID-19 and other possible health outbreak in the state. We appreciate the two companies for this gesture."

Managing Director of Unilever West Africa, Mr Carl Cruz stated that the collaboration between Unilever and Lafarge was part of the company's vision and commitment to sustainable living.

He said, "A huge part of our operations is domiciled in Ogun State. Through the years, we continue to have a close relationship with the governor, the government and citizens of the state. As the state with one of the largest congregations of industries in Nigeria, we have enjoyed support from the state. It is not surprising that we are here today to further push the boundaries of providing state -of -the art health care facility to support the government and its people, in their drive to achieve a novel healthcare system to combat COVID and other health challenges".

Describing the centre, he said," This isolation centre is a purpose-built medical facility equipped with an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). It has an in-house facility for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Testing, an ambulance response, a Computed Tomography (CT) scan facility, operating theatre, mobile x-ray machines and multi-parameter patient monitoring equipment, amongst other facilities."

On his part, Managing Director and Country Chief Executive Officer at Lafarge Africa, Khaled El Dokani reaffirmed the firm's commitment to building sustainable cities, as well as supporting initiatives that would promote good health and well-being.

"As a firm that is committed to building progress for people and the planet, Lafarge resolutely stands side by side with the government and the people of Ogun state in combating the spread of coronavirus and relieving its impact on people.

CITN Reaffirms Support to Tax Development

The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, CITN has hailed Federal government's decisions regarding fiscal policies and tax administration in the course of the year.

Specifically, President of the institute, Adesina Adedayo applauded the deliberate move of federal government on the introduction of TaxPromax solution, Finance Act 2021 as well as the Petroleum Industry Act.

Reiterating the institute's support for these measures, Adedayo expressed readiness of the institute to always offer professional thoughts and insights that would engender efficient and effective tax system.

The CITN boss who was speaking at the institute's Annual Dinner and Award ceremony, also lauded stakeholders' input towards the development of taxation profession in the country.

According to him, inspite of economic downturn occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation rate and dwindling oil prices in the world market, the institute was able to record appreciable growth in 2021.

He said, "We were able to achieve this feat due to our members' positive responses in the payment of their subscriptions and attendance at all events.

More so, we were able fulfill our agenda of developing the tax profession through the inputs and supports of stakeholders during the course of this year.

"Some of our scorecard in terms of activities in the year included," Development, adoption and commencement of implementation of strategic plan for the Institute, contributions at various levels of authorities on tax and fiscal policy issues as well as promoting discourse geared towards enhancing taxation as a sustainable tool for national development".

Beauty Firm Tasks Graduands on Excellence, Professionalism

A beauty focused training facility, Beauty Therapy Institute (BTI) has called for strict regulation of activities in the beauty industry to enhance professionalism.

It emphasized this during this year's edition of Beauty Needs Education (BNE) seminar being put together by BTI and the Institute of Aesthetics.

The BNE is a statewide effort that aimed to increase awareness of client-aesthetician practices within the beauty industry, and develop necessary actions that will prepare practitioners for world-class challenges.

At a panel discussion that featured industry experts, it was agreed that the need to set a high standards and raise expectations in the industry was urgent, adding that operators and regulators have a major role to play in this regard.

In her presentation, Managing Director of Cosmetics Dermatologist and one of the panelists, Dr Sacha Henry expressed worry about lack of finance and support for operators and prospects, which according to her is largely responsible for unprofessional practice in the sector.

She urged private sector intervention to boost performance and growth in the sector.

The event also witnessed the graduation of over 80 students of BTI. Speaking during the graduation session, the Principal of BTI, Dr. Ifeoma Abajue charged the graduands on excellence and professionalism.

She said, "We believe in certification in a proper way after having gone through the right training and excellence performance in examination even to international standards, so our students can be at par with their counterparts globally.

"The more we have qualified and professionals, the less we battle with cases of skin bleaching , skin damage and other acts that are inimical to human health and the industry at large"

Admonishing the graduands, Founder of Genevieve Magazine, Betty Irabor challenge them to keep reinventing and have a growth mindset that beats all kinds of challenges.

CSR-in-Action Emerges Best Performing NGO in Mining and Geoscience

A non-profit organisation, CSR-in-Action has been awarded the 'Best Performing NGO in Mining and Geoscience' at the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences (NIMG) Investiture and Award ceremony.

The Chief Executive of the organisation,,Bekeme Masade-Olowola also won the award for 'Women's Role Model in Mining and Geosciences' in recognition of her contribution to the mining and geoscience industry.

The award ceremony which held in Abuja enjoyed the presence of industry leaders and policymakers including the Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Olamilekan Adegbite.

In his address, the keynote speaker and Professor of Geology at the University of Ibadan, Olugbenga Akindeji Okunola charged stakeholders and professionals in the industry to up their game towards reducing poverty and opening doors of employment for skilled youths.

In his lecture, themed 'Peace and Security: A Catalyst to Mineral Exploration and Investment in Nigeria', Okunola bemoaned poor performance in the sector adding that the contribution of the sector to the economy had followed a retrogressive pace.

He said, "The industry currently accounts for about 0.33% of national employment, 0.02% of exports, and about N400B of Nigeria's GDP (around 0.3%), a significant decline from the early 1980s. This is relatively low, given the comparative contribution of minerals and mining to the economies of other African countries.

Five Cowries Fetes Local Community at 'Falomo Festival'

Nigeria's social enterprise, Five Cowries Art Education Initiative has restated its commitment to art education at the occasion of 'Falomo Festival' that held in Lagos.

The event took place at Falomo under bridge, where community members, including children and youths, were engaged in arts and sports.

Falomo under bridge is a public space regenerated by a team of creatives including the founder of Five Cowries Art Education Initiative, Polly Alakija.

The bridge, which houses Alakija's famous #BringBackOurGirls mural, has since its creation in 2017 become a space for many outdoor events including five-aside football and other creative events.

At the event, young creatives were guided by a team of mentors in the arts as they co-created work that was later performed at the live event.

Children were also engaged in creating art and musical instruments with recycled materials including plastic bottles.

The festival also presented an opportunity for the organisation to showcase the modus operandi of its new arm, Five Cowries Foundation.

According to Alakija, the foundation will harness the productive talent and opportunities that abound in Nigeria and Africa at large.

She said, "The presence of mentors such as Ade Bantu, Toni Kan, Ojoma Ochai and Maurice Chapot–to name a few provides an example of ways to empower the youth by creating opportunities and networks that can serve as launchpads for their careers".

Firm Tasks Tech Professionals on Leadership Skills

Tech training and development centre, Bincom Dev Center has charged IT professionals to build their leadership skills to aid career development.

Co-founder and CEO of Payflexi, Stanley Ojadovw gave the advice at the December edition of Bincom Dev Center's career session that held in Lagos, recently.

The session which holds monthly aimed to educate young professionals who are finding their feet in the tech industry.

The session was graced by tech industry leaders, career coaches, and mentors who enlightened participants on the appropriate paths to achieve career success.

Speaking on the theme of the session, 'Choosing a Tech Career Based on Personal Strengths', Ojadovw urged the budding professionals to pursue their goals and seek solutions to any puzzle that comes their way.

He explained further that tech careers are high in demand in present time, thus encouraged the young learners to take advantage of the high demands which come with huge opportunities alongside challenges that spur growth.

On her part, Professional Services Expert, Comfort Odafe encouraged participants at the programme to develop other soft skills like leadership, teamwork, communication, time management, and organisation.

According to her, those skills would come in handy at the later stages of their professional career.

EXPRESSION

'Grouse Against' Incorrect



MEDIAGAFFES
BY
EBERE WABARA
ewabara@yahoo.com, 08055001948

YOU are welcome to our language clinic: "I feel that the ultimate emphasise should be on…." (THISDAY COMMENT, November 30) Beyond Waziri's dismissal: emphasis. No lexical sin is weightier than the other!

DAILY INDEPENDENT of November 29 carried a kindergarten goof: "…the issue of cost and fees are bound to come up." The issue…is (not are) bound to come up!

"Marwa talks tough, takes over NDLEA leadership" (BUSINESSDAY Headline, June 29) Let's not put the cart before the horse: the man took over before talking tough. There is logical sequence in collocation.

"Bayelsa, Adamawa: PDP playing double standards" (DAILY TRUST Inside Politics, November 29) Trust is a burden: double standard.

The next two headline blunders are from DAILY INDEPENDENT of November 29: "MTN trains media practitioners" Nobody practises media—what we have are media professionals.

"Electricity consumers lampoon NUEE over incessant industrial action" Why not actions?

THE GUARDIAN Banner of November 24 embarrassed some of its teeming cerebral readers: "Foundation donates stationeries, bags to Lagos public schools" Stationery/cutlery/bedding/loot/furniture/equipment, et al, are uncountable. Technically, it is called number restriction on nouns.

Henceforth, I will try as hard as possible to be diagnostic in error identification (and correction). I do not want to be dismissed as a surgeon who cures ailments without knowing their names by the Managing Director of The Guardian Newspapers and profound language activist who shares 'grammatical cousinship' with me, Mr. Martins Oloja. By the way, one of my professorial friends pointed out last week that, indeed, some nouns (accountancy profession/highway patrol, etc.) can double as adjectives contrary to my inadvertent assertion last week! Again, there is no infallibility or perfection in information management—we keep striving after excellence without, however, falling below universally acceptable level of communicative quintessence which informs this column.

The only challenge I have is that such didactic comprehensiveness may make this column boring to numerous readers—and even the columnist! It is not for lack of classical scholarship, but a function of style.

"Reneging on the FG-ASUU agreement is palpably reprehensible and an affront on (to) the sensibility of Nigerians."

"Indeed, some gender sensitive (a hyphen, please) critics were to charge him for (with) not maintaining a high profile and sustained enthusiasm and support for their cause."

"We congratulate Archbishop George Carey for (on/upon) holding his own acre of Christendom…."

"According to the source, which is usually infallible, the late Shagari openly endorsed Buhari and enjoined Babangida and his supporters to do same." Get it right: supporters to do the same.

"…the mass exodus of members to other parties should be a source of worry to the leadership of the party." 'Exodus' involves massive movement.

"You better get down on your knees and do what I am doing right now." The end of illusions as we put the expression right: You had better get down on your knees and do what I am doing right now.

"Every detail of our daily life furnish (furnishes) compelling reasons for pessimism."

"NNPP paths way with NDP" This way: parts (not paths) company…

"In fact when it is not a victim of communal clashes, it suffers fallouts of…." 'Fall-out' is uncountable.

'There is the erroneous tendency to blame all the shortcomings in the electoral process at the doorstep of the Independent National Electoral Commission." Get it right: blame on (not at).

"Though recent amendments to the Electoral Act have changed some deadlines with regards to the submission of the lists of candidates…." Either as regards or with regard to

"Four years ago, when the former governor proclaimed his presidential aspirations with palpable bravado and fanfare under (on) the platform of the PDP…."

"The politician's so-called grouse with Obasanjo is not…." This way: grouse about (not with) OBJ.

"As the governor observed during his tour of the troubled spots…." Get it right: trouble spots.

"Arab leaders appeared not to have put their acts together to join the global movement." Iraq: get their act (not acts) together.

"I remember once when he came to Port Harcourt we worked on a case till 5 a.m. in the morning" No! Just end it at 5 a.m.

"…disagreement ensued resulting into shooting to death of one of the 'okada' members by the police." This Life: resulting in.

"It was sometimes (sometime) this year while I was still in Abuja…."

"For a NAFDAC that has in almost two years been performing creditably towards ensuring that food and drugs need of Nigerians are (is) given standard manufacturing preparation…."

"…his predecessors who were on (in) seat for years without actually doing the work for which they were paid."

"Most of the indictments the National Assembly levelled on (at, against) the President…."

"Whose actions or inactions rubs (rub) off negatively almost all the time on the image of the industry?"

"Out of 50 years of Nigeria's independence, the military held the reins of power for a period of 29 years." Standard phrase: reins of government.

"…with Muhammadu Buhari on (in) the saddle as the…."

"Coalition of parties protest election results in Bayelsa" Not yet proximity: coalition of parties protests.

"It is perhaps in this light that the series of consultative meeting…." Get it right: the series of consultative meetings.

"There was no doubt about the involvement of an officer like late Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu." Learning everyday: an officer like the late Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu.

"Of course (a comma) film-makers should also watch them so that the public can be told the videos are not some comical make-belief." My authoritative comment: make-believe.

"The distressing state of the nation cannot give room for any pomp and pageantry." This way: pomp and ceremony/pomp and circumstance or, simply, pomp.

Oromoni: Doyens of Anguish in a Depraved Society



COUNTERPOINT
FEMI AKINTUNDE-JOHNSON
fajalive1@gmail.com
08182223348 - (SMS Only)

In the light of the unspectacular achievement of high-heeled Lekki-Lagos based secondary school, Dowen College - leading to the death of a 12-year boy, Sylvester Oromoni, from complications arising from alleged acts of vicious bullying - the nation's focus has now shifted to loud and fervent interrogation of the quality and character of our family and educational systems.

Though the management of Dowen College and few parents have insisted that Oromoni, a junior secondary school student, met his unfortunate end as a result of injuries sustained in a football game, practically no one believes that tale. As usual, in such devastating occurrences, Nigerians have been rolling out stories of past misdeeds and crass negligence of the same school - unfortunately, these revelations can hardly succour the bereaved family. Yet, we must learn how to end this seemingly endless waste, and effect prompt justice for the anguish of the Oromoni.

On April 3, 2021, this column, kicked off an eight-part series entitled "Great Country, Poor People", and warned about the collapsing blocks of quality nation-building all around us - with special interest on the abysmal parenting pedigree of this age; the colossal devaluation of qualitative and meritorious educational structure; and the perfidies of our politics, civic society, ad nauseum. Let me remind us with some thoughts from our recent past.

We opened thus: "'First thing first', the Family and the Home: This minute unit of the society has been gradually and steadily liberalised and fragmented since the ascendancy of the millennial parenthood. The discipline and firmness that corralled the children of the 50s, 60s and perhaps up to the mid-70s - just before the reckless flush of petrodollars inflamed our appetites and bloated our indulgent stomachs - vanished from our lifestyles. By the 1990s, single parenting was no longer an aberration; the 2000s embraced deviant behaviours - transgenders, same sex marriages and such ordinarily abhorrent lifestyles in years of yore became more acceptable... shattering the landscape for puritans and moralists.

Those vigorous lifestyle paradigm shifts also had influence in thawing the admittedly strong influence of disciplinarian parenting. Children of the latter days were mostly not exposed to corporal punishment, even when they indulged in quasi-criminal activities. Teachers and school owners, concerned about return on investments, held back the rod of correction. Some of the children took cues, and began a reign of terror and bragging conquests. These later graduated into cultism, which in the past decade, has filtered into levels below tertiary education; into thuggery, gang-rape, and assorted acts that question the quality of recent parenting received by our children.

One of our children put this anomaly in a perspective indicating clarity of thought and understanding of the issues. The following extract is culled from the winning essay announced at the 17th Mike Okonkwo Annual Lecture in September, 2016. Fadilah Saliu-Ahmed from Zamani College, Kaduna State stirred reactions from the audience when she said: "The Nigerian child of my generation has grown up seeing corrupt leaders being celebrated. He has learnt that all you need to have to be respected is wealth; no one cares how it was gotten. Hard work and discipline no longer mean much to him."

Fadilah is even more right today. The children of today have missed the bus of trust; the parents are hamstrung by sundry excuses preventing them from leading by examples - majorly telling the children how to do it, instead of showing them how and why we do it. Any chance of fruitful succession is destroyed with some of today's children caught violating their own mothers, and killing their fathers for money-making rituals and such sick morbidities…."

The follow-up on April 10, was titled 'Great Nation, Poor People: Educational Mishaps': "The second element that has led us to this sorry state is the way we have handled our educational system and policies over the past six decades. In the 50s, before we became independent, we read about the great exploits of our sons and daughters who travelled abroad; or stayed at home, with the few institutions available: same results mostly - excellent grades, inspiring stories of out-witting grinding poverty to grab some certificates. Scholarships were fairly common, and they were judiciously and indiscriminately deployed - irrespective of time and zone. When you merited it, you got served. Progress was easy and predictable...

While we were being steam-rolled into all sorts of knee-jerked governance, our educational system suffered all sorts of devastations and dumping down, to accommodate and compensate for political exigencies, and conceited agendas. Suddenly, idiotic appendages like quota system, catchment areas, deregulated cut-off marks in government-owned secondary schools and universities became a lingo. Thus began the unconscionable socio-cultural marginalisations, where brilliant students from the south of Nigeria could score excess of 150 in so-called common entrance examinations into federal "unity" colleges; and yet would have to queue behind abysmally low scores from their mates from the North of the same country. Don't laugh when you hear that marks could be as ridiculously low as fifteen (15)! Yes, even much less in some blighted states.

The vastly ridiculous excuse is that those educationally poor states would be completely left behind if they were subjected to the same stringent cut-off, somewhere between 130 and 150! And lumping students who score consistently above 150 with those struggling to get 10 would somehow make the laggards become smart, and mold them into effective and efficient manpower for the development of their beloved states? The answer is staring at us all over the northern states now…

Same is sadly true about the qualification limit for admissions into higher institutions in Nigeria. Though several tertiary institutions claimed four or five credits in one sitting as the least for admission, who would bet his life that more than few have not strolled in with fewer than that number of credit limit? Institutions that are created in pursuit of excellence have allowed a system of deferred corruption to dilute their mainframe by accepting applicants who have fewer credits, and lower marks in JAMB and post-JAMB exams, to come through the cracks, when more excellent students have had to be turned back because they were not born in the correct states, away from a particular university. It's shamelessly called "catchment areas". So, some, by sheer force of their all-round brilliance, have forced their way in, while few others would simply adopt the "catchment" states as their homesteads, with their active and wily parents providing the financial and logistical endowments to make the miracle happen. And you expect that child, threatened by a stupid long-held policy, to project love and patriotism in the face of colossal indifference and red-tapeism?

Yet, we have not mentioned the seeming uncoordinated wilful demonisation of public schools by both the state and federal governments. Perhaps it is not deliberate, but the reality is that there have been periodic and relentless policies of denial, demolition, dislocation and de-marketing of the power and presence of public schools, on the altar of the economic and pivotal benefits of private schools. Mostly ill-equipped and overwhelmed by the huge number of private kindergarten, nursery, primary, junior and senior secondary schools in many states, the regulators have simply abandoned any pretensions of curriculum reviews, teaching capacity verification, structural adjudication, and moral monitoring…." A sob!

AUTO WORLD

Bennett Oghifo
07052343083 Email:bennett.oghifo@thisdaylive.com



R-L: Group General Manager, Marketing and Corporate Communications, Coscharis Group, Abiona Babarinde; and Assistant General Manager, BMW Sales, Coscharis Motors, Joseph Omokhapue, during the recent launch of the All-new BMW 3 series at Victoria Island, Lagos… recently

Coscharis Motors Performs Media Launch of the New BMW 3 Series

Coscharis Motors, the authorised representative of BMW vehicles in Nigeria, recently presented the all-new BMW 3 series to the media.

The Group General Manager, Marketing and Corporate Communications, Coscharis Group, Abiona Babarinde said, "We are proud to say that the new BMW 3 series is a market leader in its segment, especially given the new configurations and updates included in this current model.

"Barely on the road the BMW 3 Series Sedan, is already leaving everything behind it, including conventions and expectations. As an ultimate sports sedan, its pioneering design language stands for the dawning of a new era in its segments. With a simple "Hey BMW" the all-new BMW 3 Series recognises your voice and heeds your every word."

This model, according to Babarinde, "marks the seventh generation of the 3 series and also marks the start of a new chapter in the BMW design language: clear shapes and poetic surfaces enrich the "innate" dynamics with a modern presence. What's more, the all-new BMW 3 Series Sedan boldly rethinks familiar design topics."

Speaking on market positioning, he said, "The BMW 3 Series has always been a market leader in its segment. "Through the new design language, the sports saloon is connecting the successful history with the future. An appearance that meets the wish for sheer driving pleasure with every detail. Our target is to position The 3 for corporate and retails sales directed at young hard working executives in their late 20s and mid-40s."

Connectivity in the all-new BMW 3 Series Sedan

Thanks to new connectivity technologies, you can now communicate with your BMW 3 Series. Together with the technology package BMW ConnectedDrive, services such as Connected Music or Remote Software Upgrade, you always remain linked with your BMW and the world.

Comfort in the all-new BMW 3 Series Sedan.

In matters of comfort, too, the BMW 3 Series appears even more generously proportioned and practical. Be it access to the vehicle via smartphone, acoustic glazing or the intelligent through-loading system – every detail makes life easier and offers a high level of ride comfort.

He emphasised that "at the core of the new BMW 3 Series is the availability of 4 years /200,000 km Repair Inclusive and 3 Years/40,000km Service inclusive packages, whichever comes first.

"This means that our customers can relax with the knowledge that all agreed service/ repair work and the required original BMW parts are already covered by the selected package."

TIPS OF THE WEEK

8 Important Car Maintenance Services

Any driver knows that one of the most important parts of road safety is maintaining your vehicle. For teenage and first-time drivers, the importance of this maintenance may not be as clear. When all you want to do is get out on the open road and experience freedom like you've never had before, usually the last thing on your mind is making sure your tires are in good condition and your oil is keeping your engine safe.

To that end, our auto care experts have a few valuable tips that can help teens and first-time drivers keep this freedom by taking better care of their car. Originally published in 2014, and updated in 2019 to meet changing industry and manufacturer standards, our experts share some valuable maintenance pointers that every young and first-time driver should learn, as it can not only keep their car running, but will keep them much safer while out on the road.

Check & Replace Your Wiper Blades

When the rain or snow starts falling, you need to be able to see. You need wiper blades that are in good condition. Blades are simply made of rubber and will wear out over time and exposure to the elements. Old wiper blades will leave streaks that are difficult to see through and can even scratch your windshield. It's a good idea to test your blades every month or so using a brief spritz of your washer fluid. Expect to have to replace your blades at least once a year, possibly twice, depending on how much you use them. You should also take the time to learn how to change your wiper blades. It's a simple task you can do without any tools.

Change Your Oil Regularly

Every engine needs regular oil changes. The oil is responsible for keeping the different components of your engine moving cohesively with minimal friction. Over time, oil gets dirty and needs to be changed to keep your engine healthy. Consult your vehicle's owner's manual to find out how often your manufacturer suggests servicing your oil. Most modern cars suggest oil changes between every 3,000 to 5,000 miles, but some engines can go for 7,000 miles or more between changes.

Rotate Your Tires & Check Air Pressure

Your tires are perhaps the single most important factor in how your vehicle drives down the road. Your tires keep your vehicle connected to the road, allowing you to turn, accelerate, and brake safely. Worn-out tires risk blowing out, don't handle as they normally would, and even present an increased risk in bad weather. It's a good idea to rotate your tires every time you change your oil.

(Source: Christian Brothers Automotive)



L-R: Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dr. Boboye Oyeyemi, presenting the award plaque to Managing Director of Massilia Motors, Mr. Patrice Porte, while the Deputy Managing Director of Massilia Motors, Mr. Kunle Jaiyesimi (second right) and Chairman of NAJA, Mr. Mike Ochonma look on

Massilia Motors Wins Innovative Company Of The Year Award

The Nigeria Auto Journalists Association (NAJA), the umbrella association of all automotive journalists in Nigeria, has named leading auto distributing company and sole distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Nigeria, Massilia Motors, as the Most Innovative Auto Company of the Year.

Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Dr. Boboye Oyeyemi, presented the award plaque on behalf of NAJA, to Massilia Motors, at the 2021 NAJA Awards held at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, recently.

Mr. Patrice Porte, Managing Director of Massilia Motors, who personally accepted the award, says Massilia Motors is delighted to be so honoured and will continue to provide quality automobiles and satisfactory after-sales services, with focus on customer satisfaction.

The Managing Director who recently assumed that position, said "I have joined a dynamic team in Nigeria that is committed to the success of the company in providing effective mobility solutions to customers across the country."



L-R: CEO of Austrian Technologies Nig. Ltd, Johann Rieger; FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello; and Permanent Secretary, FCTA, Mr Olusade Adesola, during the inspection of the eco-friendly mass transit bus, ECO-Green bus, the company is proposing to deploy on FCT roads

FCT Embrace Gas Powered Vehicles

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, has given an assurance that the FCT Administration is looking forward to embrace cleaner means of transportation in the Territory.

He gave this assurance in Abuja shortly after inspecting the mass transit "Eco Green bus" being proposed for use in the FCT by a natural gas powered vehicle manufacturer, Austrian Technologies Nigeria Limited.

According to the Minister, Abuja was conceptualized to be a green city by at least 40 percent, adding that FCT Administration is committed to the implementation of the pledge made by President Muhammadu Buhari at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow for Nigeria to achieve Net-Zero Carbon emission by 2070.

Bello revealed that Abuja was part of a group of six nations from the northern and southern hemispheres committed to meeting the challenges of climate change and was also admitted as part of a research programme known as "Institute for Future cities" run by a university in the United Kingdom.

The Minister said "Abuja, being a new city, we have a lot of the fundamentals to be able to achieve zero carbon emission and that's why they admitted us and then we are going to work towards seeing how we can eliminate and become carbon emission free before 2070".

AUTO WORLD

Kia Partners Autochek, Offers Flexible Car Loan to Customers

Kia Motors Nigeria has gone into a unique partnership with Autochek that will enable people buy any Kia car of their choice with low equity and up to 60 months repayment period.

In a bid to make new vehicle ownership easy and accessible, the leading auto company in Nigeria, Kia Nigeria has partnered with Autochek to offer customers an auto finance scheme for intending car buyers. Following the launch of a dedicated brand-new cars section on the Autochek website and mobile app, Kia customers can now access digital financing solutions for brand new models with repayment tenures of up to 60 months and the lowest interest rates in the market from financial partners including Ecobank and NCBA with a 0% equity loan product, Access Bank and Stanbic KE with unique financing solutions tailored specially for brand new vehicles with up to 90% financing.

Speaking at the launching of the auto finance acquisition scheme, Olu Tikolo, Vice President, Kia Nigeria said "our core competitive edge in the auto industry is the offering of best-in-class vehicles at an affordable price and we are delighted to partner with Autochek to make owning the Kia range of vehicles easily accessible via their website or mobile applications and equally affordable with flexible payment options".

Autochek Africa's COO, Timi Tope Ologunoye said, "We are excited to partner with financiers and KIA to provide a brand new car loan facility. It is in response to customer feedback to democratize the purchase of brand new cars through great and affordable financing options. It is complemented by Autochek Africa's residual value analysis tool that can guide financial partners on the condition of the vehicle over time.



L-R: COO, Autochek Africa, Timi Tope Ologunoye; Marketing Manager, Kia Nigeria, Olawale Jimoh; SVP, Autochek Africa, Mayokun Fadebiyi; and Vice President, Kia Nigeria, Olu Tikolo, at the launch of the partnership in Kia Showroom, VI, Lagos, yesterday

"This partnership represents another step forward in our strategy to ensure our customers have consistently available, transparent and competitive financing. Kia's vehicles offer modern design and reliability at an affordable cost. And with our special auto finance scheme with Autochek, it's never been easier to take home your very own brand new Kia by only visiting the Autochek platform website or their mobile application." said, Olawale Jimoh, Marketing Manager, Kia Nigeria.

The Autochek auto loan services platform offers a variety of financing options from over 70 banks, with attractive terms that include a 15% interest rate and are repayable for a period of between four and five years. The loans are also processed within 24 hours. Timi added that financing for new cars, like Kia, is part of the company's vision to unlock a new frontier of automotive fintech and cement its position as the most innovative auto loan platform in the region. Whereas customers are assured of a good deal for brand new cars and attractive interest rates, distributors also get pre-approved prospective buyers.

Kia Nigeria has continuously promoted a customer-driven corporate culture by providing the best quality and exceptional service with all values centered on the customers. For over two decades it has embraced every opportunity to exceed customers' expectations with steadfast passion and creative thinking like this partnership with Autochek.

Motoring Journalists Recognise Jet as EV Promoter of The Year

Jet Systems Limited, assemblers of Jet brand of vehicles in Nigeria, on December 1, joined the ivy league of vehicle manufacturers impacting the African environment, when it received from the Nigeria Auto Journalists Association (NAJA) an award for Electric Vehicle (EV) promoter of the year.

This recognition, which comes just a few years of its entry into the Nigeria automotive market, was announced at the prestigious Nigeria Auto Journalists Association (NAJA) Award held at the Eko Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The organisers of the event said that the award was bestowed on Jet Systems Limited for its efforts at building very functional, strong and durable electric vehicles, not just in response to government's policy but as a strategic investment towards building international capacity to contain global warming through less dependence on fossil fuel.

The leadership at Jet Motor company told newsmen at the event that the JET EVs were products of many years of quiet but intensive research, which are already positively impacting the experience of African automobile users.

Sanjay Rupani, JET Motor company's director of sales and marketing added that the firm's other product, the JET Mover, a luxury, durable, yet affordable minibus built specifically for African roads, has also received tremendous reviews by industry watchers and users.

According to Sanjay Rupani, "The JET Mover EV is a combination of the best in design and technology practices from Europe and Asia, tropicalised for Africa. The shock absorbers are stronger than average, ground clearance is higher and tyre sizes are bigger. Generally, our testing has led us to see what is best for the Nigerian and African market and that is what we have built with JET Mover Evs".

Also speaking on the sideline of one of its product presentations, Oluwemimo Joseph, the company's Strategy & Projects head and Chief Financial Officer said: "For now, we are not as focused on profitability as we are on becoming the first truly Nigerian brand delivering on quality and affordability. The JET Mover currently offers more value for money than the closet competition. "Our current EV prototypes can be driven for over 300 kilometres on a single charge."

Recently, Jet Systems Limited struck a partnership with GIG Logistics (GIGL) to supply over 50 JET electric vehicles in 2 years, with GIGL pickup centers in Lagos and Benin serving as charging points. JET Systems also only recently closed a private round of financing from the Canadian-based Africa Development Capital, Greatmand Legend, as well as a number of Asian investors.



L-R: Lecturer at the Department of Mass Communications, Convenant University Ota, Dr Oscar Odiboh, presenting the NAJA Award of 'Electric Vehicle Promoter Of The Year' award to Sanjay Rupani, director of sales and marketing, Jet Systems Limited, assemblers of Jet automobiles in Nigeria, while Mike Ochonma, President, Nigeria Auto Journalists Association ((NAJA) looks on

Festive Seasons Must Haves- Tyres



SAFE DRIVING with

Jonas Agwu
amnipr, mcipr, mprsa, arpa
Assistant Corps Marshal
Zonal Commanding Officer
Federal Road Safety Corps.

In thirteen days, it will be Christmas and as usual motorization will increase. I know I will be busy with my operatives to ensure good road experience for all travelers as well as pray that our all year campaigns will result in improved responsible driving. However, If you intend to travel, I will advise that you take note of my focus this week and the weeks before and after the celebrations as I look forward to seeing you on the other side of 2022 by the mercies of God.

My focus for this week is on tyres because of the vital importance of tyres as well as the yearly worry by the Federal Road Safety Corps on the increasing cases of tyres burst and the need to address this. The FRSC report over the years paints the picture of road traffic crashes that are tyre related. Aside the concern over tyre related crashes, the report reveals that excessive speed which was my focus last week as well as dangerous driving top causative factors behind these avoidable road traffic crashes.

Tyres are among the most important part of the vehicle but unfortunately the least understood. Without the tyres, your vehicle is useless. You need the tyres to start, move and stop the vehicle. So buying tyres is a task you need to undertake very carefully otherwise your safety and that of other could be put in great danger. before you buy any tyre, give serious consideration into the size of the tyre, the age of the tyre and the physical conditions of the tyre. Tyre size: On the side wall of your tyres, you will see figures like 215/75/15r, 195/65/14r and so on. These are designations for your tyre sizes. Check your own tyre to know what is written on it.

The first figure from the left is the width (from side wall to side wall) of the tyre in millimeters; the middle number is what is known as the aspect ratio used to calculate the height of the side wall of the tyre. The last number is the ream diameter. When you go to buy tyres you will mention all of those figure to the tyre seller so that he will give you exactly what you want, there are various sizes of tyres in the market that can fit your type of vehicle but that does not mean that those sizes are good/safe for your vehicle. Every vehicle has tyre sizes specified by the vehicle manufacturer.

If you check the tyre placard by the end of your driver's door, hood or the vehicle's manual, you will see the specification for your vehicles tyre sizes, please stick to these specifications while buying replacement tyre. Don't let the tyre seller give you something else. The manufacturer of your vehicle have taken a lot of factors into consideration before specifying your vehicle tyre sizes. If you change that, your vehicle may not handle well, may be risking a blowout and a crash. Changing to fatter tyres like some people do may look better but not safer.

In most cases, the manufacture provides alternative sizes should you not find the original sizes the vehicle came with. The tyre placard will specify these alternative. However, there are some calculations you can make to get sizes apart from what the manufacturer specified that will give you the same result as the original specification, but you need to know how to do the calculations otherwise stick to the original specification. Determining the age of the tyre: Even more important that the size of the tyre is its age. Unfortunately, most motorists as well as tyre sellers themselves don't know how to check for the tyre age they depends only on visual inspection of the physical conditions.

Some will invite a vulcanizer who will do a press up (or is it press down) on the tyre to certify if it is okay what a wrong and dangerous thing to do. Why the emphasis on the emphasis on age of a tyre? Just as age could disqualify and otherwise promising marriage mate, age will disqualify a tyre even if every other thing seems alright from a visual inspection. Do not be deceived by a tyre's looks every tyre has an effective life span beyond which you will be entering the danger zone. As a general rule, any tyre more than 6 years old should be discarded.

This rule, however, applies to quality tyres with branded known names. Less quality tyres of course, may not last that long. So how do you determine the age of a tyre? On like humans who can hide their ages, every tyre provides information about its age but in a coded form. Look at the side walls of your tyre and check for the letters dot. Look around the dot (to the left or to the right) until you get to either a three digit or four-digit number boldly imprinted on the tyre without any alphabet attached to it. Some tyres though, may not have the letters dot printed on them.

Just look around the side wall you definitely will see a 3 or 4-digit number clearly imprinted on the tyre. The 3 or 4-digit number is the code designating the date of manufacture of the tyre. Since it is a code, you need to decode it to get the age of the tyre. So let's decode it. If it is a 3 digit number, check to see if it has a triangle sign attached to it. A 3 digit number without a triangle means the tyre was manufactured in the 80's, the first two number from the left tells you the week in the year while the last number tells you the year in the 80's. For example, if you have the number 341 (without a triangle) it means 34 weeks of 1981 (34 is the first two numbers from the left indicating the week while 1 is the last number indicating the year in the 80's) if the 3 digit number has a triangle it means the tyre was made in the 90's. So 341 with a triangle means the tyre was made in the 34th week in 1991. If it is a 4 digit number, it means the tyre was made any year from year 2000. For example, a tyre with 2302 means the 23rd week of year 2002. The first two numbers from the left indicating the week while the last two numbers indicating the year. Four digit numbers do not have triangle signs with them.

3 SIMPLE WAYS TO ENJOY YOUR DIGITAL NEWSPAPER

CLICK ON THE ZIGI ICON HERE

OR

SCAN THE QR CODE

OR

CONNECT TO ZIGI ON THIS WHATSAPP NUMBER

+234 903 300 0001

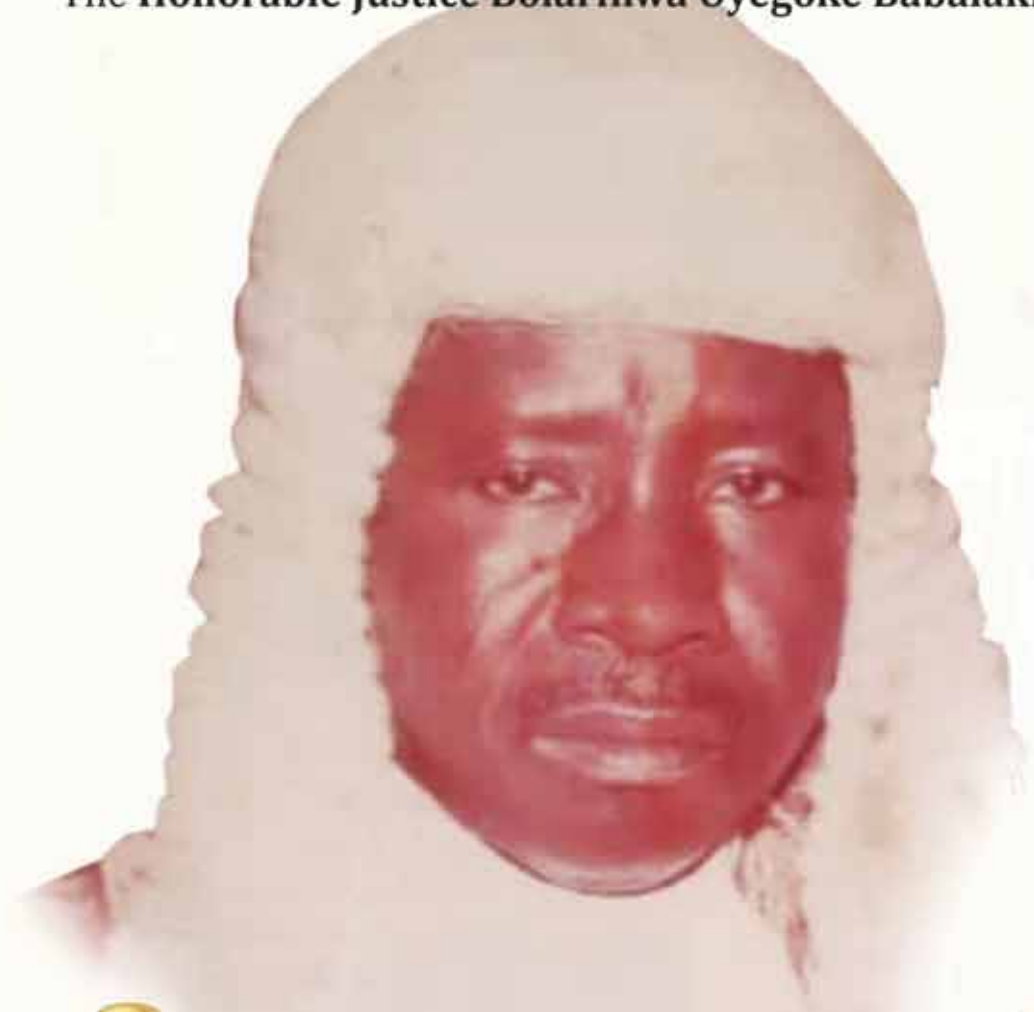


Say Hi to Zigi, from Zigi Daily Freebies download your FREE digital copy of THISDAY from 6.00am Nigerian time daily.

THISDAY | MTN

COMMISERATION

We commiserate with our friend and brother, **Dr BOLANLE OLAWALE BABALAKIN SAN (BOB)** his siblings and the entire **Babalakin** family of Gbongan, Osun State, on the glorious transition of their illustrious Father, grandfather and Patriarch, The **Honorable Justice Bolarinwa Oyegoke Babalakin JSC.**



HON. JUSTICE BOLARINWA OYEGOKE

BABALAKIN JSC

1925-2021 (96 years)

We share in your loss and pray that God will comfort and fortify you particularly at this time. Although Baba has left this plane, he has left behind a legacy of imperishable achievements, integrity and commendable service to his community, his state, his professional society and the nation at large. We shall all remember him for his exemplary leadership, sterling contribution to the development of our jurisprudence, through his sound and witty judgements, particularly on the supreme court bench.

We shall all miss his fatherly love and care. We pray for the sweet repose of his soul and fervently ask that Allah grant him Jannat-ul-Firdaus and the family that he has left behind, the fortitude and comfort to bear the irreplaceable loss

Firdaus prayers and final rites as announced by the family.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF DR. BOLANLE OLAWALE BABALAKIN SAN (BOB)

ABDURAZAQ & KATE ISA
DELE & BOLA BELOGORE
DEMOLA & NIKE FOLARIN
FEMI & NANA OTEDOLA
IBIKUNLE & FUNSO AMOSUN
KAYODE & KEMI ODUKOYA
OLUMIDE & YEMISI OLADAPO



THISDAY

Saturday, December 11, 2021 Price: N250

MISSILE

Sultan on Insecurity

"If I continue talking about the insecurity in the North, we will not leave this room…There is no single day that passes without people being killed in the North, especially in the North West, but we don't hear it"
–The Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar lamenting unending killings in the North.



RIYAH ABDUL
GUEST COLUMNIST



The Journey of A Ghanaian Journalist

I am super excited to be a guest columnist on the globally popular Pendulum column, regularly written by the prose stylist famously known as Chief Dele Momodu, who is easily the most popular and highly revered Nigerian personality in my dear country Ghana. He has always been someone I looked up to. His story inspires me so much, having to share my story here on his page thus means the world to me. Chief is someone that is very much at home in Ghana and known by even "tro tro" drivers (just like danfo drivers in Nigeria). Chief knows Ghana more than the average Ghanaian, having traversed the length and breath of the country. I have it on good authority that he has travelled to all the regions of Ghana. He has been friends with every Ghanaian president since Jerry John Rawlings of blessed memory. It is difficult to find anyone more Pan African than him. He is an avowed Nkrumahist, who inspired his Pan-Africanism. Through his Ovation international magazine, he has succeeded in bringing Ghanaians and Nigerians much closer than ever before. For me, he remains Nigeria's Ambassador plentipotianry.

Whenever I bought an Ovation magazine, I was always fascinated by the lifestyle of Nigerians and wished to not only interact with them but to live amongst them one day. Before I continue, let me say unequivocally that journalism has always been my passion.

From a very young age, I had always wanted my voice to be heard as well as to air my opinions freely. I studied journalism and mass communications in Sikkim manipal University in Ghana. While I was in school

I wondered what it is like to be like the great Dele Momodu who motivated me in ways that he cannot even imagine. I had been very acquainted with the Ovation magazine from a very young age, and truths be told, he contributed to the reason why I decided to pursue a career in journalism. In fact, I can attribute my reason for moving to Nigeria to the way Nigerians and Nigeria were being potrayed in the magazine. Whenever I buy an Ovation magazine till this day, I am always fascinated by the lifestyle of Nigerians and most importantly how it is presented through Ovation magazine.

While I was in school, I already started "the small madam show" because of how smallish I am. The show did so well that every Friday the Dean of the school and my course mates will gather in the hall and wait for me to start the show. That was when I knew I had a future in journalism. "The small madam show" highlighted the everyday challenges of students on campus, and trust me at the end of every semester the show would always scoop an award.

I graduated from school with so much belief in myself, I knew I could conquer the media world, and I said I am small and mighty, Ghana media is not ready for me! It was quite easy for me because I got a job at the first station I went for



Momodu

auditions. I got immediate appointment as a presenter on Metro Tv, my joy knew no bounds I was super excited that the world was ready to hear and see me. Working with Metro tv was life changing for me. I ended up as more than a presenter, Metro tv taught me how to edit, produce, direct and write. I worked there for eight years and trust me, those eight years were years I will never forget, eight years of hard work, dedication, sleepless nights and prayers.

After eight years of hard work, I decided to leave. I knew I had to leave Ghana because I knew was ready to conquer and explore the world. I had served and worked in several capacities in media in Ghana, but now I wanted more, and I was ready to take on new opportunities and diversify. I knew that on my journey to becoming much greater, I needed to go beyond the shores of Ghana. Ghana media had been good to me, but the quest for more conquests became stronger by each passing day. I made one of the best and toughest decisions of my life, I sent in my resignation letter to Metro Tv. Indeed, It came as a surprise to them but as hard as that was, there was this very strong feeling in my guts, and that was how I knew I was on the right path.

Having realized that I needed to leave Ghana, I was saddled with another decision to make – Leave Ghana for where?

After leaving Metro Tv, I stayed home for about two months just thinking, planning and restrategizing, I mean, whatever made me leave Metro Tv, had to be good and worth my while. Now, I had two places in my mind; Nigeria and South Africa. After so much deliberation I decided to pick Nigeria. Nigeria and Ghana are two West African countries that are closely knitted, if twitter people are not arguing on whose Jollof rice is the best, the argument is probably on who has the best artistes (no bias, but having lived in Nigeria for a while, I can bodly say that Ghana Jollof rice tastes way better). On a lighter note, Nigeria and Ghana have such close relationship, and it is also close to home, although, I was worried for a tad bit, following the bad press that comes with Nigeria; Boko Haram insurgency, the killings and kidnappings, bandits here and there to mention a few. All these scared me to my marrows, but considering the Nigerian media space and how rich they are in entertainment, popculture and even music, I decided to move to Nigeria.

Making such a decision required a huge sacrifice, I sold my car, and with the little amount I had, I bought a ticket and flew into the most talked about city, Lagos Nigeria.

There is this statement they make in Nigeria, that if you can survive in Nigeria, you can survive anywhere else in the world. this statement is very true because Lagos is not for the faint hearted, if you're not smart, Lagosians will forcefully teach you how to be.

On getting into Nigeria, everything I saw on Ovation magazine was true, I mean Nigerians are warm and happy people, in fact, some of the early tales I heard about Nigerians were either fictional or hyperbolic. Nigerians are lovely, very accommodating and supportive. They can make lemonades out of lemons, they like to party, they love to dress up like everyday is Christmas; trust me, their fashion sense is out of this world! And I loved it, I made a deliberate effort to attend their parties and shows and I just loved their tradition. The Nigerian food is exceptionally varied, delicious and flamboyant. I could eat Eba everyday of the week with almost any type of soup, please, don't blame me, the food is super delicious. The culture, which is the one thing I would probably never get used to, is the hustle and bustle. It always appear to me like everyone is rushing somewhere or something is chasing them. I believe in working hard and smart. I needed to remind myself of the primary reason I left Ghana to come to Nigeria, so my case would not be of someone who came to Lagos to count bridges. I had crossed too many before I got here.

Now the real life started happening, challenges began. For me, one of the challenges I faced in my heydays in Nigeria was due to the fact that the media is very big and highly populated. The faces in the media are absolutely beautiful and talented, and it would take more than a pretty face to make a mark in the sands of time. I knew I needed to stand up somehow, but `how` that was going to happen was my immediate problem.

I got a job that brought out my remarkabkle side. They were my family; News Central Tv. News Central Tv was tailor-made for me. It is a Pan African Television located in Nigeria that is very inclusive. So whether you are from East Africa or South Africa you are welcome, Ghana or Nigeria, Zimbabwe or Senegal, you are very welcome. I was employed as a broadcaster, and this was where my journey in Nigeria media industry began officially.

Being a presenter in a pan African tv station was quite challenging for me, especially pronouncing Ghanaian names to now pronouncing names of Africans from various parts of Africa. I tried my best as a newscaster for one month till I decided to switch back to lifestyle, because they knew this was my forte. A show was created for me called "E central". This is where I have exclusives with celebrities and entertainers, and then we talk about things happening in the entertainment industry in Africa, it was live every 5pm, the show had me conduct and interact with lots of celebrities in Africa. The show gave me all I needed to push my career as a solo presenter.

I also hosted and covered so many events and red carpets, one of them happened to be the Headies awards 2020. I realized that in the media industry in Nigeria, you have to be very best, and you continually have to keep learning. You cannot say you are a Tv presenter and not try out event hosting. If you want to go far, be a jack of all trades and a master of all.

Having worked in News Central Tv for two years, I decided to push my own production company RA productions. This was a beginning of a new era for me. I started embarking on interviews with various politicians and celebrities. This was the breaking point for me as a journalist. So, I embarked on my first solo interviews with Chief Dele Momodu who later introduced me to Senator Dino Melaye. The Senator talked about his life and political ambition. We spoke about the perception Nigerians have about him. This kicked up my love for interviews. Still on my production, I had an interview with the current minister of Transport, The Right Honorable Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, a very insightful interview as we spoke about the future of Nigerian youths.

Speaking to Chief Dele Momodu was super exciting for me. His story was very captivating, one thing I learnt from him was never stop pushing he opened up on how he started Ovation International in 1996 while he was still in exile. He has been able to maintain Ovation International for over a quarter of a century and has wisely upgraded it to include social media platforms. It is certainly one of Africa's most popular lifestyle journals.

Being in Nigeria has been an eye opener for me. I have learnt that nothing is unachievable or impossible once you put your mind to it. Every dream is valid and you just have to be fearless in chasing that dream. There is nothing impossible under the once you have the idea in mind you can as well execute it, with patience, hard work, the grace of God and persistence.

I look up to so many people in the industry, but one woman who pushes me to be better and do more is Mo Abudu. I love the fact that just like me, she is a go-getter. I look at her, and I am too sure that this small girl from Ghana will go places.

Printed and Published in Lagos by **THISDAY Newspapers Limited. Lagos:** 35 Creek Road, Apapa, Lagos. **Abuja:** Plot 1, Sector Centre B, Jabi Business District, Solomon Lar Way, Jabi North East, Abuja .
All Correspondence to POBox 54749, Ikoyi, Lagos. **EMAIL:** editor@thisdaylive.com, info@thisdaylive.com. **TELEPHONE Lagos:** 0802 2924721-2, 08022924485. **Abuja:** Tel: 08155555292, 08155555929
24/7 ADVERTISING HOT LINES: 0811 181 3085, 0811 181 3086, 0811 181 3087, 0811 181 3088, 0811 181 3089, 0811 181 3090. **ENQUIRIES & BOOKING:** adsbooking@thisdaylive.com