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FROM THE ARCHIVE

We must jealously protect the anti graft laws and the priceless sacrifices of the security agencies in keeping the Nigerian nation intact.

Popular Human Rights Lawyer Mike Ofikwu Gunned Down At Home

Nigeria Anti-Graft And Security Agencies Remain Our Prime Assets



Governor Diri Approves N300,000 Grant For Bayelsa Law School Students

Nigeria Anti-Graft And Security Agencies Remain Our Prime Assets

Any serious country that has no laws to govern its people has automatically embraced anarchy and people of like minds will prefer to either be guided positively and it could as well be regarded in same option of the banana republic.

It takes a lot of sacrifices to commit to achieving greater nation with strict adherence to be committed to protecting the structure of such a nation with clear acceptance that her ANTI-GRAFT and security agencies must be regarded as an institution that should be protected in achieving a viral nation like we have in the western world.

The works of these two agencies must be seen as national service which should be JEALOUSLY guided with all it takes in order to guarantee the future of its generation unborn in a collective decision that it is possible. However, in African countries those institutions that are dear to the citizen are supposed to be protected are sometimes abused by those who are supposed to protect the same institution if such laws does not go the way of their self interest to the detriment of the larger generation as if the public offices are permanently made for the office holders instead of being in trust on behalf of the citizen. Life itself is so funny that when it suits the power brokers they lay claim to have authorities and assume the height of being lawlessness and act in an abusive manner as if they own life when we are just a passage that things are temporarily owned by our next generations. Let it be loud said that every office holder should be reminded that the offices are transient and the air we breath as well belong to our creature and our works should be valued that it is a privilege to life and it should as well sink into our thoughts to trend with caution that we came into this sinful world as empty and in same manner every one will return empty and it will be by his grace to the right to life.

**SPEAK
ON THE
ISSUES**

WITH
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Despite the incidence of life some people still believe they are above the laws of the land going recklessly without a reminder that no one should be above the laws devoured of any form of violations that will hamper the freedom

of others knowing fully well others rights exist.

The global trend is making laws that will further strengthen the structure of the institutions of anti- graft and security agencies to avoid anarchy at all times but sadly the reverse has

been the case as if Nigeria was built for those that have so far shamelessly made effort to destroy its existence over the years especially in the era of political dispensation from 1999 till date.

Unarguably the pendulum is pointing to those Nigerians that have collaborated with those violators of questionable character who have never meant well for this greatest African black nation in the world.

Despite the giant strides taking before and after Nigeria independence from the days of our colonial masters through the Nigeria civil war our attitude has never been of conviction the effort of the hero's past should not be allowed to go in vain. We sometimes claim not to know that offices are a passing face and the impacts we make will leave a text of times after our passage in no time that is not definite.

Hence the court of finality has spoken I hope those in the public office should learn how to perform their duties with fear of God and leave the above board to be aware that both the offices they occupy and every national structures are national assets that are very distinct in operations. If issues are considered by law those agencies are observing the functions of the entire architectures expected that duties are done in line with the guiding principles with the public office rules and regulations and accountable in every action and in actions as a public office holder.

The last issue just for the records is the rate of criminalities in the Nigeria public sectors that are celebrated with confirmation on same known to be suspects are of funny characters with titles by same co - collaborators that are shamelessly existing for the material gains with grid involved in economic sabotage but history will judge us all with generational causes that will be irrevocable as ancestral benefits if only it will serve as deterrent.

Popular Human Rights Lawyer Mike Ofikwu Gunned Down At Home

An Otukpo-based lawyer and activist, Mike Ofikwu, was killed by unknown armed men at his residence in Otukpo LGA, Benue State on Wednesday night around 8pm.

According to an anonymous source, Ofikwu had just returned home from work and was waiting for his gate to be opened when two armed men in a vehicle drove up and shot him dead before fleeing.

Expressing shock, he said "it was like what you see in the movies. He just returned back home and was waiting for the gate of his house to be opened for him to drive in.

"Suddenly two men in a vehicle who were obviously tailing him, drove close to him and shot him after which they fled.

"The gunshot attracted the attention of people who ran to the scene and he was immediately rushed to the hospital but he was already dead after losing so much blood.

"His tragic death has thrown the Idoma community into mourning because he was a known lawyer and activist in this part of the state and country and we find it so difficult to understand the motive for his murder."



Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent, SP,

Catherine Anene who confirmed the development commiserated with the

family and friends of the deceased assuring that investigation into the

matter was on "and I can assure you that justice will be served."

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13 political parties accept Ondo election results, back Gov Aiyedatiwa



Candidates of political parties that participated in last Saturday's governorship election in Ondo state, on Friday, said they have accepted the outcome of the results and expressed their readiness to work with Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa to build a new Ondo state.

The candidates who met with Aiyedatiwa alongside their party

chairmen, at the Banquet Hall of the Government House in Akure, the state capital, pledged their support for the administration of Aiyedatiwa in the interest and development of the state.

The political parties numbering 13 said they had accepted the outcome of the governorship election and urged the governor to extend hand of fellowship to other political parties

who contested against him.

The political parties represented at the meeting were Accord (A), Action Alliance (AA), Allied Peoples Movement (APM), New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), All People's Party (APP), African Democratic Party (ADP), African Democratic Congress (ADC), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Labour Party (LP),

Youth Party (YP), Young People's Party (YPP), Boot Party (BP) and the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP).

Responding, Governor Aiyedatiwa appreciated the candidates and party chairmen for pledging to support his administration, noting that their support would not be taken for granted.

He stated that the develop-

ment of the state has become a collective duty for all and required all stakeholders to come together and contribute meaningfully towards the development of the State.

Aiyedatiwa promised that his administration will continue to run an inclusive governance that will not discriminate against any political party.

Over 25,000 Constituents To Benefit As Rep Kama Flags-Off Medical Outreach

The Lawmaker representing Ohaozara/ Onicha/ Ivo Federal Constituency of Ebonyi at the National Assembly, Hon. Nkemkama Kama, says no fewer than 25,000 persons would benefit from his ongoing medical outreaches across his Constituency.

The lawmaker who made the disclosure while flagging-off the outreach programme at Oshiri community in Onicha LGA of the State, said the outreaches would take place in 13 centres across the three LGAs that make up the Federal Constituency.

Kama said he would sustain his medical outreaches on his constituents to enhance their health wellbeing, until health centres and hospitals in the constituency are functional.

The outreaches would be conducted bi-annually as about 16,000 indigents benefitted from last year's outreach.

"We are expecting about 25,000 beneficiaries this year as we have included surgeries, cancer screening, among others.

"We have already distributed 100 glasses since morning and I have directed that arrangements should be made for more 100.

Kama said complicated or severe cases are being referred to the David Umahi Federal University Teaching Hospital (DUFUTH) for adequate medical attention.

"We don't want to be doing good and situations would arise and that is why I am shouting that we should handle the cases we can handle, and refer the severe cases to DUFUTH".

He thanked Governor Francis Nwifuru for his support to his activities which he said had made him excel in the House of Representatives.

"He is only interested in whoever is working for the people and not the



political party one belongs.

"We would continue doing our best for Oshiri people and other constituents and the ones we can't do, we plead with the governor to intervene," Kama said.

The State Commissioner for Health, Dr Moses Ekuma commended the lawmaker for the outreach and urged the people to ensure they promote their health wellbeing.

Represented by Dr Lawrence Ezeogo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, the Commissioner said the governor is interested in the people's health as whoever supplements his strides in the sector would be appre-

ciated.

"We are here because you are on the right track by taking care of the health of your people. We have gone round and saw the caliber of Doctors engaged to undertake this outreach. They are consultants from reputable hospitals.

"What you are doing here is to complement the efforts of the State Governor, His Excellency, Rt Hon Bldr Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru. The government is happy with you, that's why the Ministry of Health brought mobile X-ray to support this program.

"The State ministry of health will

continue to give you all the necessary support because your programmes are in tandem with the policies and programmes of His Excellency's administration," he said.

Chief Samuel Akuma Igboti, a Stakeholder of the area said he lacked words to express his joy over the outreach.

"This is another Azu Agboti of Ebonyi South, we voted for him because he assured us he won't disappoint and from all assessments, he has not disappointed us."

Hon John Igboke, another Stakeholder said that the outreach was fantastic and one could see how our

people came out in their numbers to be part of the programme.

"The people are getting treatment free of charge and that's what people want in governance. I pray to continue to protect and promote him."

One of the beneficiaries of the health outreach, Mrs Okike Elizabeth, said she was happy about this outreach which was why they came out in our large number to benefit.

"We thank the Lawmaker for making our health and welfare his priority and our prayer is that God will protect him so that he will continue to represent us well", she said.



Hunger, economic deprivation killing Nigerians – NANS tells Tinubu

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has urged President Bola Tinubu to, as a matter of urgency, address the hardship, especially hunger confronting Nigerians.

The student association declared that economic deprivation is killing the people.

The NANS Clerk of the Senate, Abdulyekinn Odunayo, made the call in a statement released in Abeokuta on Saturday.

Odunayo lamented that the current administration has forced Nigerians to endure needless poverty and hunger.

According to the statement, the Tinubu-led government's simultaneous elimination of fuel subsidies and floating of the national currency has further sunk Nigerians into economic despair, increased hunger and hiking the cost of living for millions of residents.

Odunayo acknowledged that some students have benefited from the student loan program implemented by Tinubu's administration, but he called for a complete economic reform so that Nigerians can experience the good governance that the

President has promised.

The statements reads, "There is an urgent need by the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to put measures in place to arrest hunger, poverty, impoverishment going on in the country.

"Nigerians are seriously groaning under the heavy burden of the present parlous economic situation. The nation has not had it this bad.

"The dual swords of Damocles of fuel subsidy removal and float of naira have stabbed Nigerians at their hearts.

"Many families can no longer feed even once in a day, let alone three times a day. Free falls of our currency against the dollars and other international currencies have capped the sufferings of Nigerians,

"As representatives of the Nigerian students, we are making a passionate call on the President to tailor and rev up his economic policies to provide short term, medium term and long term reliefs for Nigerians.

"Things need to improve as many Nigerians are finding it difficult to survive."

NAAPE President Canvasses Confirmation Of Imalighwe As Substantive Rector For NCAT

The Federal Government has been enjoined to confirm the appointment of Mr. Joseph Imalighwe as the substantive Rector of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria.

Comrade Abednego Galadima, the President National Association of Aircraft Pilots and Engineers (NAAPE), stated this during the week in an interview with Saturday Independent.

Galadima explained that since the assumption of office on December 13, 2023, Imalighwe had galvanised growth in the institution and enhanced productivity, stressing that his confirmation would propel him to do more for the college.

Imalighwe was appointed as the Acting Rector of NCAT alongside five other Chief Executives (CEs).

Apart from Capt. Chris Najomo, the Acting Director-General Civil Aviation (ADGCA), other four were substantive Chief Executives.

Imalighwe, had replaced Capt. Alkali Modibbo who was removed alongside other five CEs last December.

The Federal Government in its statement had said that Imalighwe would be in acting capacity, pending the

appointment of a substantive rector, in accordance with Section 13(2) of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act, 2022.

But, Galadima explained that as an acting rector for the college, Imalighwe had been able to execute some of his vision for the college, stressing that within the last 11 months, he had ensured harmony and insistence on application of standards in the college.

He said: "The rector has done well; he has stabilised the college because as you can see every point in time, you have the right operating environment. So, the fact that there is harmony going on, training is going on and we just finished an audit, which was successful, so, you will know that he is doing well.

"But, the thing is that it is good for him to be confirmed as a substantive rector for NCAT. If you are giving somebody an acting position, sometimes, he is not on his footing. So, to have long term goals, becomes difficult, but in the interim, you can operate.

"He is the right man for the job. He should be made the substantive rector of NCAT, but it is at the prerogative of the government.

Extradition of Ekpa is a Legal battle Nigerian government will never win – Uche Mefor



As the Federal Government of Nigeria is making frantic efforts to ensure the extradition of Mr. Simeon Ekpa to Nigeria from Finland where he's facing charges of instigating insecurities in South East Nigeria, a group under the auspices of Igbo-Biafra Nationalists (IBN), with Mazi Uche Mefor as founder says it would be difficult for Nigeria as a nation to win the legal battle of extraditing the freedom crusader to Nigeria.

The Spokesperson of IBN, Edoziuno Chukwunonso, recently disclosed this to newsmen while reacting on the arrest of Ekpa by Finland authority.

Just as Mefor insisted that, "the debate surrounding Simon Ekpa's potential extradition from Finland to Nigeria continues to stir legal and political discourse, with Mazi Uche

Mefor, the convenor of the Igbo-Biafra Nationalists (IBN) and the Indigenous People of Igbo Nation for Self-determination (IPINS), issuing a strong statement on the matter. Nigerian authorities will face significant challenges in their bid to extradite Ekpa, a Finnish citizen, back to Nigeria.

"Simon Ekpa cannot be extradited to Nigeria by Nigerian authorities merely by wishing for it or expressing it," Mefor stated.

He highlighted that such an attempt would result in a "protracted legal battle" in which Nigeria is unlikely to prevail, citing Ekpa's Finnish citizenship and the stringent human rights protocols in Finland.

Mefor pointed out that Finland, known for its strong stance on human rights, would not simply hand over Ekpa to Nigerian authorities without

guarantees.

"Nigeria has appalling and horrible human rights records," he said, while also emphasizing that the Finnish authorities would need Nigeria to sign an agreement ensuring that Ekpa would not be subjected to torture or inhumane treatment, informing that without such guarantees, extradition appears unlikely.

"If that ever comes to trial and imprisonment, he will serve his time in Finland, not in Nigeria," Mefor added, underscoring Finland's legal protections for its citizens, especially in cases involving countries with questionable human rights practices.

On the Biafra's Cause, he said: "Despite the legal complexities, Mefor noted a potential positive outcome for the Biafran cause. "The issue of Nigeria and Biafra will be raised

and discussed," he said. This would bring attention to the longstanding calls for self-determination in the South-East region. However, Mefor was critical of Ekpa's actions, accusing him of criminalizing the Biafran movement. "Simon and his gang, under the inspiration of Nnamdi Kanu, have slaughtered innocent Igbo-Biafran sons and daughters in cold blood and during peacetime," Mefor stated. These actions, he argued, have cast a shadow over the Biafran struggle. Nonetheless, Mefor remained confident that the larger cause for Biafran independence would not be derailed by Ekpa's faction or his arrest."

While commenting on the potential impact of Ekpa's arrest on Nigeria, "I believe the immediate benefit for Nigeria would be to demoralize Ekpa's 'criminal gang' and to weaken their operations by investigating their financial sources. However, he suggested that such efforts would not address the deeper issues fueling the Biafran movements."

In his concluding remarks, Mefor asserted that "nobody can ultimately stop the issue or idea of Biafra." While the methods of pursuing self-rule might evolve, the central demand for justice and independence remains intact. "The idea of self-rule, which Biafra embodies, can never die in the midst of ongoing injustices against the South-East region and the Igbo-Biafrans."

Tinubu, Wife Depart Brazil After G20 Summit

President Bola Tinubu and First Lady Oluremi Tinubu have left Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, following their participation in the 2024 G20 Leaders' Summit.

The two-day event, hosted by Brazilian President Lula da Silva, focused on the theme, "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet."

During the summit, held from November 18 to 19, Tinubu engaged in discussions aimed at bolstering Nigeria's socio-economic reforms.

According to President Tinubu, "This summit was an opportunity to align Nigeria's developmental goals with global best practices."

The meeting brought together leaders from the world's 20 largest economies, including multilateral organisations like the African Union and the European Union.

Key topics included sustainable development, global governance reforms, climate change, and the digital economy.

Tinubu was accompa-



nied by top officials, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Yusuf Tuggar and Minister of Livestock Development Idi Maiha, among others.

"Our delegation ensured

that Nigeria's perspectives on critical global issues were adequately represented," noted Yusuf Tuggar.

Tinubu's presence underscored Nigeria's commitment to global cooper-

ation. As he departed, the president reiterated his administration's dedication to translating the summit's outcomes into actionable reforms.

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Top Govt Official Told MC Oluomo Not To Leave Office After Appeal Court Sack – Baruwa

Tajudeen Baruwa, who claims the title of National President of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), has alleged that a top government official told his opponent, Musiliu Akinsanya, popularly known as MC Oluomo, not to vacate office as the new President of the union despite the appeal court judgement sacking him.

Naija News reports that Baruwa, in an interview with Punch, dismissed insinuations that the Federal Government had a hand in the crisis rocking the union.

Baruwa stated that there are speculations that a top government official is backing MC Oluomo not to leave office and nothing will happen.

He said, "I am not aware of that because there is no information from anywhere to that effect. No one has told me that the Federal Government has a hand in the crisis affecting our union. I only heard the rumour that a top government official had been supporting him (MC Oluomo). That is the rumour that is making the rounds. Up till yesterday (Wednesday), we also heard that this top government official told MC Oluomo that he should not leave office and that nothing will happen. But it is a rumour because I did not hear it from the top government official himself. You know how rumours fly in our union,

and when they do not see anything, they will not say it. They must see traces before they can say it out."

Asked why he had not been reinstated as the NURTW president based on the appeal court ruling, Baruwa said, "You know that the law is a process, and we must follow the due process of the law. You cannot just bring any person and put them there as the union's president because you have court judgment. Due process has to be followed. We are following due process to ensure that I am reinstated as the NURTW president, and I know MC Oluomo is not above the law; I am also not above the law. So, MC Oluomo cannot say he will not vacate that position."

Baruwa further allayed fears that MC Oluomo's relationship with President Bola Tinubu might hinder his reinstatement as the president of the NURTW.

He added, "I don't know what you are talking about. All I know is that I am President Bola Tinubu's son. I am a Yoruba man and a member of the All Progressives Congress. So, everybody in Nigeria today is a son or daughter of President Tinubu. So, MC Oluomo is not the only son or loyalist of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. You and I and other Nigerians are Bola Tinubu's sons now."

Residents Of Tsakanin Tafawa community Laud Buba For Building Mosque

It was a memorable day of joy for residents of Tsakanin Tafawa, a hard-to-reach community in Toro Local Government Area of the state when they recently witnessed the commissioning of a mosque built by the Senator representing Bauchi South Senatorial District Shehu Umar Buba.

Daily Independent gathered that Tsakanin Tafawa community is plagued with challenges of lack of basic amenities such as electricity, portable water and good road networks.

A resident of Tsakanin Tafawa community Jamilu Mohammed who could not contain his joy over the development, said that at last someone who has a heart for the people has finally come to their rescue.

"We in this community are lacking some basic necessities of life such as good roads, electricity and portable water, with the construction of this mosque now, we are optimistic that all these issues I have mentioned will be a thing of the past.

"We are happy that Senator Shehu Buba has kept to his promise and we are

commissioning this mosque today. With just a little time in office, the senator has justified the confidence reposed on him by his people by embarking on laudable projects that touches the life of the common man. May God bless him and keep him for us" he said

Hajiya Safiya Hasimu, a house wife who also came to witness the commissioning of the mosque also could not contain her joy as she said that this is the first time she was seeing a politician in her community.

"This is the first time I am seeing a politician in my community because we only hear they go to nearby communities, may be because the road networks are good, I don't know, but here, they don't come"

"Building this mosque is a great achievement for us because we don't have a befitting place of worship. We have already tendered our other complains such as portable water, construction of road and electricity to the senator and I know he will do something because he is a very compassionate person" she said.

Gov Diri Approves N300,000 Grant For Bayelsa Law School Students



Governor of Bayelsa State, Senator Douye Diri, has approved the payment of N300,000 each to students from the state in all the law school campuses in Nigeria.

Governor Diri disclosed this at a meeting with representatives of the Bayelsa State Law Graduates Forum in Yenagoa.

The governor was represented at the meeting by

the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Biriya Dambo, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Mr. Dambo said the approval reflected the governor's commitment to the education of Bayelsans and that it would cushion the effect of the economic hardship in the country on the students.

He also stated that the grant would aid their academic pursuit and improve their welfare.

Dambo urged the students to focus on their academic work in order to make the state and their families proud, saying they had a bright future ahead if they stay focused.

Speaking on behalf of the students, Imomotimi

Annabel Godspower expressed their profound gratitude to Governor Diri for approving the grant, saying the gesture was very encouraging.

She equally appreciated the governor's commitment to the educational pursuit of Bayelsans as well as the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice for facilitating the process.

Details Emerge as PDP Governors, Stakeholders Meet in Jos

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governors have reiterated their dedication to repositioning the party and restoring hope to Nigerians.

The commitment was made during a meeting of the PDP Governors' Forum hosted by Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, in Jos on Friday night.

Governor Mutfwang reassured supporters that the governors and critical stakeholders are committed to re-strategizing to stabilize the party. He expressed gratitude to the governors and party faithful who attended the meeting, emphasizing the importance of the gathering in charting a way forward for the PDP.

"Even though this is primarily a meeting of governors, it is gratifying to see party leaders and stakeholders from various states filling this room to support the governors as we strategise to ensure not only the stability of our party but also its ability to continue providing hope to Nigerians," Mutfwang stated.



Republic. He proudly referred to Plateau as the 'Home of PDP'.

"By the grace of God, after years of miserable leadership by the opposition on the Plateau, the people have welcomed their party back. The PDP and I am determined to improve the lives of our people and fulfill the party's mandate of social justice and empowerment," he added.

Chairman of the PDP Governors' Forum and governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Mohammed, commended the party's stakeholders for their unwavering support. He emphasized the PDP's unity and its position as an unbreakable political party offering Nigerians

hope and good governance.

His words: "We are here on the Plateau, and Governor Mutfwang has shown us that Plateau is indeed a melting pot where everyone is welcome. The PDP remains an indivisible party. Despite minor hiccups, we are united with all organs and leaders of the party. We will continue to work together to provide Nigerians with opportunities for better governance"

Oyo State governor and vice chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF), Seyi Makinde, also reassured PDP supporters of the governors' determination to reform the party and restore its leadership

role in Nigeria.

The meeting was attended by several notable party leaders, including Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri (Adamawa), Governor Kefas Agbu (Taraba), Governor Dauda Lawal (Zamfara), and the Acting National Chairman of the PDP, Illiya Damagum.

The PDP governors' meeting comes ahead of the party's 99th National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting earlier scheduled for November 28 but adjourned indefinitely. The meeting is expected to deliberate on the future of acting National Chairman Ambassador Umar Ilyas Damagum.

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Korean Ambassador, Kim Pankyu Lauds EFCC's Anti-corruption Fight

The Korean Ambassador to Nigeria, Kim Pankyu, has commended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on its sustained efforts to stamp out economic and financial crimes and corruption in the country.

He gave the commendation in Lagos on Thursday, November 21, 2024 when he led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the office of the acting Director of the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the EFCC, Michael T. Wetkas.

Speaking during the brief meeting, Pankyu praised the EFCC for its tireless efforts in combating economic and financial crimes in the country and also pledged to support its activities.

While highlighting what he described as the significant presence of Korean companies in the country, he disclosed that many more Korean businessmen "are eager to invest in the country."

"To facilitate this growth,

I would like to enjoin the Commission to create a more secure environment for our investors," he added.

Responding, Wetkas assured the Korean Ambassador and his team of the Commission's commitment to continuously create a secure environment for businesses to thrive in Nigeria.

According to him, "One of the major reasons for the creation of EFCC is to ensure a conducive and secure business environment for local and foreign businesses to thrive."

He also emphasized the EFCC's efforts in fighting crimes in Nigeria and pledged to assist existing and aspiring investors to tackle any challenge that may arise during their business operations in the country.

Wetkas further expressed optimism that the visit would grow into a robust and fruitful partnership between the EFCC and the Korean Embassy.

Court Jails 15 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justice A.N. Erhabor of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City between November 18 and 20 convicted and sentenced 15 internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are Egbai Jude, Diamond Aliza, Ugochukwu Chijindu, Oboh Isaac, Olabode Bright, Ngbakor Godstime Oghechi, Agbi Paul, Amadin Samuel and Imade Nelson Ikponmwo.

Others are Osasenge Eguavo Daniel, Emeka Ebube, Friday Edosa Elijah, Alfred Stanley Godbless, Ifeanyi Amadi Omote and John Ogheneyole.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission.

The charge against Egbai reads: "That you Jude Egbai (m) on or about the 30th of October, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A. Jirbo, I.M. Elodi, K.Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, Ibrahim Faisal and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

On Wednesday, November 20, Osasenge Eguavo Daniel, Emeka Ebube, Friday Edosa Elijah, Alfred Stanley Godbless, Ifeanyi Amadi Omote and John Ogheneyole were convicted and sentenced by Justice Erhabor to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

On Tuesday, November 19, Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Imade Nelson Ikponmwo to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

Justice Erhabor on Monday November 18 convicted and sentenced Egbai Jude, Diamond Aliza, Ugochukwu Chijindu, Oboh Isaac, Olabode Bright, Ngbakor Godstime Oghechi, Agbi Paul, to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Amadin Samuel bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

The judge ordered the forfeiture of one Red Lexus 2005 ES350 recovered from Ugochukwu Chijinda, one Lexus RX350 2010 model recovered from Emeka Ebube, one Mercedes Benz Glk 350 2010 model from Friday Edosa Elijah, one Mercedes Benz C300 2012 model from Alfred Stanley Godbless and one RX350 2010 model from Omote John Ogheneyole being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Supreme Court's Judgment Makes EFCC Stronger - Olukoyede



The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has disclosed that the November 15, 2024 Supreme Court's judgment that thrashed the suit of 19 state governors challenging the constitutionality of the establishment and functioning of the EFCC, has placed the Commission in a stronger pedestal to fight economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption.

Olukoyede stated this in Abuja on Thursday, November 21, 2024 when a delegation of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), led by its Regional Director for Africa and West Asia, Dr. Roba Sharamo paid him a courtesy visit.

According to him, "I want to let you know that we are more solid now than ever before. You are aware that 19 governors took us to court. They went to court and the judgment that was given makes us stronger than ever before. The Supreme Court Justices gave it to them, reminded them that the Supreme Court has spoken on this matter and given judgment. So why are you wasting your states' resources on it? Why are you wasting the time of this court by bringing this application to us again?"

"Number one, they said that the EFCC has power over federal agencies, state agencies and local government agencies. Number two, they said, where the EFCC is working, it has the right to cover the field. It is what we call the doctrine of covering the field in Nigeria. It's a legal doctrine. It's a principle that says that where a federal agency has covered the field, no state or local government agency has the right to compete with it. In other words, wherever the EFCC is operating, state or local government agencies don't even have the power to meddle."

"So, I have told my men that the ball is in our court, now. You can investigate even a serving governor. So, go ahead, investigate their finances and their activities. The only thing you can't do is prosecute. You have to wait until they leave office when they don't have immunity anymore. They also warned the people who have been using the instrumentality of the state to shield themselves from justice to desist from it. The Supreme Court has spoken, and it has a big impact. We are going out to work without any further inhibition," he said.

The EFCC boss appreciated the partnership of IDEA with the Commission, stressing that the international development partner has been impactful, functional and reliable. "We appreciate your impact and the partnership has come to stay," he said. He identified some critical areas where the Commission needed more support, stressing that the volume of work of the EFCC and the new framework it is working on require stronger collaboration with IDEA.

Earlier in his remark, Sharamo expressed confidence in and satisfaction with the Commission's anti-corruption drives, especially in the area of asset recovery, noting that IDEA has been a longstanding strategic partner of the EFCC.

He also stressed that the visit was motivated by the need to explore more areas of need and support for the Commission.

"I want to really appreciate the work that we do together and I think it's always very encouraging when you have a partnership that is visible and vibrant. The programme that we run will only be very useful if it reflects your priorities; if it really integrates your priorities into the design of the projects.

So we are basically there for you. I want you to consider us as an extension of your team. The aspect around asset recovery will continue to be a challenge, because people will say, people have stolen money, how much have we recovered? So, besides the asset recovery interventions that you have, maybe there are areas you feel we can be useful with a programme to help you. There could be more areas that we can be very useful and support you to deliver on your mandate."

Sharamo applauded EFCC's anti-corruption fight, noting that it was critical in achieving meaningful human development indices in the country. "Fighting corruption and ensuring that the much needed development resources are directed to the areas that they actually need to go, especially for human security, poverty alleviation and all that is critical."

IDEA is an international inter-governmental institution, committed to promoting democracy and good governance with a global member state of 35 countries, out of which eight are from Africa, namely, Ghana, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Mauritius, Benin, Cape Verde and Tunisia. Nigeria is yet to enlist.

Alleged N320m Fraud: Court Frowns as Mutu Violates Bail Condition

Justice F. Giwa Ogunbanjo of Federal High Court, Abuja on Thursday, November 21, 2024, expressed displeasure upon discovery that a defendant, Nicholas Mutu has been jetting out of the country with an undeclared passport and without the express permission of the court in violation of his bail conditions.

Mutu, who served as Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), between August 2014 and August 2016 is facing prosecution by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on 13-count charges of money laundering to the tune of N320million.

Justice Ogunbanjo during proceedings noted that the defendant's overseas travel

without the court's permission was intolerable and that such contempt of her court would not be overlooked. "There is no justification for the defendant to flout the order of this honorable court. The order is that the defendant must not leave this country without express permission from the court and it appears that he has left without permission or even notification. I am not going to sweep it under the carpet," she said.

Mutu's unauthorised journeys became known when prosecution counsel, Ekele Iheanacho, SAN informed the court that investigation from the Nigerian Immigration Service showed that the defendant has been traveling out of the country with a passport that was not among the three he surrendered to the EFCC, and

which the Commission deposited with the court.

While praying for the revocation of the defendant's bail, Iheanacho argued that, "The provision of Section 173 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and Section 175 allow this court to revoke his bail, because with another passport, the defendant can take off at any time, having admitted that he has another passport and has travelled with it. Also for the defence to make an assertion against the EFCC that they did not collect all his passports at the time he was in our office has no basis, because the bail conditions required that he gets express permission from the court. So I urge this honourable court to revoke his bail."

Until it was found during the proceedings of Wednesday,

November 20, 2024, through a thorough search of the repositories of the court's Registry, the whereabouts of Mutu's three passports could not be traced for months on end, prompting a blame game between the court and the prosecution and resulting in the slow progress of the trial following the judge's insistence that the passport must be traced and produced.

Upon a successful tracing of the passports in the court's Registry on Wednesday, Justice Ogunbanjo during the proceedings of Thursday, November 21, 2024, tendered an apology to the prosecution. "I would like to apologize to Iheanacho. This situation has put us through so much embarrassment. We have always thought that the passports were not in our custody.

EFCC Arrests 35 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abia State

The Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on Wednesday November 20, 2024, arrested thirty five (35) suspected internet fraudsters comprising thirty-four male suspects and one female

They were arrested in an early morning sting operation in Aba, Abia State.

The arrested suspects are: Emmanuel James, Ukaomo Jefferson, Felix Onyema, Daniel Chimaobi, Chukwuemeka John, Prince Ogbonna, Charles Daniel, Emmanuel Igboanugo, Eric Uke, Emmanuel Ogechukwu, Chibuikwe Prosper, Obi Victor, Emmanuel Onwuchekwa,

Price Kingsley, Uchechi Awo, Chinonso Callistus, Edward Wisdom, Ejiogu Justice, Precious Edward, Moses Meshael and Kalu Victor.

Others are: Ujoatu Goodluck, Ikeh Sochima, Obinna Prosper, Onyekachi Christian, Christopher Chris, Precious Smart, Clinton Ifeanyi, Daniel Obuzoma, Chukwuebu-ka Promise, Cjay Ekeamaka, Ejiogu Price, David Favour, Okechukwu Emmanuel and Nwigwe Joy.

Items recovered from them include: 48 sophisticated mobile phones, nine laptops, three exotic cars as well as a wristwatch and international passport.

Olukoyede to Nigerian Youths: Replace Cybercrimes with Cyber values

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has charged youths across the country to shun cybercrimes by replacing them with values obtainable on the internet.

He gave this charge in Abuja on Tuesday, 19 November, 2024 at the Federal Capital Territory, FCT's Next Generation Engagement forum. According to him, value creation through the internet is a potent alternative to cybercrimes which youths can explore.

"I want to see a generation that will lead a new fight against corruption through value creation. If we have youths heating up the polity by their criminality, we should also have youths challenging them by their integrity.

Let us eliminate cybercrimes through cyber values", he said.

The EFCC boss, who was represented by the Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the Commission, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE 11 Aisha Muhammed, also stressed that youth are losing their sense of values and dignity to internet fraud. "Nigeria has lost considerable financial and reputational wealth to cybercrimes. In 2022 alone, Nigeria lost about \$500m to the crime. The reputation issues we are having across the world are hideous. Besides, our youths are losing sense of values and dignity to internet fraud. No world outlook that is focused on criminality can stand the test of time.

NBA Lauds EFCC's Anti-Corruption Fight



Chairman of the Ilorin Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association, Barrister Sulyman Kosemani has commended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on its war against corruption in the country promising to work with it within the ambit to tackle it.

This commendation was made in Ilorin on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 when the Kosemani led other members of his executives on a courtesy visit to the Zonal Director, Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC, Harry Erin, at the Commission's office in Ilorin.

He said the essence of the visit was to enable the new heads from both sides to familiarize and strengthen the existing cordial relationship

between the two institutions for better results.

Kosemani acknowledged the roles of the EFCC in sanitizing the country of corruption, while also noting the roles of lawyers in ensuring that citizens' rights were guaranteed. "We are aware of your role in the society and our responsibility is to promote the rule of law and ensure that citizens rights are not infringed upon", he said.

"Your adherence to the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) when obtaining statements from suspects is commendable. By following these legal standards, you are not only protecting the rights of individuals but also enhance the integrity of our justice system. Your dedication to transparency and

fairness in your investigations reflects positively on the EFCC and reinforces public confidence in your efforts to combat economic and financial crimes."

While describing the EFCC as "one of the country's anti-graft agencies that is working to ensure a better society for all", Kosemani said that, "the manner in which the EFCC is dealing with internet fraudsters particularly the young ones who should be our future leaders of tomorrow, and who are getting involved in an act of criminality is impressive. I want to implore the Commission to put the same effort against any public officers who mismanage public funds."

Kosemani delightfully appreciated the efforts of the EFCC under Olukoyede and urged the Commission not to relent in the fight against corruption and ensure that there is no sacred cow. He also called for more understanding and robust synergy in resolving issues that may hamper the cordial relationship between the two institutions.

"Our ultimate goal is not only to combat corruption but also to foster a collaborative relationship between the legal profession and the EFCC. Together, we can create a united front that strengthens the fight against corruption by working in harmony with the Bar. We can ensure that our collective efforts yield tangible results, reinforcing the trust of the public

in both our institutions", he said.

Responding, the Zonal Director, Harry Erin thanked his guests for the visit, adding that the EFCC had always enjoyed a good relationship with the Bar and would continue to work with it for better results. According to him, the role of the Bar in making the anti-corruption war a success cannot be overemphasized. We have a duty to at least get to a stage, where our common wealth is not flagrantly and arrogantly pilfered by those who should be held to the highest threshold of accountability. He reiterated the firm commitment of Olukoyede to leave no stone unturned in bringing to justice perpetrators of economic and financial crime, high or low, saying, "It's not going to be business as usual".

Erin also prides EFCC as one of the agencies of government that has great respect for the rule of law while carrying out its duties. In the same vein, he enjoined lawyers as practitioners in the temple of justice and patriotic citizens to ensure that individually and collectively, they do not constitute themselves into clogs in the wheel of the progress of the anti-corruption fight by using the instrumentalities of law to frustrate corruption cases while defending their clients in courts. Erin promised to look into the issues of concern raised by Kosemani and called for more collaboration between the EFCC and the Bar.



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EFCC Monitors Ondo Governorship Poll

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Saturday, November 16, filed out to monitor the ongoing governorship election in Ondo State.

The monitoring exercise is aimed at checkmating vote buying and selling or

other form of electoral offences. It is also meant to ensure utmost integrity of the electoral processes.

Operatives are all over the state in line with the mandate of the Commission to prevent, investigate and prosecute all forms of economic and financial crimes.

Lagos Court Jails NOGASA Chair, Fatuyi Phillips 21 Years for N43.5m Fraud

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Monday, November 18, 2024, convicted and sentenced Fatuyi Yemi Phillips, Chairman, Natural Oil and Gas Suppliers Association of Nigeria, NOGASA, to 21 years imprisonment for N43.5m fraud.

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on April 5, 2022, arraigned Phillips alongside his firm, Oceanview Oil and Gas Limited, on a two-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N43, 502,000.00.

Count one reads: "Fatuyi Yemi Phillips and Oceanview Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited, on or about the 28th day of September, 2016 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the aggregate sum of N43, 502,000.00 from Elochukwu Okoye and Elebana Unique Ventures Nigeria Limited on behalf of WAPCIL Nigeria Limited under the false representation that you would sell to WAPCIL Nigeria Limited \$98,870.00, a representation you knew to be false."

Count two reads: "Fatuyi Yemi Phillips and Oceanview Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited, on or about the 28th day of September, 2016 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, stole the sum of N43, 502,000.00, property of WAPCIL Nigeria Limited."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, thereby leading to his full trial.

In the course of the trial, prosecution counsel, M.S. Owede, tendered several documentary evidence and called five witnesses to substantiate the allegations against him and his company.

The defence, on its part, called three witnesses during the trial.

Delivering judgment on Monday, Justice Dada held that the prosecution proved its case against the defendants beyond reasonable doubts.

Consequently, the judge sentenced Phillips to 14 years imprisonment on count one and seven years on count two, without an option of fine.

The sentences are to be served concurrently.

The Judge also ordered the second defendant, Oceanview Oil and Gas Limited, to pay a fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) in respect of count one and another N250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) in respect of count two within 30 days or be wound up.

The court further ordered the convicts to make restitution in the sum of \$90,202.00 or the prevailing Naira equivalent to the nominal complainants.

Phillips' journey to the Correctional Centre began when he collected the sum of N43, 502,000.00 from Elochukwu Okoye and Elebana Unique Ventures Nigeria Limited on behalf of WAPCIL Nigeria Limited with a false promise of selling its dollar equivalent (\$98,870.00) to them. He neither returned the naira nor dollar equivalent to the petitioners.

Calabar Court Jails Five Internet Fraudsters



Justice Rosemary Dugbo-Oghoghorie of the Federal High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State on Monday, November 18, 2024 convicted and sentenced five internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts: Michael Aregbesola (a.k.a Amin Deera), Adeleke Toba Richard (Alias Jason Avtandil), Mkpoikanke Emmanuel Udoh (a.k.a Tom Jones), Gideon Mishell Effiong (a.k.a Gianluca Jinoble) and Momodu John Modupe (a.k.a George Woods), were charged to court by the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

EFCC, for criminal impersonation, fraudulent messaging and money laundering.

One of the charges read: "That you, Adeleke Toba Richard (Alias JAVTANDIL), on or February, 2024 in Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently took possession of the sum of Five Hundred US Dollars (\$500), being property of Ms Bella, a United State Woman, which you reasonably ought to have known that it was a proceed of unlawful act to wit; Impersonation and thereby committed an Offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering Act, 2022 and punishable under

Section 18 (3) of the same Act.

Another count reads: "That you Gideonn Mishell Effiong (a.k.a Gianluca Jinoble) sometime in September, 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did take possession of the sum of Five Hundred Euros (500 Euros) which you reasonably ought to have known forms proceed of an unlawful act to wit: Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2Xd) of the Money laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act."

While Effiong and Richard

each pleaded guilty to the two -count charges preferred against them, Aregbesola, Udoh and Modupe also pleaded guilty to the one- count charge levelled against them by the Commission.

In view of their guilty pleas, Prosecution Counsel Kharmis Mahmud urged the court to convict the defendants and sentence them accordingly.

While reviewing facts of the case, Mahmud tendered the following exhibits which the court admitted in evidence: The defendants' statements and fraudulent documents printed from their various gadgets. The defence team: Francis Ezeike, Samson Awuje and Emmanuel Sabe did not oppose the prosecution.

Justice Dugbo-Oghoghorie then convicted the defendants and sentenced them as follows;

Effiong bagged four years jail term on each of the two counts, with an option of fine of €2, 500 and restitution of €500 to his victim; Richard got seven years on each count with the option to pay a fine of \$2, 500 and restitution of \$500 to his victim. The jail terms are to run concurrently.

Also, the court convicted and sentenced Aregbesola and Udoh to seven years jail term each or pay the sum of N5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) each as option of fine, Modupe bagged four years jail term with a fine option of N5million.

The convicts commenced their journey to the Correctional centre when investigators of the Uyo Directorate of the Commission investigated them for their suspicious on-line presence and lifestyle. They were eventually charged to court and convicted.

Presidency Hails Olukoyede on Reforms and Preventive Frameworks

The Special Adviser to the President on Policy Coordination and Head, Central Delivery Coordination Unit, Hadiza Bala Usman has commended the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede on the laudable reforms in the Commission, especially systemic development and frameworks in the area of corruption prevention, stressing that his policy drives are practical and sustainable.

She made this disclosure in Abuja on Monday, November 18, 2024 while on a visit to the Commission. In making a proposal containing guidelines on a performance charter for the EFCC, Usman applauded Olukoyede for doing so much in the area of prevention, maintaining that



the focus of the Commission would berth efficiency and effectiveness in the fight against corruption.

On key performance indicators in the EFCC, Usman stressed that, "anything that is not measured cannot be done, so we are looking at EFCC's performance, its strategic objectives to align with the operation of its mandate and core values". While emphasizing that EFCC's performance metrics are beyond arrest, prosecution and convictions, the Presidential aide

stated that "building capacities, identifying gaps, opportunities, threats and consultation with its leadership to address Mr President's priority areas", are crucial.

In his response, the EFCC Chair appreciated the team, stating that he was excited to have people come to review the Commission's processes. "Fighting corruption is not all about arresting people, I told them on the floor of the National Assembly that our work is to fight corruption to stimulate the economy.

That was why when I came on board there was a need to review our processes and I went ahead to create a department called the Fraud Risk Assessment Department to see how corruption can be prevented from happening.

" If we can get the system right, it will checkmate other things. So, periodic reviews of our systems are necessary and we pledge our commitment to this cause, because evaluation is very key and I will delegate my people to work with you" he said.



Court Jails 13 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justices W.I Aziegbemhin and A.N Erhabor of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City between November 11 and 14 convicted and sentenced 13 internet fraudsters to various jail terms

The convicts are Evbayakha Daniel, Goodness Esiuke, Joshua Edobor, Omorodion Bright, Afisi Nurudeen, Oviabor Aisosa Wellington and Evbayekha Desmond.

Others are Nosakhare Evbuomwan, Osemwengie Miracle, Osawe Kluvert, Wisdom Adolor, Onyebuchi Goodness and Promise Omoru

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission.

The charge against Evbayakha Daniel reads: "That you Daniel (m) on or about the 30th of October, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, K.Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence

them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Erhabor on November 11 convicted and sentenced Evbayakha Daniel, Goodness Esiuke, Joshua Edobor, Omorodion Bright and Afisi Nurudeen, to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

On Wednesday, November 13, Justice Aziegbemhin convicted and sentenced Oviabor Aisosa Wellington and Evbayekha Desmond to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

On Thursday, November 14, the quartet of Nosakhare Evbuomwan, Osemwengie Miracle, Osawe Kluvert and Promise Omoru were convicted and sentenced by Justice Aziegbemhin to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) while the duo of Wisdom Adolor and Onyebuchi Goodness bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and balances in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria as proceeds of crime and to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC through a sting operation owing to their involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

Alleged Illegal Dealing in Mineral Resources: EFCC Docks Chinese Brothers, One Other in Enugu



Responding, the prosecution admitted that the charge against the foreign nationals is extremely sensitive, both at the federal and local levels and urged the court to take cognizance of the peculiarities that have to do with the casefile. "We are open for any kind of plea bargain and accelerated hearing in order to end this case as soon as possible," he said.

After listening to both sides, Justice Umar granted the defendants bail in the sum of N10 Million each and two sureties in like sum. The sureties must be prominent members of the society who must be residents of Enugu State. The court also ordered the defendants to deposit their international passport with the court.

The defendants were remanded at the Enugu State Correctional Facility, pending when they fulfil the terms of their bail conditions. The matter was adjourned to January 21, 2025 for trial.

The defendants' case started on November 3, 2024 when the Commission received an intelligence through the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, FAAN, regarding Jian who was intercepted at the hold baggage screening point, where unidentified suspicious stones believed to be solid minerals wrapped in three different pieces, were discovered in his luggage.

Investigations revealed that Jian was attempting to travel out of the country with the mineral ore in order to carry out some tests on them in China.

While Jian was nabbed on November 3, 2024 at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu, Richard and Agu were arrested the next day at the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the EFCC as it was discovered that the defendants conspired to export the said mineral ore without requisite permit from appropriate authority.

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 arraigned two Chinese siblings: Wang Jian and Wang Richard before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu.

The Chinese siblings were arraigned alongside Michael Berneth Agu, a Nigerian, on a three count charge bordering on exporting of mineral ore without the permission of an appropriate authority and possession of fifteen pieces of mineral ore without the permission of a lawful authority.

Count one of the charge reads: "That you, Wang Jian, Richard Wang and Michael Berneth Agu, sometime in 2024 in Enugu, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, with intent to defraud, did

conspire amongst yourselves to commit a felony to wit: exporting of Mineral Ore without the permission of appropriate authority and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 8 (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act".

Count three of the charge reads: "That you, Wang Jian, Richard Wang and Michael Berneth Agu sometime in 2024 in Enugu, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, without lawful authority are in possession of fifteen pieces of Mineral Ore and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 1 (8) (b) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Cap M17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004".

The defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them. In view of their pleas, counsel to the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Onjefu Obe prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded at the Enugu Correctional Facility.

However, defence counsel, Peter Eze, made an oral application for bail for his clients. While admitting that the court does not grant oral applications, Eze prayed the court to admit his clients to bail on the ground that the first defendant, Wang Jian, was sick and needed intensive medical care. "As regards the other two defendants my lord, we have started discussion on how to arrive at a plea bargain sir", the defence counsel said. He thereafter prayed the court to graciously grant his clients bail.

Kogi Court Jails Man Two Years for \$2.2m Currency Counterfeiting

Justice Isa Dashen of the Federal High Court, Lokoja, Kogi State, on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Kehinde Amaka, a.k.a. Yomade Ademisoye Ojomo, to one year imprisonment for currency counterfeiting.

Amaka was prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a two count-charge bordering on possession of \$2,028,400.00 (Two Million, Twenty Eight Thousand, Four Hundred United States Dollar only), an offence contrary to Section 2 and 5.1 (b) of the Counterfeit Currency, Special Provision Act, 2004.

That you Kehinde Amaka a.k.a Yomade Ademisoye Ojomo, adult, Male Citizen of

Nigeria on the 15th May 2024 in Lokoja, within the jurisdiction of the Honourable Court had in your possession the sum of \$2,028,400.00 (Two Million Twenty-eight Thousand Four Hundred United States Dollars) worth of counterfeit banknotes in \$100 bills denomination knowing to be counterfeit and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 5(1)(b) of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provision) Act, Cap C35 LFN, 2004.

Count Two That you Kehinde Amaka a.k.a Yomade Ademisoye Ojomo, adult, Male Citizen of Nigeria on the 15th May 2024 in Lokoja, within the jurisdiction of the Honourable Court with-

out lawful authority had in your possession chemical dye material and instruments for making counterfeit United States \$100 Dollar bills denomination and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 2 of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provision) Act, CAP C35 LFN, 2004.

At the resumed trial on November 12, prosecution counsel, Hadiza Afebuja, reminded the court of the matter before it and explained that it was for the continuation of trial and specifically for conviction and sentence of the defendant.

Led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, the First Prosecution Witness (PW1), Alonge Opeyemi Joseph, an operative

of the EFCC identified the defendant as the one under prosecution affirming him to be the defendant.

"I know the defendant, his name is Kehinde Amaka, and I got to know the defendant in the course of investigating this matter that was reported by the NDLEA on 16 May, 2024. The office of the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, received a written petition together with the defendant and exhibits containing counterfeited US dollars. Upon receiving the petition and defendant, the matter was assigned to Team B, Counter Terrorism, General Investigation and Pension Section," he said.

According to Joseph, when he obtained the petition and

the defendant together with the exhibits, his team interviewed the defendant and explained everything that transpired concerning the fake US dollars.

He stressed that the fake currencies were counted in the presence of the defendant and his statement was recorded voluntarily under word of caution, adding that in deepening the investigation, the team carried out search on the defendant's BVN.

Joseph also told the court that in the process of the search, it was revealed that the defendant has Yomade Ademisoye Ojomo, as another name.

"Another bank account linked to the defendant was

discovered and based on this development, the team requested for a remand warrant because of the double identity and because the defendant is a flight risk. Thereafter, my lord, the team wrote a letter of investigation to banks and responses were received, although there was no serious cash inflows into the defendant's bank accounts.

"We found out that the counterfeited United States Dollars totaled \$2,028,400.00 (Two Million, Twenty Eight Thousand, Four Hundred USD, Only), contained in a bag, and wrapped with carton papers, together with a bottle of chemical, cotton wool and instruction guidelines on how to mint the fake currency," he said.



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- **SERVICE OF SONGS/
NIGHT OF TRIBUTES - LAGOS**
Date: Thursday November 14, 2024
Time: 4:00PM
Venue: Harbour Point, Victoria Island
- **COMMENDATION SERVICE - LAGOS**
Date: Friday November 15, 2024
Time: 10:00AM
Venue: Church of Assumption, Falomo, Ikoyi
- **NIGHT OF TRIBUTES - ABUJA**
Date: November 18, 2024
Time: 5:00PM
Venue: NAF Conference Centre and Suites
Plot 496 Ahmadu Bello Way, Abuja
- **VALEDICTORY SECTION**
Date: November 19, 2024
Venue: Red Chamber NASS
Time: 10:00AM
- **WAKE-KEEP/SERVICE OF SONGS - NNEWI**
Date: Thursday November 21, 2024
Time: 6:00PM
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,
Otolo, Nnewi
- **FUNERAL SERVICE - NNEWI**
Date: Friday November 22, 2024
Time: 10:00AM
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,
Otolo, Nnewi
- **FUNERAL CEREMONY - NNEWI**
Date: Friday November 22, 2024
Time: 12:00PM
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,
Otolo, Nnewi
- **CONTINUATION OF FUNERAL - NNEWI**
Date: Saturday November 23, 2024
Time: 10:00AM
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,
Otolo, Nnewi
- **OUTING SERVICE - NNEWI**
Date: Sunday November 24, 2024
Time: 10:00AM
Venue: St Peter's Catholic Church, Umuanuka Otolo

Mr. Ifeanyi Ubah (Jnr.) - For the family

The Danger of Stupid Idiots

BY PAT UTOMI (THENICHE)

The danger of stupid idiots. If there is one thing Nigeria needs now, in the face of today's crisis, it is people who can speak truth to power as we are preyed on by state capture, creeping fascism and the criminal hijack of politics, and a collapse of the checks and balances of the estates of the realm.

When people who were known for protests threaten to try those who follow in their footsteps for treason, you do not need to be told that there are snakes in the raffia roof.

Before I get badgered by those unwilling to read or lacking in the discipline to digest concepts, let me announce upfront that no insults are intended by either the title, or the message below.

But I have seen enough of the rush to abuse, by those who miss the meaning of concepts different from their everyday usage, that I suspect an upfront caveat may slow down the rush to conclusion by those who give meaning to the real insult; which is that the best way to hide something from most of us is to write it down in a book.

The fear of reading should be overcome so we can find meaning and understanding.

I know Nigeria is in grave danger from cleavages separating us from them, as emotion steps down reason, in many, including some very well educated and even a few I know of who built reputations as cosmopolitan thought leaders.

These may sometime soon confront the puzzle and the shame the German elite dealt with after World War II.

That was also the lot of some in Rwanda who were confronted with their past after the genocide and the triumph of Paul Kagame.

I have chosen therefore to leave everyday meaning of the words idiot and stupid and use them in context, as conceptual expression of phenomena by philosophers and social scientists.

To the wise men of Ancient Greece we first turn for their typology of men in society.

Those who think of themselves alone as the basis for engagement they called idiots. Not an insult. Just a category.

Those who think of and empathize with others so long as those others share parochial bonds, like blood lines, language or religion, they called tribesmen.

As Joshua Greene elucidates in the book, *Moral Tribes*, exploring emotion, reason and the growing gap between us and them, the tribesman is threatened by outside groups and is perpetually at war with those outside his tribe.

When people mature to a universal sense of the dignity of the human person and live human solidarity, they move up to the category of citizen.

All you need do is navigate social media today and you will encounter the reign of tribesmen in extant Nigeria.

Make a trick statement and

you will discover they don't read. Once your name fits those they are programmed to insult they hit the keyboard saying the same things they said yesterday.

And the day before. Many were deployed there by politicians purportedly trying to build a nation.

Then there is the concept of stupidity.

Back in my days in Grad School in the late 1970s I was struck by the work of several academics at the University of California, Berkeley.

One was a public policy scholar, Aaron Wildavsky, and the other was Carlo M Cipolla. The former gave us the value of complex redundancy in policy formulation and the latter gave us the five laws of human stupidity.

Cipolla defined a stupid person as one who causes losses to others when he or she may not benefit from the action they chant for and may, in fact, suffer loss from that action.

Cipolla studied human history and found a pervasive influence of stupid people. He then offers us the five laws of human stupidity.

The first law is that we always underestimate the number of stupid people in circulation.

The second is that the probability of stupidity in a person is independent of his other characteristics such as his education or wealth.

The third is that this person supporting wrong that cause harm to others may not even think of personal benefit from that harm.

Fourth is that non stupid people always underestimate the danger of being associated with the stance of the stupid and how that underestimation will eventually impact them at very high cost.

The fifth law states that the stupid person is a most dangerous person; often more dangerous than bandits.

The Berkeley Economic historian had categorized man in society just like the Greeks did, and found four types of people: The Intelligent, the bandits, the unfortunate and the stupid.

The Intelligent are those who aim to benefit themselves and others (win/win); the bandits are those who benefit themselves by harming others, the unfortunate are those who do harm while trying to benefit others, the stupid are those who seek harm to others without benefiting from it.

Any time you see a person cheering passionately for a politician whose conduct does not make sense or who harms the common good, you are looking at a stupid person, no matter their other characteristics of education, wealth or social status.

Even more troubling, as Cipolla tells us is that there are so many more of them than we like to believe. So take a good look at the fellow next to you.

When Idiots from the Greek typology become stupid, as in the Cipolla thesis, society is in grave crisis.

Putin Sends a Missile Message to The West: 'Back Off'



Vladimir Putin's hypersonic missile carried a simple message to the West over Ukraine: back off, and if you don't, Russia reserves the right to hit U.S. and British military facilities.

Russia fired a new intermediate-range hypersonic ballistic missile known as "Oreshnik", or Hazel Tree, at Ukraine on Thursday in what Putin said was a direct response to strikes on Russia by Ukrainian forces with U.S. and British missiles.

In a special statement from the Kremlin just after 8 p.m. in Moscow that day, the Russian president said the war was escalating towards a global conflict, though he avoided any nuclear rhetoric.

Putin has also refrained, so far, from actually striking the West, a step that could lead to a direct confrontation between Russia and the NATO alliance – and a confrontation that U.S. President Joe Biden said in March 2022 would be World War III.

In his statement, the Kremlin chief gave the West notice that Russia reserved the right to strike at the military installations of countries that let Ukraine use their missiles to hit Russia – so far only the United States and Britain.

"Putin is saying to the West stop – halt – back off," Sergei Markov, a former Kremlin adviser, told Reuters.

"The signal Putin is sending to the world is that we consider these strikes as the direct entry of the United States and Britain into a war against Russia," he said. "But we are not responding with all our might right now because these strikes against Russia will not change the outcome of the war."

A Russian source who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation said Putin had hinted that he wanted to steer clear of escalation, though the odds of Russia using nuclear weapons remained pretty high.

The source did not clarify whether he was talking about tactical battlefield weapons or long-range nuclear missiles.

Nuclear Threshold

President Biden dropped his opposition to Ukraine firing U.S. missiles at targets deep inside Russia in response to North Korea's entry to the war, a shift in U.S. policy that took on added urgency following Donald Trump's Nov. 5 election win, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday.

The decision could help to "Trump-proof" parts of Biden's Ukraine agenda by strengthening Kyiv's position in case it loses U.S. support, one of the sources said.

Russian officials cast the move by Biden as a reckless decision by a lame-duck outgoing administration aimed at creating a serious crisis for Trump to resolve when he is inaugurated as president in January.

That puts Putin in a difficult position: if he escalates now, he could stoke just such a crisis. But if he doesn't, then the West could interpret him as weak and keep pushing through clear Russian red lines.

When Putin warned in September that Russia would update its nuclear doctrine to allow potentially a nuclear response to the use of conventional Western missiles to strike Russia, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said it was not the first time he had "rattled the nuclear sabre."

The day Ukraine fired U.S.-made ATACMS missiles deep into Russian territory, Putin approved the lowering of the nuclear threshold flagged two months earlier.

After Putin lowered the threshold, the Pentagon said that the United States had not changed its nuclear posture – or observed a change in Russia's nuclear posture.

The Pentagon and Britain's Ministry of Defence did not immediately respond

to questions about whether they had changed any security postures in response to Putin's threat to attack their military installations.

When asked what the main message of Putin's statement was, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that the key thing was that Russia will react to "reckless actions" from Western countries which take part in strikes on Russia.

"The Russian side has clearly demonstrated its capabilities, and the contours of further retaliatory actions in case our concerns are not taken into account are clearly outlined," he said.

Besides warning that U.S. and British military facilities could be targeted, Putin said Washington's plans to deploy short- and intermediate-range missiles in Europe and Asia could prompt Moscow to do the same – bringing its firepower within closer striking range of the West.

"Putin is clearly signalling increased reliance on strategic weapons – including nuclear and longer-range missiles – to push the U.S. and NATO to stop its support for Ukraine," said Jon Wolfsthal, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama and now director of global risk at the Federation of American Scientists.

"I don't think he has any intention to go nuclear in a war he is winning, but he appears to want us to worry a lot, perhaps to make it easier for Trump to cut and run," he said.

'Die Hard'

Markov said Putin's statement was also directed at his audience in Russia, where Markov said there were "a lot of voices calling for Putin to strike the West directly – and strike it hard."

Pro-Putin Russian Telegram channels cast the 72-year-old as a "Krepkiy Oreshnik", a word play on the name of the missile and the 1988 film "Die Hard" starring Bruce Willis which translates into Russian as "Krepkiy Oreshkek" – or a

tough nut.

Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov praised Putin for a statement he said thousands of soldiers had been waiting a long time for.

"They are sitting there in the West and it is warm and quite calm. So let them feel on their own skin what a real war is," Kadyrov said. "Did they want a real war with Russia? So let them have their fill of it!"

"It is necessary to demonstrate the full murderous power of Russian long-range weapons," Kadyrov said.

Putin said Ukraine's attack with ATACMS on Nov. 19 had failed to inflict any serious damage. But the attack a day later with British Storm Shadow missiles on the Kursk region targeted a command point and led to deaths and injuries, he said.

Firing what the United States believes is a new ballistic missile in response is a clear warning to the West, but a carefully calibrated one, analysts said.

Kremlin spokesman Peskov said Russia was not technically obliged to warn Washington about the strike, because the missile was intermediate-range rather than intercontinental, but he said Moscow had informed the U.S. 30 minutes beforehand anyway.

And while Putin pointedly avoided mention of nuclear weapons in his statement, the new hypersonic missile Russia fired at Dnipro in Ukraine can be equipped with nuclear warheads, and can reach Europe or the west coast of the United States.

Ultimately, Putin warned the West not to underestimate his resolve.

"We consider ourselves entitled to use our weapons against the military facilities of those countries that allow their weapons to be used against our facilities," he said.

"If anyone else doubts this, then they are wrong – there will always be a response."

'Pulling Tinubu Down Is Their Target' – APC Chieftain Knocks Youths Calling Seyi To Contest For Lagos Governor

Chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Joe Igbokwe, has slammed youth groups calling on Seyi, son of President Bola Tinubu, to run for governor of Lagos state in 2027.

Naijaonpoint reports that Igbokwe, in a post on his Facebook page, said this situation is a distraction and an attempt to pull Tinubu down.

He further stated that ruling a state like Lagos is not a job for 'boys.'

He wrote, "Who are these faceless people pushing Seyi Tinubu for Lagos Governor? This is a needless distraction. To pull PBAT down is their target. Please allow PBAT to do his very engaging and tasking job. Ruling Lagos is not the job of boys?"

Meanwhile, as Lagos approaches the 2027 gubernatorial race, two prominent figures, Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat

and House Speaker Mudashiru Obasa, have emerged as the leading contenders.

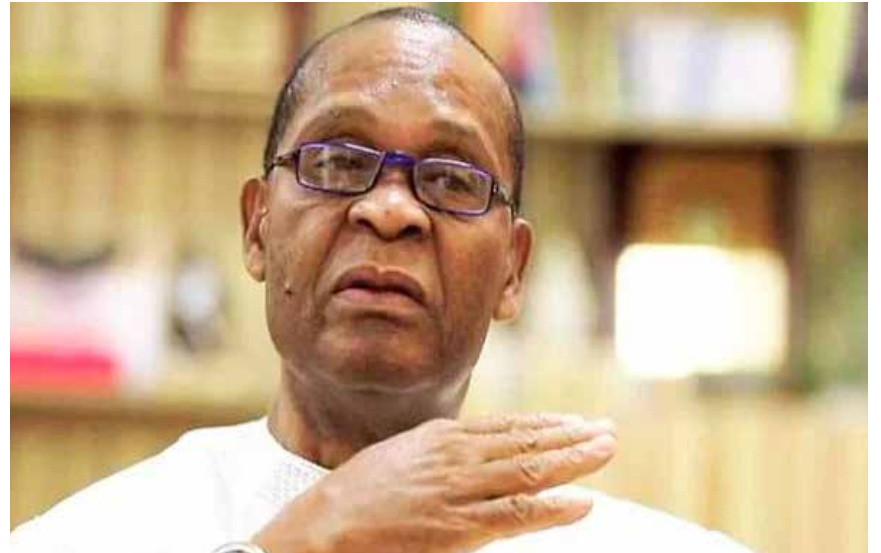
Both bring a wealth of political experience, a deep understanding of Lagos's power structures, and considerable influence within the state.

Obafemi Hamzat carries a strong political pedigree, being the son of the late Oba Mufutau Hamzat, a founding member of the influential Justice Forum.

This legacy, combined with his own reputation, has cemented his position as a formidable candidate with a loyal support base.

Mudashiru Obasa, on the other hand, derives his strength from his extensive grassroots connections and political resilience.

As Lagos's longest-serving Speaker, he has navigated numerous political hurdles and emerged unscathed, earning respect across local communities.



Regina Daniels Bags New Appointment



Regina Daniels-Nwoko Appointed General Secretary of Senators' Wives Association of Nigeria

In a recent development, popular actress and philanthropist Regina Daniels-Nwoko has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Senators' Wives Association of Nigeria (SWAN). The appointment, which took place at a special gathering of the association, marks a significant milestone in Daniels-Nwoko's growing involvement in social and political advocacy.

The Senators' Wives Association, a non-political body, aims to support the wives of Nigerian Senators in various capacities, including welfare programs, charitable activities, and initiatives aimed at empowering women across the country. Daniels-Nwoko's appointment is expected to bring a fresh perspective and youthful energy to the organization, known for its work in advancing women's rights and social

causes.

Regina, who is married to Nigerian politician Ned Nwoko, has long been a vocal advocate for the welfare of women and children. Her philanthropic efforts, especially in promoting education and health initiatives, have earned her admiration across various sectors. In her new role, she is poised to strengthen the association's efforts in supporting the wives of Senators, as well as contributing to larger national causes.

Speaking at the event, Regina expressed her gratitude for the trust placed in her and her commitment to serving the association. She emphasized the need for greater unity and collective efforts among women to drive meaningful change in Nigeria.

This appointment has been met with widespread praise from both political and entertainment circles, as many believe her influence will positively impact the organization and its goals.

Court Orders Nigerian Army, FCMB To Pay Major Akeem Oseni N416.65M For Wrongful Conviction, Rights Violations

Federal High Court in Abuja has ordered the Nigerian Army and First City Monument Bank to pay Major Akeem Oseni N416,650,000 damages for wrongful conviction and denial of access to funds, among other violations.

Justice G.K. Olotu of the Federal High Court in Abuja gave the order in a judgment delivered on October 28, and whose Certified True Copy was obtained on Thursday.

The applicant (Oseni) had sued the Nigeria Army and First City Monument Bank as first and second respondents respectively in a suit marked FHC/ABJ/CS/1104/2021, for placing his account on a post-no-debit from February 2020.

The applicant had in a fundamental human rights suit dated September 13, 2021, and filed on September 22, 2021, sought 13 reliefs among which are:

"A declaration that the act of the second respondent (FCMB) placing the personal account of the applicant domiciled at First City Monument Bank, with account number 2656152XXX on post-no-debit from February 2020, till date on the directives of the first respondent (Nigerian Army), without a valid court order, nor affording the applicant adequate time and facility to be heard, is illegal, wrongful, unlawful, and constitutes a blatant violation of the applicant's fundamental rights to a fair hearing, the presumption of innocence, rights to own moveable and immovable property anywhere in Nigeria as enshrined in sections 36 (1), 36 (5), 43 and 44 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic

of Nigeria as altered; sections 1 (1) and (2) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015, and articles 2, 3 (2), 4 and 7 (2) of the African charter on human and peoples' rights (Ratification and Enforcement) ACT Cap A9 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

"A declaration that the dehumanisation of the applicant by the operatives of the 1st respondent, while in their custody for 10 months is illegal, wrongful, unlawful and constitutes a blatant violation of his fundamental human rights as enshrined in sections 35 (1), (3), (4), 37 and 41 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as altered, sections 1 (1), (2), and 30 (1), (2), 32 (1) (2) and (3) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015, and Articles 6 and 12 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) act cap A9 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

"A declaration that the continuous denial of the applicant access to his funds is a blatant disregard of his constitutional provision to own moveable and immovable property, as there was no court order granted to that regard, therefore illegal, wrongful, unlawful and constitutes a blatant violation of the applicant's fundamental rights as enshrined in sections 35 (1), (3), (4), (1), and (43), of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as altered, and sections 1 (1), (2) and 30 (1), (2), 32 (1), (2) 32 (1), (2) and (3), of the Administration of Criminal Justice act, 2015, and articles 6 and 12 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights (ratification and enforcement) act cap A9 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004," among others.

The applicant's account was placed on PND following a manslaughter investigation that allegedly took place in his office.

The applicant who was a field officer the week an attempted jail break occurred, was asked alongside other officers to take out the soldier, drill and relocate him to a separate detention facility within the cantonment.

The soldier was afterwards handed over to the applicant to drill, frog jump, forward roll and counsel which he did as instructed.

Later that day, the applicant was told that the soldier was struggling with his leg cuff. He was rushed to the defence medical headquarters where he was confirmed dead after arrival.

The applicant was court-martialed by the general court-martial panel of the Army and pronounced guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison which he is currently serving.

Upon his imprisonment, his account was placed on PND restraining him from accessing money for his family.

Aggrieved, he dragged the Army and his bank to court.

The judge, in his judgment on the suit, held that "The evidence before the court shows that respondents acted arbitrarily and over their powers in their dealings with the applicant, particularly in these respects:

"The joint action of the respondents to place the personal account of the applicant on a Post No Debit since February 2020 till date, without a valid court order or affording the applicant the right to be heard as constitutionally guaranteed.

"The action of the first respondent to conduct a search in a Gestapo manner and remove cash and valuables from the Applicant's private apartment without a valid search warrant.

"The dehumanising treatment of placing the applicant on handcuff and leg chain while in the custody of the 1st Respondent before the confirmation of his sentence by the Army Council,

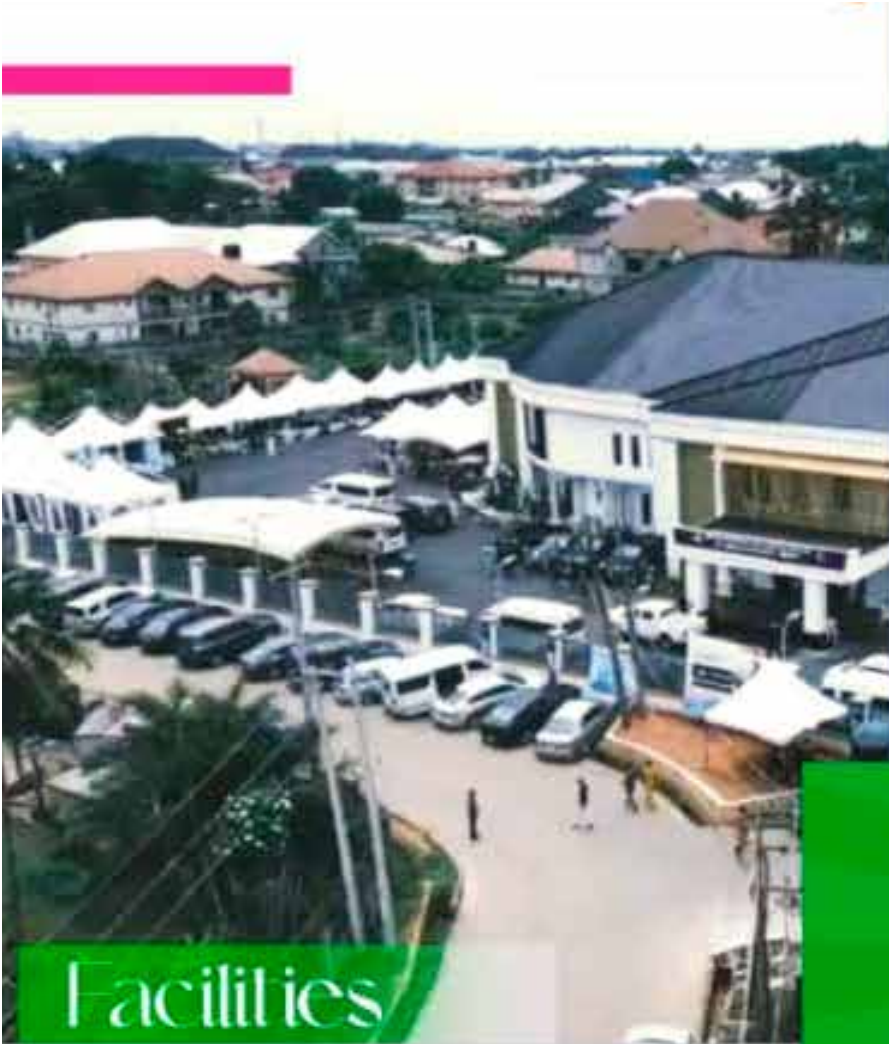
"Failure of the first respondent to grant bail to the applicant within 24 hours or 48 hours of his arrest/detention pending confirmation of his sentence by the Army Council."

Speaking further, the judge noted that the first and second Respondents connived and conspired to illegally freeze the applicant's account.

"The first respondent usurped the power of the court to order a freezing of the account by instructing the second respondent to freeze the applicant's account. Ironically, the applicant's finance was not implicated in the investigation of the case of manslaughter against him.

"And the second respondent knowing better, either for fear of the first respondent or for reasons best known to it obeyed the first respondent's instructions and froze the applicant's account. Whatever angle their conducts are viewed from, they acted clearly outside their powers.

"They probably thought that they were above the law. But the principle of exemplary damages will now tell them and show them that they are not above the law and that the law is no respect for anyone who breaks it. It was a big stick which it used and will now use to correct the abusive and excessive tendencies of the respondents.



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“Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chairman, secretary in secret talks with APC” – Federal lawmaker reveals

Ikenga Ugochinyere, a member of the, has raised an alarm that leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are currently in secret talks with the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Ugochinyere, who represents Ideato Federal Constituency in the green chambers, made this known in a post on X.

He specifically accused the national chairman of the, Amb. Umar Damagum, and the party's secretary, Samuel Anyanwu of meeting the APC leaders and selling out

the.

His words: “When the national chairman and secretary of a political party meet secretly with the ruling govt, you will know that irredeemable doom awaits that political party if they don't rise up and chase these political outlaws away.

“Now they want to officially hand over the APC without any shame just for a pot of porridge. The end story of ANPP, AD will be better than if we don't stop these shameless political traitors.”

Rivers To Receive October Allocation, Says Accountant General; ‘Stay Of Execution Order Paves The Way’

The Federal Government has not stopped disbursement monthly allocations fund to Rivers State, according to Mr. Bawa Mokwa, Director of Press in the office of the Accountant General of the Federation. This statement comes in response to recent reports on some online platforms suggesting otherwise.

Mokwa explained that “disbursement of October allocation to states and local governments by FAAC is ongoing” and that “Rivers State will benefit because of a subsisting appeal/stay of execution order.”

The Court of Appeal, Abuja Division, reserved judgments on Friday in five separate appeals arising from the judgments of a Federal High Court in Abuja regarding the political crisis in Rivers State. One of these appeals challenges the High Court's judgment that stopped the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) from releasing federal allocation to the state.

On October 30th, Justice Joyce Abdulmalik of the Federal High Court had ordered the

CBN to stop releasing monthly financial allocations to the Rivers State government. The court held that Governor Siminalayi Fubara's receipt and disbursement of monthly allocations since January, based on a budget passed by a four-member Rivers State House of Assembly, was unconstitutional.

The judge restrained the CBN, Accountant General of the Federation, Zenith Bank, and Access Bank from allowing Fubara to access funds from the Consolidated Revenue and Federation Account. She also issued an injunction restraining Fubara and the state's Accountant General from authorizing withdrawals from state bank accounts until a budget is passed by an appropriate House of Assembly.

The Court of Appeal is expected to deliver its judgments on a date to be communicated to the parties involved in the appeals. Meanwhile, the Federal Government maintains that Rivers State will continue to receive its monthly allocations pending the outcome of the appeals process.

Will Fubara Behave Like Slave Because You Helped Him Become Governor? – Bode George Queries Wike



Achieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Bode George, has appealed to the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Nyesom Wike, to end his log-jerheads with the Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara.

Naijaonpoint reports that Bode George, while addressing journalists at a news conference in Lagos on Thursday to mark his 79th birthday, slammed members and leaders of the party for refusing to call Wike to order.

According to him, Wike cannot be in Abuja and control Rivers State, stressing that Fubara will not become a ‘slave’ because the Minister contrib-

uted to his emergence as state governor.

George also questioned the leadership of the party on why Wike had not been sanctioned for instigating crisis in PDP, adding that nobody is bigger than the political party or should be allowed to hold the party to ransom.

He said, “May I ask those at the helm of affairs of our party today, what exactly is the offense of Governor Fubara of Rivers State?”

“What exactly is going on that party members don't feel bothered about the happenings in the state. Governor Wike helped Fubara to become the number one citizen of the

oil-bearing state.

“The governor himself acknowledged this on many occasions. Will the governor now behave like a slave? Why are some party members encouraging his predecessor to bring down the state?”

“He lives in Abuja and wants to control what goes on in Rivers State.... did the governors before him behave this way? This cannot continue like this. Why can't we learn from our past mistakes?”

“Why can't we tell all this trouble makers to go and sit down if we want this party to move forward. The other day, Wike boasted openly, threatening Governors saying ‘I'll put

fire in your states’ but the APC Government he's working for refused to sanction him.

“Why can't PDP sanction him? ... instead of instigating crisis in our party, why are they not courageous enough to defect to the APC? If they fear God at all. Nobody is big enough to hold the party to ransom. My advice to Wike is very simple: you are my son, a political son.

“I am appealing to him to cool off immediately. I know he was injured by friends during the last PDP Presidential contest. Take it easy. Nobody is bigger than any party. Forget what happened in the past. Let us work together for the interest of our political party.”

No one can stop me from marrying 78 year old man including my parents



A 16 years old girl in Benue state has vowed to marry a 78 years old black American.

The girl posited that nobody including her parents can stop her to wed with the black American who is older than her father for over 25 years.

She attributed her deci-

sion to the hard and draconian economic policies of the Nigerian government. She said living in Nigeria is like living in hell when you are still on earth.

According to her Nigerians are dying in their thousands as a result of the hardship occasioned by the current administration. Peo-

ple can no longer eat three square meals. Prices of essential commodities are skyrocketing.

While the exchange rate is astronomically high. She can't afford to stay in Nigeria when she has a golden opportunity somewhere else. She lamented to be a Nigerian by birth

Surprisingly, they discov-

ered that the man didn't do anything to me as revealed by the spiritualist, but love keep us together.

I am old enough to take my decision because they cannot dictate for me when they are extremely incapable of providing my needs.

Now they are threatening to disown me. That is their business. Marriage is a choice and they can't push me to do anything against my choice.

I am in love with my proposal regardless of his age. If they like let them refused the pride price payment. I am going to marry him and leave this zoo called Nigeria where nothing is moving forward.

Sponsored Article: In her words, my parents threatened to disown me, if I marry the 78 years old black American. They went to Master Ibezim Ejiofor Spiritual Home, 09, 12, 16, 86, 006 to find out whether the black American used some unknown powers to stick me to himself.





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- ADVENTURERS FC

B GROUP

- BEAUTIFUL STRIKERS FC
- YOUNG STRIKERS
- BASE CITY FC
- GENUINE FC

C GROUP

- GODBLESS UNITED
- UNIQUE FC
- NEW SAINTS FC
- FLASH FLAMINGOS

D GROUP

- YOUNG TALENTS
- OLOMA FC
- DIVINE FC
- BONNY STARLETS FC

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2024

IBANI UTD VS BRIGHT STARS FC
TIME: 1:00PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2024

BEAUTIFUL STRIKERS VS BASE CITY
TIME: 1:00PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2024

ATLANTIC FC VS ADVENTURER FC
TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024

GODBLESS UNITED VS NEW SAINTS
TIME: 1:00PM

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024

OLOMA FC VS BONNY STARLETS
TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2024

YOUNG TALENT VS DIVINE FC
TIME: 1:00PM

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2024

UNIQUE FC VS FLASH FLAMINGOS
TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

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YOUNG STRIKERS VS GENUINE FC
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Nigeria busts drugs consignment from Ghana

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested masterminds of drug trafficking at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) and Abuja hotel, foiling attempt to smuggle opioids into Lagos from Ghana.

The agency stated that the attempts by drug syndicates to export large consignments of cocaine, methamphetamine and opioids through MMIA, Ikeja, Lagos and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja to the United Kingdom, Italy, Turkey and Qatar was thwarted by operatives of NDLEA, who in series of intelligence-led operations recovered the illicit drugs and arrested the masterminds.

According to the agency's Director of Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi in a statement made available to Blueprint over the weekend, a total of 13 parcels of cocaine weighing 4.40kg going to the United Kingdom (UK) via Frankfurt on a Lufthansa Airlines flight were

intercepted by NDLEA officers at the export shed of the Lagos airport on November 5, 2024 while a businessman linked to the consignment, Ekeocha Anayo Nelson, was tracked and arrested on November 8, 2024.

Mediterranean Sea
The suspect claimed to have travelled to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea and earned a living as a street beggar before delving into logistics business," Babafemi stated.

Also related is the arrest of another businessman, Anoke Kingsley Roomy with 1,100 pills of tramadol 225mg hidden in his luggage while attempting to board his Ethiopian Airlines flight going to Istanbul, Turkey at the terminal 1 of the Lagos airport on November 15.

Another suspect, Akande Moruf Olasunkanmi, was arrested with 1.8kg methamphetamine by operatives of a Special Operations Unit of NDLEA at his 9 Durojaiye street, Lawanson area of Surulere, Lagos home after weeks of intelligence and surveillance.

Marwa charges elites to join crusade against substance abuse, drug trafficking

Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Brig Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) has charged the Nigerian elites to key into the whole-of-society strategy by the NDLEA to curb the scourge of substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking in the country.

Marwa gave the charge in his keynote speech at the Island Club Business Forum in Lagos on Tuesday 19th November 2024. According to him, "This is not a challenge for government alone. All of us are stakeholders on this issue and it is an assignment for all Nigerians. The standard whole-of-society approach to the drug issue is such that everyone is a stakeholder. The future of Nigeria belongs to us all.

"As we are doing our bit at NDLEA, we expect society to complement our efforts by taking a huge role in preventing the young ones from falling into situations that encourage experimentation with drugs, whether licit or illicit. Every one of us has a role to play, and the simplest role is one of advocacy. By spreading the message, we can all become anti-drug abuse advocates. Spreading the word about the dangers of misuse of drugs can go a long way in shielding more lives from the ruins of illicit drugs. The Island Club can also join in this effort to safeguard the wellbeing of our society from the drug menace."

He told the gathering of business leaders, students and

parents that since the retooling of NDLEA three years ago after he assumed leadership, the Agency has ramped up its drug demand reduction and drug supply reduction efforts leading to significant results, adding that the call for everyone to support the ongoing effort has become imperative because of the forecast by UNODC in 2021 World Drug Report that drug use in Africa will rise by 40% in Year 2030 especially among those within 25-29 and 30-34 age groups as a result of population growth.

"By and large, the outlook of the future will depend on our action or inaction at curbing the drug abuse trend. I, being an optimist, believe the future favours Nigeria only if we get the matrix right. A lot has been said about the future belonging to Africa. Indeed, the potential is glaring, when you factor in the continent's burgeoning youth population, the digital aptitude of the younger generation and the enterprising spirit of young people.

"But a lot of work has to go into the making of that vision. If we read the statistics correctly, the world's biggest drug problem of the future could be in Africa. So, the future could be bright or bleak; it could be one of boom or gloom; it could be decades of prosperity or problems depending on the amount of work we are willing to do today. Tomorrow, the saying goes, belongs to the people who prepare for it today", he stated.

Customs intercepts Cannabis Sativa, Tramadol worth N117m



The Ogun Area 1 Command of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Idiroko, on Friday, handed over Cannabis Sativa and Tramadol as well as other illicit drugs with Duty Payable Value (DPV) worth over N117 Million intercepted under an 11-month period to the state's Special Command of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

The seizure, which consisted of 403 sacks and 6, 504 parcels, weighing over 7, 217.7 kg, and 362 packs of Tramadol tablets (another brand of Tramadol) of 225 m.g each were intercepted

by the NCS operatives between January to November 21 2024.

Speaking during the handing over of the contrabands to NDLEA at the event held within the presence of Ogun Area II Command in Abeokuta, NCS Controller for Area 1 Command, Comptroller James Ojo attributed the success story of the seizures to effective intelligence measures put in place by the command.

Ojo explained that the handing over to NDLEA was in the spirit of inter-agency cooperation, particularly when NDLEA is been the agency that is statutorily saddled with the responsibility of taking custody of such

contraband.

overlay-clevercloseLogo

"This step not only ensures the continuation of due process but also underscores our transparency and commitment to justice.

"The successful interception of these dangerous substances would not have been possible without the robust collaboration and support from our intelligence units, local informants, and sister agencies".

READ ALSO: Customs intercepts military helmets, drones, contraband worth N3.3b at Lagos airport

"We are deeply grateful for the synergy that has been fos-

tered among all stakeholders in security framework of the Command."

Ojo noted that no arrest was made because of the delicate nature of war against the drugs cartel worldwide, adding that the seizure was a result of the NCS' intelligence put in place at the various border posts across the command.

He added that the contraband was a trans-border business item, Ojo stressed that his agency had been monitoring them from their countries of origin which included Ghana, and Cote D'Ivoire among other West African countries.

While noting that the drug business is usually difficult to track down, ojo explained that his agency remained undeterred in the course of discharging its statutory duty, notwithstanding the attendant loss of lives of the operatives.

He further emphasized that NCS under his command would "continue to employ all lawful means to thwart any attempt to smuggle prohibited items through our borders".

Speaking after taking possession of the contrabands, NDLEA Commander of the Special Command, Idiroko, Adeyeye commended the Customs Area command for their doggedness, efforts, and contributions in the fight against illicit drugs.

Adeyeye stated that the seizure is a testament that NDLEA and Customs are synergising in the fight against drug abuse.

N'Assembly passes NDLEA bill, replaces death penalty with life imprisonment for offenders



The National Assembly has passed a harmonised version of the Bill to amend the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act which prescribes life imprisonment for drug offenders.

The House of Representatives considered its third reading and passage on Tuesday 24th February 2024, while the Senate in concurrence considered its third reading and passage on Thursday, 6th June 2024.

There was however a significant difference in the ver-

sion of the Bill passed by both chambers.

While the Senate version prescribes the death penalty, the house version proposes life imprisonment.

Consequently, the House of Representatives constituted a conference committee to interface with the Senate with a view to harmonising the differences between the House and Senate version of the Bill, particularly clause 11.

The House version of clause 11 was eventually adopted which proposes that: "Any person who is un-

lawfully concerned in the storage, custody, movement, carriage or concealment of dangerous drugs or controlled substances and who, while so concerned is armed with any offensive weapon or is disguised in any way, shall be guilty of an offence under this Bill and liable on conviction to be sentenced to life imprisonment"

The Senate during plenary on considered the conference report and unanimously resolved to adopt the House version of clause 11.

The Bill aims to strengthen

the operations of the agency, empower the agency to establish laboratories, update the list of dangerous drugs, review the penalty provisions, enhance the power of the agency to prosecute drug-related offences and issue subsidiary legislation.

In the amendment, a new sub-section 4 is added to section 46 which proposes that "The agency shall retain a portion of the proceeds of forfeited assets from drug-related cases for use in its operations". The Bill now awaits President Bola Tinubu's assent.

Nigeria football legend, Owolabi begins 70th birthday celebration

Felix Owolabi Akinloye, whose solitary goal took Nigeria to the title match of the Africa Cup of Nations in 1980 is set to celebrate his 70th birthday on Sunday.

His ninth-minute goal against Morocco on 19 March 1980 took Nigeria to the Africa Cup of Nations final match for the first time.

Nigeria eventually won the trophy three days later in a final match against Algeria.

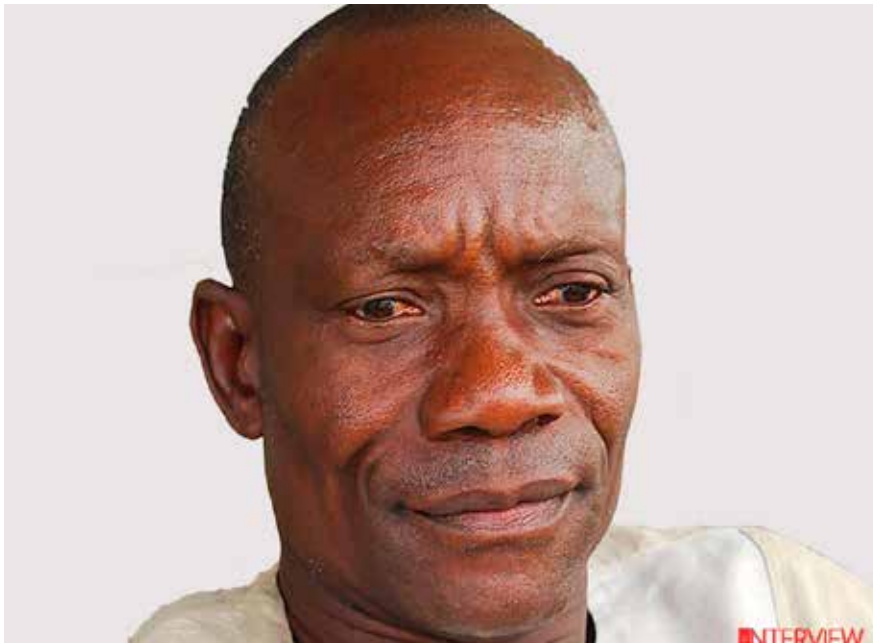
His 70th birthday celebration kicks off this Friday with two matches on the card at the Lekan Salami Stadium, Ibadan – the same arena where he set a record as the oldest Nigerian footballer to win a continental honour when he propelled the Shooting Stars to win the inaugural edition of the CAF Cup against Nakivubo Villa of Uganda in 1992.

Then 36 years old, it was the climax of 14 years of unbroken service to the Ibadan-based club.

At the time he symbolically hung his boots on 24 January 1994, he was the longest-serving footballer in the Nigerian domestic league.

He joined the Shooting Stars from Kaduna Rocks at the close of the 1977 season being one of the discoveries at the 1977 National Sports Festival. Watch live sports online

The stocky left-footed



Owolabi was an instant hit, and getting a national call-up and featured for Nigeria at the 1978 Africa Cup of Nations in Ghana.

Featuring in the 1980 and 1982 editions made him one of the few Nigerian players to go to the continental competition in three straight editions.

He started as a left full-back and his attacking instincts and dribbling skills propelled him to become a left winger.

Felix Owolabi in one of his dribbling runs at the 1980 Africa Cup of Nations

Such was his dashing runs that he became a crowd favourite when he featured for

Shooting Stars against pre-match favourites, Bendel Insurance in the semi-final match of the 1979 Challenge Cup.

It was for that reason that the chant 'Owooo' rented the air each time he got hold of the ball during the 1980 Africa Cup of Nations in Lagos.

For the 14 years he played for Shooting Stars, he won two national league championships in 1980 and 1983 as well as the Challenge Cup (now President Federation Cup) in 1979.

He was a member of the Nigerian squad to the 1992 FIFA Futsal World Championship in Hong Kong and also

featured at the 1980 Olympic Games.

His debut for Nigeria was in the 7-0 drubbing of Benin Republic on 14 January 1978. His last match was in the 3-0 loss to Zambia at the 1982 Africa Cup of Nations in Benghazi, Libya.

For his exploits with the Shooting Stars, the club will on Friday feature in a friendly match with Osun United at the Lekan Salami Stadium in Ibadan. The duel will be preceded by a novelty match between All Stars of Ibadan and the All Stars of Lagos.

The celebration of an icon at 70 will be rounded up with a birthday dinner on Sunday.

'Owoblow' – The One-Man Army! – Odegbami

I don't remember the very first time we met. It probably was on the football field, during a football match.

Thinking back now, it could have been in 1977, during the epic FA Cup match that year when my team, Shooting Stars FC, played against Raccah Rovers of Kano, the team that he played for at the time. I am not so sure again as I write this.

It could also have been when he was invited to join us in the national team, the Green Eagles, in 1977, by Coach Father Yelisavic Tiko.

Either way, his impact on the national team from when he joined was massive and instantaneous. He was a different kind of player, of a different breed. He was a serious football player playing as if his life depended on winning every match.

He was left-footed, something the country was in short supply of at the time. Since the exit of Haruna Ilerika and of Adekunle Awesu, both left-footed players in 1976 and 1977 respectively, there was not a single left-footed player left in the entire national team. It was a great deficit to the team for a short while during which Nigeria, that was a master at wing play with fast runners on both flanks, had to improvise with Adokiye Amiesimaka, a right-footed player but who could effectively use his left foot. Adokiye was an undergraduate at the University of Lagos, but loaded with football credentials as a young player in the Lagos area. He was drafted to the Green Eagles from his inside-forward position to the left side of Nigeria's attack, to fill the gap. No one missed Awesu again from the moment Adokiye stepped in with his mesmerizing dribbles and pinpoint crosses.

Shortly after that, Felix Owolabi showed up on the national radar with a left foot that was deadly and packed with 'venom'. Felix was extremely fast, with the ability to dribble even at top speed, cutting back the ball sharply, and accelerating away in the next movement. Slightly limited in height, and with packed muscles in his legs, he could swivel on a coin whilst dribbling. He was as strong as an Ox.

When racing with the ball at his feet, he was the most difficult player to mark. The only way to stop him was to physically bring him down, or kick him to halt. He was fearless, could ride any tackles with the single mindedness to get close to an opposing goal through the shortest and fastest route and release one of his bombs in his left foot.

He moves like a train meandering towards goal with the ball glued to his left foot. His attitude earned him the respect

and love of fans and coaches.

On top of all those attributes, Felix Owolabi also had ferocious power behind his shots with the left foot. His right foot was like my left foot, fit for standing and as support only. He was a true attacking wing-back on the left flank of attack.

So, Felix joined us in the national team and became a challenge for Father Tiko who could no longer replace Adokiye whose dribbling skills and pull outs with the right foot from the left side of attack were creating goal scoring chances particularly for me coming from the blind side of defenders to nod home floated balls.

That's how Coach Father Tiko put on his creative cap and came up with the wing-back system that has now become the norm in modern day football. He converted Felix to the left full-back position to replace the aging right-footed player manning that area of Nigeria's defense. That's how Samuel Ojebode's career in the national team ended and Felix Owolabi's began.

It was a tactical master stroke. The weaker side of the Nigerian team suddenly became its stronger flank. Coping with fleet-footed, master dribbler Adokiye was hard enough for opposing defenders. To now add a second layer, a hard-nosed, unstoppable power-house charging down the same flank from defense, became a nightmare for opposing teams.

That's how Felix Owolabi earned the nickname 'Owoblow'. He was blowing like a tornado, breaking up attacks and blowing down defenses.

Meanwhile, following the only match that he played for Raccah Rovers against Shooting Stars FC, he became a target for the Shooting Stars' scouts recruiting exceptionally gifted, Yoruba-born players from all over the country (a response to the system established by Rangers International FC after the Civil War in 1970. They recruited only Igbo players to their club).

That's how Felix joined me at Shooting Stars FC and together we became very influential members of the Nigerian national team as well as of Nigerian domestic football as a whole for a few years.

When I retired from the game in 1982, Felix, almost single handedly, won the national league for Shooting Stars FC the following year.

In 1984, I came out of retirement to play in the African Club Champions Cup in an attempt to win the continental trophy for the first time, and, possibly, earn my most-sought-for 'Africa's Best Player award', something I had come close to winning twice before.

NSC DG Bukola Olopade Congratulates NFF President, Gusau on WAFU B Election Victory



as the 1st Vice President of the West African Football Union (WAFU) B Zone.

Olopade lauded Gusau's leadership qualities and football expertise, expressing confidence that his election will bring significant benefits to the regional football body.

"Gusau's vast experience and commitment to football development will undoubtedly add value to WAFU B and enhance the growth of football across the member nations," Olopade said.

The election took place on Friday in Niamey, Niger Republic, during the WAFU B 17th Ordinary General Assembly. The WAFU B Zone comprises seven West African nations, including Nigeria, Togo, Benin Republic, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Niger Republic, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Hon. Bukola stated that the NSC will provide all necessary support to Alh. Gusau and the NFF to ensure football development in Nigeria and in the West African region, where Nigeria is a giant player.

The Director General of the National Sports Commission (NSC),

Hon. Bukola Olopade, has extended his congratulations to the President of the

Nigerian Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau, on his election

Nigerian Acquires International Judo Refereeing Certificate In Senegal

Mrs. Esther Ashema Obile from Nasarawa State has successfully bagged a certificate after participating in the International Judo Federation International Retraining, International Referee License Exam in Dakar, Senegal, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

A sole representative from Nigeria, the 29-year-old Judo Coach and Referee rose through the Nasarawa State Judo Association under the tutelage of Coach Bashir Basse to national stardom, where she is making a positive impact before being picked as the only Nigerian for the Africa Judo Union Certificate 'A' Course.

Esther scored a total of 176 points to qualify for the issuance of the certificate which involves rigorous evaluations.

By obtaining the prestigious certificate, the Nasarawa State-born Judo referee hence qualifies to officiate at the African Junior and Cadet Judo Championship held from 22nd-25th November 2024 in Dakar, Senegal, and other major Judo Championships in Africa.

While expressing her gratitude to Governor Abdullahi Sule and the Nasarawa State Government for facilitating

her participation in the programme, she said attending the exam was an honour and a challenge, promising her determination to make Nasarawa State and Nigeria proud.

"I want to appreciate my father and leader of our dear State, His Excellency, Engr. Abdullahi Sule, and the Nasarawa State Government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, for another wonderful opportunity given to me to represent the State and Nigeria at the International Judo Referee Promotion Exam in Dakar, Senegal, and to participate in the Junior and Cadet Africa Open Judo Championship.

"I also appreciate the leadership of the Nigeria Judo Federation for availing me this historic opportunity to represent the Federation and Country in this prestigious programme.

"It's a wonderful experience for me here, and I believe when I come back to Nigeria, I will impact a lot in the sport for the betterment of my State and Country.

"I will do my best to be the eye of Nigeria Judo Federation in any African Competition, and to be an eye for Nasarawa State in all national competitions."

Aisha Falode Mourns Ace Journalist Dapo Sotuminu: A Tribute to a Trailblazer in Women's Football



The Nigerian football community was plunged into mourning with the sudden passing of Dapo Sotuminu, a veteran journalist, former Head of Media for the Nigeria Women's Football League (NWFL), and an unwavering advocate for the growth of women's football in the country.

Among the countless tributes pouring in from across the nation, one of the most heartfelt came from Aisha Falode, an Executive Board Member of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and a prominent figure in women's football.

Falode, who served as the Chairperson of the NWFL, paid a condolence visit to the bereaved family, expressing her

profound grief and admiration for Sotuminu's life and legacy. Speaking during her visit, she described Sotuminu as "a consummate professional whose contributions to the development of women's football in Nigeria cannot be overstated."

Dapo Sotuminu's career spanned decades of dedication to sports journalism, but it was his fervent passion for women's football that set him apart. As the Head of NWFL Media, he brought a unique energy to the promotion of the women's game, ensuring that its stories were told with depth, insight, and a sense of purpose. His vision for the sport went beyond mere reporting; he aimed to create a platform where wom-

en footballers could shine and be celebrated as role models.

Falode recounted how Sotuminu played an instrumental role in amplifying the voices of women in football. "He didn't just cover matches; he told stories, championed causes, and fought battles to ensure women's football in Nigeria received the respect and attention it deserved. His work gave visibility to countless players, coaches, and administrators," she said, visibly emotional.

Sotuminu's dedication left an indelible mark on Nigerian football. His writings, which often delved deep into the challenges and triumphs of women's football, resonated far and wide, inspiring stakeholders to

take the sport more seriously. Whether it was covering grassroots tournaments, engaging with international competitions, or advocating for better funding and infrastructure.

"Dapo was more than a journalist; he was an ally and a voice for the voiceless in women's sports. His absence is a loss not just to journalism but to the entire sporting ecosystem," Falode remarked.

As the football fraternity continues to grapple with the reality of his passing, tributes have poured in from players, journalists, and football administrators who knew and worked with Sotuminu. Many have shared anecdotes of his kindness, his encouragement for young talents, and his relentless pursuit of excellence in storytelling.

His loss has left a void that will be difficult to fill. "He was a trailblazer, and his contributions will forever be etched in the annals of Nigerian sports history," Falode added.

Though he is gone, Dapo Sotuminu's legacy endures in the countless lives he touched and the transformative impact he had on women's football. His work has paved the way for future generations of journalists and advocates to build on his foundation, ensuring that women's football in Nigeria continues to thrive.

As the football community mourns his loss, they also celebrate a life well-lived, a life dedicated to advancing the beautiful game and creating opportunities for others. In Falode's words, "Dapo may no longer be with us, but his spirit, his passion, and his vision will forever guide us."



NNPC Pledges Collaboration with Stakeholders to Develop Nigerian Football

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd.) has pledged to work closely with stakeholders in the sports sector to develop and commercialise the game of football in Nigeria.

The Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of NNPC Ltd., Mr. Mele Kyari, made the commitment while receiving a delegation from the National Sports Commission, the International Management Group (IMG) and AfroSport Network at the NNPC Towers on Thursday.

Addressing the delegation which was led by the Chairman of the National Sports Commission, Shehu Dikko, the GCEO said NNPC Ltd. was ready to be part of the initiative to revamp the nation's football.

"NNPC will be a prime partner in the journey to bring back value to our foot-

ball, to reshape it, re-engineer it and bring happiness to our people", Kyari stated.

He expressed delight that the company was identified as a critical partner in the journey of making Nigerian Football work again, stressing that football was a tool of immense value that could bring untold benefits to the Nigerian economy and to the NNPC Ltd. as a company.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the National Sports Commission, Shehu Dikko, said football was fundamental to the economies of the best footballing countries in the world, adding that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has called for immediate action to revamp the game.

He said the multiplier effects of football were enormous and could facilitate the revamp of related industries across the value chain.

The chairman noted that



IMG which promotes the English Premier League was invited as a technical partner

to leverage their experience in the sport.

It could be recalled that

NNPC Ltd. once had a football club, the NNPC FC, Warri, which played in the Division

One of the then Nigeria National League before it was disbanded in 1989.



Nigeria football legend, Owolabi begins 70th birthday celebration



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