Rugby Federation schedules Athletes' and Technical Representatives Election

FROM THE ARCHIVE

IF WE DO NOT SEPARATE LOOTERS FROM THE HARD WORKING NIGERIANS THE NEXT GENERATION WITH EMBRACE LOOTING AS A CARRIER.

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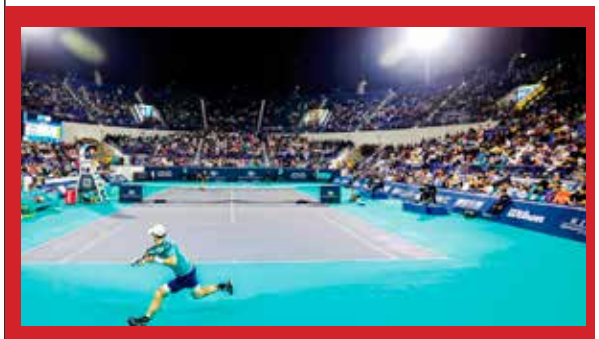
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'Poor purse forced Ajagba to quit IBF world title eliminator'





Honouring A Football Icon- Why Nigeria Should Celebrate Coach Bitrus Yigol Bewarang



Abu Dhabi's rise as a global sports and entertainment hub

NSC Resolves Team Nigeria's Challenges at World Championships

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Ikpeba Blames Super Eagles Players, Defends NFF Over World Cup Qualification Struggles



‘Poor purse forced Ajagba to quit IBF world title eliminator’



Nigeria’s world heavyweight boxing title hope, Efe Ajagba, was forced to decline the chance to battle with Cuba’s Felix Sanchez because he was offered a “poor” purse, The Guardian has learnt.

The IBF had ordered a heavyweight title eliminator between Sanchez and Ajagba with the winner getting the chance to fight for the title held by Oleksandr Usyk.

The fight was to be promoted Sampson Lewkowicz’s Sampson Boxing, but Ajagba was disappointed with his end of the purse split and opted to move on from the opportunity, wrote boxingscene.com via boxinginsider’s Carlos Linares.

There were several delays in getting the purse bid for the fight, which would have represented a rematch to their meeting in October 2021, won by Sanchez via 10-round, unanimous decision.

Following Ajagba’s withdrawal, Sanchez is now waiting for the next steps from the IBF on the title elimination process. As a sanction for withdrawing from the bout, Ajagba, who was the IBF’s number-three contender, has now dropped out of the top 10. Additionally, he will be ineligible to participate in any IBF-sanctioned contest for a minimum of six months.

Meanwhile, another Nigerian heavyweight boxer fighting out of the United States, Kingsley Ibeh, will meet Gerald Washington on September 20 in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, as part of the country’s intention to host more professional boxing and combat sports events, writes boxingscene.com.

Ibeh, promoted by Toro Promotions, is a 31-year-old Nigerian now living in Arizona. The six-foot-four fighter has an athletic background: he is a former Canadian pro football player, and Ike Ibeabuchi is his cousin.

Ibeh, 15-2-1 (13 KOs), lost a split decision in his second pro fight in October 2019, fought to a draw with Guido Vianello in October 2020, and was knocked out in six rounds by a young Jared Anderson in February 2021. Since then, he has gone 10-0, his most recent victory happening in January, when he put away the 17-6-2 Scott Alexander in the first round.

Abu Dhabi’s rise as a global sports and entertainment hub



In less than a generation, Abu Dhabi has evolved from a primarily administrative and commercial centre into a destination with a diversified and internationally recognised profile. This transformation stems from a deliberate, long-term vision that combines economic diversification, large-scale infrastructure investment and the use of sport as a strategic soft power tool.

Across the Gulf, hosting high-profile competitions has become a way to project influence, remain attractive beyond business and strengthen international standing. Abu Dhabi has embraced this by making elite sporting events part of a wider tourism and cultural offer that unites landmark attractions, luxury hospitality and modern infrastructure. The Abu Dhabi Tourism Strategy 2030 reflects this ambition, aiming to draw 7.3 million international visitors annually by the end of the decade, compared to 3.8 million in 2022.

Success will depend on reinforcing the emirate’s status as a host of world-class competitions while expanding hotels, arenas, transport and leisure facilities. In this approach, sport acts as a catalyst for shopping, cultural visits and premium hospitality, turning major events into multi-day experiences that advance both economic growth and geopolitical influence.

Building a diversified sports ecosystem

Few developments illustrate this strategy more clearly than the Yas Marina Circuit, which since 2009 has hosted the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Beyond its status as a season-ending fixture of the world’s most-watched motorsport, the event has become a showcase for Abu Dhabi’s ability to blend elite competition with luxury hospitality and global media attention. Its profile was further amplified by a prominent feature in the recent Formula 1 film starring Brad Pitt, underscoring the circuit’s iconic status and its role in projecting the emirate’s image far beyond the race weekend.

The combination of sporting prestige, international exposure and premium visitor experience has made Yas Marina not only a highlight of the F1 calendar but also a recurring driver of high-value tourism. Similar thinking applies to football, where Abu Dhabi has staged flagship tournaments including the AFC Asian Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup. Its stadiums are regularly used by European clubs such as Chelsea, Leicester City and Manchester City for training camps during the winter break, reinforcing the emirate’s positioning as a warm-weather base for elite teams.

The portfolio extends far beyond these sports. The opening of the Etihad Arena in 2021 provided a modern venue capable of hosting a variety of disciplines, from combat sports to basketball. The arena has become a regular fixture for Ultimate Fighting Championship events, contributing to the growth of mixed martial arts in the region, and has also welcomed the NBA Abu Dhabi Games as part of a multiyear partnership. This collaboration not only brings high-profile matches to local audiences but also embeds grassroots programmes, with youth leagues, training clinics and community events reinforcing basketball’s presence. In 2024, the venue gained further visibility when the USA men’s basketball team used it as a preparation base ahead of the Paris Olympics.

Such diversification serves a strategic purpose: ensuring that Abu Dhabi’s sports calendar extends across seasons, disciplines and audiences. From motorsport to football, basketball and mixed martial arts, each discipline adds to a balanced, year-round offer that mitigates the risks of relying on a single flagship event and broadens the emirate’s reach across different tourism segments.

Tourism infrastructure and economic impact

The scale of Abu Dhabi’s sports ambitions requires matching infrastructure. Under the Vision 2030 Sports blueprint, the goal is to attract five million sports-related visitors annually. To accommodate this growth, hotel capacity is set to expand from 34,000 rooms in 2023 to 52,000 by 2030, with further increases planned into the early 2030s. Upcoming developments such as the Abu Dhabi Sphere, a 20,000-seat entertainment venue inspired by the high-profile Sphere in Las Vegas, are designed to increase the city’s competitiveness for large-scale events and enhance the visitor experience.

The economic implications are significant. In 2024, tourism and culture accounted for 9 per cent of the emirate’s GDP, with projections of 13 per cent for 2025. This expansion is expected to generate between 30,000 and 35,000 jobs in a single year, illustrating how sports tourism and entertainment are not only a matter of image but also of economic substance. By embedding event hosting within a wider diversification strategy, Abu Dhabi ensures that the benefits extend well beyond the competitions themselves, strengthening the hospitality, retail and cultural sectors while laying a durable foundation for long-term growth.



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BEHIND EKHEWAN BARRACK

Ikpeba Blames Super Eagles Players, Defends NFF Over World Cup Qualification Struggles

Former Nigeria international Victor Ikpeba has blamed the Super Eagles players for the country's precarious position in the qualifying rounds of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, while dismissing calls for the resignation of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) executive committee, reports

Speaking on SuperSport's Monday Night Football programme, Ikpeba insisted that critics calling for the resignation of the NFF executive committee "do not understand the efforts" the body has been making to ensure the Super Eagles qualify for the World Cup.

"Our players should take the lion's share of the blame for our shoddy performance so far in the World Cup qualifiers," Ikpeba said.

Also Read: Ikpeba: Super Eagles, Not England Should Have Capped Eze

He added: "They were given everything they needed to deliver qualification without stress, but somehow they have not lived up to expectations. I won't question their commitment, but with the quality of players we have, Nigeria should not be struggling in our group.

"Why are some people calling for the resignation of the NFF? Do they expect committee members to come and play the game on the pitch?"



Ikpeba reiterated that the NFF provided good travel arrangements, quality accommodation and all necessary logistics, insisting the players had no excuse for failing to deliver results.

The "Prince of Monaco" also backed current Super Eagles coach, Eric Chelle, describing him as the right man to restore stability. Ikpeba argued that the team's struggles stemmed from the two coaches who handled Nigeria's opening four qualifiers.

"Chelle is doing a good job and I believe we wouldn't be in this situation if he had started the qualifiers with the Super Eagles," Ikpeba said.

"He will create competition for places in the squad and make use of the talented players we have abroad. He hasn't dismissed any player, but he is creating an environment for healthy competition by giving opportunities to different players to fight for a place."

Ikpeba further identified off-field distractions as a major issue affecting the team, urging the NFF to ensure discipline moving forward.

"The biggest problem of the Super Eagles is the distraction in camp before and after matches. I expect the NFF to tackle that problem. Chelle can still lead Nigeria to the AFCON, irrespective of the outcome of our World Cup bid," Ikpeba concluded.

Honouring A Football Icon- Why Nigeria Should Celebrate Coach Bitrus Yigol Bewarang

How can Nigeria ever forget one of the great architects of its football roots_Bitrus Yigol Bewarang, JP, MON?

His name is etched into the very fabric of the nation's footballing history. Beyond his tactical brilliance and leadership, he represents an era where selfless service, discipline, and vision laid the foundation for many of the successes Nigerian football enjoys today.

If there is anyone who deserves to be first honoured, it is Coach Bewarang. From Plateau State to the global stage, his journey reflects not just football achievements but also a lifetime of sacrifice.

His home state should take the lead in immortalizing him, perhaps by erecting his statue, ensuring generations never forget the man who shaped pathways for players and coaches

Significantly, football is the most followed game in the world, but the true heroes are often those who work behind the scenes*mentors, tacticians, and developers of raw talent

Born on April 4, 1952, in Amper, Kanke LGA, Plateau State, Bewarang's football journey began as a player with Plateau Dynamos, Nigeria Standard FC, and eventually the Green Eagles in 1977.





His playing days naturally transitioned into an illustrious coaching and administrative career that spanned decades

Assistant Coach of the Super Eagles (1992–1994) – where he contributed to Nigeria's AFCON 1994 victory and first-ever World Cup qualification.

Head Coach of Plateau United (1999) leading them to their first-ever FA Cup title.

Head Coach of Nigeria's U-23 team (2000) – qualifying the team for the Sydney Olympics.

Assistant Coach of the Super Eagles (2004) – part of the squad that won AFCON bronze in Tunisia.

National Technical Director, NFF (2016–2020) – overseeing football development at the highest level.

In addition, he worked with top Nigerian clubs including Kano Pillars, Wikki Tourists, Nasarawa United, BCC Lions, and Plateau United, winning multiple State Challenge Cups and lifting teams to national recognition.

His contributions never went unnoticed. Among his many awards are the Nigerian Merit Gold Award for Productivity (2013), the Nelson Mandela Life Achievement Legendary Medallion (2014), and recognition as Best Coach of Northern Teams by SWAN in 2004.

He also served as President of the Football Coaches Association of Nigeria (2013–2016), where he championed the welfare and development of coaches nationwide.

Bitrus Bewarang represents the bridge between Nigeria's footballing past and present. His sacrifices, triumphs, and vision remind us that football is not just about players on the pitch but also about the coaches and administrators who keep the game alive.

To forget him would be to neglect a cornerstone of Nigeria's football foundation.

To honour him properly _with state recognition, national celebration, and visible monuments would be to remind future generations that true legends are not only remembered for victories but for service, integrity, and enduring impact.

Your thoughts...

@Coach Uni Dan Kakwi

NSC Resolves Team Nigeria's Challenges at World Championships

The National Sports Commission (NSC) has successfully resolved challenges faced by the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) at the ongoing 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan.

Led by Chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko and Director General Hon. Bukola Olopade, the NSC ensured timely payment of allowances and bonuses for Nigerian athletes participating in the championships.The Director General Hon. Bukola Olopade held a crucial meeting with the athletes and officials of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) in Tokyo, where he reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to the welfare and well-being of the country's athletes at all times.

The meeting also provided the DG with the opportunity to resolve outstanding issues between the athletes and the AFN, fostering optimism for a stronger and more collaborative relationship going forward.

"The mandate given to us by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, is to prioritize the welfare of every Nigerian representing the nation, and that is why I am here," Olopade stated.

"I understand there have been challenges in the past that led to misunderstandings. This is why Mr. President has revamped sports administration in the country with the establishment of the NSC. Chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko is committed to ensuring that all our athletes are treated with the utmost priority."

Hon. Olopade also urged the athletes to remain patriotic at all times, both in their performance and conduct on and off the track, as they represent how the rest of the world perceives Nigeria.

"I want to encourage you all to remember that you are the mirror through which the world sees our country. Your conduct should always reflect patriotism, even in the face of challenges. We have no other country but Nigeria, and I am proud to say we are the best people in the world despite our challenges. You are all ambassadors of our nation, and you must carry yourselves as such," the DG emphasized.

The 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo has introduced Nigeria's fast-rising star Kayinsola Ajayi to the global audience after his historic appearance in the 100m final – the first for Nigeria in 18 years.

Also, Tobi Amusan won silver in the women's 100m hurdles final with a time of 12.24s, finishing strongly against a tough field of opponents.



Sani Suleiman Tops List Of Five Players To Watch In Nigeria U20 Team For World Cup

As the U20 team of Nigeria get set to take part in the U20 World Cup in Chile, OwnGoalNigeria.com picks five players expected to be the star in the Nigerian team.Nigerian football merchandise

1. Suleiman Sani (AS Trencin) – A controversial exclusion from the Nigeria U20 team two years ago. Now ranked among the best teen prospect in world football alongside the likes of the Barcelona duo of Lamine Yamal and Pau Cubarsi. Blessed with an uncanny ability with both feet. Quick, skillful, strong and creative. He is no doubt the top talent in the Nigerian team.

2. Orseer Achihi (Antwerp) – Signed by the Belgium side in the summer and already tipped for a first team breakthrough this season. He is bless with pace, power and skills that will be needed by the attack of the Nigerian team, which was blunt at the AFCON.

Nigern football merchandiseFootball kits Advertisement



3. Ebenezer Harcourt (Sporting Lagos) – Already a well known name among football enthusiasts in Nigeria. Has a senior team tournament appearance to his name in the game for the B team against Congo at the CHAN tournament. All eyes on him and he knows.Football kitsNigerian football merchandise

4. Ocheche Amos Onyejefu (Reims) – He was very good at the camp in Abuja and immediately warmed his way into the heart of the coaches. The expectation is that he will use the tournament to properly introduce himself not just to Nigerians but the rest of the world.

5. Daniel Daga (Molde) – Returning to the world stage at this level for the second time will no doubt put him in a strong position to stand out. His development over the past two years at Enyimba and now in Norway will be handy for the Nigerian team at key moments.

Rugby Federation schedules Athletes' and Technical Representatives Election



The Nigeria Rugby Football Federation (NRFF), has announced the date for elections into the Board of the Federation for the Athletes' and Technical Representatives.

In a statement signed by the NRFF Secretary, the Federation confirmed that the election will be conducted on Friday, the 19th of September, 2025, at the Media Centre of the MKO Abiola Stadium, Abuja.

The Nigeria Rugby Football Federation had earlier circulated information on the eligibility criteria and nomination forms for interested candidates, in line with recent guidelines issued by the National Sports Commission.

This election marks a significant step for the the Rugby fraternity across the country, as it is expected to be one of the smoothest transitions in recent memory, raising hopes of stability and renewed progress within the federation.

ABOUT NIGERIA RUGBY FOOTBALL FEDERATION

The Nigeria Rugby Football Federation (NRFF) is the governing body for Rugby Union in Nigeria. It is affiliated to the National Sports Commission (NSC), the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), Rugby Africa and World Rugby.

The Federation which was founded some 27 years ago, in 1998, has been reconstituted with the election of democratic boards appointed to run the affairs of Rugby in Nigeria.

PRESIDENT, NIGERIA RUGBY FOOTBALL FEDERATION, Ademola Are

VICE PRESIDENT, NIGERIA RUGBY FOOTBALL FEDERATION, AIG Aliyu Abubakar (Rtd).

Itu LGA Emerges Overall Winner Of Akwa Ibom State Sports Festival 2025

Out of 31 local government areas that competed in the weeklong Akwa Ibom State Sports Festival tagged: Ibom 2025, Itu Local Government Area has emerged the overall winner with 106 medals and clinched N15 million.

Uyo Local Government Area clinched second position with 47 medals and received N10 million, while the third place trophy went to Nsit Attai who won 39 medals and received N5 million.

The state governor, Pastor Umo Eno who announced the cash awards at the closing of the festival on Saturday, also awarded N2 million as consolation prize for each of the remaining local government areas for participating in the sports festa.

To boost the morale of the individual athletes and uplift them economically, the Governor also announced cash rewards of 500,000 for gold, 250,000 for silver, and 150,000 for bronze winners across the 31 local government areas of the state.

He added that athletes who excelled at the just-concluded National Youth Games in Asaba, where Akwa Ibom placed 7th with 11 gold, 9 silver, and 10 bronze medals, would also benefit from the package and receive further training at the State's Sports Academy in Eket.

Governor Eno noted sports as a multi-billion-dollar global industry, adding that it was the reason why it centered prominently as a cardinal point of his administration sports tourism drive under the ARISE Agenda.

"The theme of the Festival – Nurturing Talents, Promoting Tourism – captures our strategic vision to grow beyond oil and position Akwa Ibom as a hub for sports and tourism." He said.

Governor Eno directed the Sports Ministry and the Inter-Ministerial Organizing Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, to begin preparations for next year's edition and also revive inter-house sports and football competitions across secondary schools.

He recalled that legends such as Etim Esin, James Etokebe, and the late Uwem Ekarika emerged from such grassroots contests.

Governor Eno, who stressed that sports have grown into a multi-million-dollar global industry, urged stakeholders in Akwa Ibom to take deliberate steps to identify and promote young talents who can compete favorably with their counterparts worldwide.

"After one week of intense but healthy competition, this sports festival has produced winners at every level. Today, we have proven that Akwa Ibom is ready for a sports renaissance. Congratulations to us all."the Governor said.

It would be recalled that the Akwa Ibom State sports festival was organized by the state government, attracted over 3,600 athletes from the 31 local government areas competed in 18 individual and five team sports, showcasing what the Governor described as "an infectious spirit of unity, brotherhood, sportsmanship, and peace."

It was aimed to uncover hidden sports talents from the grassroots, nurture and groom raw talents capable of competing and excelling on the global stage, besides aiming to boost the tourism sector of the state.



Tobi Amusan Claims Silver Medal in 100m Hurdles at Tokyo 2025 World Athletics Championships



Tobiloba Amusan, Nigeria's track queen, has won silver medal in the women's 100m hurdles at the Tokyo 2025 World Athletics Championships, clocking a brilliant 12.29s in the final.

Amusan powered through the high-pressure final at the National Stadium, finishing just behind Ditaji Kambundji of Switzerland, who struck gold in a new National Record of 12.24s.

The National Sports Commission (NSC) hailed Amusan's remarkable achievement, noting that her consistency and fighting spirit continue to inspire millions.

Hon. Bukola Olopade, Director General of the NSC, stated that "Tobi Amusan has made Nigeria proud once again. Winning silver at the World Championships is no small feat, and doing so with such class shows her world-class ability and resilience.

"She remains a symbol of hope, determination, and excellence for our nation. The entire country stands tall in celebration of her achievement."

The USA's Grace Stark took Bronze in 12.34s, while fellow American Masai Russell came fourth in 12.44s.

Earlier in the day, Amusan booked her place in the final with a commanding semi-final victory, running 12.36s (-0.2) to hold off Nadine Visser of the Netherlands (12.45s) and Pia Skrzyszowska of Poland (12.51s).

Her confident run, which was the fastest in the entire semifinals signaled her intent and set the stage for her medal-winning performance in the final.

SWAN's Forgotten Heroes







Recently, a clamour came up among some officials and elders of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) that their members have never been given due recognition when rewards are given out to people in the country's various victorious teams after they excel at major international competitions.

This line of talk arose from the massive cash largesse that the federal government doled out for the Nigerian female football team (Super Falcons) and women's basketball squad (D'Tigress), after they both won their respective continental championships. While the players, coaches and backroom staff of both squads got warm presidential handshakes laced with dollars, nothing was mentioned for accompanying sports journalists that were in both delegations.

Many members of the Fourth Estate wondered why journalists are not among people who got rewards for a job well done. Not even 'crumbs for dogs' as compensation for our colleagues of the pen trade who toiled to spread reports in print, online, TV and radio across the world about the heroics of our 'girls' in football and basketball.

However, I stoutly use this medium to scold all SWAN leaders in Lagos (The Centre of Excellence) and at the national level for not speaking out loud enough. Indeed, if players, coaches and staff who have other jobs outside the national teams get rewards for bringing glory home to the nation, same should apply to all journalists who covered their path and flight to glory. Yes, SWAN spoke well in content but not in magnitude … they did not shout out loud and long enough! Their clamour was low keyed and too short lived.

As I reflected further on the matter, I began to realise where the main problem in this issue should be tackled. I see it as a case of 'who wears the shoe knows where it pinches,' and I ask: Have we celebrated ourselves before we expect to be celebrated by people who don't feel the same pulse we cringe over? Have we even lifted our trumpet before we look around for someone who will blow it for us?

While ruminating over how to tackle this matter, it came to my realisation that several sports writers have died without getting the massive burial rites they deserve. When ex-internationals die, their funerals are like carnivals – some of which we all saw in recent time across the country. Sadly, only a few individuals turn up to give their last respects to sports writers when they go to great beyond. I weep…

Don't get me wrong, I also count myself among those who should be held accountable for reducing the death of one sports writer or the other to lamentations of a few, instead of loud and long wailing of a whole nation. I blame myself for being among the culprits who have forgotten our past heroes of SWAN.

Among my minuses is that I still cannot remember the name of a colleague who allowed me stay with him in his room when I could not find hotel space any longer while covering the Super Eagles' camp at Sol Beni in Cote d'Ivoire. Sadly, he is now late and, since I couldn't remember his name, should I expect politicians and bureaucrats to remember him?

There are many others too who I know are no longer on Mother Earth, but it hurt me that I could not remember all of their names. So, I thought it wise to contact Afolabi Gambari (aka Afo'O), one of my closest pals in the pen trade and a well-respected guru in SWAN matters. Together, we eventually came up with what I have tagged (see box below) 'SWANS' Late All Stars Squad' – to celebrate some of the men and women who made our profession tick in years past and who I think deserve something like a hall of fame at the National Sports Commission (NSC) and Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC).

I hope Mallam Shehu Dikko, Honourabke Bukola Olopade, Engineer Habu Gumel, and other big shots of Nigerian sports will read this solemn article and take immediate action.

But, as I expect them to take action, I quickly chip in a very cogent question: What is SWAN itself doing about honouring its own? Do we have a hall of fame where late journalists have their photographs and names etched in eternal glory? Do we even have a football competition named after any of our members? Talk less of a statue, stadium, sports hall or road? So sad!

Down the line, I also reasoned that this should not be a lamentation over death alone. Why not note that due reward for sports writers should also include celebrations of life. So, let's also remember our living SWAN heroes. Let's continue to celebrate Alhaji Mumini Alao after his recent book launch. Let's celebrate George Essien (Mighty George) for setting a new mark in Guinness Book of World Records for the longest ever continuous sports broadcast. Let's remember Toyin Ibitoye's wonderful role as Super Eagles' media officer. What about the 'human sports encyclopedia,' Kunle Solaja?

Let's celebrate the velvety voices of Mitchel Obi in Lagos, Mohammed Sulaiman (Mowiz) in Kaduna, China Acheru in Port Harcourt, Emmanuel Etim and Bimbo Adeola in Lagos, Solomon Onu in Owerri, Raymond Akpahuere in Abeokuta, as well as the pens of Jack Moses Ekwe Ekwe in Jos, Lekan Olaseinde in Abuja, Morakinyo Abodunrin in Lagos, as eell as many others who space does not allow me to mention.

What about sports writers who dropped the pen then excelled (some still excelling) as administrators – Paul Bassey, Emeka Inyama, Fan Ndubuoke, George Aluo, Frank Ilaboya, Godwin Enakhena, Colin Udoh, Harry Awurimibe, Hameed Adio, Ademola Olajire, Aisha Falode and others. They all have not been celebrated enough.

O, I remember the days of Lagos SWAN Cup, which Taribo West once helped up to properly propel into public view. Why can't we do it ourselves? O, gone is the glamour, the glitterati, and the glory. Faint memories of excellent football artistry from those who proved that not only can we write, talk and show football, we can also play it. Step out for recognition Mumini Alao, Larry Izamoje, Harry Iwuala, Callistus Ebare, Rasheed Adewuyi, Sammy Etuk, Deji Omotoyinbo, Tunde Oyedele, Desmond Ekwueme, Tony Ubani, Raymond Nwaduba and others. Don't they deserve spots in SWAN'S Hall of fame? Better still…. where is the hall of fame?

NSC Celebrates Ajayi Kayinsola on His 21st Birthday and Historic World Championships Feat



The National Sports Commission (NSC) joins millions of Nigerians in celebrating sprint star, Ajayi Kayinsola, who turned 21 years today, while competing at the Tokyo 2025 World Athletics Championships, as he etched his name in history.

Ajayi became the first Nigerian man in 18 years to qualify for the men's 100m final at the World Championships since Olusoji Fasuba in 2007.

He ran a blistering 9.93 seconds in the semifinal to secure his spot in the final, where he went on to finish sixth with a time of 10.00 seconds on his championship debut.

NSC Director General, Hon. Bukola Olopade, described Ajayi's feat as a proud moment for the nation.

Kayinsola's story is one of courage, determination, and immense talent. To celebrate his 21st birthday while making history at the World Championships is extraordinary. He has given Nigerians a reason to believe again in our sprinting heritage, and we are confident this is only the beginning of greater accomplishments."

Though narrowly missing out on a medal, Ajayi's achievement placed Nigeria back in the global sprinting spotlight and demonstrated the promise of a new generation of athletes rising to carry the nation's flag with pride.

The Commission extends its warmest birthday wishes to Ajayi Kayinsola and looks forward to supporting journey of Nigerians atheletes as they continue to make Nigeria proud on the world stage.

For we to excel in sports, we must re-order our priority..... NIS DG, Shaibu

BY BEN OGBEMUDIA



The director general of the National Institute for Sports, Comrade Philip Shaibu has called on sports administrators in Nigeria to start thinking in the private sector way in order to drive the sporting ecosystem.

The immediate past deputy governor of Edo-state made the declaration in Abuja, at the Forum of Past & Present FCT Sports Association Chairmen seminar tagged 'Sports As A Business Venture' held at the Boardroom of Federal Ministry of Special Duties & Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal Secretariat. Activewear

According to the NIS Boss, "We must think in the private sector way. We must re-order our priority in Sports if we actually want it to be a business venture.

" Our bureaucracy does not allow sports to flourish the way it should be.

" President Tinubu has done a lot for sports by increasing allocation. He has given a lot to sports in terms of budgeting and finances but the bureaucracy has hampered sports development.

"The bureaucracy has to change for sports to grow. We need to change. Our budgeting and sports calendar does not align with each others."

The Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Sports, His Excellency Comrade Philip Shaibu also opines that bureaucracy is killing sports in the country.

''I'm happy we now have a sports commission but it must not just be a change of name from Ministry to Commission , the activities must reflect what it is and everybody within the sports eco-system must think the way private sector think like business men. Activewear

Also speaking at the occasion , the convener of the programme, His Royal Majesty Eze Sir Ifenyi Eke, FCT Basketball chairman, insists that 'the sports sector must be private sector driven to make it work as a business venture.

'The moment private sector comes in the whole eco-system will change. Take a look at the More Arena in Abuja. It is a world class facility driven by private sector. Before several of our football clubs in the past are private clubs but now you won't see them anymore. Government run teams are dominating everywhere and you can see that they are not run professionally'

'Sports must be a priave sector driven. We're taking the bull by the horn.

Papers were presented by Uche Udozor and Dr. Shuri Adelin while the Nigeria Olympic Committee deputy general secretary, Mohammed Abdulahi and board members of FCT sports association were present at the occasion.Activewear

Dr. Armstrong Ogwuche was also live from South Africa by highlighting methodology the nations can employ to make sports as a business venture.

NPFL Mourns Referee Assessor, Enagbare

Otunba Gbenga Elegbeleye, the Chairman of the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), has described the death of Mrs. Rachel Enagbere as a huge loss to the league and entire football community in the country.

Enagbere was in Lagos as the Referees Assessor for the NPFL matchday 4 fixture between Ikorodu City and Barau FC.

She was said to have been rushed to the Havanah hospital in Surulere, where she later died of complications from a yet to be disclosed illness.

"The NPFL family is deeply saddened by the unfortunate and unexpected passing of the former referee who has been working with us as a match referee assessor.

"We extend our sincere condolences to her immediate family and to the Nigeria Referees Association (NRA)," Elegbeleye offered.

He said the league body will liaise with the Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), the Lagos Referees Council, and the NRA towards having the body returned to the family.

SSG, Council boss, celebrates Uyo athletes' 2nd position







The Secretary to Akwa Ibom State Government, Prince Enobong Uwah, and Uyo Council Chairman, Dr. Uwemedimo Udoh were both excited and praised Uyo athletes after they received 2nd place trophy from Gov. Umo Eno on the closing ceremony of Akwa Ibom State Sports Festiva, Saturday evening.

Uyo finished second with 22 golds and a total of 47 medals in the competition. For their efforts, Team Uyo will also smile home with a cash prize of N10 million. Itu as overall winners carted away N15 million with 106 medals while 3rd place trophy went to Nsit Attai who won 39 medals and N5 million.

Uyo Supervisor for Sports Development, Hon. Aniedi Okon was equally delighted with Team Uyo bravery, however, promised to overtake Itu LGA in the subsequent edotion of Akwa Ibom Sports Festival.

Team Uyo displayed exceptional performance in badminton, weightlifting, boxing, and table tennis.

Happy Diamond Birthday Jide, Fashikun Olajide!



My dear friend, as you celebrate your 60th birthday with the angels in heaven, we your friends remember that smile that brightens everywhere you walk into.

Corrosive, as we used to call each other, may the Lord continue to bless your wonderful soul





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Chukwueze: From Abia to Milan

Samuel Chimerenka Chukwueze, born on May 22, 1999, in Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria, has emerged as one of African football's brightest and most exhilarating talents. His journey from the dusty pitches of Nigeria to the grand stages of European football is a testament to his raw talent, unwavering determination, and relentless pursuit of excellence. A left-footed winger with an uncanny ability to dribble, create, and score, Chukwueze has captivated audiences with his electrifying pace, audacious skill, and decisive contributions for both club and country. This extensive biography delves into the life, formative years, professional ascent, and the impactful career of this Nigerian sensation.

Samuel Chukwueze's passion for football was ignited at a very tender age. He began playing football at just five years old, a time when most children are still discovering their primary interests. Growing up in Umuahia, a city known for its vibrant football culture, he honed his skills on local pitches, often against older and more experienced players. His natural aptitude for the game was evident early on, even though his parents initially harbored different aspirations for him, primarily urging him to focus on his academic studies.

However, Chukwueze's undeniable talent and profound dedication to football eventually swayed his family. He often cites Nigerian football legend Austin "Jay Jay" Okocha as a major source of inspiration during his childhood, admiring Okocha's flair, dribbling prowess, and ability to entertain. This early influence is palpable in Chukwueze's own style of play, which prioritizes direct running, trickery, and a willingness to take on defenders.

His formal football education began at Future Hope, playing for their U-8 and U-10 teams while still in school. This foundational period laid the groundwork for his future development. In 2012, a pivotal moment in his burgeoning career arrived when he joined the renowned Diamond Football Academy. It was here that Chukwueze truly began to refine his abilities, transitioning from a promising youngster to a competitive winger. The academy provided a structured environment that nurtured his exceptional talent, exposing him to professional coaching and a more rigorous training regimen.

His performances with the Diamond Football Academy quickly gained attention. He was part of the squad that participated in the 2013 Portuguese Youth IB ER Cup Tournament, where he emerged as the highest goal scorer, leading his team to victory. This early success on an international youth stage hinted at the immense potential he possessed.

Bursting onto the International Scene: The U-17 World Cup Triumph

The true moment Chukwueze burst into global prominence came in 2015 when he represented Nigeria at the FIFA U-17 World Cup held in Chile. As a key member of the Golden Eaglets squad, he was instrumental in their triumphant campaign, which saw Nigeria lift the coveted trophy. Throughout the tournament, Chukwueze's dazzling performances on the wing captivated scouts and football enthusiasts worldwide. His pace, dribbling, and ability to contribute goals and assists were critical to Nigeria's success. He finished the tournament with the Bronze Boot, an individual award for his goal-scoring contributions, further solidifying his status as one of the tournament's standout players. This spectacular showing at the U-17 World Cup immediately placed him on the radar of several top European clubs.

Following his exploits in Chile, Chukwueze attracted significant interest from various European teams. After careful consideration and visits to several clubs, he ultimately chose to join Villarreal CF in Spain in 2017. The decision was influenced by the attractive deal offered to both him and his academy, as well as the club's reputation for developing young talent.

Professional Ascent at Villarreal: The Yellow Submarine Years

Upon his arrival at Villarreal, Chukwueze was initially assigned to the club's Juvenil A squad before quickly progressing through their ranks. He made his senior debut for Villarreal B, the club's reserve team, on April 15, 2018, in a Segunda División B match against CE Sabadell FC. He scored his first senior goal for the B team on May 20, 2018, against Bilbao Athletic. In total, he contributed two goals in 11 appearances during his initial season with Villarreal B.

His impressive performances with the reserve side and during training sessions with the senior squad did not go unnoticed by the coaching staff. His first-team debut arrived relatively quickly on September 20, 2018, when he came on as a substitute in a UEFA Europa League match against Rangers. Just over a month later, on November 5, 2018, he made his La Liga debut, playing the full 90 minutes in a 1-1 draw against Levante.

The 2018-2019 season marked his breakout year. He quickly became a regular feature for Villarreal, showcasing his electric dribbling, direct running, and a keen eye for goal. He scored his first senior goal for Villarreal in a Copa del Rey tie against Almeria and soon followed it up with his first La Liga goal. He also netted his first Europa League goal in a 2-0 victory against Spartak Moscow, helping Villarreal secure their progression as group winners. His impact was immediate and profound, earning him comparisons to legendary wingers like Arjen Robben due to his left-footedness and tendency to cut inside and shoot. In April 2019, his remarkable rise was recognized when he won the Nigeria Football Federation's 2018 Young Player of the Year award.

Chukwueze continued to be a vital player for Villarreal in subsequent seasons. He consistently contributed goals and assists, becoming one of the most exciting attacking players in La Liga.

UEFA Europa League Triumph (2020-2021)

One of the highlights of his career at Villarreal came during the 2020-2021 season when the club, under the guidance of Unai Emery, embarked on a historic run in the UEFA Europa League. Chukwueze played a significant role in this triumph, contributing crucial goals and assists throughout the competition. His pace and directness were particularly effective against European defenses. Villarreal ultimately defeated Manchester United in the final, securing their first major trophy in the club's history. Chukwueze was recognized as the UEFA Europa League Top Assist Provider for the tournament, further highlighting his creative influence.



UEFA Champions League Exploits (2021-2022)

In the 2021-2022 season, Chukwueze continued to shine on the European stage, this time in the UEFA Champions League. Villarreal, against all odds, reached the semi-finals of the competition, famously knocking out giants like Juventus and Bayern Munich. Chukwueze etched his name into the club's folklore on April 12, 2022, when he scored a dramatic 88th-minute equalizer against Bayern Munich in the second leg of the quarter-finals, a goal that ultimately secured Villarreal's passage to the semi-finals. This moment underscored his ability to perform on the biggest stages.

He concluded his time at Villarreal with impressive statistics, having made 207 appearances across all competitions, scoring 37 goals and providing numerous assists. His final season with the Yellow Submarine, 2022-2023, was particularly productive in terms of goal contributions, scoring 13 goals across all competitions, including a memorable brace and an assist against Real Madrid in a 3-2 away victory in April 2023. This stellar performance earned him the La Liga African MVP award for the 2022-23 season.

Move to AC Milan: A New Chapter in Serie A

On July 27, 2023, Samuel Chukwueze embarked on a new chapter in his career, joining Italian Serie A giants AC Milan on a five-year contract. The move signified a significant step in his career, as he aimed to bring his explosive talent to one of Europe's most decorated clubs.

His adaptation to Italian football began with a period of adjustment. He scored his first goal for AC Milan on November 28, 2023, in a 3-1 home defeat against Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League. He followed this up with a crucial late winner in the 84th minute against Newcastle United on December 13, 2023, in another Champions League fixture, which helped Milan secure third place in their group and qualify for the Europa League.

While his initial season at AC Milan saw him gradually integrate into the squad, he made history in January 2025 by becoming the first Nigerian player to win major trophies in both Spain and Italy, following AC Milan's dramatic 3-2 triumph over Inter Milan in the Supercoppa Italiana. Although he missed the final due to a hamstring injury, his registration for the competition ensured he was part of this historic achievement.

International Career: A Super Eagle Soaring High

Samuel Chukwueze's international career with the Nigerian national team, the Super Eagles, has mirrored his club success, characterized by flashes of brilliance and impactful contributions. After his standout performances at the U-17 level, he quickly progressed to the senior national team.

He made his senior international debut for Nigeria on November 20, 2018, in a friendly match against Uganda. Since then, he has been a consistent presence in the Super Eagles squad, representing his nation in various competitions.

Playing Style: A Dribbler's Delight

Samuel Chukwueze is primarily deployed as a right winger, a position that allows him to maximize his natural attributes. He is renowned for his blistering pace, exceptional dribbling skills, and ability to cut inside from the right flank onto his stronger left foot to unleash powerful shots or deliver precise passes. His low center of gravity contributes to his excellent balance, making him incredibly difficult to dispossess when he's on the ball.

Onome Ebi Retires, Vows To Continue Advocacy For Women's Football"

Nigeria and African football have bid farewell to one of its most decorated female defenders, Onome Ebi, who officially announced her retirement from professional football on Wednesday via her X (formerly Twitter) page.

In an emotional statement, the 40-year-old Super Falcons stalwart wrote:

"Today, I officially retire from professional football. The journey has been filled with challenges, victories, and lessons that shaped me into who I am today. Though I hang up my boots, my purpose in the game continues — to give back, to guide, and to be a voice for players."

Onome Ebi stands tall among Africa's football icons, with a record-breaking international career spanning nearly two decades.

She made her debut for the Super Falcons in 2003, and went on to represent Nigeria in six FIFA Women's World Cups (2003, 2007, 2011, 2015, 2019, and 2023) — becoming the first African player (male or female) to achieve this historic feat.

She featured in multiple Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) tournaments, lifting the coveted title five times (2004, 2006, 2010, 2014, and 2018).

Known for her defensive strength, aerial dominance, and leadership, Ebi became a cornerstone of the Nigerian backline and a mentor to younger players.



She also represented Nigeria at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, further cementing her reputation as a global football ambassador.

Her longevity and consistency set her apart, inspiring generations of female footballers across Africa.

Ebi's professional career was equally illustrious at the club level, where she enjoyed a globetrotting journey across Africa, Europe, and Asia:

She began her career with Bayelsa Queens and Omidiran Babes in Nigeria before moving abroad.

In Europe, she played in Sweden (Piteå IF) and Turkey (Ataşehir Belediyespor, Düvenciler Lisesispor, and later Henan Jianye in China).

Her spell in Belarus with FC Minsk was particularly successful, where she won multiple league and cup titles and gained valuable UEFA Women's Champions League experience.

In recent years, she returned to Nigeria to represent Abia Angels and served as a role model for home-based players.

While Ebi has officially retired from active play, her words signal a transition to a new chapter dedicated to mentorship, advocacy, and football development. She has long been vocal about improving conditions for female footballers in Africa, and her post-retirement ambitions are expected to further impact women's football positively.

The Nigerian football community, fans, and global stakeholders have already begun showering tributes on her remarkable career — a journey defined by resilience, achievements, and trailblazing records.

As she takes her final bow from the pitch, Onome Ebi leaves behind a legacy that will echo for decades: a defender who not only broke records but also broke barriers.

NNL26 — Crown FC Vs Heartland FC: Ajilete Warriors Land In Tough Southern Conference A Group



The stage is set for another thrilling campaign in the Nigeria National League (NNL) as Crown FC of Ogbomoso were on Tuesday, September 16, drawn in Southern Conference A for the 2025/26 football season.

The draws were conducted during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the league body, held at the Chuckker Resort, Kilometer 2, Kaduna–Jos Expressway, Maraban Jos, Kaduna State, where delegates and representatives of all 36 participating clubs deliberated on key aspects of the new season including format, promotion procedure, and regulations.

In what promises to be a highly competitive group, Crown FC will battle alongside Abia Comets, Beyond Limit FA, Edel FC, E-World United, Inter Lagos FC, Godswill Akpabio United, Smart FC, and the two relegated NPFL sides, Sunshine Stars and Heartland FC.

Last season, the Ajilete Warriors delighted their faithful supporters by reaching the Super 8 promotion playoffs; their best performance in over a decade; before narrowly missing out on promotion to the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL). Despite falling short, the spirited campaign under Coach Ayodeji Ayeni drew widespread praise, with many hailing his tactical acumen, resilience, and ability to transform the squad into serious contenders.

Now, with the 2025/26 season kicking off on November 8, Crown FC are determined to build on that momentum. Although the club lost more than ten key players to NPFL sides during the summer transfer window, Ayeni is already reinforcing his squad with fresh talents, while also retaining a core of trusted players from last season.

"Last year showed what we are capable of," Ayeni said in pre-season. "This year, we want to go one better and secure the promotion ticket our fans have long desired."

The Ogbomoso side will begin their campaign at home, hosting Heartland FC at the historic Soun Stadium in November. With the backing of their passionate supporters and the tactical direction of Ayeni, Crown FC will once again set their sights firmly on promotion to the top flight.

We Lost A Passionate And Dedicated Member.....Says Alhaji Sani Zubiaru.

The President of the Nigerian Football Referees' Association NFRA Hon. Alhaji Sani Zubiaru (FIFA Referee Rtd) has described the death of Referees' Assessor for the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) Madam Rachael Enagbare from Edo State Football Referees' Council as an irreparable and irreplaceable lost to NFRA and Nigeria football family at large.

Allah Sani Zubiaru expressed deep surprise over her sudden death, stressing that she will be remembered for her passionate and examplary love for the football refereeing hobby and it's activities.

"She was such a kind hearted, respectful, loyal and active member of the Nigerian Football Referees' Association who dedicated most of her time for the hobby. We shall immensely miss her presence in virtually all the NFRA activities."

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to her immediate family, the Egor football Referees Society, the Edo state football Referees' Council and Nigeria sporting family in general. We pray the Almighty God to receive her gentle soul in His bosom." Alhaji Sani Zubiaru posited.

E-Signed,

CHUKWUDI EJIMOFOR
NATIONAL PUBLICITY SECRETARY (NPS) NIGERIA FOOTBALL REFEREES' ASSOCIATION (NFRA)



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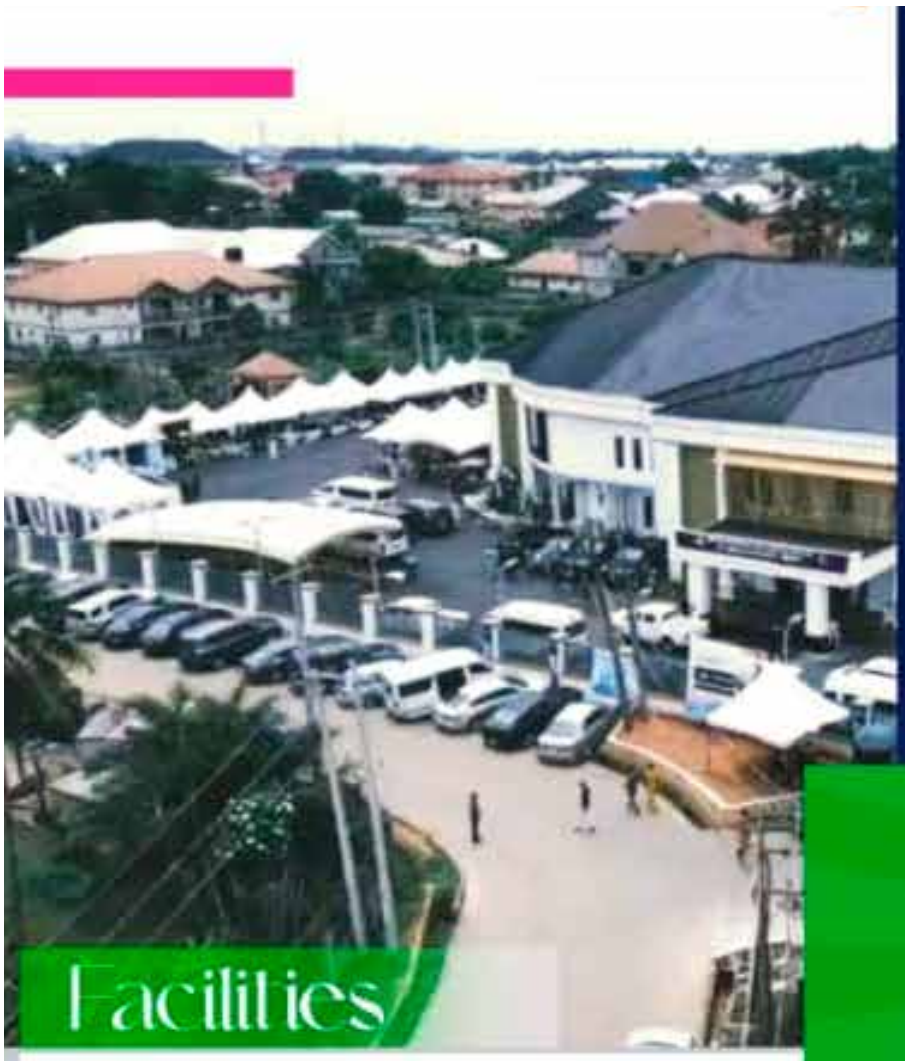
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Edo FA Mourns the Passing of Referee Assessor, Mrs. Rachel Enagbare



The Edo State Football Association has received with deep shock and sorrow the news of the passing of Mrs. Rachel Enagbare, a respected Referee Assessor, whose sudden demise has left a huge vacuum in the Nigerian football family.

Mrs. Enagbare was in Lagos on official duty as Referee Assessor during the NPFL Matchday 4 fixture between Ikorodu City and Barau FC. Sadly, she fell ill and was rushed to Havanah Hospital in Surulere, where she passed away despite medical efforts to save her.

In its condolence message, the Edo State FA described her death as not only a painful loss to her family but also to Edo football, the Nigeria Referees Association (NRA), and the entire Nigerian football community.

"Mrs. Enagbare was more than a referee and assessor; she was a pillar of integrity, discipline, and professionalism in the game. She dedicated her life to the growth of football and to the mentoring of referees, and her absence will be deeply felt across every level of the sport," the statement read.

The Edo FA extended its heartfelt condolences to her immediate family, the NRA, the Lagos State Football Association, and the NPFL leadership, praying that God grants them the strength to bear this painful loss.

"Her legacy of service, passion, and commitment to the game will forever remain in our hearts. Edo football has lost a daughter, Nigerian football has lost a trailblazer, but her memory will live on in the lives she touched," the Association added.

The Edo FA assured that it will stand by her family and colleagues during this period of grief, while joining the larger football community in celebrating the remarkable life and contributions of Mrs. Enagbare.

Kaduna State Invests Billions to Upgrade Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Reaffirms Commitment to Football Development



Kaduna State is investing multi-billion naira to transform the historic Ahmadu Bello Stadium into a world-class sports facility, signaling a renewed commitment to football development and youth empowerment.

The was stated at the Annual General Meeting of Nigeria National League, (NNL) where the Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani, was represented by Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos, Commissioner for Local Government Affairs.

Hon. Mamman Lagos delivered a passionate address highlighting the administration's dedication to revitalizing sports infrastructure and supporting grassroots football.

e said that the upgrade of Ahmadu Bello Stadium which was originally built in 1964 is part of a broader strategy to position Kaduna as a hub for national and international sporting events.

The commissioner explained that "Kaduna has long been a cradle of football talent, produced legends like Garba Lawal and Rashidi Yekini. The state government is now working to restore that legacy by modernizing facilities and creating opportunities for young players and athletes."

In addition to the Ahmadu Bello Stadium upgrade, the Kaduna Township Stadium is being refurbished to serve as the home ground for Kada Warriors FC in the Nigeria National League (NNL).

Hon. Sadiq echoed concerns raised by club owners regarding the need for improve officiating in the NNL football league, which he said undermines the integrity of the game and discourages investment. "We spend millions to sponsor clubs and travestates, only to be let down by biased officiating. This must change if Nigerian football is to thrive," he stated.

He urged the Nigeria National League Board and relevant authorities to prioritize fairness, transparency and professionalism in the league operations, noting that improved officiating would attract foreign investors and elevate Nigeria's global football reputation.

Beyond infrastructure, Hon. Sadiq Mamman Lagos emphasized the role of sports in reducing crime and promoting discipline among youth. He called on fellow politicians to allocate more funding to sports in their state budgets and revive inter-school competitions to nurture talent from an early age.

"Stop Poor Treatment of Warri Wolves ", Avre Tells Delta Governor

United States of America based ex Super Falcons of Nigeria Football star, Patience Avre Odeli has passionately appealed to Delta State Executive Governor, Chief Sheriff Oborevwori to end poor treatment of players of newly promoted Warri Wolves FC if the team is to make the desired impact in the Nigeria Premier league.

Speaking from her Chicago USA base Tuesday night, Avre said she shedded tears on seeing poor condition and physique of the players before the scoreless draw with visiting Kwara United FC of Ilorin in a week 4 game of the NPL at the Ozoro Stadium

,I wept as I watched clips at training ground. They are apparently not well fed and their general welfare is apparently compromised by the Delta State government. They looked like Amateurs, not professionals. What is Governor Oborevwori in such slave like situation ?",screamed the ex Super Falcons striker who began as former Bendel state sprinter before playing for Ufuoma Babes FC of Warri and Princess Jegede Queens of Lagos.

Avre Odeli said she is constantly in touch with Sports developments in Delta State , reminding the Governor to quickly intervene on Warri Wolves ' 'slave camp ' or risk return to the Nigeria National League (NNL).

"For instance, faceless officials of Delta State Sports Commission are making moves to engage Warri Wolves players on a tortuous two day road journey to Maiduguri for week 5 NPL fixture.Cant Oil rich Delta State airlift her Ambassadors to add fro Maiduguri ? .Why is the team shuttling between Warri and Ozoro for training and matches ? Why is it taking decades to construct a standard stadium after hungry politicians rubished the sub standard Warri stadium?,"asked a visibily angry Avre.

According to her ,,"Governor Oborevwori must not let sycophants mislead him. Remember how the state lost her leading position at South South and National Youth Games at Uyo and Asaba. .It's hard to believe that our State Governor and Government failed to officially host and appreciate Warri Wolves on returning to the NPL .Sign on fees and allowances for two wins and a draw are yet to be fully paid amid read transport to Maiduguri plan . The home draw with Kwara United could be traced to some officials who threatened to sack 'dead woods' immediately after a hard earned 1 nil win over old timers Rangers International of Enugu at Ozoro".



Avre Odeli who has been championing ex Super Falcons plea for president Bola Ahmed Tinubu to compensate former winners of WAFCON reminded Hon Oborevwori that Warri Wolves would do better if fully motivated,as it should be done to true professionals.. "It's a new season but there are too many amateurism by Wolves' management. Facilities , welfare and mobilisation are not encouraging. If the state is not ready for professional football, such should be made clear early enough. I implore other sports loving Deltans to be at alert . Let's not let Warri Wolves be relegated again ",she concluded with a frown

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BURIAL RITES OF LATE DR. SOLOMON EHIGIATOR ARASE, IGP (RTD)

24TH SEPTEMBER – 5TH OCTOBER 2025
PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

LOCATION	Date	Time	Event	Venue	Remarks
ABUJA	*Wed. 24th September, 2025*	*3.00pm – 5.00pm*	**Day of Tribute**	Nigeria Police Resource Centre, Jabi, Abuja	**Dress Code – *Blue***
	Fri. 26th September, 2025	*4.00p.m*	**Requiem Mass**	Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Maitama, Abuja	**Dress Code – *White***
	Sat. 27th September, 2025	*8.00a.m-10.00a.m*	**Lying in State**	House 9, Golfview Estate, 1, Linus Nkachukwu Close, Maitama, Abuja	-
Body Departs Abuja for Benin City, Edo State/ Received at Benin Airport.					
SABONGIDA ORA, EDO STATE	*Mon. 29th September, 2025*	*5.00p.m*	**Procession/Candle Light**	Ministar Event Centre, Sabongida Ora, Edo State	**Branded T-Shirts**
BENIN CITY EDO STATE	*Thurs. 2nd October, 2025*	*10.00a.m*	**Valedictory Session (Edo State Judiciary/Nigerian Bar Association, Benin City, Edo State)**	Edo State High Court, Sapele Road, Benin City	**Lawyers' Robe**
		5.30p.m	**Vigil Mass**	St. Paul's Catholic Church, Airport Rd., Benin-City, Edo State	**Dress Code – *White***
		7.30p.m	**Family Rites/Lying in State**	Private Residence, GRA, Benin City	----
	Fri. 3rd October, 2025	*1.00 p.m*	**Funeral Mass**	St. Paul's Catholic Church, Airport Rd., Benin-City, Edo State	*Police Parade Party to lead the Body into the Church*
		3.00p.m	**Private Interment**	Private Residence, GRA, Benin-City	**Private/Family** *(Police Burial Parade)*
		3.30p.m	**Reception**	Victor Uwaifo Creative Hall, Airport Road, Benin City, Edo State	
	Sun. 5th October, 2025	*9.00a.m*	**Thanksgiving Mass**	St. Paul's Catholic Church, Airport Rd., Benin-City, Edo State	

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ANNOUNCER: CSP BENJAMIN HUNDEYIN
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