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## Newspaper


November 9, 2024 / Vol. 2 No. 52

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**FROM THE  
ARCHIVE**

NEVER ASSUME THAT LOUD IS STRONG AND QUIET IS WEAK. ITS THE LIONS SILENCE THAT SIGNALS DANGER, NOT HIS ROAR.

**The Life And Times Of A  
Patriot And Iconic Former  
Chief Of Army Staff**

# Despite The Fears Of Black American's Democracy Has Spoken



**Edo State Gov-Elect Was  
Destined To Emerge**

# Despite The Fears Of Black American's Democracy Has Spoken



Donald Trump's U.S. presidential election victory has sent shockwaves through Black American communities, which voted overwhelmingly for Democratic candidate Kamala Harris despite a campaign by her Republican rival to court Black men.

While Trump made gains among Black Americans in North Carolina and some in the community celebrated his win, nationally his vote share among Black voters was unchanged in the Tuesday vote from 2020, according to an exit poll conducted by Edison Research, which showed a much larger swing towards Trump among Hispanic voters.

Black voters were important to President Joe Biden's victory over Trump in 2020, when Harris was also elected as the first Black and first Asian-American U.S. vice president. Had she won on Tuesday, Harris would have become the United States' first woman president.

A majority of the two dozen Black Americans who spoke to Reuters for this story said they feared a second Trump term, including a rollback of civil rights after his pledge to end federal diversity and inclusion programs.

Many said his rhetoric, including racist and sexist language, proved he does not have the best interests of Black Americans at heart.

Mary Spencer, 72, a retired nurse and educator in Oak Creek, in swing state Wisconsin, was dismayed by Trump's victory. She said Trump's opinion of Black people was condescending.

"Because that's what he thinks of us - that we only strive to do the jobs that (illegal) immigrants come to do - which he identifies as housekeep-

ing or working on landscape projects. Things that don't require much skill or education."

At an event with Black journalists in July, Trump said immigrants were taking "Black jobs", reinforcing racist stereotypes about the kinds of work Black Americans do.

Trump denies he is racist. He says his economic agenda will lower taxes, housing costs, and boost job creation for all Americans, including Black Americans. His campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Katrena Holmes, 51, a Black entrepreneur from Riverdale, Georgia, voted for Harris, hoping she would unify the country and reduce racial inequities. A Trump victory threatens to arrest progress on closing those gaps, given his policy agenda and rhetoric, she said.

"There's a spirit of divisiveness," she said.

Nadia Brown, director of the women's and gender studies program at Georgetown University, said Trump's victory has likely dealt "a blow psychologically" to many Black Americans, who had been excited by the prospect of having the nation's first woman president and its second Black commander in chief who could usher in policy change for their communities.

His rhetoric, and all of the race baiting and racist remarks, it's just going to be more of a distraction," Brown said, adding people will feel dejected after spending months organizing on the ground for Harris.

However, civil and voting rights groups said the result will galvanize them to fight even harder for racial equality.

"We're going to mobilize at every angle to try to stop the continued progression of the rollback

of all of our fundamental rights and freedoms. We won't be quiet," said Jotaka Eaddy, the founder of the Win With Black Women group, which kicked off a ground swell of organizing for Harris and raised millions of dollars in the early hours after she rose to the top of the ticket in July.

Trump has said immigrants in the U.S. illegally are "poisoning the blood of our country." He spread false claims that Haitians were eating cats and dogs in an Ohio town and has promised to fight what he called "anti-white feeling."

At the event with journalists in July, Trump falsely claimed Harris previously downplayed her Black heritage.

Harris won 86% of the Black vote, compared to 12% for Trump, according to Edison Research, the same share of support Biden received in 2020.

Throughout his campaign, Trump tried to make inroads with Black men, but he only received 20% of their vote, a one percentage point increase from 2020, according to Edison Research. Harris won 92% of Black women voters nationwide, up two points from 2020. Black voters accounted for 11% of the share of voters nationwide.

#### TRUMP SWING

In some parts of the country, Trump's message, including the promise to keep a lid on inflation, did lead to gains amongst the Black community.

In North Carolina, an Edison Research exit poll showed Trump boosting his share of the Black vote to 12%, from 7% in 2020. He garnered the support of 20% of Black male voters, in line with the national average, according to the poll.

Trump won North Carolina with about 51% of the vote.

In another of the states that decided Trump's win, Georgia, Trump's share of the Black vote rose by one percentage point to 12%, according to Edison Research. Shedrick Carter, 38, a Black man and a small business owner in Atlanta, was celebrating the former president's victory.

He believes Trump will improve the lives of Black Americans by boosting jobs, lowering prices, and keeping America out of foreign wars.

"He's going to be amazing for Black people," said Carter, who voted early for Trump, also his choice in the previous two elections.

At a roller skating rink in Atlanta, Bryson Goodbeir, 32, who works in demolition on construction sites, said his financial situation was better under Trump's presidency.

"I like his assertiveness. I like the way he carries himself," Goodbeir said, adding he believes Trump will improve the economy and reduce the cost of living.

Goodbeir said he supported Trump's tough stance on people entering the U.S. illegally, because he believes it helps Black workers. "Trump is trying to protect us," Goodbeir said.

But Sondra Walker, a Black teacher in North Carolina, was deeply worried by Trump's victory, calling it "dangerous for Black Americans."

"I just think he is a dangerous human being," said Walker, 63, from the city of Creedmoor in the battleground state.

Shenekia McDaniels, a 40-year-old teacher who lives in Asheville, North Carolina, also worried about a second Trump term.

"Some of the stuff that Trump says and gets away with, and people clap, and there's never a repercussion for it. That just blows my mind.

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# Edo State Governor Elect Was Destined To Emerge

Edo state witnessed a turnaround in the political space hence the entire processes witnessed all form of controversies from the selections process, politics within the parties that eventually produces the candidate of distinguish senator of Monday Okpebholo, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), who has been declared winner of the just concluded Edo gubernatorial election, defeating 16 other contenders by the electoral umpire.

This governor-elect candidate of the ruling APC former candidate hail from Udomi-Uwessan community of Irrua, Esan Central Local Government Area in Edo State with a very humble back ground in a rural community.

His historical rise had a very humble beginning that never shown any close relevance to his immediate constituency never saw his relevance to have a steady growth to be harmless which would have place his qualities in the public note with an aspiration to be as distinguish as he is presently regarded in the Edo space politics.

The Edo state govern –elect was very harmless in look that he allowed things to be and had a successful strong hold with his massive grass root presence in his local community through periodic expansion giving him the needed presence amongst his people winning their heart with his community projects touching the life of his people overtime positively.

With his okpebholo foundation his grassroots experience with his vocational training which added value to the people, is seen as a cornerstone of his political career, helping him build a strong connection with ordinary citizens and understand the challenges facing rural communities in his little ways to touch life positively overtime. .

His successful elections in 2023,

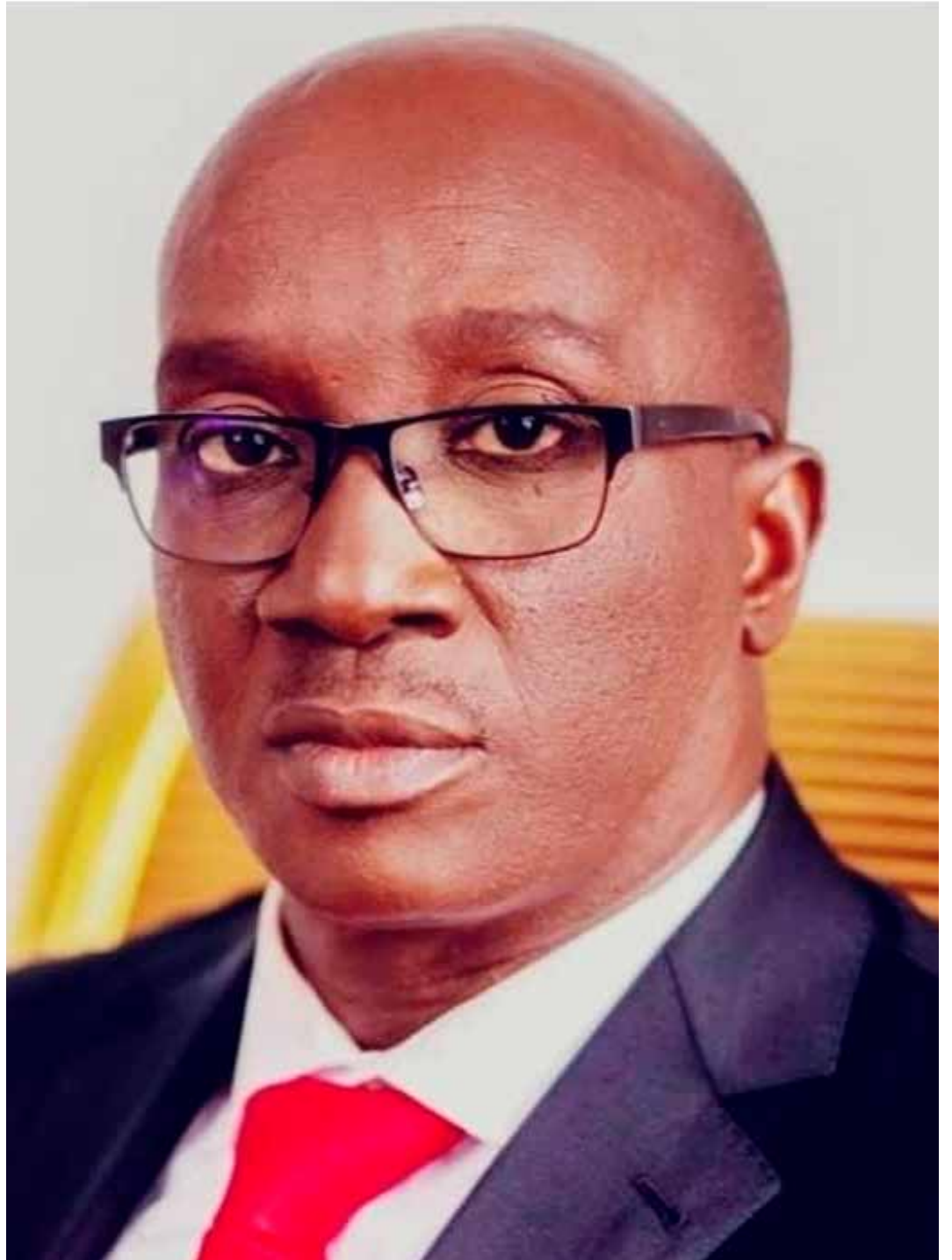
as the senator representing Edo Central in the National Assembly, running under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) never came as surprise to his close associates and 2024 Sen Monday Okpegbolo emerging as a key figure in Edo State politics, winning the APC gubernatorial primary election and securing his party's ticket for the governorship race.

His campaign focused on key areas such as agricultural development, youth empowerment, and rural infrastructure, which resonated with voters in Edo State, particularly in rural areas that had long been neglected.

The moment he became the APC candidate their media politics started with constant pressure from the electronics and print media requesting that he should as well convince the media within and outside the state which he reluctantly avoided despite constant media war to pull his image down which never made him to secured to what he regarded as diversion.

At the end of the elections the declaration by the independence national electoral commission declared this same candidate with a local result in favour of Sen Monday Okpebholo as the winner of the Edo State gubernatorial election, defeating his closest rival, Asue Ighodalo of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) with 291,667 votes, while Ighodalo polled 247,274 votes. However, the opposition has disputed his victory.

President Bola Tinubu has congratulated Okpebholo on his victory, urging him to remain humble and committed to uniting Edo State and focusing as a devoted family man and a devoted Christian that has emerged as the governorship elect of the people not sectional in his governance to deliver the dividend of democracy which has been the yearning's of the good people of Edo state.



## Ex-US President, Barack Obama Opens Up About The “Inappropriate S\*xual Advances” He Received While He Was President



Former US president, Barack Obama has opened up about some of the “somewhat inappropriate” advances he received from women while he was commander in chief.

In an interview on The Pivot Podcast, Obama, 63, told podcast's co-hosts, former NFL players Channing Crowder, Ryan Clark and Fred Taylor, that he “was not tripping” from his admirers despite his position at the time.

“When I got drafted in the NFL, I got a little cuter,” Crowder, a former Miami Dolphins linebacker, said while opening up the discussion by sharing his own experience and also what kept him on a “straight and narrow path” throughout it.

“Do women be hollering at you and stuff, like on the fact that, because you’re a good-looking dude, but now you’re ‘President Good Looking

Dude,” he asked to laughter.

“First of all, I don’t know if Michelle’s going to be watching this,” Obama joked about his wife, former first lady Michelle Obama. He then acknowledged his experiences, which he figured hit him differently because of his age at the time.

“The truth is, you guys as NFL players and athletes generally...y’all get famous young, at a time when the attention that you’re talking about maybe flattering, fun, what have you,” he said. “By the time people really knew who I was, I was 43 years old. I was married, had two kids, had gone grocery shopping, had washed my car. I was a regular guy in that sense.”

“That kind of attention, by the time I got it, I was not tripping on it. There are times where women have acted in somewhat inappropriate ways. There

are pictures on the internet of women grabbing my butt, and I was president at the time,” he said.

The Secret Service likely didn’t intervene because they were “like old ladies and stuff, so they’re not going to wrestle them down on the ground,” he added.

“My wife is such an extraordinary woman, such an amazing partner, that you just try to stay focused, stay on the straight and narrow. And also, look, kids change your life. The idea of disappointing your kids is something that, I ain’t going there.”

Barack married Michelle in 1992, and their two daughters, Malia and Sasha, were 10 and 7 when they moved into the White House following his 2008 victory. He was 47 at the time, making him one of the nation’s youngest presidents and the first Black president.

# The Life And Times Of A Patriot And Iconic Former Chief Of Army Staff

Death they say is a price for us to pay and that of the late Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja was not difference as he bows out from service attaining the highest ranking position as a lieutenant General and in records as the former COAS with outstanding records of service with successes in his primary assignments and a leader to be remembered with significant milestones he achieved during his meritorious service.

Though his death has been with controversies in the electronic and print media with speculations of all sort and the deniers from his constituencies which has left the public space to investigate the actual true stories if the death of this very important brilliant officers was real when no person has monopoly to life.

The Army confirmed that the former Chief of Army Staff had been flown out of the country to seek medical attention, and denied his absence had created a vacuum.

Though his death was eventually confirmed by the Nigeria army authorities but up till now the coast was not clear on the health status of this officer that was known for his field actions allowing the usual speculations around the untimely death of the previous chief of the army staff in a controversial air crash which coursed the controversies as a result of the tragedy of burying the number of brilliant officers that where killed in Kaduna with the mass burial which has left their immediate families, loved once and colleagues in tears at the Nigeria armed forces cemetery along the airport roan in Abuja.



The ultimately death within the military circle the Nigeria army in particular has drawn a lot of speculations if it was destined to be so that has placed the nation into a sad mood with various kind of

suspicion to any reason why claims and counter claims not to see it as it was destined without any form of human angle to death.

With the substantive appointment made by Mr President com-

mander in chief of the armed forces federal republic of Nigeria President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR we pray that the immediate family will be consoled in the impact made by the late General

in the course of his meritorious service and believing that death remain inevitable in a life time that God in his infinite mercy grant the late General a place in his bosom.

## Former CJN: Justice Delayed Not Denied



The court of appeal in Abuja has discharged and acquitted Walter Onnoghen, former chief justice of Nigeria (CJN).

Onnoghen had been suspended from office in 2019 and convicted for alleged false declaration of assets.

The appeal court discharged Onnoghen after adopting the terms of settlement reached between the federal government and the defendant.

Abba Mohammed, the presiding judge, ordered that the former CJN's four bank accounts be returned to him.

"The Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) also lacks jurisdiction to entertain the matter without resorting to the National Judicial Council (NJC)," the appellate court held.

"The bank accounts maintained by the appellant with Standard Chartered Bank (Nig) Limited, Wuse 2, Abuja, that were frozen by the judgment, shall be unfrozen forthwith.

"Parties shall take all steps necessary to give positive effect to these terms of settlement.

"In consequence, the appellant herein is hereby discharged and acquitted."

In April 2019, a three-member panel of the CCT led by Danladi Umar, chairman of the tribunal at

the time, convicted Onnoghen on six counts bordering on false assets declaration and ordered that he be removed from office.

In the appeal marked CA/ABJ/375 & 376 & 377/2019, Onnoghen prayed the court to void and set aside the CCT's judgment on various grounds.

The former CJN argued that the tribunal chairman was biased and denied him fair hearing.

Listing some of the "errors" in the CCT's verdict, Onnoghen argued that he was a judicial officer at the time the charge was filed on January 11, 2019, and should not have been subjected to the jurisdiction of the lower tribunal.

He added that only the NJC had the power to discipline him for misconduct and not the lower tribunal.

Onnoghen also challenged the ruling on the confiscation of his assets. He said the order violated provisions of paragraph three of section 23 of the CCB Act, which only permits the seizure of such properties "if they were acquired by fraud".

He faulted the failure of the prosecution to present Denis Aghanya, whose petition led to the charges against him.

## Trump's Victory: I Am So Unhappy Because This America Is Not The America Of Obama

– Bolaji Akinyemi

In a candid interview on Arise TV from 7:10, Nigeria's former minister of foreign affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi expressed disappointment with the current state of American foreign policy and leadership, particularly in comparison to previous administrations led by presidents such as John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, and Bill Clinton.

Akinyemi argued that while America has had a history of involvement in global conflicts, past administrations were more open to dialogue and collaboration with other nations.

In contrast, he criticized the current approach as self-centered, emphasizing that America's decisions should consider the welfare of the entire world, not just its own interests.

Akinyemi's statement reflects on the changing dynamics of international relations and the role of the United States in shaping global affairs.

According to Bolaji Akinyemi, "That is why I'm so unhappy. That's why I refuse to say good morning because this America is not the America of JFK. It's not the America of Obama. It's not the America of Bill Clinton. Now, I'm not saying that America was ever a saint in the world. America has started more wars since the Second World War than anyone we knew of, but at least there was an America you could speak to. That was an America whose decision makers you could reason with, not the America of the new 'comms' that thinks once it is good for America, they don't care about the rest of the world."

## The False Prophet? How Primate Ayodele's Trump prediction missed the mark

Primate Elijah Ayodele, leader of INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church, has a well-established record of issuing questionable prophecies across various spheres—from politics and social issues to sports and entertainment.

Month after month, Ayodele confidently releases predictions, often tagged as revelations from God. However, a significant number of these forecasts fail to come true, leading to questions about the authenticity of his spiritual claims.

For decades, Ayodele has built a reputation around predicting high-stakes events, claiming divine insight on matters of political importance, especially within Nigeria and even on international stages. He often delivers his statements with conviction, leaving little room for ambiguity. Yet the pattern of his missed predictions raises a critical question: are these truly words from God? Even the Bible cautions believers against such misleading prophets. As stated in Deuteronomy 18:22, "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

One of Ayodele's recent high-profile predictions came just before the U.S. Presidential election. On 29th September, less than two months before Americans went to the polls, he issued a bold prophecy, stating that Vice President Kamala Harris would emerge victorious. Through a statement released by his media aide, Osho Oluwatosin, Ayodele asserted that the 2024 U.S. election would

mirror some of the controversies seen in African elections, including vote-buying and intimidation tactics.

"The American election will be very tough and will take another dimension," Ayodele declared. "They will play the kind of politics we see in Africa; there will be vote-buying, intimidations, and things that haven't happened before will begin to take place."

He went further, confidently predicting that if the election took place, "Trump will not win, he will lose. Kamala Harris will shock the world, her policies will be better than Trump's. Trump will be another disaster for the world, and if there is an election today, he will fail."

Ayodele also warned that if Trump lost, he might attempt to incite protests and unrest in the United States, saying, "He must be careful."

However, the reality of the election unfolded quite differently. Contrary to Ayodele's prophecy, Donald Trump clinched a decisive victory, leaving many to wonder if Ayodele's declaration had ever been divinely inspired. With such a glaring misstep, it becomes evident that Ayodele's prediction was far from accurate. This significant blunder brings into question the nature and origin of his so-called prophecies.

Did God truly reveal the outcome of the U.S. Presidential election to Ayodele? The answer appears to be a resounding 'no'. Instead, Ayodele's prediction seems to fit the warning outlined in Deuteronomy. This was not a revelation from above but rather the words of a prophet speaking presumptuously, casting doubt upon his self-proclaimed divine insight.

# Hon Martins Amaewhule Reacts After Gov Siminalayi Fubara Said He Will Not Obey the Appeal Court

After Governor Siminalayi Fubara said he would not obey the appeal court judgment to re-present the budget before the 27 lawmakers, the Speaker of the Pro-Wike's group lawmakers, Honourable Martins Amaewhule, reacted. The governor's actions, he said, show an imperialistic attitude that threatens governance principles and the rule of law.

He said that the governor would keep paying salaries, taking money out of the bank, and meeting his contracts' obligations despite a court of appeals' decision to reject them. He contended that this shows an outrageous lack of respect for the laws of Rivers State and Nigeria generally, as well as the Constitution.

He said in a live coverage with Symfoni, "The same way people elected him, it's the same way we were all elected in our constituencies. But he sees himself as an emperor who is above the law, honorable mem-



bers. We have it on record that this same governor, shortly after the judgment of the court of appeal, told the media and Rivers people that he would not obey the judgment.

He said it on camera that

he will not obey the judgment, that he will go ahead and pay salaries, withdraw funds, and continue to spend and pay contractors. So, it goes to show that Rivers State is in a big problem. We have elected

a man who will never abide by the Constitution and laws of this state or of this country. It's quite a shame, in the committee of states, that we have a governor who cannot be trusted with power."

## "Stop Blaming Govt, Do Something To Better The Country" — Ooni Of Ife Tells Nigerians

Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, Ooni of Ile-Ife, has called on Nigerians to stop blaming the government always, but to rather do something for the betterment of the country.

Ogunwusi made the call during an official showcase of Ojaja City in Akure on Friday.

The Ooni who said that his passion for the country made him delve into the project, said his aim was to reduce the housing deficit in the country.

According to him, the official showing of the project is to actually let everybody that matters in the country to know that whenever there is will, there is a way.

The Ooni said, "A lot of good things can happen in this country and if we believe in ourselves, believe in Nigeria that Nigerians can do it, then our deficit of housing will continue to reduce grad-



ually.

"We cannot continue to cry over it. We know that we have a housing deficit in the country, but we need to make do with what we have to get results.

"We need to buy in Nigeria, we need to produce in Ni-

geria including our housing needs.

"And our project here is a city on its own. It is over 100 thousand square meter and we are trying to showcase what is possible in Nigeria.

"We don't need to leave the government to do every-

thing for us and I believe Nigeria will be in a better place if we rise up to support the government at all levels.

"We are always blaming the government, including the media, but what are we all doing individually for our dear country?"

## Nigerian Community In UK Launches GoFundMe To Repatriate The Body Of Late Kene

Members of the Nigerian community in the United Kingdom have called for assistance in repatriating the body of Mr. Kene, a Nigerian man who passed away on Monday, back to Nigeria.

It was gathered that Kene left behind his wife and two

young children, aged 3 months and 2 years.

In a statement on Thursday on their X handle, the community appealed for funds to cover repatriation, funeral expenses, and ongoing support for Kene's wife and children as they navigate this difficult time.

The statement reads, "On 4/11/2024, Kene, a Nigerian in the UK tragically passed away, leaving behind his wife and two young children, just 3 months and 2 years old.

"This GoFundMe aims to help ease the financial strain on his family, covering repa-

triation, funeral expenses, and ongoing support for his wife and children as they navigate this unimaginable time."

"Please support if you can, and share to help bring comfort to his loved ones in their time of need," they added.

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THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA & ASSOCIATED INSTITUTES**INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING DAY 2024**

Today, on International Accounting Day, we celebrate the remarkable contributions of accountants who drive global growth and economic resilience. I extend my warmest greetings to all my esteemed professional colleagues at The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

I join the Presidents of the International Federation of Accountants, Chartered Accountants Worldwide, the Pan African Federation of Accountants, and the Association of Accounting Bodies West Africa in honoring the dedication and achievements of accounting professionals worldwide—including the over 64,000 ICAN members who exemplify excellence and integrity across Nigeria and the globe.

On this special day, I want to express profound appreciation to each of our members. You are the custodians of ICAN's noble legacy, and through your dedication, you have become pillars of Nigeria's economic development. Your work embodies the values of professionalism, integrity, and perseverance, proving time and again that accountants are essential to nurturing economic prosperity. ICAN's journey has been marked by relentless pursuit of excellence and high ethical standards, thanks to the contributions of every member, past and present.

As we honor our history today, we also look boldly toward the future. I urge all my colleagues to embrace technological advancements and digital transformation, which offer powerful tools to enhance accuracy, efficiency, and transparency in our profession. Let us continue to uphold the trust placed in us by the public and businesses alike by maintaining the highest ethical standards in all that we do.

Together, let us resolve to expand our impact not only within Nigeria but on the global stage, contributing to a more transparent, trustworthy, and ethically driven financial world.

**Happy International Accounting Day 2024!**



**Chief Davidson Chizuoke S.  
Alaribe, FCA**  
Diamond President, ICAN

## I'm Not Going To Sit In Nigeria, Take My Passport, Travel Abroad And Be Seen As Criminal – Abba Kaka

**A** Nigerian lawyer and anti corruption crusader, Mr Abba Kaka, SAN, has noted that it is very sad that he, as a Nigerian will take his Nigerian passport and travel abroad, and be seen as a criminal or fraudster, only because of some Nigerian youth who use their computers to defraud people abroad.

Mr Abba Kaka made this disclosure when he was being interviewed on Arise Television from 15.01. He went on and urged the officials of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission, EFCC, to go after these fraudsters and punish them

accordingly.

He said: "I'm not going to sit in Nigeria, take my green passport and travel abroad, and be seen as a criminal, because of these young people who are always on the computers, trying to scam somebody."

Furthermore, he urged President Bola Tinubu to send death penalty bill to the national assembly, so that anyone who who is guilty of stealing will be killed. He also urged the president to strengthen the EFCC, ICPC and the police, so that they will be able to perform their work effectively.

## Emir Sanusi And Prof. Ajayi Decry Decline Of Nigeria's Judiciary, Call It Second Worst Source Of Corruption

**P**rof. Ajayi: Conflicting Judgments Indicate Unreliability Of Nigerian Judiciary, Once Respected Worldwide

Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, and Chaplain of Emmanuel Chapel Methodist Church, Professor Konyinsola Ajayi, yesterday, dissected the decline of the judiciary in Nigeria, and described it as the second worst source of corruption in the country.

Sanusi lamented that although the job of the Nigerian judge was complicated due to the political dysfunction, the judges who gave terrible verdicts would one day account for them.

Ajayi, on his part, argued that whereas the law should provide certainty in Nigeria, it was the greatest source of uncertainty.

They spoke in Lagos at a Public Discourse on Ethics, Morality and the Law, organised by the Movement for Islamic Culture and Awareness, MICA, to mark the elevation of Justice Adevala Abiru to the Supreme Court.

Those who graced the event included Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun; former Lagos State governor, Babatunde Fashola; Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development Services) University of Lagos, Professor Ayodele Atsenuwa, Dr Wale Babalakin and Professor of Political Science, Adele Jinadu.

In his address, Sanusi, who described the judiciary as a large family with many good children, said the few bad ones should be held responsible for destroying the profession.

He said: "Frankly, in every profession, just like in a large family, we have many good children, but all you need is one or two bad children to have the entire family's reputation destroyed. And I think a lot of what you hear about the judiciary is something that is linked to a very tiny minority of judges. "I have met so many judges

in person, and I must say that I have not personally met a bad judge. But the reality is, my lord, you have a big task. Because at the end of the day, we all have to fight to clean up the reputation. So, if there are a few, they have to go. We have to make sure that we bring down the number of bad judges to zero."

The monarch, who also urged judges not to be an advocate for wrongdoers, begged those tilting judgments for their gains to stop.

He said: "I would like to leave you with this: as judges, do not be an advocate for those who are wrong, for those who deceive themselves. And seek forgiveness of God, because God is merciful. Do not be an advocate for those who are wrongdoers because Allah does not love sinful wrongdoers."

The final verse for my brother, Justice Abiru, for all our brothers and sisters in the judiciary; if you don't remember one verse in the Quran, remember this verse.

"Where you are, be advocates for them in this world. Who will be their advocates on the day of judgement in front of Allah? And who will help them?"

"When your colleagues come to you, when government comes to you, when your relatives come to you and have a case before you, appealing to you, and you listen to them, and tilt justice in their favour, that is fine.

"But ask yourself where they will be when you stand before Allah explaining that judgement. You are the final judge, Supreme Court. Once the Supreme Court rules, there is no judgement apart from God's judgement that can change it. There will be a day when God will ask, who will be your own advocate on that day? Who will be your lawyer? Who will be your senior advocate of Nigeria, your silk, in front of Allah, when he's asking you why you ruled against what you know as the truth? If you do not remember any verse in the Quran, please always remember this. Write it on your table every day."

## US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: I Stand By What I Said About Kamala Harris In October – Primate Ayodele



**T**he US presidential election has come and gone and a winner has since emerged. Today, the United States has its 24th president – elect, and his name is Donald Trump. He defeated Kamala Harris against all odds and emerged victorious after a hard fought electoral battle that has left Americans more divided than they ever were.

Before the election took place, a handful of prophets had come out to make all manner of prophecies and predictions. Many of them had said in no uncertain terms that Kamala Harris would emerge winner. Some of these clergies have been called out to explain their prophecies and what went wrong. But it came as not just a surprise to many but a tasteless joke when some no longer relevant media platforms that have outlived their usefulness called out Primate Ayodele as one prophet that goofed with his prophecy, claiming that the man of God predicted that Kamala Harris will win the election.

First and foremost, the respected Primate has repeatedly educated both the media and the general public on the difference between prophecy and prediction, making it crystal clear that he is not in the business of doing predictions.

Hear him: "I have said this time and time again, I don't do predictions. I am not into permutations. It is when you're into permutations that you can be said to be predicting. I am not one of those prophets that wait till a particular event is close by before I speak about it. I make declarations and prophecies long before the event takes place. That is what is called prophecy. What I do is I make prophecies. What God has not revealed anything to me about, I don't speak about it. I reveal prophecies as directed to me by God. Please, let us be mindful of the difference, I do not make predictions, I make prophecies."

Having cleared the air on this, let's get to the crux of the matter. One of the platforms that started the false hood

claims that Primate Ayodele had at a time predicted that Kamala Harris will emerge winner of the election. And now that she lost, they wonder what the Primate has to say.

For the records, Primate Ayodele NEVER stated that Kamala would win the election. There is no interview during which he stated categorically that Kamala will emerge victorious. On the contrary, what he said was that at the time he was speaking, if the election was to hold at that very moment, Kamala Harris would win because she had everything going in her favour at that time. But he warned that the situation could change because there was still a lot of work for her to do if indeed she was serious about winning the election.

It was in an October 30th video released by Primate Ayodele's media team, that the globally renowned man of God said what he said about Kamala Harris that some misguided and mischievous elements have twisted

and interpreted to mean that he said Kamala Harris would win the election. Listen to what the Primate said:

"If the election is conducted today, Kamala Harris will win." This assertion was made based on the fact that, at that time, Kamala had the momentum swinging in her favour. But the man of God went on to warn Kamala sternly, telling her not to rest on her oars. He advised her to work extra hard because she still had a lot of mountains to climb because the election was still a 50-50 thing and she could lose to Donald Trump if she doesn't stay focused and not underestimate Trump. Primate Ayodele was very firm and direct with his words. Hear him:

"Now, Kamala Harris, listen to me, you will lose this election if you're not careful enough. You will lose in the sense that areas that, areas that are your strongholds, you're not doing well there. At Electoral College, they will knock you out, I must tell you. Kamala, if you don't want to lose, you have to work very well on your stronghold. If you're waiting to take from what Trump has, that might be difficult for you to achieve. Work very well and have a landslide in your stronghold. Do not ever think that because of the way Donald Trump is conducting himself people won't vote for him, don't you ever think that way. Just work very well on your strongholds and the five states I mentioned earlier. ... Hear this, and hear very well, Kamala, for you to succeed, you have to work very hard on these areas. This is a warning from the Lord to you, you may choose to take it seriously and may choose not to, but I am just telling you the truth and nothing but the truth."

## Ondo Guber: APC groups dump Aiyedatiwa, mobilize support for SDP candidate

**A**head of the November 16 governorship election in Ondo state, some All Progressives Congress (APC) groups, under the auspices of Ondo Patriots, have announced that they have commenced mobilisation in support of the candidate of the Social Democratic Party, Otunba Benson Akingboye.

The Coordinator of the group, Comrade Dele Oyewo, in a petition titled, 'Protest against Gov. Aiyedatiwa and the party approach', which was addressed to the National Chairman of the APC, Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje, said the decision was informed by the "questionable" emergence of the state governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, as the candidate of the party.

The group noted that the national leadership of the party had taken side with Aiyedatiwa at the "shallow primaries" conducted in April 2024.

Parts of the petition read: "The leadership of the various organising groups within the party structure in the state for the umpteenth time hereby re-emphasise that it is going to be almost impossible to work with the party and the governor on Nov. 16th gubernatorial election.

"But we discovered that the party leadership in Abuja is not in any way concerned about the wellbeing of citizens of Ondo state, rather they prefer their own choice of settlement over any form of resulting consequences.

"The voices of people in Ondo State – an appendages of the APC hereby condemn what it described as derailment and gross misconduct against the party ethics in line with the choice of Gov. Aiyedatiwa if truly we are different from PDP and that we do to the latter what we preached before 2015 general elections.

"We, the major APC groups in Ondo state have decided to pick Otunba Benson Akingboye of the Social Democratic Party as our choice.

"However silent mobilisation has been ongoing but we decided this time to inform our party because of the myriad of "I don't care attitude" that the APC leadership in Abuja have

been displaying to matters like this that concerns the youth of Ondo state long before.

"We cannot continue to lie in silence and showcase total loyalty to the destiny wasters in our state. Otunba Benson Akingboye is more or less an APC family whose track and philosophy are similar to that of our dear president Tinubu.

"He had on various platforms recognised His excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu as an epitome of modern politics that Nigeria can have. If truly the party leadership is concerned about the great future of our dear party and the good people of Ondo state, it will see this write-up as a clarion call rather than attack on the party.

## EFCC Presents Second Witness against Couple in Alleged N2.7bn Fraud Trial in Lagos

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, November 7, 2024, presented its second prosecution witness, PW2, Adesola Adeyinka, founder and CEO of Credit PRO Business Limited, in the trial of a couple, Ruth Idowu and Oriyomi Idowu, who are being prosecuted for an alleged N2.7bn fraud before Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos.

The defendants are facing a 20-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence, money laundering, stealing, retention of stolen property and forgery to the tune of N2,757,188,000.00 (Two Billion, Seven Hundred and Fifty Seven Million, One Hundred and Eighty-eight Thousand Naira Only).

They were arraigned on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 by the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the EFCC alongside Food Commodity Processing Enterprise, Bonway Food Processing Company Limited, Samee Idowu Company Limited and Farmex Integrated Companies Limited, which all belong to Ruth Idowu.

Count one reads: "Ruth Sameeha Idowu, a.k.a. Loiry Ventures, Oriyomi Kabear Idowu, a.k.a. Yocli Ventures, Food Commodity Processing Enterprise, Bonway Food Processing Company Ltd., Samee Idowu Company Limited, Farmex Integrated Companies Limited, between 31st of March 2022 and 17th of May 2023 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired amongst yourselves by a false pretence that you had a genuine Local Purchase Order (LPO) from various vendors and with intent to defraud, obtained from Creditpro Business Support Services Ltd the sum of N2,757,188,000.00 (Two Billion, Seven Hundred and Fifty Seven Million, One Hundred and Eighty-eight Thousand Naira Only)."

Another count reads: "Ruth Sameeha Idowu, a.k.a. Loiry Ventures, Oriyomi Kabear Idowu, a.k.a. Yocli Ventures, Food Commodity Processing Enterprise, Bonway Food Processing Company Ltd, Samee Idowu Company Limited, Farmex Integrated Companies Limited, sometime in 2023 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court, converted the sum of N10,000,000 to purchase a GLK Benz, purchase sum derived from converting the sum of N500,000,000 belonging to Creditpro Business Support Services with the aim of disguising the illegal origin of the funds."

At Thursday's proceedings, Adeyinka told the court that he did not know he was dealing with a fake company.

Led in evidence by prosecution counsel, Zeenat Atiku, he said: "Exhibit P1 is an e-mail address. After we had our last

meeting where we confronted them with the facts, we resolved amicably. And part of the decision reached was that we should stop interest on accruing balance. We agreed that the balance of N526,340,333 would be paid within the period of six months, with the repayment not less than N50 million.

"I sent this email personally to Mr. Oriyomi Idowu, Ruth Idowu and my team members. Mr. Oriyomi replied, saying, "Duly Noted".

In his further evidence, he said: "Exhibit P2 is the credit-pro. It was part of the process that payment should go to BUA, which Mrs. Ruth agreed to at the beginning. But she, however, later said it was not advisable and that we should pay to one of the marketing partners. But we didn't have any reason to doubt her.

"Each time payment was made, we sent e-mail to confirm it. We later got to know that this was being done to mislead us. Mrs. Ruth Appiah Idowu gave us the contacts of the person. But we later realised that they were not real, as they were created to mislead us to think that the fake purchase orders were real. As usual, we confirmed the exhibit P9 given to us by Mrs. Ruth Idowu and sent to the address she gave us. Upon confirmation, we financed it because we believed it was real."

The PW2 also told the court that his company paid money into Access Bank account between March and June, 2022, in order to mitigate against diversion, adding that "We wanted the money to go to BUA's account directly. But we later got to know that the food commodity belongs to Mrs Ruth Idowu".

He also confirmed exhibit P12 as the WhatsApp between our company, Loiry Ventures and the various companies they were supplying.

"The WhatsApp group, he added, "was created for each company to facilitate smooth transaction. We later discovered that the supposed contact person actually was Ruth Idowu. She was the one talking to us and asking for sugar under the guise that it was their representative. We only got to know after the issue came up. When we checked through "True Caller", her name came up on all the numbers. We thought we were dealing with real companies only to realise they are clone companies. But we were dealing with Loiry Ventures with utmost sincerity."

The counsel for the first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth defendants, James Alara, and counsel for the second defendant, Babatunde Ogala, SAN, prayed the court for an adjournment for cross-examination of witness.

Thereafter, Justice Dada adjourned the case till January 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2025 for cross-examination.

## Court Jails Seven Internet Fraudsters in Benin City



The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, between November 6 and 7, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of seven internet fraudsters before Justice A.N Erhabor of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Johnson Matthew Ebosa, Marvelous Osayenma, Imoniwie Joshua,

Michael Agbowemeh San, Alvin Nosaahare Osareni, Precious Imoniwie and Mike Ajufo.

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

The charge against Johnson Matthew Ebosa (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, 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 Thursday November 7, convicted and sentenced Michael Agbowemeh San and Alvin Nosaahare Osareni to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while the trio of Johnson Matthew Ebosa, Marvelous Osayenma and Imoniwie Joshua bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

On Wednesday, November 6, Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Precious Imoniwie to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) while Mike Ajufo bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and money in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria, being proceeds of crime. They are also 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.

## EFCC Arrests Chinese Brothers, Two Others for Alleged Illegal Dealing in Solid Minerals

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested two Chinese siblings: Wang Jiang and Wang Richard for allegedly making efforts to export some solid minerals without requisite permit.

While Jiang was arrested at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu, the rest, including two Nigerians, Donatus Agupusi and Michael Benneth Agu, were arrested at the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

Their arrest followed an intelligence received by the Commission through the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, FAAN on November 3, 2024 involving Jiang 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.

Preliminary investigations into the matter revealed that Agupusi, owner



of Great Wall Construction Limited, is the employer of the remaining suspects. Investigation also revealed that Jiang was attempting to travel out of the country

with the solid minerals in order to carry out some tests on them in China.

Investigations further revealed that none of the four suspects had a permit

to export the solid minerals to China.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

# Court quashes criminal summons issued by magistrate against Edo governor-elect

An Abuja High Court on Friday quashed a criminal summons issued on September 12 by a magistrates' court against Senator Monday Okpebholo over alleged certificate forgery.

Justice Charles Agbaza in a judgment also voided the entire proceedings before Magistrate Abubakar Mukhtar of a Wuse Magistrate Court in Abuja on grounds that the summons was issued in excess of his jurisdiction and error of law.

Justice Agbaza agreed with Mr Okpebholo that the entire proceedings and the criminal summons were illegal, unconstitutional and in violation of his fundamental human right to fair hearing as guaranteed under Section 36 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

Mr Okpebholo, who is the governor-elect in the September 21 Edo governorship election, had, through his counsel, Andrew Emwanta, dragged Honesty Aginbatse and Mukhtar before the court as 1st and 2nd respondents.

The development followed the criminal summons by Magistrate Mukhtar on September 12, directing Mr Okpebholo to appear in court on September 20, the eve of the governorship poll in Edo State, over an alleged false statement on his date of birth brought against him by Mr Aginbatse, an indigene of the state.

Mr Okpebholo, the APC candidate in the election, was ordered to appear before the court at noon.

He was accused of claiming conflicting dates of birth in his nomination forms submitted to the Independent National Electoral Commission to contest the election.



Against the backdrop, Mr Emwanta filed an originating summons before the FCT High Court marked: CV/4589/2024, seeking an order of certiorari to bring into the court for the purpose of being quashed, the entire proceedings and criminal summons issued on September 12 by Mukhtar at the instance of Mr Aginbatse.

The lawyer, in motion dated and filed on October 21, argued that the action was instituted to prevent Mr Okpebholo from presenting himself as a candidate in the Sept. 21 poll and to disqualify him on false grounds.

He also sought a declaration that the entire proceedings and criminal summons were illegal, unconstitutional and in violation of his client's fundamental human right to fair hearing

guaranteed by the law.

He equally sought an order of prohibition, prohibiting the magistrate from further proceeding with the case number: CR/W22/816/2024 instigated by Mr Aginbatse.

In the affidavit in support of the motion, Mr Emwanta averred that Mr Okpebholo "on March 31, 2022, deposed to an affidavit to correct the mistake in his date of birth (written as August 29, 1972 on his June 2008 WASSCE Certificate.) He also averred that Mr Okpebholo on his permanent voter card had August 1, 1977, as his date of birth instead of August 29, 1970, which is his correct date of birth), before the Commissioner for Oaths in the Registry of this Honourable Court"

He said Mr Okpebholo also deposed

to an Affidavit of Regularisation of Personal Particulars at the Supreme Court of Nigeria Registry on July 26, stating the facts and correcting the aforementioned mistake in his date of birth in both his WASSCE Certificate and Personal Voters Card issued by INEC.

The lawyer said his client further made a declaration via a Deed of Regularisation of Personal Particulars and was sworn to before the Commissioner for Oaths at the Supreme Court's Registry on July 26, among other steps taken by the governor-elect.

Mr Emwanta argued that the magistrate lacked jurisdiction to entertain such a matter being a pre-election matter, under Section 29 of which the law confers jurisdiction on the Federal High Court.

But Mr Aginbatse, in a 16-paragraph counter affidavit filed by his lawyer, Raymond Azinye, urged the court to dismiss the application.

On his part, Mr Mukhtar, who was the 2nd respondent, neither filed any process nor represented in court.

Delivering his judgment, Justice Agbaza agreed with Mr Emwanta that the magistrate ought to have considered the exhibits presented by Mr Okpebholo before issuing such an order.

He cited previous Supreme Court decisions in Osita Nwosu and Imo State Environmental Protection Agency to back his ruling.

The judge, who also agreed with the lawyer on other grounds, barred the magistrate from further proceedings on the case.

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## EFCC Arrests 21 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 arrested 21 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Benin City.

The suspects were arrested

based on actionable intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 10 exotic cars, laptops and phones

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

## Court Jails Two for Operating BDC without Licence in Damaturu

Justice Fadimatu Aminu of the Federal High Court, Damaturu has convicted and sentenced the duo of Haruna Ahmadu and Kabiru Iliyasu to separate jail terms for operating Bureau de change, BDC, businesses without an appropriate license.

The defendants were first arraigned on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one-count separate charge.

The lone charge against Haruna reads: "That you, Ahmadu Haruna, between the month of June 2023 and 2024 in Damaturu, Yobe State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did carry on other financial businesses, to wit, bureau de change business without a license issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria contrary to Sections 57 and 59(5) of the Bank and other Financial Institutions Act, 2020."

The defendants pleaded

"not guilty" to the charges raised against them by the EFCC when they were read to them.

As the trial progressed, Iliyasu changed his plea and pleaded guilty to the one-count charge prepared against him. Ahmadu did not plead guilty until his trial was concluded.

While counsel to the prosecution, Mukhtar Ali Ahmad, thereafter, prayed to the court to convict him accordingly Iliyasu owing to his change of plea.

Justice Aminu, thereafter, in a separate judgment, convicted and sentenced the convicts thus: four years imprisonment for Iliyasu with an option of fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and two years imprisonment with for Ahmadu with an option of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira).

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for operating bureau de change businesses without requisite licenses. They were charged to court and convicted.

## Court Jails Internet Fraudster for N12m Fraud in Maiduguri

Justice Jude Dagat of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri has convicted and sentenced one Habila Dzarma Ishaku to nine years imprisonment.

Ishaku was re-arraigned on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on two-count charges bordering on money laundering and cybercrime to the tune of N12,000,000.00 (Twelve Million Naira).

Count one of the charge reads: "That you, Habila Dzarma Ishaku between 2023 and 2024 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did directly take possession of aggregate sum of N12,000,000.00 (Twelve Million Naira) into your Opay Digital Services Ltd Account No. 8146406944, Habila Dzarma Ishaku, being the naira equivalent value for the Cash App, Pampay, and Gift Cards denominated in United States of America Dollars that you fraudulently received, which sum you knew or reasonably ought to have known is pro-

ceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: your false representation of unsuspecting foreign nationals like; Ilyase; Ilyase with social media account @ilyase.\_red and Adrea Velasco@.net\_texthz etc. that you are a software engineer based in Los Angeles, California, United State of America and that you could unblock and activate blocked tiktok account and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

Based on his plea, counsel to the prosecution, Faruku Muhammad prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly

Justice Dagat thereafter, convicted and sentenced Ishaku on count one to four years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) and on count two he was sentenced to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00.

## Court Jails Man for Theft in Kaduna

Justice A. Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court has convicted and sentenced one Yusuf Umar Salisu to prison for fraud.

He was prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a one-count charge bordering on cheating, theft and unauthorised withdrawal to the tune of N1,000,000 (One Million Naira only).

His charge reads: "That you Yusuf Umar Salisu (M) on or about 23rd October, 2023, while operating in the name and style of Yusuf POS and Engine Oil, at Maraban Jos, Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, deceived one Musa Mujittafa through his Point of Sale machine (POS) to collect the total sum of N1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) from him, which you dishonestly refused to pay back, and thereby committed cheating, an offence contrary to Section 306 (a) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law of 2017 and punishable under Section 307 of the same Law."

He pleaded "guilty" when the charge was read to him, prompting prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye to urge the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.



Justice Isiaka thereafter convicted and sentenced him to seven years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition to his sentence, he is to restitute the sum of One Million Naira (N 1,000,000.00) to his

victim.

The journey to the Correctional Centre began for Salisu when he posed as a customer at his victim's PoS shop and fraudulently swapped his PoS machine with a similar one he came with. Upon distracting his

victim, he transferred the sum of One Million Naira (N 1,000,000.00) from his account to a Money Point and Opay accounts in instalments and refused to return the money to his victim after his fraud was discovered.

## Lagos Court Jails Man One Year for Possession of Fraudulent Documents



Justice Rahman Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, on Thursday, November 7, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Miracle Leleji Tega to one year and two months imprisonment for possession of fraudulent documents.

Tega was arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on an amended one-count charge bordering on possession of documents containing false pretence, contrary to Section 320 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015.

The count reads: "Mira-

cle Leleji Tega, on or about the 19th day of April, 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, had in your possession a document titled "Google Account Personal info", printed from your Email: sofianrique2001@gmail.com, containing a false pretence that you are Sofia Enriquez, a female American citizen, which from the circumstances of this case you knew or reasonably ought to have known to be false."

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.

Following his guilty plea, prosecution counsel,

D. I. Oluseyi, gave a review of the facts of the case to prove the guilt of the defendant.

According to him, "Sometime in April 2024, the Lagos Directorate of the EFCC conducted a raid around Victory Estate Ajah, Lekki area of Lagos State.

"The defendant was arrested with one Iphone 11 and one Tecno Spark 9.

"His device was analysed in his presence and bundles of documents were printed out in his presence.

"The documents were alleged conversations, where he fraudulently represented himself as a white woman from the United States of

America to his victim, Cheri Bridle, an American man."

Continuing, he said: "The defendant has benefitted the sum of \$100USD from his criminal activities.

"However, he has restituted the sum of N100,000.00 out of all he benefitted from his criminal activities."

The prosecution then tendered, in evidence, the statements made by the defendant and the fraudulent documents obtained from his devices, with Iphone 11 and one Tecno Spark 9.

There was no objection from the defence counsel, Bukola Niniola; hence, they were all admitted by the court as evidence against the defendant.

In view of this, the prosecution urged the court to convict the defendant as charged and to order the forfeiture of the devices recovered from him to the Federal Government.

Justice Oshodi declared him guilty as charged.

The defendant who was given an opportunity to address the court pleaded for mercy.

Justice Oshodi sentenced him to one year and two months imprisonment.

## Olukoyede Commissions EFCC's Chemical Forensics Laboratory in Port Harcourt

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, commissioned a Chemical Forensics Laboratory in its Port Harcourt Directorate, Rivers State to enhance and fast-track its oil and gas investigations and strengthen its Extractive Industry Fraud Section.

The Laboratory, which took two years to build, would enable the EFCC to conduct comprehensive analysis of petroleum products and crude oil samples for investigative and prosecutorial activities.

Olukoyede described the project as a significant milestone in the history of the Commission in its journey towards advancing transparency and accountability in the oil and gas sector.

"We celebrate a significant milestone in the Commission's journey towards advancing transparency and accountability in the oil and gas sector," he said.

He explained that the Commission, over the years, was relying on external agencies like the Nigeria National Petroleum Company, NNPC and Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR, for its product and sample analyses which often caused delays in critical oil and gas-related investigations.

He expressed appreciation to the MacArthur Foundation

for funding the project and strengthening the fight against corruption in Nigeria, as well as the Centre for Democracy and Development, CDD for supervising and guiding the project from inception to its completion.

"I extend my deepest gratitude to the MacArthur Foundation for their unwavering commitment to strengthening anti-corruption institutions in Nigeria, and to our implementing partners, CDD, for guiding this project from inception to this important milestone," he said.

The Head, Programs, CDD, Mary Okpe in her remarks stated that the support for the project was not only to enhance the technical capabilities of the EFCC alone, but also to serve as a beacon of progress for all anti-corruption agencies within the country. She further added that the facility will empower investigative bodies with essential resources to conduct more accurate, scientific analyses in their cases and foster a culture of evidence-based accountability.

Port Harcourt's Acting Zonal Director, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE1 Adebayo Adeniyi, also expressed appreciation to MacArthur Foundation and CDD "for believing in our mission and for empowering us with the tools needed to serve the Nigerian people and the world at large".

## Court Jails Businessman for N1.1m Fraud in Maiduguri

Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 convicted and sentenced Ali Bukar Jidda to six months imprisonment.

He was jailed upon being arraigned by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on one-count charge bordering on misappropriation to the tune of N1, 126,000.00 (One Million, One Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand Naira only).

The lone-count charge reads: "That you, Ali Bukar Jidda, that sometime in June, 2020 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, being entrusted with dominion over certain properties to wit; N1, 126,000.00 by Umar Odo Soja, for supply of food items did dishonestly misappropriated the said sum and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 311 of the Penal Code Act Cap 102 Laws of Borno State of Nigeria and punishable under Section 312 of the same law."

The defendant pleaded "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.



Prosecution counsel, S.O Saka prayed the court to convict him as charged, while counsel for the defendant A. M Umar pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy.

Justice Kumaliya thereafter convicted and sentenced Jidda to a fine of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) or six months imprisonment.

The convict bagged his imprisonment for misappropriating a sum of N1.1 million entrusted to him for the supply of food items. He neither delivered the items nor returned the money to the petitioner.

# EFCC, CCB Join Forces against Corruption



The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, expressed the Commission's resolve to work with the Code of Conduct Bureau, CCB, in the fight against corruption, economic and financial crimes, stressing that every effort must be made by every stakeholder to build strength against corruption.

The EFCC boss stated this in Abuja when the Chairman, Code of Conduct Bureau, Dr. Abdullahi Usman Bello paid him a courtesy visit at the Commission's headquarters, Jabi.

Olukoyede, while stating that both agencies have related mandates, added that there was need for them to strengthen their existing collaboration.

"I don't see it as a courtesy visit, I see it more for the need for us to strengthen our existing collaboration. It is important for all of us to note that the two agencies are mandate-aligned, we are set up to fight corruption and financial crimes in the land.

"One of the things that we have been talking about with respect to the functions of CCB is the ability to be able to do investigation and to really

ensure that investigations and prosecution are pursued very rigorously.

"You don't fight corruption with kid-gloves in Nigeria, it will never work, You don't plead with people, You don't beg people, everybody knows that corruption is bad.

"Fighting corruption is what nobody wants to do but somebody has to do it. All of us desire to see a better Nigeria, but a better Nigeria will not just drop from the sky, we have to work for it. Foreigners will not come and do it for us, we have to deal with it by ourselves and we have what it takes to deal with

it", he said.

The EFCC Chairman also charged the CCB's boss to revive the Code of Conduct Tribunal, CCT, to make it functional and effective which will further strengthen the fight against corruption.

On his part, Bello stated that his Bureau needed support and collaboration with the EFCC for more robust fight against corrupt practices.

"EFCC is an organization that has distinguished itself and we want all the assistance and support that we will get from you and I hope and I believe we will get it", he said.

## Corruption, Bane of Development in Nigeria- Olukoyede

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Ola Olukoyede has stated that corruption, economic and financial crimes are threats to development in Nigeria and other African countries.

The EFCC boss stated this in Abuja on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at the African Fashion Festival Vogue Limited.

The EFCC's boss, who spoke through Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE11 Aisha Muhammed stated that there was need for committed actions against corruption owing to its devastating consequences to the nation.

"The impact of corruption on national development is multifaceted and far-reaching, affecting various aspects of the nation's growth and prosperity. It affects the economic growth of a nation by reducing foreign investment, stifles entrepreneurship, and diverts resources. Corruption is responsible for the stagnation, retardation, distortion and dislocation of growth and development in our nation," he said.

He noted that embracing fashion, design and creativity can be a creative and legal alternative to economic crimes



for individuals who want to express themselves and earn a legal living, stressing that they will help divert their attention from negative to positive use. Highlighting on the economic importance of fashion and design, the EFCC boss stated that when carefully harnessed, the industry will boost African economies because of its critical role in job creation.

"However, the economic importance of fashion and designing cannot be underrated. The industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors in the nation's economy. It's an obvious fact that the fashion eco-system is playing a critical role in job creation, revenue generation, and economic development. Therefore, it is imperative for Nigerian youths to embrace fashion designing and entrepreneurship as an alternative to cybercrime; and to keep themselves busy

in a legitimate way rather than getting involved in cybercrimes and other acts of crimes," he said.

In her remark, the Minister of Arts, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy, Dr Hannatu Musawa, urged Nigerians to promote and patronize locally-made clothing to contribute to nation-building. She praised the initiative for promoting African designs globally through the festival, adding that the platform offers opportunities for showcasing African designers in the industry.

Festival founder, Hajiya Firdausi Muhammad, harps on the importance of collaboration, ethics and sustainable industry practice, adding that Africa has the potential to become a global fashion power house.

"Our industry must be built on a foundation of strong morals and ethics, fostering a sustainable and equitable environment

for all. Together, we can create a platform that empowers African designers, artisans and models, propelling our fashion industry to unprecedented heights."

Speaking on the Nigerian culture and heritage, the representative of the Inspector General, Nigerian Police Force, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi stated that the Nigerian culture which include dressing and fashion is the only heritage they have and hoped that it will not be eroded with any foreign culture.

"I always want us to have the belief that our dressing, our fashion, our culture, our tradition and moral values are our identity. We don't want a situation whereby our identity, our culture, our moral value and our endowment and heritage will be eroded in Nigeria or on the African continent."



# OUR FATHER OUR HERO GOES HOME

LATE SEN. (DR.) PATRICK  
**IFEANYI UBAH**  
(EBUBECHUKWUZO)  
1971 - 2024



## KEEP THESE DATES FOR OUR HERO

- **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

## Nigeria: States, FCT's domestic debt rises by N198.96bn in Q2 2024

TEMITOPE ADEBAYO

In the second quarter of 2024, Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) collectively saw their domestic debt surge by N198.96 billion, raising the total from N4.07 trillion in March to N4.27 trillion in June—a five per cent increase, according to a recent Debt Management Office (DMO) report.

Debt levels varied significantly across states, with some regions experiencing sharp increases. Rivers State led the surge, with its debt rising by 67 per cent, from N232.58 billion in March to N389.20 billion in June—a N156.62 billion increase.

Similarly, Taraba State recorded a debt jump of 160 per cent, increasing from N32.64 billion to N84.72 billion. Niger State saw a 70 per cent rise, with its debt stock growing by N60.22 billion to reach N146.29 billion by the end of June.

These figures underscore a substantial dependence on borrowing for financing government projects, raising questions about the sustainability of such debt.

In contrast, Lagos State maintained its position as the state with the highest debt but achieved a five per cent reduction, lowering its debt from N929.41 billion in March to N885.99 billion in June, a decrease of N43.42 billion.

Other states, including Benue, Kwara, and Nasarawa, reported minimal changes in their debt profiles. Delta State registered a notable reduction, cutting its debt by N30.36 billion, a nine per cent decrease from N334.90 billion to N304.54 billion.

The DMO also highlighted a notable increase in Nigeria's total public debt, which reached N134.3 trillion by June 2024, up 10.35 per cent from N121.7 trillion at the end

of Q1 2024.

Although the debt rose in naira terms, the dollar equivalent remained stable, reflecting the impact of currency fluctuations on debt valuation.

Domestic borrowing remains a dominant component of Nigeria's debt profile, accounting for 53 per cent of the total debt at N71.2 trillion, while external debt stands at N63.1 trillion, or 47 per cent.



## AIICO Insurance wins quadruple awards for insurance penetration

MOTOLANI OSENI

For enhancing insurance penetration in the country, AIICO Insurance Plc and its boss won two awards at the recently concluded 2024 Almond Insurance Industry Awards, after its MD/CEO won BusinessDay Newspaper's 'Top 25 CEOs Award' while the corporate brand also won the Marketing Edge 'Outstanding Insurance Company of the Decade' Award.

At the 2024 Almond Insurance Industry Awards, AIICO Insurance Plc claimed two of the evening's most prestigious honours: 'Life Insurance Company of the Year' and the highly sought-after 'Insurance Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Year' for the company's MD/CEO., Mr. Babatunde Fajemirokun.

The awards ceremony, which celebrated exceptional achievements within Nigeria's insurance sector, featured a night of glamour, entertainment, and special performances.

For the second consecutive year, AIICO Insurance Plc was recognized as the Life Insurance Company of the Year, a category judged on rigorous criteria including financial strength, premium growth, customer service excellence, CSR, and speed in claims settlement. This win further establishes AIICO's standing as a leader in the life insurance sector, consistently demonstrating strong financial performance, brand impact, and innovative products tailored to the Nigerian market.

Mr. Babatunde Fajemirokun's award as Insurance CEO of the Year recognised his exceptional leadership, strategic direction, and dedication to AIICO's success. With years of industry experience, Fajemirokun has driven innovative



approaches that have strengthened AIICO's market position and influenced the broader industry. Candidates for this award were evaluated based on length of service, company performance, and innovations in their company and the industry.

Meanwhile, the BusinessDay award is in recognition and appreciation for the leadership, innovation, and resilience demonstrated by Mr. Fajemirokun, and also his performance in areas such as financial management, strategic planning, profitability, employee motivation, strong customer and stakeholders' management even in the face of the current economic challenges.

The BusinessDay Top 25 CEOs Awards 2024 celebrated the chief executive officers and managing directors of various companies listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NGX) and Next Bulls, which are excellent companies yet to list on the NGX. These individuals have demonstrated exceptional leadership, guiding their companies through growth and success during a challenging year for the business

world.

In a related development, the AIICO Corporate brand won the 'Outstanding Insurance Company of the Decade' by Marketing Edge, a specialized media and brand-focused publication.

Reacting to both awards, Mr. Babatunde Fajemirokun stated that, 'we are truly honoured to receive these prestigious awards. This recognition is a testament to our team's hard work, dedication, and innovation. I want to sincerely thank the organizers for their commitment to excellence and for recognizing our contributions.'

"We dedicate these awards to our valued customers and clients whose trust and support have been instrumental to our success. Your satisfaction is our top priority, and we are committed to providing exceptional service. To our dedicated employees, thank you for your unwavering commitment and passion. Your hard work and dedication are the driving force behind our achievements. Together, we have built a strong foundation for continued growth and success", he added.

Chemical and Allied Products (CAP) Plc has emphasised the role of collaboration in the Nigeria's design ecosystem.

The company stated this at the Design Week Lagos 2024. Serving as the event's official paint partner and supplier, the company's flagship product, Dulux was part of the Made by Design Exhibition enabling a showcase of CAP's products, finishes and proprietary paint systems.

The Design Week event held in Lagos is celebrated as the leading design event on the African continent, presenting the best in contemporary African architecture, interior design, product design, and industrial creativity.

Speaking during the session on 'Fostering Collaboration within the Built Environment', the MD/CEO of CAP, Bolarin Okunowo emphasised CAP's role in driving synergy within Nigeria's design ecosystem.

She stated that, "collaboration plays an essential role in the design industry. This is why as Nigeria's leading paint brand; Dulux is thrilled to lead by example to support Design Week Lagos. The event provides an unparalleled platform to connect and inspire, and we are honored to showcase our premium range of products to a community that values quality, creativity, and innovation."

"At CAP, we see the value in connecting with designers and architects who are shaping the spaces around us. Our partnership with Design Week Lagos is an investment in a thriving community of creators. As we continue to innovate with quality, sustainability, and creativity at our core, we remain dedicated to empowering and inspiring those who are building a colourful Africa," she added.

Also, the capability manager of CAP, Charles Michael led a hands-on Innovation Workshop, showcasing Dulux's pioneering techniques and approaches within design and architecture, resonating with architects, designers, and industry experts who attended.

Renowned for its dedication to

## CAP champions collaboration to boost Nigeria's design industry

product innovation, quality, and an expansive palette that inspires design expression, the brand also displayed its wide range of products, finishes, and proprietary paint systems at the Made by Design Exhibition which offered attendees the opportunity to experience the brand's hallmark of excellence, innovation, and color versatility firsthand.

Beyond the panel, workshop, and exhibition, attendees benefitted from daily giveaways, featuring exclusive products and branded items from CAP Plc.

Dulux's participation at the Design Week Lagos 2024 reaffirms CAP Plc's commitment to creatives. By supporting the event, CAP Plc demonstrates its dedication to fueling innovation and enhancing the design industry across Africa.

Chemical and Allied Products, a subsidiary of UAC of Nigeria Plc, has been a trusted name in paint manufacturing in Nigeria since 1957, and is dedicated to providing high-quality, environmentally friendly products.



Bolarin Okunowo

## Female leadership key to advancing inclusive insurance across Africa, say experts

MOTOLANI OSENI

Finance service experts have identified that female leadership give strategic advantage and ethically imperative for insurance service delivery in the country and on African continent.

Speaking at the African Insurance Women Association (AIWA) inaugural conference in Victoria Island, Lagos yesterday, the chairperson, Heirs Insurance Brokers, Dr Awele Elumelu, in her keynote address, titled 'The Future of Insurance: Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities,' she emphasised that, "the urgency to bring more women into this field is clear. Women bring fresh perspectives and empathy, and these are essential for designing inclusive, people-centred solutions."

The low insurance penetration of the African insurance industry, he said, currently below three per cent, as a significant growth opportunity, stressing k the potential of digital solutions and microinsurance to enhance accessibility and inclusion.

She said: "With our young, tech-savvy population, we have a unique chance to build products that truly resonate with Africans, especially, through mobile technology, which can help reach underserved communities and foster financial literacy among younger generations."

She concluded by calling for stronger public-private partnerships to foster regulatory innovation and enhance customer trust, saying: "A collaborative approach between industry players, regulators, and local communities will set the stage for a resilient and inclusive insurance sector that can drive economic growth across Africa."

Earlier, the president of the Africa Insurance Women Association, Lady Margaret Moore, stated that, "This landmark event, the first of its kind, brings together African women in insurance to empower and inspire one another. The conference aims to foster connections, share knowledge, and promote collaboration across the industry."

## Lagbaja: Osun govt declares 3-day mourning

The State government also directed that flags should be flown at half mast in the state during the same period, Osun Commissioner for Information and Public

Enlightenment, Oluomo Kolapo Alimi, disclosed in a statement of Thursday.

He added that condolence registers has also been opened at the government

house and Governor's office for the condolence messages of the people of Osun.

The Nigerian presidency had in a statement on Wednesday morning announced

the death of the Chief of Army Staff.

According to the statement, 56-year-old Lagbaja died on Tuesday in an undisclosed hospital in Lagos.

## "You Are A Thief" – Governor Otti Takes Action Against Abia Workers Involved In Pension Fraud

The Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, has revealed the intention of his government to prosecute some civil servants recently accused of pension fraud.

Speaking on Thursday during a media briefing at the Government House in Umuahia, Governor Otti said about 10 or 11 people have been arrested over their involvement in the fraud, and they would be arraigned in court soon.

While reiterating the stand of his government against corruption, Otti described the suspects as thieves, adding that those defending the suspects and calling for their release are equally thieves.

The Governor, who disclosed that some of the suspects are outside the country, said such persons would be repatriated to face prosecution at home.

"My question is somebody stole and I arrested him and you went to the press to say I shouldn't arrest a thief, that means you are a thief.

"They are about 10 or 11. From the report I got, some of them are outside the country. We are going to repatriate them to answer to their sins," he said.

The Governor also disclosed that the decision to relocate the Abia State University Umuahia campus back to Uturu main campus won't be reversed despite objections by some students.

According to him, the decision was in the best interest of the students.

He assured that adequate accommodation, water and modern facilities would be put in place in Uturu.



## "You were among the few people who stood up for me publicly" – Bobrisky Thanks Ali Baba and Nkechi Blessing for Their Support



Bobrisky, a popular Nigerian cross-dresser and social media personality, was recently sentenced to six months in prison following charges of currency abuse and naira spraying, which contravenes Nigerian laws on the handling of currency.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arrested Bobrisky due to a series of incidents where he sprayed naira notes at various public events, an act seen as disrespectful and illegal under Nigerian currency laws.

During this legal ordeal, Bobrisky expressed gratitude to Nigerian celebrities Ali Baba and Nkechi Blessing for their public support and for checking in on him during his detention.

He acknowledged their actions as a rare show of solidarity amid the controversy surrounding his arrest.

"You were among the few people who stood up for me publicly. Thank you so much for checking up on me."

Bobrisky's case has drawn significant media attention because of his public persona and the Nigerian authorities' stance on enforcing currency handling regulations to preserve the naira's dignity.

# Why Nigerian politicians must fear Tinubu - Sule Lamido

**A**lhaji Sule Lamido, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and two-term governor of Jigawa State, in this interview with Mannir Dan Ali on Trust TV's 30-minute programme, traced the current crisis bedevilling his party, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), partly to the fallout among northern leaders in 2007 and explained why the current crop of political leaders in Nigeria must fear President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, among other things.

Starting with the PDP, you're one of the few politicians who has been with the party since its founding, remaining steadfast without switching allegiances. Yet the PDP seems fraught with internal conflicts. Many people find it hard to understand why it's so divided. What's your take on the current state of the party?

Well, understanding what the PDP stands for might be challenging for those under 30. We're talking about events from 1998 to now—nearly 30 years. Anyone who was around 10 years old back then would be in their early 30s now.

So, explaining the PDP's philosophy is complex, which is why history matters. You can't judge today's party without looking at where it started and its journey. Back in 1998, Nigeria was in a serious crisis of trust and unity. As a federation, we had lost hope in one another, and the country was heavily divided. This rift was largely due to the annulment of the June 12 election, which was the fairest and most transparent election ever held in Nigeria. It demonstrated that Nigerians could unite around a shared vision: the candidate, Abiola, was a southerner, and his running mate, Baba Gana Kingibe, was a northerner—both Muslims. This unity was groundbreaking for Nigeria.

Abiola won the election fairly, and Nigerians felt a sense of cohesion across regions and religions. Then, suddenly, the election was annulled. People started questioning why—was it because the Yoruba candidate won? Interestingly, many Yoruba people didn't initially support Abiola. They felt a certain resentment toward him, likely because Abiola was a self-made man who had once opposed Chief Obafemi Awolowo under the NPN. So, despite winning, some in the Yoruba community didn't necessarily see him as their representative.

Once the election was annulled, certain groups, like Afenifere and other Yoruba elders who hadn't actively supported June 12, began to claim the victory as part of a 'Yoruba agenda.' But in reality, Abiola's victory was about uniting Nigerians, not about regional interests. This misappropriation laid part of the groundwork for the issues we see today.

When the PDP was formed, we reflected on how to restore Nigerians' trust, which had been shattered by the June 12 crisis. At that time, the focus wasn't on infrastructure or economic policies; it was about rebuilding Nigeria as a united nation, a place where people could believe in one another again.

Did the PDP succeed in restoring that trust? When we established the PDP, we decided that the first order of business was to address the crisis of confidence caused by June 12. Normally, political offices aren't assigned to specific regions; democracy is meant to be led by the majority of votes. But we realised we needed to set aside strict democratic principles temporarily to heal our wounds. So, we decided to locate the presidency in the South West as a symbolic gesture to appease the Yoruba people for the pain caused by June 12.

At that time, Baba (Olusegun Obasanjo) was in prison, but we saw him as a figure who transcended regional interests. Among the Yoruba leaders, we had options like Olu Falae, Pa Adesanya, and Bola Ige. However, they were largely seen as tribal leaders. Obasanjo, in contrast, was widely regarded as a nationalist—someone who had fought in the civil war and helped restore democracy. We felt he could symbolise a new, united Nigeria, so he became the face of this reconciliatory effort.

Even with Obasanjo's presidency, some Yoruba people criticised him for not prioritising Yoruba interests, as they expected him to act primarily as a Yoruba leader. But Obasanjo insisted his focus was on Nigeria as a whole, not on ethnic agendas. He served two terms but resisted attempts



to extend his tenure.

During his presidency, he successfully stabilised the country within a few years. The economy began to recover, and Nigeria was on the path toward a new renaissance. The focus was on addressing fundamental human issues and development, with a genuine drive to unify the nation politically and socially. So, the PDP has done what is almost impossible in Nigeria, to restore Nigeria.

So, is this history part of the reason you're still in the PDP, despite the current crisis?

No, no, I'll get to that. By Obasanjo's third year in office, the country had stabilised, and some of his former allies felt he should step down after four years, paving the way for someone else. This marked the start of internal tensions, even among close associates and former military colleagues who began opposing him.

Here was a man who had worked to restore Nigeria's unity, only to face resistance for wanting a second term. He was undermined and, reportedly, had to humble himself just to secure that second chance. I heard he was even made to kneel and beg.

Is that factual, or is it one of those rumours?

Well, on the eve of the 2003 primaries, his vice president supposedly claimed he held full control over the PDP and could decide if Obasanjo would get a second term or not. I'm just recalling history here—there's no intent to embarrass anyone.

How does that history relate to the PDP's current state, which is so divided?

To understand today, you have to look back at yesterday's events. Obasanjo ultimately secured the ticket, but under humiliating circumstances. This was a former general, a past head of state—yet he was subjected to this. Given his sacrifices for Nigeria, he felt he should be allowed to complete his two terms and exit on his terms.

By his second term, he might have thought, "If I almost didn't get through my first term, what happens when I leave?" The human instinct to secure his legacy kicked in.

Did you encourage him to pursue a third term?

No, I'm speculating here, just trying to put myself in his shoes. I believe that after all he did for Nigeria—from stabilising the country to resolving our debt crisis in Europe—he deserved recognition.

But Obasanjo has since distanced himself from the PDP, while you've remained, despite the party not measuring up.

Yes, he did attempt a third term. I heard he justified it by saying, "If I leave now, with just four months left, I'll be betrayed by those I considered allies." Maybe that's why he tried for a third term. But it collapsed, and he brought in Yar'Adua.

Yar'Adua had strong leadership qualities, and he came from a respected family. And those who contested against him were northerners, allies of his late older brother. In 2007, the PDP was powerful, controlling over 25 states, while Buhari had no stronghold. Yet, Buhari claimed he won against the PDP and challenged the results up to the Supreme Court. We started seeing cracks in the North from that point.

Are you saying these cracks in the North are behind the PDP's current weakness?

That's part of it. Yar'Adua won but passed away, and then we saw crisis after crisis, much of it from within. By 2014, prominent PDP members had defected to the APC, attacking the PDP as corrupt and divisive. They were former governors, ambassadors, and even past presidents.

If you look at the election results from 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2011, the PDP outperformed all other parties combined. But it was these former PDP members, who switched to the APC that defeated the PDP in 2015.

Today's APC crisis stems from PDP issues. Many key APC figures were once influential PDP members. So, in a way, the APC is itself a product of the PDP's internal conflicts.

But the current president was never in the PDP.

True, but about 90% of today's APC members came from the PDP. Just look at the National Assembly—the Senate president, his deputy, the Speaker of the House, key figures in the Assembly, and many governors. Almost anyone significant in the PDP back then is now in the APC.

Some might say this is ancient history. People expect the PDP, as the main opposition, to deliver more.

Ancient? How about those in the federal government, those leading the National Assembly? They aren't ancient; they're current. But they form a paralysed half, the APC. The only way forward is for both sides to set aside their grievances. They should reflect on how Nigeria has helped them and reconcile for the country's sake. Otherwise, how can the PDP stand strong when a chunk of it is in the APC?

Do you mean like the current FCT minister, a former PDP member, now serving the APC and possibly dividing the PDP?

Leave Wike alone. Wike is a very small boy in PDP history. Where was he in 1999? Everything he's doing, he learnt from others—betrayal, treachery. There have always been PDP members fighting the party from within. But, frankly, Wike is now inconsequential. I'm more focused on PDP leaders who understand the party's history and mission. If they return, we could unify the PDP and offer a credible alternative to the APC.

For me, the PDP that governed from 1999 to 2014 was the real PDP. We had a good PDP and a bad PDP. The government we've had from 2014 to today is a bad PDP. Yet I believe those who called PDP corrupt and left to join the APC should reconsider and work together to solve Nigeria's problems.

Do you see that happening before the next election?

God can touch their hearts and restore their sense of dignity and responsibility to see that their actions affect Nigeria's history and future. I believe it's possible.

Are you doing anything to promote this?

We're working, but we're keeping our strategies private. We are praying and working underground for the PDP's restoration—not for personal gain but for Nigeria's sake. The Nigerian people are suffering because of PDP's past failures.

So, you have no personal political ambition? You once wanted to be president—has that dream passed?

For now, we must focus on restoring and uniting the PDP. Any personal ambition should follow that goal. We should rebuild the party first, then talk about individual aspirations. The party should come first, for Nigeria's sake. Once it's stable, then people can declare their intentions.

What about the current president's approach to governance?

I've known him since the days of the SDP, and I know his political style and his skill for getting what he wants, even when it's questionable. His rise is remarkable. Look at his history, from Chicago to Nigeria. His strategies, some of which have left many astounded, reflect a calculated persistence. For example, in 2003, PDP swept the western region but couldn't defeat him. Then, when Buhari was struggling, he called him, offering support and saying, "I'll make you president." And he did. Now, it's "his turn."

Is that why you think Nigerian politicians should fear the president?

The fear isn't of him, but rather his capacity to stand firm for the wrong reasons. That's the real worry.

But he says he's made courageous decisions for Nigeria.

No, no. Every decision he's made has been for his interests. Just look at the government—it's essentially an extension of him.

But aren't all politicians like that? Don't you all look after your interests?

That's exactly my point. Those in the APC have essentially empowered him. If you're part of a group that relies on deception, there's always a "con boss" who outdoes everyone else. They've been conned. Meanwhile, you're wallowing in a divided opposition, seemingly stuck.

I'm not "wallowing." I'm simply saying that Nigeria has given me so much—a space to grow and achieve what I have. So, my focus is on how to give back, to create opportunities for others. This isn't just personal. No Nigerian leader gets where they are alone; it's about building something meaningful for future generations.

So, are you saying that past leaders, whether Ironsi, Gowon, Murtala or even Obasanjo and Buhari, were shaped more by the institutions or constituencies that backed them rather than their own personalities?

Exactly. None of them were made by their personality alone; they came from institutions, from contexts that empowered them. Tinubu, however, is different. He's defined largely by his personality, not any institutional backing. Buhari tried four times and couldn't win alone, which shows it wasn't just about him.

But isn't that something to admire—being able to rise on personal merit?

If it were for the country's benefit it would be worth celebrating. But this feels different. It is pharaonic—a rule that's about consolidating power, like a pharaoh.

Are you saying that we need a "Moses" now? Yes, a leader who can truly guide people towards positive change. But the question remains—are Nigerians willing to follow a "Moses" figure and make the necessary sacrifices? Honestly, I doubt it. The people here are, in a sense, like Pharaoh's people—resistant to the changes we need.

I used to tell my late wife: Whatever you hear about me, we are musicians and we are human. Accept me as I am  
- Dare Melody

Gospel singer has spoken about trust issues between him and his late wife, Adedoyin Odunuga.

He said he used to tell her to overlook things she heard about him as he was bound to do certain things musicians do.

He spoke during a wake in her honour, sharing a heartfelt message, reflecting on their relationship and personal struggles.

Dare Melody fondly remembered conversations with his wife, where he asked her to accept his flaws and all as a musician and human being.

He praised Adedoyin's

truthful and honest nature, mirroring his own values.

Dare acknowledged his inability to "fix" his own home despite helping others.

"I try so hard for my today not to spoil my tomorrow. I used to tell my late wife, whatever you hear about me, we are musicians and we are human. Accept me as I am.

"My wife, Adedoyin, was a very truthful and honest person, and I am also very truthful. I don't know how to lie. I used to mend people's homes but when the storm came, I couldn't fix my own home," he said.

America Has Made the Biggest Mistake. They'll Start Missing the Man They Rejected - Apostle Suleiman



In a recent video aired by Arise TV, a well-known Nigerian pastor, recognized for his impassioned sermons, made striking predictions about Donald Trump's presidency.

The pastor, Apostle Johnson Suleiman, who leads Omega Fire Ministries International in Auchi, Edo State, claimed he received a direct revelation from God concerning Trump's future and the political direction of the United States.

During his message, the pastor confidently declared, "Write it down; Trump will be impeached. The person I see ruling America is a woman." This bold statement quickly caught the attention of his congregation and social media followers, stirring curiosity and debate.

His words suggest that, following Trump's presidency, a female leader will take charge of the United States, an assertion that has prompted both belief among his followers and

skepticism from others.

The pastor further expressed that America would soon regret its decision to elect Trump. "America has made the biggest mistake. In one year, they will start missing the man they rejected. In one year, they will start calling for him," he prophesied, referencing the previous president.

He then hinted at a turbulent political period, adding, "I see them planning to arrest him as he's leaving the presidency... she's a woman, just one year."

This statement has injected new perspectives into discussions surrounding U.S. politics, particularly among Nigerian Christians and international audiences who find such prophecies compelling.

Some view the pastor's words as a divine insight aligning with what they perceive as God's involvement in American politics, while others remain skeptical.

## Former Nigerian Ambassador Seeks Asylum In United States Over Corruption Allegation By Online News Platform

Omoh told the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas that she is seeking permanent residence (Green Card) in Texas, US because of a SaharaReporters' report accusing her of corruption.

Lilian Onoh, a former Nigerian Ambassador to Namibia, is reportedly seeking asylum from the United States following a publication from an online news platform.

Omoh told the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas that she is seeking permanent residence (Green Card) in Texas, US because of a SaharaReporters' report accusing her of corruption.

According to Sahara Reporters, the former Minister claimed that she is seeking an asylum in the US for diplomats in danger so as to remain in the country "permanently."

Onoh disclosed this in a 102-page affidavit submitted to the court on November 1, 2024, adding that the report titled "Nigerian Civil Service Commission Sacks Former High Commissioner to Namibia, Lilian Onoh, Over 50 million Misappropriation, Recommends Trial by ICPC," has prevented her from joining her church's choir.

The civil action with no. 3:23-cv-02838-B was filed against Sahara Reporters Media Group, Inc., Sahara Reporters, Inc., and Omoyele Sowore, who are the defendants.

The affidavit was filed as the plaintiff's (Onoh) response



to the defendants' motion to dismiss the plaintiff's first amended complaint and supporting brief.

It reads, "Onoh is currently seeking Permanent Legal Resident status in the United States. Plaintiff Lilian Onoh brought this lawsuit on December 22, 2023 seeking damages from Defendants, Sahara Reporters Media Group, Inc., Sahara Reporters, Inc., and Omoyele Sowore, for defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress arising from the publication of an article on a news website that the Defendants own and operate."

"Defendants originally

published this article on April 21, 2023. On or about April 21, 2023, Sahara Reporters published a story on its website about Onoh ("Article"). The title of the Article was "Nigerian Civil Service Commission Sacks Former High Commissioner to Namibia, Lilian Onoh, Over N50million Misappropriation, Recommends Trial by ICPC."

"While Onoh originally intended to retire in Nigeria, she has revised her plan due to the Article and the danger that it will cause her should she return. For that reason, Onoh now intends to remain permanently in Texas."

"Since the publication of

the Article, Onoh has filed the necessary paperwork with the United States government to seek asylum for diplomats in danger and remain in the United States permanently.

"Onoh's application for adjustment of status was accepted and she was issued an Employment Authorization document which will allow her to remain in the United States until 2028."

"Onoh has recently completed the final stage of submitting medical records to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and is awaiting the issuance of her Green Card."

Atiku And Peter Obi Can Remove Tinubu  
- Okupe Tells Dangote Who To Back



Okupe said a combination of former presidential candidates from the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Atiku Abubakar

and that of Labour Party, LP, Peter Obi, would unseat Tinubu in 2027.

On Thursday, Doyin Okupe, a former presidential

spokesman, suggested how to unseat President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

Okupe said a combination of former presidential

candidates from the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Atiku Abubakar and that of Labour Party, LP, Peter Obi, would unseat Tinubu in 2027.

He said it's game over should former President Goodluck Jonathan joins the race in 2027.

Posting on X, Okupe charged business mogul, Aliko Dangote should emulate Elon Musk and back Atiku.

He wrote: "Many Nigerian pseudo politicians lack deep thinking. Atiku/Obi will unseat Tinubu. Assumes Yorubas are stupid."

"Bring GEJ in 2027. Game over assumes the North is self-destructive."

"Dangote should be like Elon Musk & back Atiku. Assumes Dangote is suicidal. Where is God in all this."



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# To a VeryDarkMan who lights up a dark country, respect

BY IKEDDY ISIGUZO

*You can also commit injustice by doing nothing. - Marcus Aurelius*

**P**ITCH darkness descends on Nigeria regularly enough that disconcerting as it is, darkness may be a distinguishing Nigerian feature that is not about to go away. Fewer places reflect the darkness, the neglect of the Nigerian society, than the fullness of the energies for dispensation of injustice.

The entry of a young man, 30, more popularly known as VeryDarkMan, is pointing the light to some of the more embarrassingly darkened sides of our justice system. We should be grateful to him for his disruptions.

Without him, the minors who the President, in a rare case of momentary wakefulness, released, would have had their trials continued under a serious charge of trying to overawe the President's administration. Minors, as they were, sick, hungry, all the traces of their stresses in full view, were put away for 60 days to allow investigations. Their deemed sponsor is out of reach of the law or above it.

The minors harvested from Kano, Adamawa, other States in the North, and Abuja, for waving Russian flag during their agitation against bad governance, and the increasing hardship in the country, were expected to bail themselves with N10 million each, and have senior civil servants guarantee they would not run away. They need N710 million to get out of detention.

The release and acquittal of the 71 teenagers, mostly beggars picked from the streets, to the Kano State government, is said to be a significant victory for human rights. We joke too much, too often. They had been held since August 2024.

Nobody did anything to release them. They had been forgotten. VeryDarkMan's momentary detention was the opportunity that beamed the light on the dark recesses of Nigeria's justice administration.

How many others who cannot afford the price of justice are still held illegally? Some minors, some adults?

The police, the Ministry of Justice, the judge, and all the routes that the children passed to jail, ignored the fact the arrested were children.

VeryDarkMan shouted enough that the next time they were in court, pictures and videos of their fainting went viral. They were hungry. They were sick. They were probably knocking on the doors of death.

Marcus Aurelius whose regnal name was Imperator Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus, was a stoic philosophy, a Roman Emperor from 161 to 180, a member of the Nerva-Antonine dynasty. He was among the last of the rulers later known as the Five Good Emperors and the last emperor of the Pax Romana, during which there was relative peace, calm, and stability for the Roman Empire from 27 BC to 180 AD.

He expects us to act in the face of a crime or brutal act. If we do not act, Marcus would rate our inaction a form of injustice.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it more succinctly. "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor".

We in different ways failed the minors charged to court in Abuja. They had no business being in jail and undergoing those dehumanising treatments that would stick with them for life. The courts were guilty.



Nigeria failed them particularly those who surround the President. They do too much worsening the public's perception of the President. Not surprisingly, these same fellows are defending the arraignment of minors.

VeryDarkMan embarrassed them by asking for justice for the children. It was not long before people were questioning VeryDarkMan's qualifications to dabble into human rights. He told them he had secondary school certificate. It was a disclosure that cut short whatever mischief they intended.

With all their education, their understanding of law and order, our Ministry of Justice easily mixing justice with injustice as they kept those children away for months. Who were they working for? Who do they account to? Is it enough to ask the children to go? With will be done to deter such official misbehaviour?

VeryDarkMan is the light that fights the pitch darkness that has seized the minds of the low and mighty in a mindless show of power, greed of immense dimensions, and the directionlessness that leads a nation that is speeding from one darkness to a worse one.

Who has forgotten the centres of concentric circles of conspiracies that cost Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, Chief Justice of Nigeria his plum job in 2017. None of the processes were followed. He was passed through the Code of Conduct Bureau, and sacked. The courts are now annulling the judgements.

No whimper was heard from the Senate which was in full session throughout the processes that terminated his appointment. The Senate confirms the appointment of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, who heads one of the three arms of our democratic government. Our neutrality, as Archbishop Tutu would say, convicts us.

There are more judges and higher ranking persons that the targeted injustices of the past and the times are affecting. Justice is far from everyone contrary to thinking

that some are safe.

When the unjust act, they are blinded by motives. Justice Onnoghen in a minority, dissenting judgement, annulled the election of Umaru Yar'Adua as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2007. Onnoghen's judgement voted in support of Muhammadu Buhari. It was the same Buhari that illegally sacked Onnoghen 10 years later.

Nigeria is bound by an uncaring leadership that cannot even care for itself. It is now impossible to stop the national grid from collapsing as if its constant collapse will increase our GDP. The administration unrelentingly feeds the public excuses for the unmitigated failure to supply electricity which is not even cheap.

Are we not expecting too much thinking that an administration that has made a policy of blaming everyone for everything will care for us? The issue is not that it will not - it simply cannot.

Perhaps VeryDarkMan would next beam his light on other abuses of our rights, while Marcus Aurelius still reminds us not to do nothing about injustices whether against us or other people.

Finally...

CHIEF Baltasar Ebang Engonga, the Equatoguinean whose private tapes almost got more attention than the US elections has proven that human beings can make something of anything. Engonga, the head of his country's National Financial Investigation Agency, ANIF, is also head of the group that produced the thrilling 400 tapes that would have shaken the box office, stands by his story that participants in the tapes were not forced. I have heard several conclusions about the matter that introduced Equatorial Guinea. Not since the 2000 Olympics when Equatoguinean Eric Moussambani Malonga swam the 100m freestyle on 19 September in a time of 1min 52.72 secs has the country attained monumental global attention. Moussambani had trouble concluding the race, but

he set the record for the slowest time for the event. His time was more than twice regular times for the event. I doubt if we will ever know what Engonga did or understand it enough to pass a judgement.

YESTERDAY, Honourable Alexander Ikwechegh, the House of Representatives member for Aba North/Aba South returned to his constituency to share free petrol and kerosine. He no longer needs to apologise for slapping an Abuja uber driver Mr. Stephen Abuwatseya thrice. After waking Nigerians up to another shade of the oppression we face, Abuwatseya has apologised to Ikwechegh and absolved him of any wrong-doing. The cab man even said he should be blamed for provoking the lawmaker. I apologise for VeryDarkMan who the case wings to fly. VeryDarkMan has already apologised to Ikwechegh. Congratulations, Honourable, there is no better time to commence the 2027 campaign than now.

WHAT did Americans do that is shocking Nigerians? Did we not vote for Muhammadu Buhari? Then followed it up with Bola Ahmed Tinubu? If you sequence a Donald Trump-Joe Biden-Trump administration, the dissonance would not be much different from what Nigerians are suffering. The only difference, though, is that America has standing institutions (they ceased to be strong a while ago) that Trump cannot trample on, completely.

THOSE against Senator Remi Tinubu, the President's wife, and Nuhu Ribadu, National Security Adviser leading national prayers as the elixir for national security and the tough times, in a week that Peter Obi suggested that productive hours should not be invested in prayers, have more work to do. Since we delight in citing foreign examples to support things we want to foist on others, how are these important national policies managed elsewhere?

ISIGUZO is a major commentator on minor issues

## Alcohol, caffeine and nicotine are gateways to drug abuse, NDLEA warns youths

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) says alcohol, caffeine and nicotine are gateways to drug abuse and addiction.

Ugochukwu Emeka, a chief superintendent of narcotics at the NDLEA, spoke in Abuja on Tuesday at an event organised by the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and Mathias Aliu, councillor representing Wuse ward.

Emeka said the aforementioned substances are socially acceptable, but if abused could lead to full blown drug addiction and abuse

The NDLEA official said some people who start out by taking alcohol end up taking stronger opioids.

"Caffeine is acceptable. Nicotine is acceptable in society, but hear me out, they are the starting points. These socially acceptable drugs are divided into three, they are alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine," she said.

"Let me tell you alcohol is a drug, the WHO, google it, annu-

ally it [substances] takes three million deaths, 2.6 million is alcohol while 0.6 is other drugs.

"Alcohol is a depressant. It depresses your central nervous system. It is the starting point of every depressant.

"We are talking about the gateway drugs, we must stay away from the gateway drugs."

Earlier, Aliu said the campaign is a call to action in an effort to sanitise "our communities".

"We have lost great lives to drug addiction. I want us to work towards having a future not dependent on drugs," the councillor said.

Also speaking, Nasir Usman, AMAC's vice-chair, said drug abuse and addiction to substances are "complex issues" affecting individuals and communities.

"Everyone seated here has a key role to play," Usman said.

"If you have a friend that is a user, you should help them, counsel them. Drug abuse is fast spreading, let us do everything to keep our streets safe."

## NDLEA uncovers UK-bound drugs hidden in tiger nuts, groundnut parcels

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency has foiled attempts to smuggle illicit drugs to the UK, discovering them hidden in parcels of tiger nuts and bags of groundnuts.

The agency's Director of Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi, disclosed this in videos shared on X.com on Sunday

Femi Babafemi also warned against accepting packages without thoroughly checking their contents.

Sharing the videos, he wrote, "Once again, never accept any package on your journey, no matter how genuine it looks, without a thorough search.

"These videos showing the moment NDLEA officers uncovered illicit drugs in parcels of tiger nuts bound for the UK, and in bags of groundnuts in a bus, reinforce this warning."



## Babangida, Marwa, Others Pay Tributes to Ex-NDLEA Boss, Kwajafa, as He's Buried



Former Military President, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, current NDLEA Chief, Brigadier-General Mohammed Buba Marwa, and a host of others, yesterday, in Abuja, paid tribute to the late Fulani Kwajafa, former NDLEA boss, who was laid to rest at Gudu Cemetery, Abuja.

A Night of Tributes was held to honour Kwajafa, who passed away at the age of 88 as former colleagues, family, and friends gathered in Abuja to celebrate his extraordinary life, legacy and contributions to Nigeria.

Babangida reminisced about his long association with Kwajafa, describing him as an "uncommon Nigerian" with an infectious patriotism, recalling their first encounter in 1964.

Babangida his tribute said: "He was such a great Nigerian with a deep sense of patriotism and dedication to his responsibilities as a consummate Police Officer."

He praised Kwajafa's rise through the ranks of the Nigeria Police, noting his innovations and significant role in combating drug trafficking during his tenure at the NDLEA.

Marwa expressed deep sorrow at Kwajafa's passing, stating that, "Mr. Kwajafa's death at 88 is no doubt a national loss of unquantifiable magnitude because of the many ways he touched the Nigerian polity."

He highlighted Kwajafa's achievements and the enduring legacy he left behind, particularly his visionary leadership in drug law enforcement.

Former Inspector General of Police, Dr. Solomon Arase, also paid tribute, acknowledging Kwajafa's legacy as the first head of the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS) and emphasizing his unwavering commitment to national service.

Lieutenant General Tukur Yusufu Buratai, former Chief of Army Staff, expressed his deep sadness at the loss of a "towering figure" in Nigerian policing.

He reflected on Kwajafa's integrity and dedication to public safety, highlighting his role in establishing the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in 1984, which laid the foundation for a renewed approach to combating crime.

## Ogun Pilgrims Board emphasises NDLEA's role in hitch-free Hajj operations



The crucial role of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Hajj operations in the Ogun State cannot be overemphasized towards ensuring a hitch-free exercise.

Executive Secretary of the Ogun State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Ajibola Taiwo, stated this during a visit to the agency's State Command, Oke-Ilewo, Abeokuta on Friday. Taiwo, while appreciating

the agency's support in the successful implementation of previous Hajj operations, explained that the visit was to inform the agency of the commencement of the 2025 Hajj.

The Board also sought

sustenance on the enlightenment programmes on prohibited foods and drugs, as well as profiling of pilgrims before embarking on the holy pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

Responding, State Commander of the NDLEA, Commander Tijani Rabe, commended the efforts of the Board in promoting the well-being of pilgrims both in the state and in the Holyland.

He noted that the visit was a way of strategizing and strengthening the bond between both agencies and assured the Board that it would not relent in carrying out its statutory functions where necessary.

## NDLEA partners Kogi Assembly on fight against drug abuse

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, in Kogi State is collaborating with the State House of Assembly to enlighten the people of the state on the dangers of drug abuse and other drug-related menace in the society.

The NDLEA Commander in the state, Umar Mustapha Yahya stated this during a working visit to the State Assembly in Lokoja.

The Commander said Kogi State is very strategic to the agency's fight against drug abuse in view of the geographical location of the state and the findings by the NDLEA following painstaking research.

"NDLEA found out recently



that there is a high prevalence of drug and substance abuse in Kogi State which needs to be mitigated because of the tendency to endanger the society at large.

While welcoming the Commander to the Assembly, the Speaker, Aliyu Umar

Yusuf praised the NDLEA for its gallantry and commitment towards sanitizing the society of illicit drugs.

He noted that the dangers of such drugs cannot be over-emphasized, stressing that the problem keeps growing by the day, despite the obvi-

ous dangers inherent in the consumption of such harmful substances.

The Speaker noted that as a lawmaking body, the Assembly is ready to collaborate with the agency and come up with laws that would assist the NDLEA to do its job more effectively.

# Local football tournaments are for talent discovery, not self-promotion – Gusau



President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has once more provided clarity on the essence of sponsored local football tournaments, saying the essence is to identify talents worthy of being nurtured for enhancement of their careers.

Speaking at the trophy presentation of the NFF President Football Tournament – a pre-season tournament for Clubs in the Nigeria National League – inside the NFF Secretariat, Gusau praised the organizers and charged them to ensure the inclusion of at least four teams from the host State, Kaduna, as a way of providing opportunities for rookie players in the hosting State to get much-needed expo-

sure.

"Tournaments like this one are geared towards discovering talents, who will then be nurtured by the discovering Clubs to enhance their careers and take them to greater glory. They are not meant for self-promotion of the sponsors or those whose names appear on the trophy. Personally, I am committed to football development from the grassroots because I am a grassroots person.

"At a larger level, the NFF is committed to wholesale development of Nigeria football, and tournaments like this serve as shop windows for untested but gifted individuals to find their breakthrough."

The competition is to be organized by Babs Integrated Services, whose CEO is

former Nigeria international Tijjani Babangida, who is also the chairman of Professional Footballers Association of Nigeria (PFAN).

The former World Cup scorer used the opportunity of the presentation to praise the NFF President for his huge support during his recent ordeal, following an automobile accident that claimed the lives of his brother and son, and left him and his wife with varying degrees of injuries.

"The NFF President is an awesome person, and I believe that with his involvement alone, the elements will work together to ensure the success of this pre-season tournament. Babs Integrated Services, in conjunction with the Kaduna State Football

Association, is primed to deliver an enthralling experience for all stakeholders. Together, we will work to reinvigorate grassroots football and generally elevate Nigeria football. Our objective is to make this an annual event."

Also present at the presentation ceremony were Chairman of the NPFL Club Owners, Dr Okey Kpalukwu; Chairman of the organizing committee, Hon. Magaji Alhassan and; NFF's Director of Media and Communications, Dr Ademola Olajire.

The tournament, which is set to bring together NNL clubs from across the country, is scheduled for the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna, 12th – 20th November 2024.

# Shaw hat-trick inspires Man City to win over Spurs

Khadija Shaw scored a hat-trick as Manchester City extended their lead at the top of the Women's Super League table with a punishing victory over Tottenham.

Shaw, the league's leading goalscorer, netted twice during a dominant first-half display and added a third after the break as Spurs were incapable of mounting a comeback.

It took just 24 seconds for Shaw to score the opener, robbing possession from Tottenham's Clare Hunt and sliding it past goalkeeper Becky Spencer.

She caused countless problems for centre-back Hunt, who was replaced at half-time, but only after Shaw had made it 2-0, heading in Lauren Hemp's cross.

The hat-trick was complete after an hour when Shaw combined with Hemp again to slot in her low cross at the back post, seconds after Jill Roord had made it 3-0.

Gareth Taylor's side, playing at Etihad Stadium for the first time this season, entertained home supporters with a strong performance and should have added to their tally.

Hemp hit the woodwork, Roord had another goal disallowed for offside in the build-up, while Aoba Fujino and Yui Hasegawa came close.

Spurs' only real opportuni-

ty came in the first half when Matilda Vinberg was inches away from connecting with Bethany England's pacy cross at the back post.

Overall, it was another disappointing evening for Tottenham, who have won just two of their seven WSL matches so far and have Arsenal to come next.

But, for City, it cemented their place at the top of the table as they continue to impress this season.

Shaw steals the show as Hemp partnership shines

Tottenham's vulnerability at the back has been well documented - no other team in the league has conceded as many goals as them (18) in the WSL this season.

And City were eager to exploit this.

Within seconds, Shaw cemented her superiority, pouncing on Hunt's hesitation and coolly sliding it beyond Spencer to kick off proceedings.

Her second goal was much easier – Hemp did the hard work on the left-hand side and Shaw, allowed space in the box by Hunt, was able to nod the ball into the bottom corner from a few yards out.

Shaw ran off to celebrate in front of City's supporters, showing them her name on the back of her shirt and spreading her arms out to welcome her teammates' adulation.

# Arsenal thump Brighton as Slegers' fine start continues

Arsenal's return to form under interim manager Renee Slegers continued as they hit five goals past Brighton in the Women's Super League.

Playing in front of 22,467 fans under the lights at Emirates Stadium, the Gunners looked back to their best as they swept aside the visitors with a ruthless display.

Beth Mead opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a low curling strike, before Caitlin Foord added a second by scuffing a close-range effort past Sophie Baggaley.

The pick of the bunch, however, was Frida Maanum's stunning strike from the edge of the box 10 minutes before half-time.

Kiko Seike, who has not scored for the Seagulls since her opening day hat-trick, offered Brighton biggest threat up front, rattling the crossbar and forcing Manuela Zinzberger into a superb save in the second half.

But Arsenal continued to dominate and Lina Hurtig added a fourth with her glancing header trickling in despite Maisie Symonds' best efforts to clear on the goalline.

Alessia Russo rounded off a five-star performance by calmly converting from the spot after

Jorelyn Carabali dragged down Stina Blackstenius in the box.

The win continues Arsenal's unbeaten run under Slegers, who has now overseen two league victories and a draw since manager Jonas Eidevall resigned in October.

Despite an upturn in form, Slegers' side are still feeling the effects of a poor start to the season under Eidevall and sit fourth in the WSL, seven points behind league leaders Manchester City who beat Spurs 4-0 on Friday night.

For Brighton, their strong start to the campaign means they remain a point above Arsenal in third.

Despite arriving at the Emirates in fine form, with four wins from their opening six league games, Brighton looked out of their depth against the hosts.

Their evening ended on a worrying note as substitute Aisha Masaka was stretched off after she appeared fall awkwardly on her shoulder under a challenge from Laia Codina.

Having finished ninth in the WSL last season, Dario Vidosis' side have been the surprise package of the season so far, but they struggled to break into the final third and they entered the interval without registering a single shot.

# Mbappe 'down but motivated' at Real Madrid - Ancelotti

Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe is "down" but has the determination to come through a difficult period, says manager Carlo Ancelotti.

The 25-year-old France forward, who joined Real on a free transfer from Paris St-Germain in July, has struggled for form since arriving at the Bernabeu.

Mbappe has scored eight goals in 15 appearances for the La Liga club, but has only netted once in his past five games.

Real, who won the Champions League and La Liga last season, were beaten 4-0 by rivals Barcelona last month and trail the Catalans by nine points in the league.

"Mbappe is down like everyone else, but motivated to get through this mo-



ment," Real boss Ancelotti told a news conference.

"The problem he's having is everyone's problem. You could point at Vinicius [Junior], Rodrygo or [Jude] Bellingham. It is a difficult moment for everyone."

Ancelotti said Mbappe was "training well" and

was "convinced" his form will improve if the player remained upbeat.

"We haven't hit our stride yet. You can't let your head drop, you have to hold it high," said Ancelotti.

The Italian added that he had "not spoken" to Mbappe about France manager Didi-

er Deschamps' decision to leave him out of Les Bleus' forthcoming Nations League double-header.

"It's a matter for the national team coach and I have no right to judge his decisions. He made the decision and we have to accept it," Ancelotti explained.

## Wolverhampton sink Southampton for first league win

Wolverhampton Wanderers' fastest goal in their Premier League history set up a long-awaited league victory as they beat fellow strugglers Southampton 2-0 on Saturday.

The win moved off the bottom of the table.

The hosts celebrated not only the win but also their first clean sheet of the season, but for Southampton the misery continued.

The Saints remained winless on the road and have now suffered nine defeats in their opening 11 games.

Wolves climbed to 18th place with six points while Southampton sit bottom on four.

Despite controlling possession for much of the match, Southampton were undone by two decisive Wolves moments.

The first came in just the second minute when Matheus Cunha collected the ball in midfield and played a perfectly weighted pass to Pablo Sarabia.

He rounded England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale and calmly slotted home.

Southampton pushed for an equaliser, with only a controversial VAR decision denying Ryan Manning's strike.

But a lapse in intensity early in the second half allowed Wolves to secure the win as Cunha unleashed a thunderous shot to seal a crucial three points for Wolves.

## Musiala strike seals Bayern win over St Pauli

Jamal Musiala's sensational strike earned Bayern Munich a win over St Pauli and took them six points clear of RB Leipzig at the top of the Bundesliga.

The German international won the ball 30 yards from goal and took a touch before hammering an effort in off the crossbar after 22 minutes.

England captain Harry Kane had a quiet afternoon, and blazed a strike over the bar from Serge Gnabry's cutback.

Leon Goretzka took aim from inside the box, while St Pauli goalkeeper Nikola Vasilj got down quickly to palm away a Leroy Sane strike that looked destined for the bottom corner.

Musiala was sent clear through on goal in the closing minutes but was unable to double Bayern's lead as he had his shot blocked.

Leipzig could reduce the gap to three points if they win against Borussia Monchengladbach later on Saturday.

## Liverpool overcome Villa to move five clear at top



Liverpool took full advantage of Manchester City's slip-up in the Premier League title race by beating Aston Villa to move five points clear in top spot.

Just before the game at Anfield kicked off, the reigning champions were beaten 2-1 by Brighton.

That meant leaders Liverpool knew victory would ensure they opened up a decent gap to City heading into the international break.

Darwin Nunez opened the scoring in the 20th minute, striding on to a loose ball after Mohamed Salah went down in a tangle with Leon Bailey following a brilliant counter-attack before firing beyond Emi Martinez.

Nunez really should have had a second not long after when he broke away following

another quick break, but this time he drove his shot over.

It could have proved costly but for two fantastic saves by Caoimhin Kelleher to first deny Amadou Onana and then Diego Carlos before the interval.

Morgan Rogers then missed another big chance for Villa seconds after the restart when he clipped a shot wide when aiming for the far corner.

Chances after that were few in a tense second half, although Villa boss Unai Emery felt his side should have had a penalty for a shirt pull by Conor Bradley - an early replacement for the injured Trent Alexander-Arnold - on Pau Torres, but nothing was given after a review by the video assistant referee (VAR).

But Salah made sure of a big three points with six minutes left when he raced

through and squeezed a shot home at the near post, scoring for a fourth successive league game.

The win was Liverpool's ninth in 11 Premier League games - 15th in 17 overall since Arne Slot took charge in the summer - while Aston Villa are eighth.

Fresh from thumping Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 in midweek to maintain their 100% record in this season's Champions League, Liverpool came through another challenge by capitalising on Manchester City's loss at Brighton to overcome a dangerous Villa side.

It perhaps should have been a more comfortable scoreline than it was, with Nunez showing the best and most parts of his game on Saturday night.

The Uruguay striker

showed great awareness to pounce on a loose ball and then produce a clinical finish to open the scoring, but then missed a number of easier chances to put the game to bed, firing wide after another brisk counter and then heading wide in the second half.

But Liverpool remained calm despite the missed chances and got the security of the second through the dependable Salah - just as Villa threatened a strong finish.

Slot has shown to be more of a pragmatist than a risk taker at Liverpool and that careful approach appears to be serving them well in a title race where, unlike their rivals, they are yet to falter.

They are once again doing well in the Premier League but are going through a difficult spell at the moment, with this defeat their fourth in a row in all competitions.

This was not by any means a bad performance against a side that had won seven of their eight previous games at home in all competitions, and they had good chances to level before Salah sealed the success.

But, ultimately, this was another disappointing outcome and Villa have now managed just one win in their last six league games - a run that has left them among four clubs who are one point behind fourth-placed Brighton.

The international break will come as a welcome opportunity to regroup before trying to arrest the slide.

## Guardiola's woes continue as Brighton beat Man City

Pep Guardiola fell to a fourth successive defeat for the first time as Manchester City boss as Brighton came from behind to beat his Premier League champions.

It is the first time since 2006 that City have lost four in a row.

Manchester City looked on course to end their disappointing sequence when Erling Haaland capped an impressive opening at Amex Stadium in the 23rd minute, scoring at the second attempt from Mateo Kovacic's pass.

Brighton, however, held their nerve, taking complete control after the break - and it was only their poor finishing that prevented them drawing level before substitute Joao Pedro pounced in a scramble 12 minutes from time.

City, who had looked increasingly vulnerable, were on the rack and Brighton took a deserved lead when Matt O'Riley, who has been out injured since his debut following a move from Celtic, burst through an exposed

defence to beat keeper Edereson five minutes later.

Brighton earned the reward after passing up a number of chances, with Jack Hinshelwood heading straight at Ederson from point-blank range and Georginio Rutter also missing a golden opportunity before City crumbled under the constant pressure.

Manchester City's road to what they hoped would be a recovery from recent setbacks looked to be a smooth one when Haaland rewarded a period of early supremacy with his 12th Premier League goal of the season.

Instead, Brighton took increasing encouragement from the weaknesses in defence of a City side who struggled against a wave of attacks without the composure usually afforded by experienced duo Ruben Dias and John Stones.

City gradually lost their cool and were hanging on well before substitute Joao Pedro emerged from a melee to finally put the Seagulls level.

Without the world class

presence of Rodri in midfield to steady the rocking ship, City are now giving opponents the sort of hope and encouragement they have rarely been offered in recent years, with Brighton's full-tilt attacking style under Fabian Hurzeler primed to cash in.

It would be nonsensical to dismiss City as title challengers given their history of success but a lack of form - and a long injury list - may well have opened the door to their rivals. The sight of Kevin de Bruyne emerging as a substitute for the closing stages will have lifted sagging morale, though.

Guardiola has once before lost four games in a row, as Bayern Munich boss in 2014-15 - albeit one of those losses was only after a penalty shootout.

He will now hope to use the international break to regroup before they take on Tottenham at Etihad Stadium on 23 November.

Brighton's young manager Fabian Hurzeler ordered a fearless approach from his players, demanding their total belief that they could

beat Manchester City. It took a while but they eventually followed his orders to the letter.

The 31-year-old has seamlessly continued the good work of predecessors Graham Potter and Roberto de Zerbi, the German a charismatic figure who has captured the imagination of Seagulls supporters.

Brighton were tentative in the face of City's renewed excellence early on, but once they got a grip on proceedings, they simply penned the champions back until they could not survive any longer.

Kaoru Mitoma tormented Kyle Walker on City's right-flank, while the predatory instincts of Joao Pedro finally gave Brighton the equaliser that had been a long time coming.

Manchester United and Spurs have already been beaten at the Amex this season, a sign of the confidence Brighton have on their own ground, but this was easily the most impressive victory of Hurzeler's short reign.





Local football tournaments are for talent discovery, not self-promotion – Gusau

## Address by His Excellency Senator Douye Diri, at the Opening Ceremony of the All-Nigeria Editors Conference (ANEC) of the Nigeria Guild of Editors on Thursday, 7 November, 2024 at the DSP Alamieyeseigha Banquet Hall, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

1.Distinguished editors, esteemed journalists, and dear friends.

2.It is with great pleasure that our serene capital, Yenagoa, welcomes you to this significant gathering of the Nigeria Guild of Editors, representing the pinnacle of journalistic excellence.

3.I bring you warm greetings from the people and government of Bayelsa State, the Glory of All Lands, as you convene to deliberate on vital issues that shape our nation's narrative and uphold the tenets of your noble profession.

4.The significance of the media in democratic governance has been recognised since the 17th century. As the fourth pillar of democracy, the press educates, informs, and entertains, shaping public agenda and debate. Democracy relies heavily on the press to thrive.

5.As ethnic nationalities and diverse interests vie for attention, your work serves as a beacon of hope, promoting understanding and unity. In these turbulent times around our nation and the world at large, your role as guardians of truth is more critical than ever.

6.Integrity remains the cornerstone of your profession, building trust with the public and fortifying the foundations of a healthy democracy.

7."Economic Growth and Development Strategies in Resource-Rich Country", your theme for this conference, is both relevant and timely.

8.We find ourselves at a pivotal moment in Nigeria's journey toward sustainable development. Our nation brims with abundant resources, yet poverty and underdevelopment persist across countless communities; a striking paradox.

9.In Bayelsa State for instance, a major contributor to Nigeria's oil and gas production, we face severe environmental challenges and economic hardship. For long we have been ignored, our stories dismissed, and our rights trampled. Yet we have decided not to be silenced or erased. "The time is always right to do what is right," said Martin Luther King Jr.

10.Two recent events have strengthened my resolve to drive a thoughtful and intentional dialogue about responsible resource management in our country.

11.It was my pleasure to join the University of Nigeria (UNN) community in Nsukka for their 64th Founder's Day, where I presented a lecture focusing on the pivotal issues of structural inequality and imbalance within Nigeria's federal structure.

12.We must, for instance, rethink the outdated idea that States have rights to surface land, while the federal government monopolises valuable underground resources. I highlighted key issues, including fiscal autonomy and the restricted authority of state governors, who are chief security officers in name only, as actual control rests elsewhere. I will refrain from delving deeper into this topic here, as copies of my lecture are available to the press.

13.The second is the submission of the Bayelsa State Oil and Environmental Commission's report to the State Executive Council, marking a significant milestone. This comprehensive report sheds light on the devastating impact of oil and



gas pollution in Bayelsa State, highlighting the urgent need for remedial action and sustainable solutions.

14.The report paints a devastating picture of environmental destruction, impunity, and severe harm to our lands, waters, and community health. Alarming, it reveals that Bayelsa bears the brunt of 25% of Nigeria's oil and gas pollution, yet receives insufficient compensation for the resulting environmental degradation and health crises. The report recommends an urgent need for reparation, remedial action, and sustainable solutions to address the catastrophic impact of this pollution on our ecosystem and people.

15.While some focus on the 13% derivation funds allocated to oil-producing states, it's crucial to acknowledge the far more devastating 83% deprivation that perpetuates inequity and injustice. This stark disparity underscores the need for comprehensive reform.

16.This Tuesday, I had the privilege of leading a high-powered delegation of stakeholders from the State to discuss these and other concerning issues with His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Villa. I am deeply gratified by his courtesy, understanding, and support of the many issues that agitate our people.

17.I'm bringing this crucial sequence of events to your attention because I believe we share a common conviction, echoed in Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." As editors and chief communicators in our society, you have the power to shine a light on these injustices.

18.Therefore, we implore you as editors and influential voices, to advocate for policies that prioritise sustainable development and empower local communities. The discussions are not just abstract concepts; they directly affect people's lives, particularly those suffering from resource exploitation, environmental harm, and unequal economic access.

19.This is my first major interface with the

leadership of the press since my re-election as Governor. You may recall that during our first term, we proudly adopted the moniker "Prosperity Government." This designation was not merely a title; it is a commitment to our electoral promise to the people of Bayelsa State.

20.We have made tremendous progress on several legacy projects that are transforming the lives of our people. Our flagship initiatives include the Three Senatorial Roads, moving our communities to the Atlantic Ocean and unlocking the vast potential of the Blue Economy, as well as the iconic Ernest Ikoli Media Complex, arguably West Africa's most impressive media hub.

21.These projects demonstrate our commitment to credible, transparent stewardship, ensuring that our resources are utilised efficiently and effectively for the greater good.

22.The ASSURED agenda is our acronym that encapsulates the seven pillars upon which our next phase of development will stand. This comprehensive framework is built on seven pillars, namely:

- A - Agricultural Revolution and Blue Economy
- S - Sports and Youth Development
- S - Security and Peace
- U - Urban Renewal and Rural Development
- R - Robust Healthcare Delivery
- E - Energy Generation and Economic Growth and
- D - Diversifying Education towards Innovation and Technology with guaranteed quality delivery

- each representing a critical aspect of our development strategy.

23.I sincerely hope that during your time here, you will find a moment in your busy schedule to visit some of these projects. It is important that we paint an objective picture of the progress we are making and the challenges we continue to face as we strive for a brighter future for Bayelsa State.

24.I invite you to engage with us in this journey. Your insights, reports, and critiques are important, not only to our administration but to the broader

public discourse that nurtures democracy and accountability.

25.As Walter Lippmann aptly put it, "A free press is not a privilege but an organic necessity in a great society." This raises important questions about the relationship between financing and editorial independence. The age-old adage "he who pays the piper, dictates the tune" poses a significant puzzle for your sub-theme - "Good Practices for Viable/Sustainable Financing" in the context of a free press.

26.When those who fund the press have significant influence over the content, it can compromise the press's ability to report truthfully and hold those in power accountable. Lippmann's own work, "A Test of the News," co-authored with Charles Merz, highlighted the dangers of biased reporting and the importance of journalistic standards. They found that even reputable newspapers like The New York Times could fall prey to propaganda and misinformation.

27.The press faces a daunting challenge: maintaining neutrality while ensuring financial sustainability. I don't claim to have all the answers, and perhaps there isn't a straightforward solution. However, I firmly believe it's time for bold action. There is a moral imperative to find the right balance. I pray you find it.

28.Our rich culture, indomitable spirit, and warm hospitality reflect the very essence of who we are as a people. If you have not had our famous Keke fiyai (KKF) or the delectable roasted plantain and fish, your journey is not complete. I encourage you to take a little time to explore our beautiful environment and engage with our diverse communities.

29.Be assured that Bayelsa State takes great pride in hosting you. I wish you a fruitful and inspiring meeting, and may your deliberations contribute significantly to the advancement of our democracy.

30.Thank you, once again for choosing Yenagoa as your host city.