Sliding Tackles: NFF: Reset Your Undemocratic/ Discriminatory General Assembly, Now !

Dele Olowu Writes With Intimacy Why Hussey College Was Such A Huge Sports Power

'Wike Is Saying That He's The Highest Stakeholder In The Party But PDP Governors Disagrees' -Sani

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FROM THE ARCHIVE

If not for education, how will I know that, the air that comes out of a pot is called airport.

10th Okpekpe 10km Race: High Expectations As Orgainisers Begin 30-day Countdown

Efcc Vs Yahaya Bello:

No Infractions



Ikoyi Golf Club Hosts S'African Tourney

EFCC Vs Yahaya Bello: No Infractions



When the embattled former America controversial President Mr. Donald Trump in his statements of facts that people misconstrued his strong opinion as jokes that Africa has a tremendous business potential which he congratulates the African nations for making a different edge in about six Africa countries. In his claim that some of his partners depend on the Africa firms to survive in business with huge profits margin that has always been an investment destination.

The perception of an Africa countries like Nigeria to the outside world is the believe that we have a country that is likened to a farm that has no owner and everything goes smoothly hence the entire system has been compromised to the detriment of achieving progress for stability that should make a change in a country blessed with milk and honey.

Is it that it is a farm land without an owner and everything goes with an underline to earn financial gains against the true situations to say it wrongly if the issue is not going their way not mindful of the larger implication to damage an institution.

Globally, the nations that has survived learning on their established institutions like the anti-graft and security agencies to regulate it laws and those laws are protected. Laws are implemented to the latter for the benefit of the citizen equally.

It should not be about EFCC, Yahaya Bello but a war against an institution that should be protected not against the few unscrupulent selfish individuals that will not allow things that will benefit those it should protect to work for the benefit they will always derive.

The pending matter between the EFCC and Mr Yahaya Bello remain an allegation and mere allegations with facts available to the prosecuting authorities to confront Mr. Yahaya Bello the ample opportunity to make himself available and further proceed to the law court to clear himself pleading innocence for the court of competent jurisdiction for his decision. The good thing about the unnecessary controversies is that both the persecuting agencies and the accused has two other levels of appeal and supreme court to sort themselves out in the long run.

Resulting to the usual campaign of calumny as been experienced was uncalled for that either of the parties will emerge as fugitive, a convict and the matter will come to an end someday if the accessed takes the part of peace to avoids dancing to the drums of support that will rather complicate issues.

The world is a global village with no hiding place for criminalities that will be sorted out with the wide range of collaborations, social media mileage existing modern facilities at the disposal with anti-graft and security agencies with an option to seek extradiction for the offenders to face the wrath of the law. If the high level security network could locate the likes of Osama bin laden, Col Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar Al-Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein, AbdAl-Majid Al-Tikriti in similar manner looking like a child's play but the cases won by the prosecuting agencies.

Just like the opinion of an elder statesman that it should be about Nigeria with effort made to protect our institution and security agencies. I want to state it clear that some of the distractors are beneficiaries of criminalities just to be continually relevant in the scheme of things lacking integrity to speak to the truth except things that will benefit their wants to continually the free to access government moneys to settle his unending bills of criminalities.

EFCC MEDIA BRIEFING: Though the said event was actually held by the commission to familiarize the general public on the pending invitation extended to HE Excellency DR Yahaya Bello the estranged former Governor of Kogi state. There was no other format to be used as at that time when it has already drawn public attention with the sole motive to get public sympathy over an allegation which required been proactive to drive straight into the office of the commission that has meant no harm but to seek clarifications over allegations in the course of public office that the trust of the good people of Kogi state was betrayed.

THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AISA ABUJA: The noble claim of the American International school collaborating the allegation for the EFCC to avail the institution their account details in readiness to refund the $760 thousand USD which was part of the allegations made by the EFCC to have been lauded through his former chief of staff Mr ALI Bello which made payed in the names of ALI BELLO ZAYYAY has never been contradicted neither denied till date.

HUMAN RIGHTS: Rights are inherent and rights exist alongside that of the prosecutors to as well confront those that has contravened the oath of office that the trust of the people would have been mis-appriopiated the common wealth of the people.

The position of distinguish senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan representing the good people of Kogi central the conference state with exceptional plead with the former governor to submit to the part of the law to confront the reality as published in the electronic and print media.

The criminals will always be evasive pretending to hide behind a finger forgetting that there is usually no hiding place for a celebrity hence the option for the EFCC is the legal process only the accused resort to circumventing process that is only application over a short time. Opinion of some legal luminaries stated that there were not any INFRACTION in the processes so far taken by the prosecutor despite the generated controversies that has permanently taking the media space.

The institutions that must not be allowed to be politicalized include but not limited to the anti-graft and security agencies if a nation must depart from circumventing the process and meant well for the generation yet unborn.

For fear of not been protected by the same institutions that they protected. For every other government agency with the primary roles to actively regulate laws to restrain limitations that may lead to violation like the question was to ask of the role of the Nigeria Fraud Intelligence Unit NFIU in similar transactions that has taken the face of fraud.

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The Ayo Family

1B, Obadina Street, Omole Estate, Ikeja, Lagos.

NOTICE OF PASSAGE

With heavy hearts but in praises to Almighty God for a life well and fully spent, we announce the passage to glory of our husband father, grandfather and uncle, **Chief Augustine Ademola Adeleke Ayo**, the *Otun Aare of Osogbo* and *Seriki Generalisimo of Ijeshaland* on Monday, March 25th 2024.

It is our pleasure to invite you to join us as we celebrate his passage with the following events:

Tuesday 7th May 2024 | 4:00pm
Service of Songs (St. Joseph Society)
Residence of Chief Augustine Ayo
1B, Obadina Street, Omole Estate, Ikeja, Lagos.

Thursday, 9th May 2024 | 5:00pm
Wake Keep
St. Leo's Catholic Church *(Church Hall)*
Toyin Street, Ikeja, Lagos - ***(Colour of the day is Royal Blue)***

Friday, 10th May 2024 | 10:00am
Funeral Mass
St. Leo's Catholic Church,
Toyin Street, Ikeja, Lagos

Interment follows immediately at Ikoyi Cemetry, Lagos (for family members only)

Reception
All Seasons Plaza
Lateef Jakande Road, Agidingbi, Lagos - ***(Colour of the day is Purple)***

Sunday 12th May 2024 | 11:00am
Thanksgiving Mass
St. Leo's Catholic Church,
Toyin Street, Ikeja, Lagos

Please accept this invitation as our special guest.

Warmest regards.

The Ayo Family

Police arrest two traffic robbers disarming motorists with medical condition

Operatives of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) have arrested two traffic robbery suspects in Ikeja. The suspects, Azeez Folarin, 'm' aged 23 and Azeez Rilwan 'm' aged 27, were arrested at about 7am in front of Ikeja City Mall.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspects have robbed many motorists of their phones around Ketu and Ojota and had been operating individually in Ketu, before coming together to exploit Rilwan's chronic pile to rob unsuspecting motorists.

The suspects were arrested by the RRS team stationed at the mall immediately after Folarin snatched the mobile phone of a motorist who was trying to give alms to Rilwan having seen his medical condition.

While Rilwan was released on bail due to his serious state of health, Folarin has been arraigned.



In a related development, police have also arrested five young men who specialize in harassing motorists for money to park their cars. According to a statement by the police, "Around 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, RRS responded to a distress call about miscreants harassing and threatening car owners invited to parties in Billingsway, Oregun, Ikeja.

"On getting to the scene, our operatives arrested five suspects seen, harassing and threatening to vandalize parked cars whose owners did not settle them.

"The suspects are Oluwasegun Oluwafemi (28), Ahmed Kayode (30), Benedict Kayme (29), Popoola Afeez (30) and Patrick Oleka (28).

"The suspects have been charged to court on the instruction of CSP Olayinka Egbeyemi, Commander, Rapid Response Squad (RRS)."

Man, 32, remanded for defiling minor in Kaduna

A Magistrates' Court in Kafanchan, Kaduna State, on Wednesday ordered that a 32-year-old man, Tony Chigoke should be remanded in a correction facility for allegedly defiling a 15-year-old girl.

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) charged Chigoke with rape, contrary to section 259 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law.Chigoke ,

The presiding judge, Michael Bawa, however declined to take Chigoke's plea for lack of jurisdiction to hear the matter.

Bawa directed the prosecutor to forward the case file to the State Director of Public Prosecution for legal advice.

He adjourned the matter until May 15 for further mention.

Earlier, NSCDC prosecutor, Mr Marcus Audu, told the court that the matter was reported at the corps' office in Kafanchan by the Salama Sexual Assault Referral Centre on April 19.

Audu said Chigoke had approached the girl's mother in Jaba Local Government Area and requested to take the girl to Abuja to live with his sister and ease the mother's burden and she obliged.

He noted that Chigoke took the girl to his house in Kafanchan and defiled her.

Man, 44 docked over alleged theft, threat to life in Ebonyi

A 44-year-old man, Oluchukwu John, on Friday appeared before an Abakaliki Magistrates' Court 6 in Ebonyi, over alleged stealing and threatening the life of one David Okorie-Ugbana.

The defendant is standing trial on a four-count charge of conspiracy, assault , stealing and threat to life.

He, however, pleaded not guilty.

The prosecutor, ASP Lilian Aliede, told the court that the defendant committed the offences on March, 30, at Okposi in Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi.

Aliede said that the defendant and others now at large threatened the life of Okorie David-Ugbana, male which caused him fear.

She said the offence is punishable under section 86 (2) of the criminal code cap. 33 Vol. 1 laws of Ebonyi state of Nigeria, 2009.

The Prosecutor also added that the defendant on the same date and place, damaged a fence valued at N1.4 million property of Everest Okorie.

"He damaged sharp sand valued N45,000 property of same Okorie Everest. The offence is contrary to the laws of Ebonyi state of Nigeria, 2009.

"The defendant also did steal 50 bags of cement valued at N380,000 property of Okorie Everest," the Prosecutor submitted.

The defence counsel, Mr Solomon Eguji, pleaded for the bail of the defendant in the most liberal terms.

Eguji assured the court that his client would not jump bail, but would provide reliable sureties.

He also pleaded to the court for the transfer of the matter to the area of jurisdiction.

The Chief Magistrate, Prince Ogboji granted the defendant bail in the sum of N500,000, with one surety in like sum including one year tax receipt.

"The surety must be within the jurisdiction of the court," Ogboji added.

The Magistrate further granted them the transfer of the matter to the area of jurisdiction.

He adjourned the case till May 2, for mention.

Woman docked over alleged defamation of character

A businesswoman, Amara Ebulue, on Thursday, appeared before a Magistrates' Court, Kubwa, Abuja, over alleged defamation of character.

The police charged Ebulue, of Kubwa village, Abuja, with inciting disturbance of public peace and defamation of character.

The Prosecuting Counsel, Babajide Olanipekun, told the court that the defendant, a neighbour to the complainant, Mr Okoye Emmanuel, engaged in a fight with him and his wife, Ifeoma, on April 20.

Olanipekun said that the defendant called the complainant's wife a prostitute and the complainant a thief.

The prosecuting counsel said that the defendant did so, knowing that it could harm the reputation of the complainant and his wife, thereby inciting disturbance of public peace.

The offence, he said, contravened the provisions of Sections 114 and 392 of the Penal Code.

The defendant, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The Magistrate, Oyepeju Mustapha, admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of N100,000, with two sureties who must be gainfully employed and reside within the court's jurisdiction.

Mustapha said that the sureties must produce means of identification and their addresses verified by the court's registrar.

The magistrate, who said that the defendant must be of good behaviour, pending the determination of the matter, adjourned the case till May 15 for hearing.

Man, 20, in court for allegedly stealing items worth N420,500

The police in Lagos on Thursday arraigned a 20-year-old man, Martins Kelinho, before a Badagry Chief Magistrates' Court for allegedly stealing some items worth N420,500.

Kelinho, whose address was not provided, is facing three-count charge of conspiracy, house breaking and stealing, to which he, however, pleaded not guilty.

The Prosecutor, ASP Clement Okuiomose, told the court that the defendant committed the offences with some others still at large on April 15 at 8 p.m. at Gemede Ajido, Ebute Olofin area of Badagry.

Okuiomose said that the defendant broke into the house of one Mr Omomimi Kolawole and stole the items, all valued at N420,500.

He said that the defendant was caught by some neighbours who handed him over to the police.

According to the prosecutor, the offences contravened Sections 411, 308 and 287 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos, 2015.

Section 287 stipulates three years jail term for stealing, while Section 411 provides two years for conspiracy.

The Chief Magistrate, Mr Daniel Aina, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N200,000, with two sureties in like sum.

Aina, thereafter, adjourned the case till May 21 for mention.

Printer, 26, bags 3 years for fraud

A Benin High Court, on Thursday, sentenced a 26-year-old printer, Ufumen Victor, to three years in the correctional centre for fraud.

The Presiding judge, Justice Isoken Ikponmwonba, convicted him after he prayed the court for a plea bargain agreement.

Ikponmwonba, however, gave him an option of fine in the sum of N100,000.

According to the Prosecutor for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr Francis Jibril, the convict, on April 4, in Benin had in his possession documents, which he knew contained false pretence.

"As such, he committed an offence contrary to Sections 6 and 8 (b) of the advance free fraud and other fraud-related offences Act 2006 and punishable under section 1(3) of the same Act

The prosecutor said that in a plea bargain agreement, Ikponmwonba had pleaded guilty to the one-count charge of advance free fraud

He said that the convict shall forfeit an iPhone 14 Promax recovered from him as instrumentality of the crime with which he was charged and convicted to the Federal Government through EFCC.



Man, 20, in court for allegedly stealing items worth N420,500

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Aina, thereafter, adjourned the case till May 21 for mention.

Ikoyi Golf Club Hosts S'African Tourney

The Ikoyi Golf Club is set to welcome golf enthusiasts as it hosts the second edition of the South African Golf Tournament on Sunday, April 28th, 2024, PUNCH Sports Extra reports.

Organized by the South African Consulate General in Lagos in collaboration with Crossflex International, the event commemorates the 30th anniversary of freedom and democracy, as well as 30 years of unbroken diplomatic relations between South Africa and Nigeria.

Tolu Adesemowo, Managing Director of Crossflex and coordinator of the event revealed that over 100 players are expected to participate. This tournament marks the second edition after its successful debut last year as the South Africa Consul General Cup.

Adesemowo emphasized the positive impact of last year's event saying, "Last year's edition of the event, left an impression on the players; especially fun and the atmosphere it created among the diplomatic community.

"There was a compelling need for it to make a return for the freshness it brings to golf in Ikoyi and the diplomatic circle."

The tournament will feature top amateur players, both male and female, competing under the Stableford scoring system at the Ikoyi Club 1938. The format includes a "short-gun" tee-off, where all players start simultaneously from each of the 18 holes to manage the large number of participants efficiently.

Sponsored by Geregu Power PLC, Qshop, Pepsi, Acutech, Kaldi Africa, and Simplygolf apparel, the event promises an exciting 18-hole Stableford game with prizes up for grabs for both men and lady golfers.

Professor Bobby Moroe, the Consul General of South Africa in Lagos, expressed enthusiasm for partnering with Crossflex International Nigeria Limited.

"We are excited and proud to partner with Crossflex International, one of the reputable private golfing agencies in Nigeria. Sports diplomacy, in particular, golf, is a crescendo to harness partnerships and promote enduring relationships amongst the golfing community," Moore

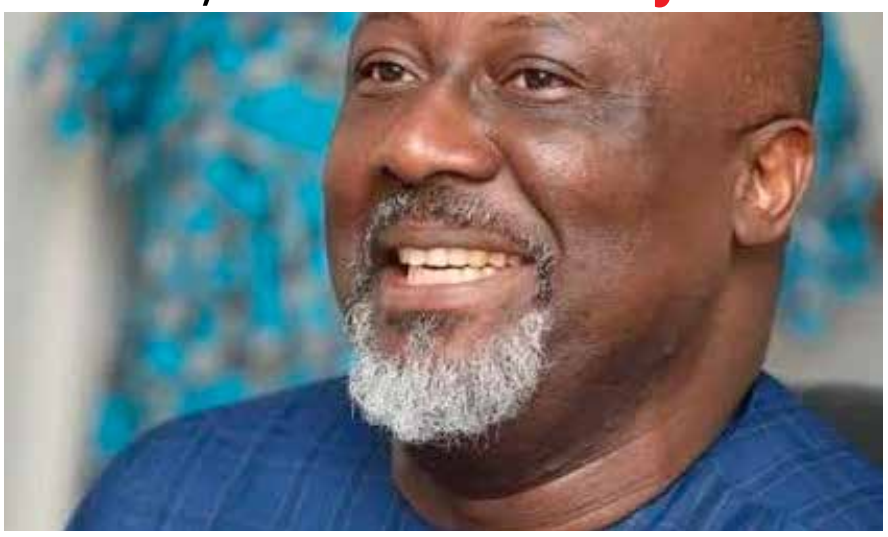
said.

The South African Golf Tournament forms part of the South African Week Celebrations in Nigeria and serves as a major highlight in commemorating the 30th year of independence for South Africa since the abolition of apartheid.

Additionally, auxiliary prizes such as longest drive, nearest to the pin, and 30th place finish will be awarded during the event, adding to the excitement of the day.



First Class Kogi Monarchs' Salary Has Been Degraded To N199,000 – Dino Melaye



Social media users have reacted strongly to the announcement by former Kogi lawmaker, Dino Melaye, that the salaries of traditional rulers in Kogi state have been drastically reduced.

In a post shared on Wednesday via his official social media account, Melaye stated that the monthly salaries of first-class traditional rulers had been slashed to N199,000. Second-class rulers would now receive N149,000, third-class rulers N99,000, and ungraded rulers a mere N30,000.

Lagos Govt Shuts Down Hotels, Catholic, Other Churches Over Noise Pollution



The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) has taken action against noise pollution by temporarily closing down various establishments in several areas of the state. Among those affected are churches, hotels, bars, and other businesses in Ifako-Ijaiye, Abesan Estate, Abule-Egba, Alagbado, Command, and Dopemu

Commissioner Tokunbo Wahab of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources announced the closures on social media, highlighting the importance of enforcing environmental regulations. The affected establishments include Catholic churches, hotels such as 1602 Hotel and White Pavilion Hotel, as well as bars and religious ministries.

The statement from LASEPA emphasized the necessity for businesses to comply with environmental standards, indicating that the closures were intended to ensure such compliance.

How Remi Tinubu Saved Me When I Was Caught Sleeping At Plenary – Adeleke



Governor Ademola Adeleke has disclosed how the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, once saved him from media blackmail while he was in the Senate.

Adeleke said the first lady, then a Senator in the 8th Senate, was his saving grace after he was caught sleeping by the media during plenary.

The governor spoke on Tuesday during a reception organized for Tinubu alongside other State Governors' wives at the Government House, Oke-Fia, Osogbo, ahead of the Turning of Sod of the Alternative High School for Girls.

According to Adeleke, "I want to welcome you to Osun State. You are a detribalised First Lady. I remember that she was my senior colleague at the 8th assembly.

"There was a time when the media caught me sleeping in the Senate, so they wanted to blackmail me. I told them how tedious our job is in making bills and having several sleepless nights over Nigeria. We don't sleep till 4 a.m. most times. They (the media) were not listening to me; I almost fell for their blackmail. So, I ran to mama (First Lady) when she was going to Lagos, and I told her that I wanted to ask her something. I said I was sleeping, and the media came to me that they saw me sleeping, and it seemed they wanted to collect something from me.

"She told me, 'ma da won lohun'(don't answer them), let them go and write whatever thing they want to write, and tell them that you are a human being because they have done that to me before.

"I made use of what she told me. That helped me out of paying a lot of money. So anytime we have issues, we always go to her because of her wealth of experience."

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7 Best Dressed Nigerian Pastors

Pulse has listed the seven (7) best dressed Nigerian pastors.

1. Paul Adefarasin: Paul Adefarasin is the lead pastor of House on the Rock. His physique and looks make the outfit he wears fit him better. A look through his Instagram, Adefarasin's favourite looks are formal wears (suits and shirts) and native attires.

Sometimes he switches it up and wears casual shirts and trousers.

3. David Oyedepo: The founder of Living Faith Church makes daddy suits or old-fashioned three-piece suits look cool. He switched up his look recently and started wearing all-white suits and shoes. That distinct fashion and personal style lands him on a best-dressed list.

4. Chris Oyahkilome: Chris Oyahkilome is the founder of Chris Embassy (Believer's Love world), he is on this list because he started the trend of men relaxing their hair. That is the definition of a style icon.

5. Sam Adeyemi: Sam Adeyemi is the Lead Pastor of Daystar Bible Church and with his fashion sense, he exudes simplicity. With Adeyemi, the beauty in simplicity is obvious and that's why we stan.

He never does anything over the top, he is always on suits and for his T.V program he wears simple work shirts.

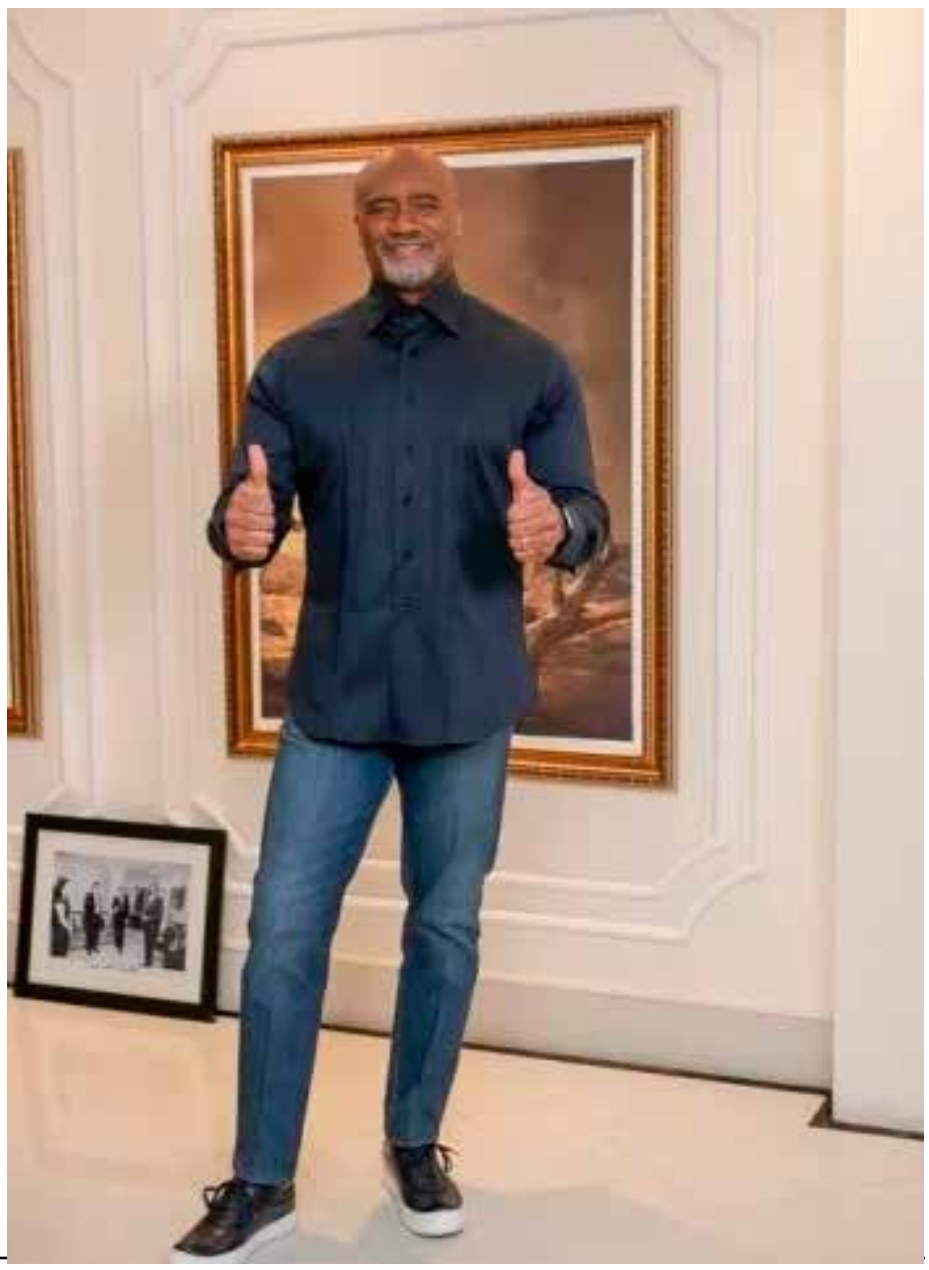
6. Chris Okotie: The founder of Household of God Ekklesia just like the other Chris is known to perm his hair. He is also usually wears military-like suits and bright outfits. He definitely has his own style.

7. Tunde Bakare: One great thing about the overseer of the The Latter Rain Assembly (End-Time Church) is that his suits and native attires are impeccable and always fits!










THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA
History, Establishment, Jurists & Speeches
By
Lawal Pedro, SAN, FCI.Arb.
Abdulrasheed Ibrahim, Notary Public
Foreword By:
Hon. Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, GCON
Chief Justice of Nigeria





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The entire family members of
AROGBOFA of Oka, Akoko,
Ondo State

cordially invites you to the

Funeral Service

of late

GENERAL DR. JONES OLADEHINDE

AROGBOFA (Rtd.)

fspsp, CFR, Chief of Staff to the Former President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, he was aged

Celebration of Life
GENERAL AROGBOFA



Aged 73

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

SUNDAY 5 MAY 2024

Service of Songs @ Redeemed Christian Church of God, RCCG (House of David), 69/71 Ogudu Road, Ojota, Lagos. Time: 4.00pm-6.00pm

TUESDAY 7 MAY 2024

Commendation Service/Tributes @ National Ecumenical Centre, Sani Abacha Way, Central Business District, FCT, Abuja. Time: 10.00am

THURSDAY 9 MAY, 2024

Christian Wake-Keep at his Residence Oka, Akoko, Ondo State. Time: 5.00pm

FRIDAY 10 MAY, 2024

Funeral Service @ St. Saviours African Church, Ikanmu, Oka Akoko, Ondo State. Time: 10.00am

INTERMENT follows immediately.
ENTERTAINMENT of Guests follows at African Church Grammar School, Owase, Oka, Akoko, Ondo State.

Nollywood Star, Pawpaw, Joins Nigerian Army in Promoting Responsible Social Media Use





The Nigerian Army has enlisted the help of Nollywood actor Osita Iheme, popularly known as Pawpaw, to promote responsible social media use.

The collaboration aims to educate social media users on the dangers of spreading misinformation and to encourage responsible sharing of information.

The initiative was launched on April 24, 2024, with a seminar in Abia, attended by over 300 social media practitioners and journalists.

The event, organized by the Department of Civil-Military Affairs, sought to engage the youths in a discussion on the responsible use of social media and its role in national security.

Speaking at the event, the Chief of Civil-Military Affairs, Maj.-Gen. Nosa Ugbo, emphasized the importance of collective security responsibility, stating that "security is everybody's business."

He highlighted the seminar's goal of creating a platform for cross-fertilization of ideas between the military and the youths on how best to deploy social media without causing a breach of peace and security.

In his address, the Garrison Officer Commanding 82 Division, Maj.-Gen. Hassan Dada, expressed delight over the event, acknowledging the pivotal role social media users play in nation-building.

He called for social media users to stay away from fake news, citing its potential harm to national security, economy, and society in general.

A resource person, Dr Ehiz Odigie, spoke on "Curtailling negative contents on social media: Responsibilities of users," highlighting the dangers of fake news and its impact on national security.

Similarly, Prof. Joshua Ogbonna of the Abia State University, Uturu, discussed the effects of fake news on national security, urging social media users to fact-check information before publishing or posting.

Osita Iheme, the Nollywood star known for his iconic role as Pawpaw, urged social media users to minimize what they post and to always verify the authenticity of their information before sharing.

He emphasized that social media should be used to educate and sensitize people, not to incite public unrest.

Prof. Uwaoma Uche of the Gregory University, Uturu, stressed the need for a more pragmatic and concerted approach to combat fake news spread via social media.

He pointed out that the media space is dominated by individuals without professional training in communication and mass media, posing a significant threat to the country's social security.

Participants, including the Abia President of the Online Proprietors Association of Nigeria, Promise Okoro, and the immediate past President of the Students Union Government, Abia Polytechnic, Aba, Edwin Chijioke, praised the seminar for its impact and relevance.

They highlighted the importance of using social media responsibly, given its potential to cause social tension and security breaches.

The Nigerian Army distributed certificates of participation to attendees and provided souvenirs, marking the successful event aimed at promoting responsible social media use and safeguarding national security.

Celebrity Bar Man, Cubana Chief Priest in Messy Land Tussle With Imo State Government



Embattled celebrity barman, cubana chief priest has once again reportedly entangled himself in another messy land scandal involving the Imo State government.

Recall that Imo State Governor, Hope Uzodinma had appointed Cubana Chief Priest as Social Media Aide two years ago

According to blogger cutie_juls who made the story known, it was revealed that Chief Priest 'dubiously' acquired the land at a cheaper rate from one of Imo State Governor's aide who has been sacked at that moment, and its been a roller coaster ride for Chief Priest trying to convince the State governor that he actually purchased the land fair and square.

So hope most of you are aware that Governor has recently fired one of his PAs.

Well long story short.

As Celebrity Bar man noticed his Governor/Oga has been selling Imo State Government owned lands and majority of the proceeds allegedly not going into Imo State coffers, Celebrity Bar man also took advantage of the situation.

He negotiated with the Sacked PA to get some of the lands at very cheap prices and somehow a bit wayo ways.

Fast forward, Chief Priest wanted to claim the lands he supposedly "bought" so he can start developing them.

Imo State Government said NO!! That those lands do not belong to Chief Priest and that the lands belong to Imo State Government.

Chief Priest went to see Oga Governor and even convinced him that not all the lands are for him and that he also collected other people's monies and help them purchase.

So Hope asked him to go and bring receipts.

Chief Priest brought receipts of his money transfers to sacked PA's account.

Hope even got upset more and accused Chief Priest of being one of the people who was aiding his former staff from stealing from him [Hope Uzodinma] and Imo state Government despite all the love he's shown CP because of his support for his government. Hope apparently went on to accuse CP that all the support was to get close to the government so he can "milk" the state.

Chief Priest got furious at a point and tempers flare up.

Mr Governor asked CP to go to court if he believes he has paid for any land belonging to Imo State Government.

Mr Governor told CP that unless he provides proof that he bought those lands from Imo State Government, nobody will release those lands to him. He also told Chief Priest that, he must provide receipts of the money he paid into Imo State Government account as that is the only legal and acceptable means of acquiring Government properties.

Omo, all efforts to get the lands almost seem impossible now.

Peter Obi: I'm Not Here On A Campaign. You Can Vote For Whoever You Want To When The Election Comes

According to AIT, Mr. Peter Obi, the previous presidential candidate of the Labour Party for 2023, has emphasised his dedication to community welfare on a personal level. He made it clear that he doesn't discuss politics or run for office when performing tasks like boring boreholes. CONTINUE FULL READING>>>>>

Expressing dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs in the country, Obi highlighted the predominant focus on elections, transactions, and trivial matters, which he believes neglects the genuine needs of the populace.

He emphasized that his primary concern lies in the well-being of the people, particularly those who are underprivileged.

Recently, Peter Obi initiated the commissioning of boreholes donated to several Northern Communities, aiming to address their water scarcity challenges.

The Northern region of Nigeria has been grappling with water supply issues, adversely affecting farmers and leading to poor crop yields.

Despite facing criticism from some Nigerians regarding the aesthetics of the projects, Peter Obi defended his actions, emphasizing that the provision of water should not be politicized by the opposition or Nigerian elites.

He said in a press conference reported by AIT, "What we are doing in this country is not fair to the people of this country. Because we bother ourselves with issues of elections, transactions, and all sorts of things that do not bother the people.

I have never gone to where I'm drilling boreholes and mentioned the name of my party. I even tell them I'm not here on a campaign. You can vote for whoever you want to when the election comes.

However, I'm here to ensure that I support the well-being of the people. And the well-being of the poor people is my concern 24 hours."



Imagine The Northerners Who Kept Quiet During Buhari's Eight Years Have Found Their Voices Under Tinubu's Administration – Matawalle Camp



Speaking through his media consultant, Deyemi Saka, Matawalle knocked Marafa, noting that many of them who kept quiet during former President Muhammadu Buhari's eight years have now found their voices because Tinubu is not a northerner. The Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle, has slammed a fellow northern political leader, Kabiru Garba Marafa, over his vituperation on account of the Northern Elders Forum (NEF) statement on the administration of President Bola Tinubu. Speaking through his media consultant, Deyemi Saka, Matawalle knocked Marafa, noting that many of them who kept quiet during former President Muhammadu Buhari's eight years have now found their voices because Tinubu is not a northerner. SaharaReporters had reported on Sunday that Marafa, former federal lawmaker and chieftain of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), had responded to a recent uncomplimentary remark made by Matawalle, about members of the Northern Elders Forum (NEF). SaharaReporters earlier reported how Matawalle said that NEF members lacked the authority to speak for the entire region following their criticism of President Bola Tinubu's administration. He had noted that they had become a political burden to Northerners and were deluded into thinking they had political relevance in the country. Matawalle's remark was a result of the NEF's decision to withdraw its support from the Tinubu government. Marafa, however, berated the Minister and urged him to highlight the present administration's achievements to warrant the support of any meaningful stakeholders in the country.

The former senator stated that insulting the Northern elders was counterproductive and a great disservice to the president. However, the Minister's aide Saka in a statement titled: "Which Northern Elders Is Marafa Speaking For," said "it is highly hypocrital that many who either lost their voice or never had it in the eight years of Muhammadu Buhari's presidency which never dignified the live of an average northerner or interested in improving their lives through purposeful and productive leadership are now blasting like a hot furnace because the present occupier of the highest office of the land is not from their region?" "In his (Marafa) feeble attempt at his image revival, he claimed the Minister was out of order for negatively portraying the Northern elders, and ought to have listed the achievements, programmes, and policies, projects of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the North and the country as a whole in the first 10 months of the administration. "It is highly hypocrital that many who either lost their voice or never had it in the eight years of Muhammadu Buhari's presidency which never dignified the live of an average northerner or interested in improving their lives through purposeful and productive leadership are now blasting like a hot furnace because the present occupier of the highest office of the land is not from their region? For how long does the North play such primitive politics? "It is also noteworthy to educate Senator Marafa and his co-travellers that the North alone didn't make Asiwaju Bola Tinubu the president, and no single region can make or mar a political ambition. Our constitution made it so.

"To also claim the North has a culture of not "disrespecting" their elders, I'd love Marafa to know that it is not only peculiar to the North, it is a common age long cultural practice among all regions and Africa. What is also a cultural practice is always speaking the truth and standing by the truth irrespective of whose ox is gored. "The sustained tradition of hounding people to silence in a bid to sustain the status quo which has made the region underdeveloped with high level of poverty and illiteracy by elevating selfish politicians to the status of celestial beings is what HE Matawalle confronted and decisively dealt with. "This is the height of mischief as he attempts to project himself to be on the side of the people. I believe any and every good student of history will and should never take this media stunt by Marafa seriously or see it as an altruistic action. We are all living witnesses to how he denied his party, APC, the governorship of Zamfara State in 2019 on the altar of insatiable personal ambition."

I Entered The Plane, 4 People Stood Up Including General Magoro And Offered Me Their Seats – According To Kukah



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto's bishop, Matthew Hassan Kukah, has disclosed an incident that happened on a plane. CONTINUE FULL READING>>>>>

According to Kukah, who paid for an economy ticket to Sokoto State, four individuals—including General Magoro—offered him seats in business class as he boarded the aircraft, according to an interview with Arise TV. He claimed he turned down the offer and decided to stay in his economy class seat.

Bishop Kukah said that act of kindness was evidence that people value the contributions he makes to the society. He emphasized that even small acts of kindness are appreciated by many people and he encouraged everyone to continue making positive contributions, no matter how small they may seem

In Bishop Kukah's words: "I entered the plane, 4 people stood up including General Magoro, and offered me their seats. It was a difficult journey for me to enter and sit on economy. So the point I am making is the little contribution we are making, a lot of people appreciate it. So we must continue"

Here Are Common Things People Rarely Dream About



These gaps in our dreams serve as reminders of the distinction between our dream world and our waking reality.

Almost everyone dreams, and we all dream about different occurrences.

Our dreams are usually influenced by daily experiences, emotions, subconscious desires, and physiological processes.

Surprisingly, certain things rarely appear in our dreams, or we rarely do in our dreams.

Here are five of them;

1. Phones

Research says only a tiny percent of people (3.55% women and 2.69% men) dream about smartphones which is quite weird as most people use their phones all day.

One theory says our brains are not yet used to smartphones and that's why we rarely see them in our dreams.

2. Mirrors

Seeing yourself in a mirror is also another thing that rarely happens in our dreams. Research says this is because our dreams are driven by subconscious expectations and memories and reflections which come from physics do not apply over there.

Even if people do dream of mirrors, instead of seeing their reflection, they might see something blurry or not really distinguishable, or their faces are transformed weirdly.

3. Feeling pain

It is quite common to have intense and emotionally charged dreams. But one thing that rarely occurs is the sensation of physical pain.

This absence might stem from the brain's protective mechanisms to prevent distress during sleep.

Instead, our subconscious mind often conveys emotional and psychological discomfort through symbolic imagery and scenarios, rather than inducing physical pain, allowing us to explore and process our emotions without unnecessary distress.

4. Reading text

It is also quite rare to read texts in our dreams. Most times we do this all day but not in our dreams.

Experts say the act of reading—whether it's a book, a sign, or a screen—requires a certain level of focused attention and cognitive effort that might not translate seamlessly into the fluid, imaginative environment of dreams.

Our dreams, instead of trying to read texts, prioritizes visual and emotional experiences.

5. Tasting food

It is quite common to dream about eating all sorts of food but according to experts, people rarely get to feel the "full eating experience" in dreams.

For example, we might remember that we ate something or had food in the dream but there might be issues trying to recall what exactly the food tasted like. Most times, we just think the food tastes like we imagined it

These gaps in our dreams serve as reminders of the distinction between our dream world and our waking reality. They also remind us of how our subconscious minds work.

Apart from these, what else have you never dreamed about?



1XBET PROFESSIONAL BETTING Cup 2023











BDCs unite against forex volatility as naira hits record low of N1,450/$

MOTOLANI OSENI

The Association of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON) has said, it is working on establishing unified retail end forex market operations to tackle volatility and 1: boost regulatory compliance within the Bureaux De Change (BDC) sub-sector.

This is as the value of the Naira depreciated further at the parallel market to N1,450 to the dollar.

From N1,420 which it was on Thursday, the value of the naira which had depreciated to N1309 to the dollar at the Nigeria Autonomous Foreign Exchange market (NAFEM) continued to fall at the parallel market.

ABCON president, Alhaji Aminu Gwadabe said, ABCON is carrying out strategic plans meant to unify operators from different cadres of the market including the inauguration of state chapters for market coordination, integration and administering a united market structure.

According to him, ABCON plans to extend its automation policies and platforms to all BDC operators across Nigeria markets and upgrade its Business Process Platform-(formerly called SAAZ Master). He said the new blueprint for a united retail end forex market structure will ensure the deployment of a centralised, democratized and liberalized online real-time trading platform.

He stated that the association will sustain its engagement with regulatory agencies, security operatives and other government apparatus to entrench a secured and thriving forex market that is supportive to regulation and government.

"Part of our vision for a united retail-end forex market includes activating geo-mapping and automated BDCs physical office verification exercise using the Remote Gravity Physical verification apps. This will enable forex buyers to easily locate where BDCs offices are for effective and seamless transactions," he stressed.



He reiterated the benefits of a realistic and vibrant retail end forex market as supporting the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN's) goal of achieving true price discovery for the Naira, balancing of international obligations and national objectives; ensuring ease of regulation, security agencies monitoring and supervision as well as entrenching market visibility for BDC players.

According to Gwadabe, the vision for a united retail end forex market will help in the provision of market intelligence reports, enhance the local and global image of the BDCs other stakeholders, and market operators and boost employment generation.

The successful execution of this plan, Gwadabe said, will help in seamlessly capturing revenues for the government through a digitized retail end market and creating a well-structured, transparent and competitive platform to checkmate the menace of unlicensed platforms like Binance, Aboki FX, ByBit, among others.

Railway development attracts 254 bidders for 2024 projects

TEMITOPE ADEBAYO

No fewer than 254 companies have shown interest in bidding for 2024 Capital projects in the Nigerian Railway Corporation(NRC)

Making this known in Lagos at the weekend, after declaring open the 2024 bidding process, the managing director of the Corporation, Engr. Fidet Okhiria said the purpose of the open bidding is to ensure transparency.

The managing director, who was represented by the Director of Administration and Human Resources Dr Monsurat Omotayo, said the bidding process is an annual ritual in line with the Procurement Act and extant rules.

According to him, it is also in line with government policy to get suitable organisations to enhance the renewed hope of the present administration.

The Director of Procurement, Mr Ben Iluaonusi, in his remarks at the occasion, said, 'Today's bidding is aimed at checking the eligibility criteria as regards submission of documents required in the advert placement.'

He explained further that, thereafter, the documents will be authenticated and the preferred bidders will be announced.

AFEX calls for climate interventions for food security

MOTOLANI OSENI

In its second impact report covering its activities over the past five years, a Pan-African commodities player, AFEX, has advocated for increased focus on climate interventions for food security in the country.

The company, which launched operations in 2014, has worked with over 500,000 farmers and executed over 1,000,000 MT in trades since inception. Following the publication of its first impact report in 2021, AFEX has doubled down on driving impact through its work in Africa's commodities markets, positively contributing to SDGs 1,2,5,8, 12 and 13.

The new report features an updated version of the AFEX theory of change, which was released for the first time in 2021 when the first report was published. The company's work in Climate Action, SDG 13, has also been captured and included within the context of the fuller report.

Climate change effects have become increasingly relevant in Africa, with farmers facing record impacts on their activities. Floods, increased droughts, and fewer rainfalls have threatened farmer productivity, resulting in food insecurity. AFEX is contributing to enabling sustainable climate-resilient agriculture for farmers in Africa, which helps increase Africa's food security while achieving self-sufficiency for the continent.

According to the report, rural poverty in Nigeria is more widespread in 2023 compared to baseline measurement in 2020.

"Over 80 per cent of Nigerian farmers still existed around and below the poverty line compared to 43 per cent of Kenyan farmers existing around and below the poverty line," it said.

AFEX, which has operations across these two countries, highlighted its efforts to secure livelihoods including providing farmers with certified seeds, and quality fertilizer as well as extension and storage services through strategically distributed warehouses.

The Group CEO of AFEX, Ayodeji Balogun said: "Our impact goals are essential as we grow our business and expand, as it ensures that we can build a commodities market that is as inclusive as it is efficient.

"We look to create a positive difference in the places that we operate, empowering farming communities, fostering economic opportunity and helping Africa sustainably provide for itself."

President of AFEX Nigeria, Akinyinka Akintunde indicated that "this report marks a significant milestone for AFEX. It serves as a roadmap that guides us towards a more sustainable and responsible future building an efficient marketplace for commodities in Africa. We will continue to build a food system for the future and create shared prosperity, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey to transform the agricultural ecosystem."

He added that comprehensive efforts are required to create sustainable value in the commodities market particularly as challenges are being compounded by climate change effects.

"AFEX continues to drive change in this tough environment as its operations focus on contributing to improved livelihoods, quality food and well-functioning markets," he said.

AFEX is a platform business that enables efficient trade for commodities in Africa.

Tinubu appoints Jim Ovia as Chairman of NELFUND

MOTOLANI OSENI

President Bola Tinubu has approved the appointment of Jim Ovia, a renowned banker and businessman, as the Chairman of the Board of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND).

The Special Adviser to the President, (Media & Publicity), Ajuri Ngelale, in a statement obtained yesterday by The Saturday Times a separate title from the stable of The Daily Times, stated that President Tinubu believes Mr Ovia will bring his immense wealth of experience and professional stature to this role.

Mr Ovia, is the founder of Zenith Bank, Nigeria's most capitalized bank, with a capital base of about N1. 92 trillion as of September 2023, and a respected business leader, with a surfeit of efforts and



benefaction towards nurturing and empowering young Nigerians.

Ovia is an alumnus of Harvard Business School and holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Louisiana.

The National Student Loan Programme is a pivotal intervention that seeks to guarantee sustainable higher education and functional skill development for all Nigerian students and youths.

The Nigerian Education Loan Fund, the implementing institution of this innovation, demands excellence and Nigerians of the finest professional ilk to guide and manage.

The president believes Mr Ovia will bring his immense wealth of experience and professional stature to this role to advance the all-important vision of ensuring that no Nigerian student suffers a capricious end to their pursuit of higher education over a lack of funds and ensuring that Nigerian youths, irrespective of who they are, have access to higher education and skills that will make them productive members of society and core contributors to the knowledge-based global economy of this century.

Zenith Bank, according to details from the company's audited financial statement, grew its annual profit by more than 202 per cent year-on-year to about N677 billion.

The Bank's solid annual profit growth was supported by an interest rate increase, pushing net interest income upward.

Zenith Bank's net interest income grew to N736.182 billion in 2023. This represents more than 100 per cent annual growth above the previous record of N366.627 billion.

Similarly, the bank's core business earnings increased strongly, the overall earnings scorecard was lifted by large revaluation gains following the devaluation of the Nigerian naira.

Zenith Bank doubled down trading gains to about N567 billion in 2023 from less than N213 billion it posted in the comparable year in 2022. Its net income on fees and commission declined to N109 billion from about N133 billion 12 months earlier, details from the audited results showed.

More Trouble For Yahaya Bello As EFCC Boss Vows To Expose Their Phone Conversation



Ola Olukoyede, Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has affirmed his unwavering commitment to overseeing the investigation into former Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello.

Olukoyede has gone to the extent of pledging to resign if he fails to personally conclude the inquiry. He has stated that he contacted Bello directly, extending respect and requesting his cooperation in addressing the charges against him. However, Bello declined the invitation.

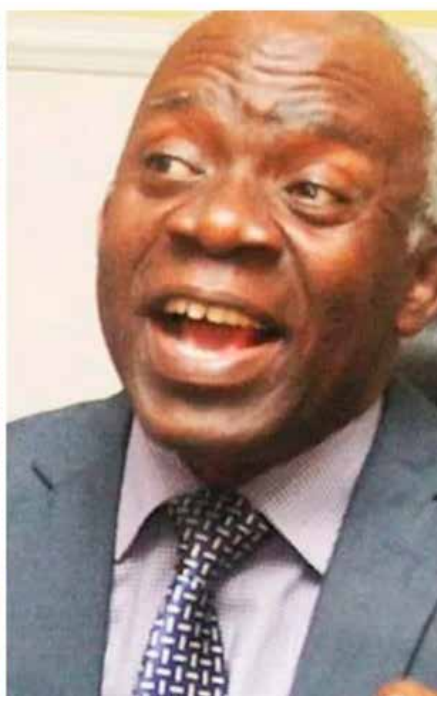
Speaking to reporters at the EFCC Headquarters in Abuja, Olukoyede emphasized the need for public support in the commission's anti-corruption efforts. He stressed that the success of the EFCC is crucial for Nigeria's reputation globally.

Olukoyede highlighted the positive impact of the EFCC's initiatives, including the appreciation of the Naira and the improvement in the foreign exchange market.

The EFCC has filed 19 counts of alleged financial crimes against Bello, including money laundering, breach of trust, and misappropriation of N80.2 billion. Olukoyede reiterated the commission's determination to prosecute Bello and hold accountable anyone who obstructs his arrest.

According to Femi Falana: Once EFCC Has Been Directed By Federal High Court To Bring Bello To Court, It Must Be Obeyed





Femi Falana, a well-known lawyer in Nigeria, discussed the current state of affairs about former Governor Yahaya Bello's escape from arrest by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in a video that was recently shared on Channels TV's YouTube page. Falana brought up a previous occurrence involving former governor Rochas Okorocha, in which the EFCC decided to take legal action. CONTINUE FULL READING>>>>>

Falana recounted how, in Okorocha's case, when the former governor resisted arrest, the EFCC did not hesitate to forcefully enter his residence, acting in accordance with the provisions outlined in the administration of criminal justice.

He noted that Okorocha was arrested and later brought before the court to face trial.

Expressing assurance in the judicial process, Falana conveyed his belief that similar procedures would be followed in the case of Yahaya Bello.

Highlighting the importance of judicial directives, Falana stressed that once the EFCC is mandated by the Federal High Court to bring Bello to court, they are legally obligated to comply with the court's order.

He stated that unless the court order is overturned by the Federal High Court or a superior court, it must be followed without question.

"When former Governor Okorocha resisted arrest, EFCC broke into his house, in line with the provisions of the administration of criminal justice, and took him out and arraigned him in court. I am very confident that in this case, once the EFCC has been directed by the Federal high court to bring Yahaya Bello to court, that order unless it is vacated by a Federal High Court or the court of appeal, the order will have to be obeyed," Falana stated.

Fubara Donates N350m As Navy Moves Training Headquarters From Lagos To Rivers

Fubara said that Rivers was facing threats from sea pirates, kidnappers, pipeline vandals, and oil thieves, which negatively impacted both the state and national economy.

The governor, who inaugurated the facility sited at Ebubu community, Eleme LGA of Rivers, said that the naval command headquarters had been relocated from Lagos to Rivers.

He said that the state government had donated the facility to the Nigeria Navy to coordinate all naval training colleges across the country.

"The new training command centre is evidence of the navy leadership's dedication to enhancing the professional development of naval personnel.

"The facility will be used to cultivate a highly-skilled, proficient and motivated naval force capable of advancing the security and prosperity of the nation's maritime interests.

"The new training command headquarters demonstrates the initiative being undertaken by President Bola Tinubu to strengthen the navy's combat capabilities to deal with security threats,"he said.

Fubara said that Rivers was facing threats from sea pirates, kidnappers, pipeline vandals, and oil thieves, which negatively impacted both the state and national economy.

He said that his administration would continue to support the military and other security agencies in securing the state against criminal elements.

The governor announced a donation of ₦350 million to the navy to support the operationalisation of the training command.

In his remark, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Adm. Emmanuel Ogalla said he was optimistic that relocating the headquarters to the state would enhance the navy's operational capabilities.

According to him, the relocation is part of the Navy's 2030 strategic plan to expand its training facilities nationwide.

"The new complex will offer naval personnel an enabling environment to expand their knowledge in fulfilling the navy's mandate.

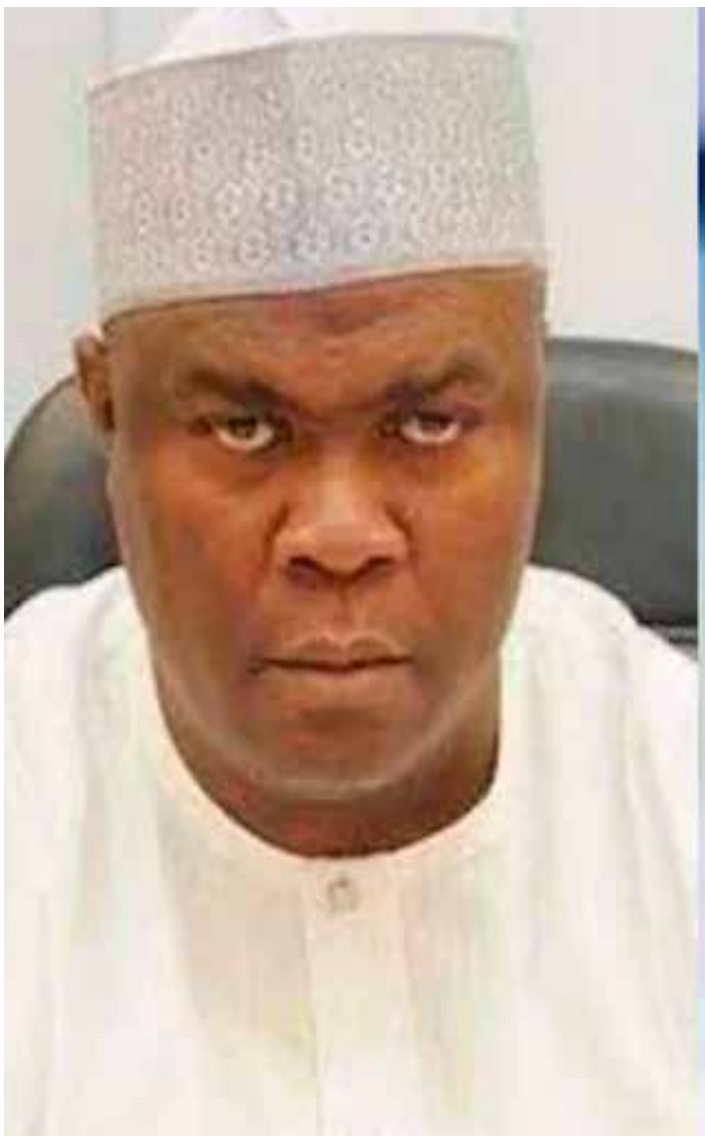
"It will assist in providing an enabling environment for learning for the navy to carry out its statutory duty of enhancing maritime security across the country.

"The navy will continue to conduct operations to safeguard our maritime domain in line with the president's directive to leverage the enormous economic potential in the nation's water for economic prosperity,"he said.

Ogalla commended Fubara for donating the facility and offering logistics support for establishing the naval training command headquarters.



'Wike Is Saying That He's The Highest Stakeholder In The Party But PDP Governors Disagrees' -Sani





A Former Senior Media Adviser to Former Vice President Namadi Sambo, Umar Sani has alleged that the PDP governors have disagreed with the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike stance that he's the highest stakeholder in the party.

He stated that the PDP governors have argued that they have their own interests and ambitions ahead of the 2027 presidential election. He noted that the governors have formed an alliance to assert their authority within the party as the political leaders of the party.

The Main Opposition Peoples Democratic Party [PDP] held its crucial National Executive Committee [NEC] meeting today, there is confusion and unease over what the outcome of the meeting and how it will shape the future of the party. The NEC meeting is to deliberate on how the party will approach the 2027 election and to also resolve the issue about the Chairmanship of the party.

He said in an interview with Arise TV, "Wike is propounding the theory that after the loss of the party, he has been the one marketing the party and shouldering responsibility both financially and otherwise. Wike is saying that he's the highest stakeholder in the party but PDP Governors disagrees because they also have their own interest.

At the end of the day they either want to contest for the Presidency. So they have aligned themselves to say okay we are now the ones sponsoring the party, we are the leaders of our party. And that we are the ones providing for even those states that have no PDP government. And as such they believe it is their responsibility to determine the future of the party."

Yahaya Bello: Open Letter To President Bola Tinubu



We seek to exploit the instrumentality of the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary to create and maintain an egalitarian democratic society where the dignity of every citizen and rights are guaranteed according to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The worrisome development emanating from the stables of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which in a gestapo styled operation reminiscent of the dark days of military regime stormed and barricaded the residence of the immediate past Governor of Kogi State Alh. Yahaya Adoza Bello in a brazen attempt to arrest him without a warrant under a bogus claim of misappropriation of state funds and money laundering, is a matter of concern to every true lover of democracy and social justice world over.

This appalling and morally reprehensible action of the EFCC, which occurred on the 17th of April, 2024, has made our dear nation Nigeria a laughing stock among the comity of nations. Reinforcing this aberration is the call by EFCC spokesman to involve the military in arresting a person who has not been served any summon or convicted by any competent court. This call is akin to a 'coup' and denigration of our nascent democracy.

The flagrant disregard for constituted authority and our judiciary by the EFCC should not be a matter to be treated with levity. The High Court in Kogi State on the 9th of February, 2024, granted an interim injunction restraining the EFCC from "continuing to harass, threaten to arrest, detain, prosecute" Yahaya Bello, his former appointees, and his staff or family members pending the hearing and determination of the substantive originating motion for the enforcement of his fundamental rights.

This said order was duly served on the EFCC on the 12th of February, 2024, and on the 26th of February the EFCC filed an appeal (No. CA/ABJ/CV/175/2024: Economic and Financial Crimes Commission vs Alhaji Yahaya Bello) against the said order to the Court of Appeal, Abuja division. The appeal was accompanied by a motion for a stay of execution of the order of the high court, which the court of appeal adjourned for hearing till the 23rd of April, 2024.

The EFCC is deliberately trying to set our judiciary on a collision course in an inordinate attempt to subvert the course of justice and undermine the efficacy of our judicial system. This effrontery and brigandine approach must be nipped in the bud to save our democratic values. To us, the Middle-Belt Forum for Good Governance sees this act as purely media trial and complete abuse of the rule of law.

Our prayers are that Your Excellency, who is a lover of democracy and paid with sweat and blood during the hey days of the despotic military regime to see Nigeria transition to a fully democratic entity and for the citizens to benefit of same, must call the EFCC to order, to desist from any fifth column tactics that will undermine our democratic solidarity.

The EFCC, which is itself a creation of law, must not subvert the course of justice if they indeed have any case against the former governor. They must NOT resort to abusing the judicial process and trampling on the fundamental human rights of the former governor or any citizen of Nigeria by disobedience of the judiciary and the rule of law.

We are fully supportive of the EFCC to investigate and try Yahaya Bello, but rule of law must be obeyed. The EFCC in the past broke into the premises of former Imo State Governor Rochas Okorocha in a manner that embarrassed the image of the nation. A former governor with traceable address should be treated with decorum devoid of abuse of rule of law. In similar manner, the former Kogi governor woke up to meet his family residence cordoned by heavily armed security men with characteristics of personnel set to arrest terrorists or militants. This approach is unreasonable and should be completely eradicated from the operations of the EFCC if they want to remain relevant in the fight against corruption.

While we pray the EFCC does not make itself a pariah of democracy, it is worthy of note that the onus rests squarely on the courts to determine whether or not the EFCC is acting in breach of a subsisting order or otherwise.

Due process and rule of law must be obeyed to ensure the continuity of our enviable democracy and avoid sliding back to the dark abyss of military dictatorship and abuse of the judicial process.

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Dele Olowu Writes With Intimacy Why Hussey College Was Such A Huge Sports Power



In 1960 I sat the entrance examination to four famous schools. They were Government College Ughelli, Urhobo College Effurun, St Peter Claver's College Aghalokpe and Hussey College Warri. I flunked all the examinations. Only Hussey College Warri gave me the nod. The failure did not hurt me personally. I was eleven and probably had no capacity to frame my grief. But it did hurt me in my neighborhood and home, where I was commonly regarded as the 'bright one'. I however knew in my heart that my admission into Hussey College was an act of mercy!

The prevailing reports about my brightness were not entirely correct. I was a one trick pony, good only in English and not much else. In tests or examinations, I would ignore the mathematics side of things and deal with English and essay only. I was very verbal but words alone cannot rule the world! Hussey College, being a bigger school had greater absorptive capacity and therefore admitted pupils in larger numbers. In my year, those admitted numbered 120 pupils in four streams. But this mass intake, still, did not conceal my mediocrity. In my first term exam, I was ranked 89th out of 120. It was a dismal showing but my mother who ran my life, and who was a teacher in Warri Township school herself, surprisingly did not specially decry my unflattering output. Hussey College admission protocol was perhaps elastic and indulgent but Government College Ughelli which with some justification carried itself as the knowledge aristocracy of the time, became the subject of my undying envy and resentment. Wherever I saw their colors, their vehicle or students, I came close to being convulsed by memories of the rejection I had suffered.

But gripes aside, it was an outstanding college and it was run competently by the long-serving ex-soldier Mr. C. C Carter, whom legend said, knew all his students by name. The school excelled in many ways and intrigued some of us with its participation in the abstruse game of cricket, in which incomprehensible shouts of owzat could be heard, when more clarity was required from the umpire. I remember once watching a cricket match, and reaching the bewildered conclusion that both players and umpires looked like noon time witches!

St Peter Claver's College Aghalokpe, my other detractor was a well-known catholic college tucked in rural Aghalokpe near Sapele. It had a high success rate in the WAEC exams and its long serving Principal, Father Cardogan seemed to epitomize the College. It was a small school and ran two streams only. Founded in 1950, It was a popular school but I did not long dwell on my rejection by this respectable institution. I could live with the setback. But Urhobo College Effurun rankled. The school though located far from the city center, had a boisterous reputation and seemed to provide local counter poise to the rampart supremacy of Hussey College in athletics and football. Academics at Urhobo College was quite demanding and it granted admission in limited numbers only. My exclusion from the portals of Urhobo College Effurun completed the trinity of failures I endured in the entrance examinations. Considering all this, my admission into Hussey College was therefore a massive reprieve. Before going into the school I had encountered a bit of its history and fame. The school was founded in 1947 and named after Eric Robert James Hussey, an Olympic athlete who was also the first British Director of Education in Nigeria. Hints of ethnic nationalism may have featured in the visions of its promoters. The transfer of Warri College from Warri to Ughelli in 1946 and the founding of Urhobo College in 1947 created a lacuna in Warri. It was in order to address this deficit that Chief O.N. Rewane, lawyer and occasional politician, along with his colleague Chief E. N. A. Begho decided to establish Hussey College. It's founding vision may have been somewhat limited, but the emergent educational entity was one so robust and cosmopolitan that Hussey College qualifies as a truly pan-Nigerian product.

It started by seeking to train the lads in the immediate Warri district, but it ended up giving intellectual, moral and social instruction to the entire Nigerian landscape. Hussey College flourished in many ways, but it was its unquestionable dominance in sports that placed it firmly on the national imagination. Just where did the enchantment come from? The influence of the name has been suggested. But what does a name have to do with character and performance? This is an unresolved conundrum. A rose by any name will still smell as sweet. But names sometimes have the force to push and inspire. And the instance of Hussey is sometimes cited as one in which a name has inspired outstanding success and performance. Hussey, the Olympic athlete after whom the College was named, has turned out to be a talisman that has inspired generations of athletes, of track and field event champions and of grand style footballers, who have won fame for themselves, earned victory for their school and nation and ultimately made Nigeria a force to be reckoned with in competitive sports. It begins with the first day at Hussey College. The air is dominated by the fragrance of sports. There is a prevailing sense of ongoing informal mock competitions as anyone goes through the gates. There are howls of foul or shrieks of goal as unavailing referees attempt to impose sporting order. This is a futile experience but it provides unknowable satisfaction for Hussey students for whom the sporting experience is an epic passion.

Apart from this elemental passion, there is also the point that sports at Hussey is something of a tradition and is embedded into the folklore of the College. One of the surprising features of life at Hussey College was that all the narratives of the great sporting triumphs of the institution were at the fingertips of several students. An oral tradition which memorialized sports excellence had become part of the college experience. Many of us even in form one knew that the national record in javelin stood at 202 ft and that it was held by Nwakwo of Government College Ughelli. Even though it was 1961, students could tell the tales of great Hussey players from the 50s like Alabi Aisien, Ewerebor, Tom lawyer, Daniel Okwudili, Onokwuakpor, and Goalkeeper Nwuli alias Zanta Dudu. They were also other outstanding internationals like Morton Owolo, Jossy Donbraye and the baby face Thompson Usiyen. These were not just names; they brought honors to the school, to the region and ultimately to the country.

Ewerebor for example played in the same Hussey College champion team in the 50s with Alabi Aisien. And together they played for the Warri eleven, to which Hussey College alone contributed up to seven players. Warri's triumph was in some sense a victory for Hussey College. Ewerebor and Alabi Aisien together with a few other Hussey College students also formed Amukpe Eleven which caused a football stir by winning the challenge cup in 1964. A small disagreement in the boardroom of the Sapele F. A led to the breakaway of a faction led by a popular football enterpreneur, Mr. Khalil. Ewerebor, serially, captain of Hussey College, and Captain of Warri Eleven, became Captain of the Amukpe team. It produced seismic football turbulence, defeating most teams it encountered and winning the ultimate football prize in 1964. One of its astonishing players was goalkeeper Abu Malaya, an Onitsha lad, whose exotic sounding name gave an edge of mystery to his extraordinary saves.

The Triumph of the Amukpe Eleven was manufactured by the rampaging footballing genius of the Hussey boys. They were Ewerebor, Alabi Aisien, Daniel Okwudili, Tom Lawyer, and Abeke. Their coach was a local hand called Ogbokodo. An important convention established at this time, was the steady support student talents gave to city sports. There was a regular traffic which saw student footballers feeding club outfits and assisting the flourishing of sports in general. It was a trend that expressed itself all around the country. The reigning teams, for example the Nigerian Railways, or the Western Rivers of Ibadan and the Northern Lions, all featured student players. Over time, that tradition has however been mocked by the current corrupt practice by which club footballers and professionals contrive their ages in other to play for tertiary institutions or participate in age grade competitions.

The old healthy order has been maligned and abused. Hussey from early days, championed the use of youthful talents and encouraged their maturation into adult footballing responsibilities. Hussey College's Ewerebor played for Nigeria when he was only 17. He played alongside the likes of Onyeawuna Onyeador and Onyeali. Daniel Okwudili, another Hussey College student, also played for Nigeria when he was 17. In terms of life skills at the time, he hardly could distinguish his right from his left. He personally told me that soon after he hit the limelight, a group of Yoruba football mongers swooped on his home in Warri and spirited him away to Ibadan. He was confused by the richness of the choices offered him. He was given a house bigger than he needed; in markets, he did not have to pay for most of the stuff he bought.

Munificence threatened to bring down Okwudili's budding career. He was certainly one of the more memorable exports of Hussey College to Nigerian football. But sports success at Hussey was not merely the product of random fervor. It was also the product of management, policy and leadership. This in the end was provided by a visionary, whose mammoth contribution to popular sports often inadequately acknowledged today. Chief O. N. Rewane founder of Hussey College day-dreamt the sporting glory in which Hussey College has been covered these many years. From its pioneering days, even when Hussey operated from hired lodgings, Mr Rewane animated the school with the challenge to flourish in



sports and earn a name for itself. At great personal cost, Rewane attracted boys with talent from various parts of Nigeria to perform at the highest levels. Hussey College was truly Metropolitan featuring students and performers from various parts of the country. Hussey presence and participation enlivened sports competitions in the region. The rivalries were keen, the one in the hundred meters hurdle being amongst the most unforgettable. It was the Amateur Athletic Competition (AAA) held at the Warri stadium in 1962. The major rivals were Preston Omatsola of Government College Ughelli, who would later head the Nigerian navy and one Okorosobo alias Alamakruga from Urhobo College Effurun. It was a fierce contest, involving at least three false starts.

Preston prevailed in the end and left the spectators truly thrilled. Rewane trawled talents from such events and the late sixties were certainly amongst the golden years. He employed qualified coaches challenging the exclusivity of Government College Ughelli which for a long time was the only school which had a trained coach. Awala, a trained coach retained exclusively by Government College gave the institution an extra edge at sports meetings. In the course of one athletic meeting held on Hussey College grounds, the venerable Awala arrived at the triple jump stand and pronounced our structure substandard. He insisted that as things were, if his athlete took off from the board, he was likely to step on sand! Tapes flew out, as were the rule books. In the end Awala prevailed! It was shortly after this that O.N. Rewane employed George Dibia, an ABU-trained coach. He would serve as a worthy riposte to the technical arrogance of the Government College Ughelli cluster! Sports students were pampered, and placed on special diet. They were a small elite and the contest to get in was always extremely keen. The fight for a place in the school team for the triple jump event in 1965 was especially sharp. One contestant, a future monarch, tried to intimidate a friend of mine out of the race. Indeed, he asked him not to show up.

That way he might have elbowed him unjustly out of the fray. But the minion received furtive support from some of us. In the end merit prevailed over rank or class. That was the sporting spirit Rewane encouraged at Hussey. You dare; you win! Rewane's search for diaspora talents gathered special momentum in the 60s when the college's sport base took on stars from other parts of Nigeria. Occasionally the drive contained hints of hypocrisy for Hussey students. In 1965 a chap named Adedeji was the reigning prints champions at Hussey College. But when he got to Ibadan for the Grier Cup, he was unaccountably defeated by one Popoola from Awe High School in Oyo. He was up till then an unknown sports quantity. Popoola's victory over Adedeji at the Grier Cup contest in Ibadan was iconoclastic. A big dominion had fallen and so many Hussey College students reacted in disbelief. They therefore lapsed into superstition and declared that Popoola was not a genuine athlete. He was assisted by a juju force which enabled him to conquer without effort. Those who watched him at Ibadan confirmed this narrative. But O.N. Rewane was a rationalist. He ignored all the superstitious noises and brought Popoola to Hussey College. And the narrative changed. Popoola dominated the sprints in Nigeria for the following two years. Other imports also followed and they included Fela Sobande, high jump and hundred meters hurdle; a chap nicknamed Stroker, whose real name was Obiora imported from DMGS Onitsha to man the central defence for Hussey. He was a rock in that position when the finals was played thrice between Hussey College and St. Patrick's College Asaba in 1966. It was played in Warri, in Asaba and finally in Benin. It was a riveting contest, Hussey prevailing in the end.

Others who were also attracted to Hussey at this time were Temisan Ejoor later Military Administrator of Enugu and later of Abia State and under whom I served, Enaowho , Jero a triple jumper and footballer and Victoria Emenalor. These inclusions added a new edge to the athletic and football sharpness of Hussey College. But perhaps the most influential inclusion was that of David Urhobo. David was the quintessential renaissance artist and would excel in any event of his choice. He came to Hussey from Government College Ughelli with excellent sporting credentials. He played football; he was good in high jump, in long jump and if it was required, he would make a mark in the sprints. David Urhobo and Temisan Ejoor were friends from heaven it seems. They both joined Hussey from Ughelli and played with distinction for Hussey. David was Captain but it was in the pole vault event that David Urhobo left an indelible mark. He set a national pole vault record of 12 feet six inches in 1966 and followed up winning the bronze medal in the African games held in Lagos in 1973. David Urhobo may be the final apotheosis of what a combination between Hussey College Warri and Government College Ughelli can incarnate. But the Hussey talents who have served this country through the agency of sports are many. Many are aging and some of them remain on the fringe of our national life. Hussey College, itself founded in thrall to an Olympic athlete, has disappointed neither its vendors nor surrounding jurisdiction. Some of these extraordinary maestros are now in recess.

David Urhobo the hero of 1966 and 1973; an athlete amongst the first to use the fiber glass pacer pole and holder of Nigeria's pole vault record, now lives a completely earthbound life, and walks with a limp, the result of a stroke he suffered several years ago. He runs a keep fit outfit on the outskirts of Lagos, the last thing to come to your mind, considering his current chock of white hair and his evident Old Testament looks. He was 78 in October. As for O. N. Rewane, the chief priest of this whole sports revolution, eminent as his life has been, he is now unremembered and his online presence is surprisingly thin. Yet only few have labored more assiduously to promote and support sports in Nigeria. Since O. N. Rewane's death some 37 years ago there has been little or no talk about the huge contributions he made to support our sports. No one remembers the armada of fresh talents he either induced or developed; nor has his personal sacrifices been acknowledged in any way.

No citation; no orders; no honors. Just plain simple horror of social neglect and disrespect. Joseph Ekpo Ewerebor, the wonder boy who played in and captained Hussey in the 50s, and also captained Warri in the50s before playing for Nigeria at 17, is now 85 and though reasonably well kept, appears to suffer from a failing memory. Alabi Aisien has been as famous as a footballer as he has been as a manager. At both levels he has been prodigiously successful. He was 89 years old on October 24th but his analytical powers remain unimpeded. Alabi has correctly been described as one of Nigeria's most erudite and knowledgeable coaches of all. Perhaps only Monday Sinclair commands a rival intellectual grasp of the game. Aisien stands in excellent company amongst Nigeria's great coaches and his fairly rapid spin through Nigeria's football universe has not reduced the power of his impact. His journey, beginning from Hussey College Warri right up to club and national football have invested Alabi with an uncommon understanding of Nigerian football. He earned his reputation on coals of fire. His handling of Bendel Insurance, adopting what he himself has called a kinetic approach disrupted footballing conventions. Bendel Insurance comprised of untested youths, under Alabi smashed an Enugu Rangers team which had nine of its members in the Green Eagles line up. Enugu Rangers had a fearsome reputation as it had just been crowned as the African Winners' Cup Champion.

But by 1978, Alabi Aisien had turned Bendel Insurance into a dreaded team made up of lads who were Bini either by ancestry or habitation. They unfurled a new brand of kinetic football whose exemplars were Henry Ogboe, Chris Ogu, Orhiaki, Sylvanus Etoroma, Anthony Oviawe, Monidafe, Khadiri Ikhana, Rufus Ejele, Leotus Boateng, George Omokaro, Agel Nnaji and Prince Afejuku. Alabi built a fearsome football machine that remained undefeated for a whole football season. There is little doubt where Alabi drew his inspiration. He has publicly acknowledged that he imported his football from Warri. Complicit in Alabi's success therefore is the underlying influence of Hussey College Warri. Chief O. N. Rewane, Alabi Aisien, Joseph Ewerebor, and Thompson Usiyen the eagle star who died on the 21st August 2021, have all been unusual people. They have been people of extraordinary skill and vision, and have in different ways labored to transform Nigerian sports. All of them are people of sports and are mainly products of Hussey College Warri.

Perhaps it is a coincidence or possibly there is something in the biology of Hussey College which prepares its students for animated service in sports and sports management. Now several years after the event, I feel no more resentment that Government College Ughelli shut its portals against me. I recognize that some protocols require to be upheld to maintain the integrity of the College. Besides, these days the feeling of envy which comes from contemplating the unattainable has been removed. For as a consequence of the Biafran occupation, I was myself compelled to move to Government College Ughelli where I wrote my Higher School Certificate (Hsc) exams. I did not have much to complain about and now, when I find it agreeable, I can profit in the afterglow of Government College's goodwill. But if you ask, I will still make my bed at Hussey College. As for Urhobo College and St Peter Claver's College, Aghalokpe it can be said that having reached an accommodation with Government College Ughelli, any further resentment against Urhobo College or St Peter Clavers College would be simply pointless. The pique disappears and the outstanding obligation is to demand that more and more respect should be given to our sports heroes and transformative agents like O. N. Rewane who though he lived a limelight the limelight has hardly been remembered since he died 37 years ago. We must sing the same song in respect of the others, in particular about Alabi Aisien who in spite of his grand contribution to popular football has remained without any honor or decoration from the state. He has himself produced so much creative pleasure; he has assisted in developing countless youths, providing them with work and leisure. The convention which routinely ignores people of work and talent, while at the same time endorsing sloth is an evil one. We must reward public spirited labor with a regime of honor and support. The rash of talents which has at various times, flourished in Hussey College has been the result of hard work and active encouragement.

Olowu is a veteran journalist

Ahead of Olympics, More Prison Spaces Being Prepared For Violators

A police crackdown that aims to clear a poor suburb of petty crime and street vendors before the Paris 2024 Olympics is putting pressure on an overcrowded prison operating at almost double its capacity.

Villepinte is a grey, concrete detention centre in the suburb of Seine-Saint Denis. It lies 2.5 km from the Paris Arena Nord, set to host boxing and fencing competitions during the Games beginning on July 26.

It is among the most crowded prisons in France. Opened in 1991, Villepinte takes prisoners from the busy Bobigny courthouse nearby for pre-trial detention and short sentences.

"The penitentiary authority needs to prepare for the worst," Eric Mathais, chief prosecutor at Bobigny, said in an interview.

Reducing inmate numbers ahead of the Olympics is unrealistic, Mathais said.

"We need to limit the number of people being imprisoned, but this is easier said than done as I am under extreme pressure from everyone to be clearly more repressive."

Reuters interviewed thirteen prosecutors, judges, lawyers and clerks working in Bobigny court, who said that the Seine-Saint-Denis justice system was operating at the limits of its capacity and prosecuting increasingly minor infractions in preparation for the Games.

As of April 8, when Reuters visited Villepinte with local senator Corinne Narassiguin, there were 1,048 inmates for 582 places at the prison, according to director Pascal Spenle. The penitentiary cannot technically handle many more, Spenle said.

Reuters spoke to four inmates who described spending most of their days inside their cells, with up to three prisoners in cells designed for one, sharing a toilet and showering every other day. At least 17 prisoners were sleeping on mattresses on the floor, prison authorities said.

Yanis, a 20-year-old inmate, said he'd been on a waiting list for months for a prison work programme. One of his two cellmates, Adil, 25, said he had not met a reintegration councillor during seven months inside.

Prison doctor Ludovic Levasseur said he'd seen demand for mental health care rise in recent years while overcrowding meant long waiting lists for psychologists handling up to 60 patients each.

To avoid reaching breaking point, judges at Bobigny courthouse almost doubled the number of early releases from Villepinte and another prison last year, to nearly 500.

Still, Villepinte was operating at 180% of capacity in early April, from 177% in April last year and 168% the year before, data from the prison and Ministry of Justice shows.

Ahead of an expected surge in the Olympics build up, Spenle said, Villepinte plans to transfer inmates to other prisons, freeing up 220 places. In the longer term the prison will get a new wing, he said.

In a letter to French prosecutors dated 15 January, Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti called for "fast, strong and systematic responses" to infractions that may disrupt the Games.

Spokesperson Cedric Logelin said the ministry was taking measures to reduce overcrowding and prevent crime during the Games. He said court decisions were independent.



Caf Confederation Cup: Nigeria's Samson Adamu Signs Algeria's USM Match Forfeiture



It is now official and has moved from the realm of speculations. Algeria's USM Alger have forfeited their home match in the cancelled CAF Confederation Cup semi-final first leg duel with Morocco's RS Berkane.

An official letter signed by Nigeria's Samson Adamu has been addressed to the Algerian Football Federation (FAF). Adamu is CAF's Director of Tournaments and Events.

In the ;etter dated April 24, 2024 and sent to Nadir Bouzenad, the General Secretary of FAF, the English translation reads:

Algerian Football Federation (FAF)

"Subject: Match No 129 USMA (Algeria) vs. RS Berkane (Morocco) of the TotalEnergies Confederation Cup 2023/2024

At its meeting held on April 24, the Committee for the Organization of Interclub Competitions and the Management of the Club Licensing System decided the following:

1. Sanction Club USMA with a forfeit of 0-3 for match no.129 USMA (Algeria) vs RS Berkane (Morocco) of the TotalEnergies Confederation Cup 2023/2024.

2. Submit the case to the Disciplinary Jury for possible additional sanctions.

3. The return match RS Berkane (Morocco) vs USMA (Algeria) of the TotalEnergies Confederation Cup 2023/2024 – at the Municipal Stadium of Berkane – 8:00 p.m. (local time) on April 28, 2024 is maintained."

It is however doubtful if USM will honour Sunday's return match as Algeria pulled out of an Arab Handball Championship for the same reason that scuttled the CAF Confederation Cup match last Sunday.

NPFL Goes On One Month Break

The Nigeria Premier Football League, NPFL will embark on a one month break after matchday 32 fixtures this weekend.

The League organiser stated that the four weeks holiday became necessary to allow former champions, Rivers United conclude their outstanding matches.

Rivers United currently have five outstanding matches due to their continental engagement. The Port Harcourt based side were eliminated from the CAF Confederation following a 2-1 aggregate defeat against USM Algiers in the quarter. finals.

Rivers United defeated Katsina United 2-0 on Thursday. They are currently 12th on the NPFL table with 40 points from 26 matches.

Should they win all their outstanding five matches, they will dethrone Rangers on the apex of the log.

Week 32 matches will be concluded this weeked

The league will resume on 25th May, 2024

First Taekwondo Player in Imo State Demands More From Present Taekwondo Stars

Emmanuel Ubah, who claimed to be the first Taekwondo player in Imo State has demanded more from the crop of stars in the sport in the state, Silvernews.com.ng reports.

According to him, the then Taekwondo stars played the game with love and passion decrying that the state of the game is nothing to write home about.

He called on the leadership of the Taekwondo in Imo State to rise up and revive the sport while on government to intervene in ensuring that Taekwondo reclaims its place as a thriving sport business.

"We held it on till now. We took Taekwondo as part of life. We were existing as a community with love and influence in Imo State. I'm proud to tell you that it is a privilege to be part of the system of what is ongoing.

"Taekwondo is not violent. It is sports and the ability to defend yourself from aggression. Then it was love and expression of the inner self and crown of glory to respond to the challenges.



"But now Taekwondo has been watered down. Most of us who were the pillars of Taekwondo cannot be compared with the people of today. We are now trying to revive today's era with what we have achieved in the past.

"The foundation was love not money or who becomes the head or the tail. In those days, we were not doing all these things for reward. We did it as love. All those love is gone.

"Government should support us. The coach is fighting to get his entitlements. All these things are gone. In those days, it was not so but now we are trying to use our mental and physical status to bring to what is required."

Sliding Tackles: NFF: Reset Your Undemocratic/Discriminatory General Assembly, Now !



I have sat on the fence watching this ugly Face off between the current NFF Board and some committed Football Stakeholders on the Equitable Composition of the Highest Decision making body of the NFF; THE NFF GENERAL ASSEMBLY otherwise called THE NFF CONGRESS. I have personally watched this particular Warfare on about three different occasions ever since the Sani Lulu Abdulahi NFF Board in 2006 upon coming into office. Decided to amend the Composition of the General Assembly of the NFF in favour of the State Football Associations (State FAs) who do not represent any Constituency or contribute Financially to the Nigerian Football Industry.

But what's the bone of contention in the recurring crisis arising from the Face off on the Composition of the NFF General Assembly? Where the Complainant Stakeholders, Harrison Jalla, Chief Barrister Rumson Barubote and some others took the Ibrahim Gusau led NFF Board to court. And even went ahead to secure a Court Order restraining the NFF Board from further parading themselves as Members of the NFF Executive Committee and Directing the affairs of Nigeria Football. And the fiasco have not stopped as the Complainants have this week again secured an Order of court to serve the NFF Board Members Committal For Contempt of court charges in Forms 48 and 49. The Face off is sure getting messier by each passing day.

The issue of Disagreement between both Parties (Complainants and NFF Board Members), is that the NFF in Article 10 (ADMISSION) of it's guiding NFF Statutes 2010 provided for 5 MEMBERS that compose the NFF. The Members of the NFF clearly listed in Article 10 are: 1. State Football Associations (State FAs), 2. The Football Leagues, 3. The Players Association, 4. The Nigeria Football Coaches Association, and 5. The Nigeria Referees Association (NRA). NOTE that the relevant Article 10 did not name any of the Members as Superior to the Others.

Now, the complaining Stakeholders are aggrieved that the Sani Lulu Abdulahi NFF Amendment of the Composition of the General Assembly gave the State FAs a whopping 37 Delegates Votes. And allocated just One Vote each to the rest 4 Members (the Football Leagues, Players Association, Nigeria Football Coaches Association and the Nigeria Referees Association). The Complainants are saying that this Allocation Formula for both Delegates and Votes which is clearly skewed in the favour of the State FAs is Undemocratic and Discriminatory. And that the Article allocating the overwhelming Majority Votes to the State FAs should be amended to ensure Equal Representation of All the Members of the NFF in it's Decision making process, which the GENERAL ASSEMBLY represents.

The agitation of the Complainants can be better understood by using this hypothetical situation analogy. A Father (NFF) bore 5 Children (the State FAs, the Football Leagues, the Player's Association, the Nigeria Football Coaches Association and the Nigeria Referees Association). Now, the Father (NFF) did not dictate any of the 5 Children to be Senior to the other. The Father (NFF) had 41 Plots of Land to share to his 5 Children. And One of the Children (State FAs) who is actually the non productive Child. Comes out and grabs 37 Plots to himself and leaving his 4 other siblings with only One Plot of Land each out of their Father (NFFs) inheritance. What do you honestly think about the Sharing Formula just discussed now. Is it Fair, Just and Equitable to distribute the NFFs 41 Plots of Land in the Allocation Formula?

I don't think that is an equitable Sharing Formula from any Angles or way we look at it. The NFF Statutes did not provide in any of the 87 Articles making up the Statutes that any of it's Members is Senior or Superior to another. What Article 10 specifically provided for was that the NFF have 5 Members that compose it. Nowhere in the Statutes was it stated that One of the Members is Superior to Others to be entitled to more privileges.

So, the issue behind the Face off on the Composition of the NFF GENERAL ASSEMBLY is very clear. The Amendment made by the Sani Lulu Abdulahi NFF Board was illegal, Undemocratic, Discriminatory and Dictatorial. And should as a matter of Urgency be reset and amended away from it's present Delegates Votes structure giving the State FAs who is just One Member like the Other 4 Members, a whopping 37 Votes out of 41 Votes. I was there not as a Board Member when the Sani Lulu NFF made the now contentious Amendment. Honestly, Lulu and his Board made the Amendment in good faith to cut down the enormous cost of convening the NFF GENERAL ASSEMBLY. Which before the Amendment had over 1500 Delegates converging for the NFF Congress. But the Problem is that while the idea to cut down on the unwieldy number of Delegates to save costs was a good one. The Execution of the Brilliant initiative was very faulty. Because, the Amendment should still have been done without tampering with the equal number of Delegates and Votes. The Shortlist or streamlining should have been done, giving every Member Equal Representation.

Because, as it stands now. The less productive State FAs have used the Undemocratic and Discriminatory lopsidedness of the Clear Voting Majority handed over to it (State FAs) by the Sani Lulu Amendment, to hijack the Leadership and General affairs of the NFF. And have pushed the Other Members who are Equal to them to one dark corner and excluded the Other Members from the Decision making process of the NFF. And the sad thing in the whole matter which I know is the grievance of the Complainants is that it's the Other outcasted Members of the NFF (the Leagues and their Clubs; the Players Association who play the Football; the Coaches Association who coach the Players and the Referees who officiate the Matches) That actually reprepsent a Constituency and put their money into the Operation of the Football Industry.

So, it's hurtful for one to be putting his hard earned money into a business and someone who is not putting any dime is calling the shots. This is the situation and the cause of the Face off between the Patriotic Aggrieved Stakeholders and the NFF Board. And I think that the Gusau led NFF Board should do the needful and anend the present Undemocratic and Discriminatory lopsidedness in the Delegates and Votes structure and Composition of the NFF GENERAL ASSEMBLY. The Face off is a needless Distraction to our collective efforts of rescuing our Football from the Evils militating against it's true Development. That's what I am most worried about. Because I don't see what a Sibbling will benefit most from chasing away the rest of his Siblings and forcefully ursurping and converting the Properties of their Father to himself alone.

NFF : RESET YOUR UNDEMOCRATIC/DISCRIMINATORY GENERAL ASSEMBLY , NOW

Barrister Iyke Igbokwe (Torchlight Of Nigeria Football)

WhatsApp : 09136715922!

Lionel Messi pays tribute to ex-Barcelona boss Tito Vilanova on 10-year anniversary of Spaniard's passing

Lionel Messi paid tribute to his ex-coach Tito Vilanova on Thursday, honoring him on the 10th anniversary of his passing.

Vilanova passed in 2014

Ex-Barcelona boss died after three-year battle with cancer

Posting on social media, the Argentine rememered his old coach and friend. The Spaniard led Messi and Barcelona to a La Liga title in 2012-13 where La Blaugrana set a new league-record of 100 points.

He left his role in 2013 after a recurrence of gland cancer, and passed one year later.

Vilanova's impact on Messi and his legacy at Barcelona will never be forgotten, as the Spaniard reportedly played a crucial role in the Argentine staying with the Catalan Club.

In 2019, Marca reported that in his final days, Vilanova convinced Messi to stay with the club amid uncertainty over his future. The duo talked for 'hours' per Vilanova's former assistant at Barcelona, Jordi Roura.



Sports institute strategising for better services, says D-G Institute

Effort is being made to reposition the National Institute for Sports (NIS) for better services, the Director-General (D-G) of the institute, Prof. Olawale Moronkola, has assured.

He gave the assurance on Friday on the sideline of inspection of some ongoing projects in the institute.

According to him, efforts are also being made to ensure that the NIS fulfills its core mandate without distractions.

"We are strategising and rebranding to bring better service to Nigeria. The Minister has called for our position on a move by some people to set up a parallel sports institute in Nigeria.

"We have written to the Corporate Affairs Commission to disassociate the NIS from this group.

"I believe these people are just testing the waters. We shall ensure that they do not distract us.

"Only government has the power to approve such an institute after going through the normal channels of appropriate legislation.

"But this new body is faceless; they are not known to us. We are still waiting from the response from CAC to know if we will have to involve security agencies about the illegal activities.

"Our main concern is about the unsuspecting public that might fall victims of illegal activities," Moronkola said.

The D-G said that since he assumed duty in 2021 he revived some legacy projects in the institute.

"A lot of things have been revived at the NIS with new courses; facilities are being upgraded.

"We have set up a state-of-the-art gymnasium, mini stadium.

"Students accommodation has been upscaled and also we constructing a120-bed new hostel.

"A new lecture theatre is also under construction and our library upgraded and well equipped.

"The medical centre is upgraded with modern equipment.

"We are managing the little resources made available by government. We commend government for all the support," he said.

He further said, "Some individuals have approached us for collaboration and we shall make the best of it to impact sports development in Nigeria.

"Staff need to be equipped so that they can pass the knowledge to other people. We are rejigging our curriculum and inviting seasoned professionals to take up courses at the Institute.

"People should support the NIS to achieve its core mandate and not working at cross purposes.

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10th Okpekpe 10km Race: High Expectations As Orgainisers Begin 30-day Countdown



Expectations are high as the 10th edition of the Okpekpe international 10km road race marks 30 days before the start of the first World Athletics label road race in West Africa.

Organizers of the historic event say a lot of programmes have been lined up to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the first race to be internationally recognized and the first to have its race course measured by a World Athletics certified course measurer.

'We are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the race that opened the door to others in Nigeria to get World Athletics recognition,' says Dare Esan, the media and activation director of the race.

Esan says this year's race will see the assemblage of world class athletes who want to follow in the footsteps of some Okpekpe race champions who have gone on to carve indelible niches for themselves at the World Championships and World road running championships.

"We are also optimistic the race will produce its first sub-28 minutes runner as we have confirmed Daniel Ebenyo, the defending men's 10km race winner and World Athletics Championships and World Road Running Championships silver medalist for the event.

'Ebenyo set a new 28:28 course record last year and the much improved 28 year old is coming back to not only become the first man to successfully defend an Okpekpe race but also the first to run sub-28 minutes over the distance,' added Esan.

Esan also revealed everything is almost ready for another world class delivery of the only gold label 10km road race in Nigeria, especially the volunteers who have always worked to make the race the resounding success it has been since the first edition as a label race in 2015.

"We are going to be making use of undergraduates students from both the Edo state University in Uzaire and the Auchi Polytechnic in Auchi as volunteers with most of them drawn from relevant departments so that they can have practical experience of what they have been taught. We started this program last year and it was a huge success.'

This year's race will hold on Saturday May 25 in Okpekpe in Edo state.

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