

CAF Awards: Lookman, Nwabali Make Final Shortlist, Ekong Out

FROM THE ARCHIVE
DEFINITION OF STUPID IS KNOWING THE TRUTH, SEEING THE TRUTH, BUT STILL BELIEVING THE LIES.

Nwabali Battles Onana, Williams For CAF Goalkeeper Of The Year Gong



JLN

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Dikko And Olapade Are Tested And Trusted Duo In Sports Administration



'I love my culture' - Former Republic of Ireland U17 striker commits international future to Nigeria



Pedal Power:
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Galatasaray Coach Maintains Calm Amid Osimhen Transfer Talks



Basketball League:
Rivers Hoopers To Battle Hoops and Read In Final



Dikko And Olapade Are Tested And Trusted Duo In Sports Administration

The sports community was still celebrating the appointment of the youthful sports personality in the history of Nigeria sports as Chairman National sports commission by Mr President Ahmed Bola Tinubu GCFR, commander in Chief of the Armed forces federal republic of Nigeria making such a noble selection of Mallam SHEHU DIKKO a tested sports administrator per excellence as against the norm of appointing politicians often criticized claiming that sports has never been lucky to get credible hands to run sports. The reason it was in the front burner that sports been the unifying factor should not only be regarded recreation but serious business hence it was a strong force in our national unity in a country that sports has been recognized as a factor of unity. It is clear that the difficulties includes but not limited to having the right structures in place to drive this same policies that are written in rules and regulations that incompetencies was the offer of the day driven by same people that took delight in cychonveting a legitimate process presenting not to be able to interpret the laws with strict adherence that pretenders took over the stages of authorities.

The consensus opinion leaders has also celebrated one of their own with versed experience in sports administration with a huge working profile in Mr Bukola OLAPADE a strong insider and proven sports administrator who has also lerant through the test of times as the director general national sports commission by Mr President.

Yes, the sports commission has also come to stay though the processes are going through the realization of attaining a sustainable and efficient sports commission waiting for the accent of Mr President. The appointment of the two best hands will further complement the effort of Mr President to dust the final documents that will be translated and drive the incoming genuine sports commission that will lead us to prosperity as sports desire.

Kudos must be given to those that has kept the flag flying from the days of implementing the programmes under the defunct federal ministry of youths ,sports and social development where the Nigeria history has been written in gold globally where it was legitimately operated as at that times. Though the commission remain the modern trends to allow it's independence driven by the trained professionals that will taken sports to the next level.

Caution must be taking for those same pretenders that took sports backward that are usually at the front burner claiming to be so knowledgeable with suggestions to the same problems that they so created when they were in power not too long ago.

It will not be business as usual considering the wide range of working experiences in the



SPEAK ON THE ISSUES

WITH
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wide range of challenges this two giants in the duo of DIKKO and OLAPADE who are very conversant to the problems and lasting solutions to sports.

This time around they are completely in charge to take actions and in actions that they will also be held accountable when the need arises in the nearest future.

It is definitely a complete rebuilding processes that should re-ignite sports back to it's lost glory which in the most recent past has given us consolations and their first baptism is very close with the controversial federation elections which should never be based on business as usual when mediocrity will be considered over competence and performances to

play it's way into governance. So over priced personalities are often allowed to occupy roles that it has been obvious majority has out use their relevance but continually hold on to power as recreation in the name of been so experienced than others when the generation has capable hands that can drive this beautiful game to prosperity.

We are in the learning process but how many human knows when to step aside when the ovation is loud in a part of honour than continue to constitute was a friend usually regarded as been a nuisance to the community that has given them same identity. Allow the Jeezy age to drive this beautiful game and with the appointment of this two new generational products and stay back from outside the fence to make suggestions not instructions for the brand new commission to contribute the past hierarchy in sports and continue from the point they stopped. I strongly make the suggestion that they should take a back state and diversify to allow sports to breadth for once. While the sports community is grateful to Mr President for this noble appointments the entire sports community congratulated the present hierarchy led by Mallam SHEHU DIKKO.

'I love my culture' - Former Republic of Ireland U17 striker commmits international future to Nigeria



Former Republic of Ireland U17 international striker of Nigerian descent Blessing Kingsley, has pledged her international future to the Super Falcons, choosing to represent Nigeria over the Girls in Green at senior level.

Born on January 15, 2002, in Carlow, Ireland, to Nigerian parents, she currently plies her trade

with the Southern Miss Golden Eagles in the USA.

Kingsley began her football journey at Presentation College, where she showcased her skills, leading to her selection for Ireland's U-17 National Team in 2018, and accumulated nine caps and scored one goal for the squad.

Her club career ever since has been quite impressive, competing in the UEFA Champions League for Wexford's Youth team and winning numerous accolades in the SO Hotels FAI Women's Cup in 2018 and 2019, as well as the 2018 Continental Tyres National League Championship and Development Shield.

She was also named the 2018 Vikings Cup U-16 Star of the tournament, as well as the Carlow Nationalist Women's Soccer Sports Star Award in 2017, 2019, and 2020.

In the United States, Oluwaseun started in 15 of the 17 games she played as a sophomore for the Golden Eagles in 2021, scoring six goals and providing two assists.

Her impressive performance earned her a spot on the United Soccer Coaches Third Team All-South Region. She also made the C-USA

All-Freshman Team in 2020 and received the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll and Academic Medal in 2021.

Kingsley's decision to represent Nigeria stems from her love for her Nigerian culture and heritage.

Despite being born and raised in Ireland, she feels a strong connection to her roots.

"It's a country I'm open to representing!! I have not gotten the chance to visit since I was born and raised in Ireland but I love my culture," Kingsley told allnigeriasoccer.com.

As a center forward, Kingsley believes her ability to hold up the ball, finish, and move in the box will greatly benefit the Super Falcons.

"I'm a centre forward and my ability to hold the ball up, my finishing and my movement in the box all can affect the Super Falcons.



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Date: 23rd November, 2024


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Host


Mr. Patrick Ngwaogu (Odogwu)
Executive Director ECN
Global Ventures Limited
Guest



Miss. Tochukwu Oluehi
Super Falcons Goal Keeper
Guest



Mr. Sulaiman Shaibu
Kano Pillars Goal Keeper Coach
Guest



Mrs. Judith Chime
Former Super Falcons
Goal Keeper
Special Guest of Honour




Host


Mr. Ifeanyi John Alaribe
Director High Save Goal
Keeping Academy

INVITED GUEST
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 Agent Henry Okoro
 Coach Emeka Amadi
 Coach John Dosu
 Okemuti Odah
 Moses Ocheje
 Coach Dele Ayinugba
 Coach Ndanusa
 Coach Bassey Akpan
 Coach Bassey
 Agent Kleme
 Mr Lucas Dauda
 Mr Brown
 Mr Hassan
 Mr Evale


Mr. Olusegun Davis
Head Coach High Save
Goalkeeping Academy
Host




Mr. Alhassan Yussif
Goal Keeper Coach
Ghana
Guest




Miss. Kaylin C Swart
Banyana Banyana of South Africa
Goal Keeper
Guest



Mr. Tony Donwa
Goal Keeper Coach
Enugu Rengers
Guest



Mr. Chitou Rachad
Goal Keeper Coach
Rep. Benin
Guest



FirstBank To Set Ikoyi Alight As Lagos Open Gets November 18th Date

FirstBank of Nigeria Limited, the sponsors of the annual Lagos Amateur Open Golf Championship is set to light up the golf section of Ikoyi Club 1938 as the 63rd edition of the annual championship get November 18, 2024 dae, reports BSNSports.com.ng.

Speaking ahead of this year's competition, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FirstBank of Nigeria Limited thanked the management of Ikoyi Club 1938 for their partnerships over the past 63 years, saying the relationship has been worthwhile.

"We have enjoyed partnering on this remarkable initiative for 63 years and counting, he said.

Alebiosu, who was represented by Patrick Iyamabo, ED/Chief Financial Officer FirstBank, said that the bank has additionally provided a steady platform to attract the best amateur golfers both locally and internationally, an initiative the financial institution will continue to pursue.

"The FirstBank Lagos Amateur Open Golf Championship is one of FirstBanks most prominent sponsorships under the First@ sports initiative through which the Bank demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the development of sporting talents in Nigeria and globally.

"For over 130 years, FirstBank has been a



driving force in the promotion of sports in Nigeria and across the bank subsidiaries all over the world. This has been accentuated by our legacy sponsorships of tournaments such as the Kaduna Polo tournament, currently in its 104th year of sponsorship, Golf,

Tennis, Football, and Basketball, amongst others.

"FirstBanks partnership and long-standing sponsorship of the FirstBank Lagos Amateur Open Golf Championship is, therefore, one of the ways by which we demonstrate

our commitment to building a legacy not only for golf and golfers but sports in its entirety," Alebiosu said.

Isaac Umoru, a golfer with St. Marks Golf & Country Club, Otukpo, Benue State is the tournament defending champion.

Basketball League: Rivers Hoopers To Battle Hoops and Read In Final



Defending champions Rivers Hoopers have secured a spot in the Nigeria Premier Basketball League (NPBL) Final Eight after edging Gboko City Chiefs 79-73 in a hard-fought semifinal showdown on Sunday, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

Kelvin Amayo led the charge with 22 points, while Okiki Michael and Buchi Vincent Nwaiwu chipped in with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Nwaiwu made it a double-double with 12 rebounds while adding 2 assists and one three-pointer midway through the third quarter.

Rivers Hoopers continued to dominate the league, boasting the best offensive and defensive record.

Their stifling defence was on full display, as they recorded an impressive 11 steals and 5 blocks.

The game was marred by controversy as Gboko City Chiefs repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with refereeing decisions, prompting a 30-minute delay.

The contest eventually resumed 6 minutes into the third quarter. Timothy Kwaor, who finished with a game-high 24 points for City Chiefs, shot 6/11 from deep. Kwaor made three straight threes at the start of the fourth quarter.

He, however, ran into foul trouble and was made to leave the game with four minutes remaining to play. The KingsMen did more than enough to seal the victory over Gboko City Chiefs.

This victory marks the KingsMen's fourth victory in four meetings over Gboko City Chiefs, underscoring their dominance in the league.

The first outing was at the Final Four in Port Harcourt last November and twice in the Chief of Defence Staff Basketball Championship in Abuja last month.

Unbeaten this season (11-0), Rivers Hoopers aim to secure back-to-back Basketball Africa League (BAL) appearances when they face Hoops & Read in Monday's final.

Pedal Power: FXTM Sponsors Lagos Monthly Crit At Dolphin Estate

Cycling enthusiasts, gear up for an exhilarating experience this Saturday, November 23rd, as FXTM proudly sponsors the Lagos State Monthly Crit at Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Interested participants should register at 6:30 AM and prepare for the main race, kicking off at 7:30 AM. Participants will compete for four thrilling hours in three categories: Professional, Junior, and Veteran. The top prize starts at \$500, adding an exciting competitive edge to the event. There will also be refreshments, music and an opportunity to socialize with like-minded individuals.

FXTM, known for its global commitment to promoting fitness through charitable cycling events, is thrilled to bring this spirited race to Lagos. Riding has always been synonymous to freedom, matching the company's value of free-



dom to succeed. The event not only aims to foster a love for cycling but also to enhance community fitness and well-being.

The stand-in Country Representative for FXTM, Kelechi Ehibudu said: "We are thrilled and delighted to sponsor this event as part of our charitable project.

"We look forward to an exciting time with all participants from all works of life. It's going to be action packed event."

Galatasaray Coach Maintains Calm Amid Osimhen Transfer Talks

Galatasaray coach Buruk Okan expects Super Eagles in-form striker Victor Osimhen to see out the season, reports BSNSports.com.ng.

Osimhen is on a season-long loan from Napoli and has been approached by top European and Saudi clubs, with Manchester United being the recent for the Nigeria striker.

But Okan says: "Osimhen intends to stay here until the end of the season.

"He also wants to stay and has been telling me the same thing since the beginning. There is a clause, but it doesn't matter, he said he will stay.

"The important thing is the player, it is the player who decides and Osimhen says he will stay here. He said the same thing when he came."



Rivers Hoopers Pick Basketball Africa League Ticket

Rivers Hoopers have successfully secured yet another ticket to next year's Basketball Africa League, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

Coach Ogoh Odaudu kept to his words as Rivers Hoopers emerged champions of this year's Nigeria Premier Basketball League for the 6th

time.

It ended Hoops And Read 54 - 71 Rivers Hoopers in the final of the NPBL decided in Port Harcourt.

The KingsMen will fly the Nigerian flag at the Basketball Africa League (BAL).

Nwabali Battles Onana, Williams For CAF Goalkeeper Of The Year Gong

Super Eagles goalkeeper, Stanley Nwabali has made the final five-men short-list for the CAF Men's Goalkeeper of the

Year, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

South African, Ronwen Williams is also among the final five nominees including

Andre Onana of Cameroon.

Other shortlisted award recipients include; Yahia Fofana and Mostafa Shobeir.

NPFL 25: Kano Pillars Will Recover Dropped Points Against Lobi Stars -Abdallah

Kano Pillars Technical Adviser, Usman Abdallah said his side will recover the dropped points from the game against Heartland FC when they face Lobi Stars at the Lafia City Stadium, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

Legendary Rabiu Ali and Ahmed Musa were on target as Kano Pillars played out a thrilling 2-2 draw against Heartland FC at the newly refurbished Sani Abacha Stadium, Kofar Mata, in the Match Day 12 fixture of the 2024/25 Nigeria Premier Football League season on Sunday.

This marked the first time the four-time Nigerian champions played in front of their home supporters this season, following the completion of renovation work at the stadium by the Kano State Government.

Speaking after the game, Abdallah commended Heartland for their resilience and congratulated their coach, Emmanuel Amunike, for securing a valuable point in Kano.

The former Super Eagles assistant coach expressed disappointment at the dropped points but remained optimistic about recovering them in the next game against Lobi Stars in Makurdi.

"We are a team that enjoys playing both home and away. With the 7 points we've already picked on our away trips, I'm confident we can recover the points dropped today when we face Lobi Stars," Abdallah stated.

With this result, Sai Masu Gida has dropped to 6th on the league table with 18 points from 12 matches, 5 points behind league leaders Remo Stars.





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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

Botched AFCON Game: CAS Accepts Libya Appeal, To Commence Hearing

The hope of Libya, Benin and Rwanda playing in the next African Cup of Nations in Morocco is set to be determined in the courtroom and not on the field, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

The Court of Arbitration For Sports (CAS) has accepted the appeal of the Mediterranean Knights of Libya after CAF docked them 3 points and 3 goals for the maltreatment of Nigeria's Super Eagles players.

The final round of the qualifier will go on Monday as planned but the decision of CAS might change the scenario if it goes in favour of the North African country.

According to CAS, the matter will be held at the end of November. Super Eagles currently top the group with 11 points, followed by Benin in second position with 7 points, with Rwanda and Libya occupying 3rd and 4th positions respectively.



Ghana, Nigeria, Tunisia Shocked At Home As Benin, Sudan Pick AFCON Tickets

Benin and Sudan qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations with 0-0 draws on Monday, while heavyweights Ghana, Nigeria and Tunisia suffered embarrassing home defeats on the penultimate day of preliminaries for the finals in Morocco.

Benin were in a three-way tussle for second place in Group D with opponents Libya and Rwanda, who were away at already-qualified Nigeria.

Benin saw off the threat of Libya with a stalemate in Tripoli and pipped Rwanda on their head-to-head record.

Rwanda pulled off a shock 2-1 away win against Nigeria in Uyo, coming from behind

and scoring twice in three minutes through Jimmy Mutsinzi and Innocent Nsuthi, who plays semi-professionally in the U.S.

Nigeria caretaker coach Austin Eguavoen, their third coach this year, made several changes to the lineup after drawing 1-1 away to Benin last week, but the result will likely hasten slow-moving plans to hire a foreign coach.

Sudan needed one point from their last two Group F fixtures to qualify behind Angola, they but made heavy work of it: They lost 4-0 to Niger on Thursday before drawing with the Angolans in neutral Benghazi on Monday.

Niger held only slim hopes of overhauling Sudan but they maintained the pressure as they

condemned heavily fancied Ghana to last place in the group with a shock 2-1 win in Accra.

Ghana had already been eliminated after a horror campaign, ending a run of 10 successive tournament appearances, and their woes continued as Ousseni Badamassi put Niger ahead at halftime, only for debutant Jeremia Afriyie to equalise.

Niger then got a shock second goal two minutes into stoppage-time as Oumar Sako headed home from a free kick.

Ghana's misery was complete when Mohammed Kudus missed a penalty.

Tunisia had already qualified but were toppled from first place in Group A as Gambia upset them,

with Abdoulie Ceesay netting a 17th-minute winner in Tunisia.

Tunisia had also lost their previous home qualifier to Comoros Islands, who took top spot when they beat fellow Indian Ocean islanders Madagascar 1-0.

Morocco's Brahim Díaz scored a hat trick in a resounding 7-0 win over Lesotho, as the AFCON 2025 hosts, who are also participating in the qualifiers, concluded their six Group B fixtures with a 100% record and 26 goals against two conceded.

The last three places in the 24-team finals will be decided on Tuesday; 13 qualifiers scheduled but only four are of consequence.

Ajagba Set For World Title Bout Against Dubois



Nigerian heavyweight boxer Efe Ajagba has emerged as a potential challenger for Daniel Dubois' IBF world title, following confir-

mation that Anthony Joshua's rematch with the champion could be off until 2026.

The International Boxing Federation has

granted Dubois the option of an optional title defence against any top 15 ranked boxer before April 22, with Ajagba, currently ranked eighth and

holding the WBC silver title, emerging as a strong contender.

Dubois' promoter Frank Warren confirmed that the champion would defend his title in February after Joshua's camp indicated they would not be ready for an immediate rematch.

"Daniel will defend his title in February, and if it's not Joshua, then it'll be against someone ranked in the top five," Warren told Sky Sports.

The 27-year-old Dubois, who claimed the title with a stunning fifth-round knockout of Joshua at Wembley Stadium in September, boasts an impressive record of 21 knockouts in 22 victories, while Ajagba has recorded 14 knockouts in 20 fights with just one defeat.

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn cited concerns over the quick turnaround for his fighter, who has earned over \$200m in his career, including \$75m from fights in 2024 alone.

The British-Nigerian is still nursing injuries from the September bout and is expected to return to action in the summer.

Warren further explained that Joshua would be "out of the picture" for a while due to mandatory challenger obligations.

"First of all, the fight Daniel had against AJ was his mandatory, so he is allowed a period, which means he can fight in February and he's allowed up until April or May to make a voluntary defence," he said.

IBF President Daryl Peoples confirmed the champion's right to an optional defence, setting up a potential explosive matchup between Dubois and Ajagba, with both fighters closely matched in weight and power.

The winner could potentially secure a unification bout against the victor of the Oleksandr Usyk vs Tyson Fury rematch, scheduled for December 21 in Saudi Arabia, with the WBC, WBO, and WBA belts at stake.



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ENROLL NOW!



Illegal Sports Commission joins football's 20 years of illegalities

BY IKEDDY ISIGUZO

HAVE you heard the latest claims that a flawed National Sports Commission is better than a Ministry of Sports? There are no limits to ends we travel to justify illegalities, absurdities, and a tending national culture of excellence in doing things badly.

The national propensity to do things illegally is readily available to those who dare match their fancy with action.

Welcome to the National Sports Commission, NSC, which has been set up without a law. A lawless organisation has been granted access to federal funds approved for the Federal Ministry of Sports. Everyone in the National Assembly knows about this illegality, but would not say anything.

Who set up the Commission without a law? President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has just done that. The army of clappers has filled the air with shouts of joy for the new impetus for sports though the ruse is obvious.

How are appointments to NSC made? What qualifies the appointees? Under what law would they be held responsible for acting on behalf of Nigerians?

When the NSC Chairman was appointed, I congratulated him. I even called him on phone. I apologise for my mistake. The law should have been in place before his appointment.

The Ministry running a few more months, for the NSC law to be sorted out, would not have done eternal damage to our sports. Nobody knows what the current contraption is meant to achieve.

Debates about such a Commission were on when days ago the President firmed up the contraption with the appointment of the Director-General of NSC. Both appointments are illegal because there is no NSC. Could the confusion be the administration's way of prioritising the unimportance of sports?

Kenya is exploring the 160-page African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, agreement to "expand its sports industry". A top government official announced that, "By reducing trade barriers, we can encourage cross-border collaboration, creating more platforms for Kenyan athletes, sports organisations, and even fans to engage with their counterparts across Africa."

Can illegal organisations like NSC be part of AfCFTA? Unlikely.

The President cannot pronounce NSC into existence. A law is needed. Federal funds cannot be expended by people unknown to the law. There should be a limit to our lawlessness. Or should there be?



An organisation called the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, has been illegally running Nigeria's football for 20 years. Some people got ambitious changed the name from Nigeria Football Association solely for them to determine what to do with Nigeria's football and its resources. They manage federal funds that are appropriated for Nigeria Football Association, which according to them does not exist. They claim they are a private organisation.

Imagine a private organisation that spends billions of public funds without responsibility or accountability to anyone. NFF takes public funds, gets funding from CAF, FIFA and sponsors. Any suggestions that NFF should be accountable to Nigerians, whose money it spends, are met with woolly assertions that FIFA finds accountability offensive.

Our football federation must be different from FIFA and CAF that swept their corruption officials away. Are the other African countries that are cleaning up their federations not members of FIFA and CAF?

At a joint public hearing of the Senate and House of Representatives Sports Committees in 2010, conversations veered to corruption in football. I accused both Committees of being responsible for the corruption. My point was that the Committees supported the corruption by approving money for a legal body NFA, and handing it to an illegal body, NFF, to spend, knowing fully well that they would not ask an illegal body to account.

Everyone appeared stunned. You would think a mistake had been unearthed. NFF still spends approvals made for NFA.

There is no end to the illegalities. The new NSC is merely joining the ride. There may be other ille-

gal Commissions in other sectors of our polity but they are not enough excuse to promote illegalities with pomp.

Justice Donatus U. Okorowo of the Abuja High Court declared the NFF illegal in 2010 while delivering the judgment in suit number FHC/ABJ/CS/179/2010. He clearly stated, "As set out in the early part of this judgment, the Nigeria Football Association was established under Section 1 of the Nigeria Football Association Act as a body corporate with perpetual succession and common seal with power to sue and be sued.

"By these provisions, it is the only body recognised by Nigerian Law to manage football. The Law did not make reference to it as Nigeria Football Federation. The name under which it is charged to manage football under the Law is Nigeria Football Association. It has no power to address itself as Nigeria Football Federation. And the document titled Nigeria Football Federation Statute, which purports to confer the name Nigeria Football Federation to Nigeria Football Association is not a codified Law under the Laws of Federation of Nigeria. It is therefore illegal for the Nigeria Football Association to answer another name other than the name by which it is created as a legal entity."

The Okorowo judgment still stands. NFF is standing stronger, more illegal with the years. If NFF can be above the law why not NSC to which NFF should be a parastatal?

As the heat rose over Justice Okorowo's judgement, the Federal Ministry of Sports, which connives with NFF to sustain the illegalities, sought clarification from the Federal Ministry of Justice.

In a letter dated 2 June 2011, addressed to the Director-General, National Sports Commis-

sion, the Federal Ministry of Justice elaborately affirmed that NFF was unknown to the laws of Nigeria.

"The Nigeria Football Association Act 1990 (aka Decree 101) has neither been repealed nor amended, it remains the valid legal instrument for the administration of football in Nigeria.

"In the light of the above recognition of the private status of the NFF, the ordinary implication is that the body is not entitled to the receipt of statutory allocations from the Federal Government.

"As a 'private association', the NFF is entitled to raise funds as averred in paragraph 3(vi) of the affidavit for its operations in line with relevant FIFA regulations. However, except the government decides to give grants-in-aid to the federation in the national interest, there will be no legal basis for the NFF to draw funds from the government for its activities.

"The present situation suggests that the structure for the administration of football in Nigeria at the moment is legally unwieldy as the NFA, which is statutorily recognised is non-functional, while the NFF, which is not a creation of our laws, is from all indications running football in the country and receiving public funds albeit unconstitutionally," the Ministry concluded.

Nothing changed. NFF is still running football illegally and government officials and agencies relate extensively with an illegal body.

Based on the clarification of the Ministry of Justice, NFF's illegal access to public funds was blocked for four months. There was bedlam. NFF got the money. There has been no inclination to obey the judgement since then.

As we cling to any shreds of hope, the President can effect legitimacy of the two organisations. There are no complications in making them legal: the National Sports Commission should be enacted by law and not pretence, then NFF has to be structured to be legal enough to spend public funds.

Finally...

THE Presiding Bishop of God's Command Ministry Inc., Rt. Revd. Dr Felicia Ileleji (JP+), has said that the challenges Nigeria faces are caused by Africa's hosting of the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC 77) 47 years ago when foreign gods brought to Nigeria were not taken back to their bases. Her proposed solution of prayers, more prayers falls into a crowded field. She may not be accommodated.

ISIGUZO is a major commentator on minor issues

2024 AMGA: Nigeria Is Ready To Host 25 African Countries - Chief Of Defence Staff Declares

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen. Christopher Musa, says Nigeria's hosting of the African Military Games demonstrates its commitment to promoting peace and security. Danjuma declared that Nigeria is ready to host 25 countries as the African Military Games kicks off on Wednesday, 20th November, 2024.

The CDS stated this on Monday while briefing newsmen on the Armed Forces of Nigeria's preparations for the military games slated to occur between Nov. 18 and Nov. 30, 2024, at the Moshood Abiola Stadium, Abuja.

He said the sporting event would present a unique opportunity for the Nigerian armed forces to showcase their skills, foster camaraderie among participants, and strengthen military cooperation and partnership.

"The hosting of the African military games in Abuja is a testament to Nigeria's commitment to promoting peace and security in the region and an opportunity to demonstrate our capabilities as a host nation.

"The games will provide a platform for our armed forces to compete at an international level, exchange best practices with their counterparts from other African countries, and build lasting relationships that will contribute to the overall security and stability of the continent," he said.



General Musa announced that the games' preparation had been finalised, including ensuring the necessary infrastructure and logistics support to host the prestigious event.

He expressed confidence that the Nigerian armed forces would rise to the occasion and make the nation proud with their performance on and off the field.

According to him, it is a message that this noble opportunity to host the continent will bring significant benefits to the Federal Capital Territory and the nation at large, including economic and

sports development, global recognition, and national pride.

He called on all Nigerians to come together to ensure a hitch-free event.

Musa appreciated President Bola Tinubu's persistent backing and encouragement to the armed forces in attaining these enviable feats.

"We want to assure you of our commitment and readiness to conduct the best historical event, but we need your support.

"We need all Nigerians to come out to support the teams. Let us show the hospitality that

is known in Nigeria and Nigerians.

"I therefore urge citizens and friends to come out en masse and show their support for armed forces as they prepare to compete in the African Military Games.

Let us together, as a nation, celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and unity that this event embodies," he said.

The Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, AVM Abidemi Marquis, said 25 countries were expected at the competition, adding that eight had arrived so far.

Marquis, who is the Chairman of the Local Organising committee and Director of Sports at the Defence Headquarters, said the second edition, which Nigeria is hosting, would be the most attended African military games.

According to him, all the facilities required have been upgraded and are being made ready for the athletes to compete among themselves.

"Federations are also working with us. All the officials are drawn for the 19 federations in Nigeria. Also, some world bodies sent their judges and referees to participate in this competition.

"There will be dope tests to ensure this game is done fairly. Vehicles will be made available to organise people to the national stadium," he said.

Ugo Ugochukwu, The Nigerian-American Racing Driver, Has Won The 2024 Fia Fr World Cup

Ugo Ugochukwu, the Nigerian-American racing driver, has won the 2024 FIA FR World Cup.

17-year-old Ugo Ugochukwu is the winner of the Macau Grand Prix.

He is the son of Nigerian supermodel, Oluchi Onweagba-Orlandi.

The 17-year-old won the crown at the 71st Macau Grand Prix on Sunday.

Ugochukwu was born in New York to Oluchi, a Nigerian fashion model mother, and Luca Orlandi, an Italian fashion designer. He represents the US in car racing.

With the victory in Macau, Ugochukwu became the first American driver to win the prestigious event in over 40 years.

Ugochukwu led the race from start to finish for R-ace GP, ahead of Olivier Goethe for MP Motorsport and Noel León for KCMG IXO by Pinnacle Motorsport.

The Nigerian-American will compete in FIA Formula 3 — the third-tier world racing

championship — in 2025.

Ugochukwu credited his resilience and his confidence for the victory on the circuit.

"I can't describe the feeling; of course, I'm super happy. It was quite a tricky race. I was pushing the whole way, but I was confident in the pace — ever since Q2, we've been really quick, of course, we won the Quali race as well, but there was still one more thing to do, which was win the main race, and we managed to do it," the 17-year-old said.

"I can't thank the R-ace GP team enough. We had a great weekend, and yeah, I'm super happy to finally get the job done."

Ugochukwu was discovered at an early age as a car racing wunderkind. He started Kart racing, a variant of motorsport, in 2013.

Ugochukwu has been dubbed as the next Lewis Hamilton, the decorated British racer, and was snapped up by McLaren for multi-year contract in 2021.



Lagos Blind Sports Fiesta Lights Up Teslim Balogun Stadium



The 2024 edition of Lagos Blind Sports Fiesta commenced on Monday at the Sir Molade Okoya-Thomas Indoor Sports Hall, Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere.

More than 92 participants are taking part in the five-day fiesta organised to reawaken the hope of participants, preparing visually impaired athletes for the subsequent competitions and promoting a sense of belonging.

Blind Powerlifting, blind judo, Goalball, and Ayo Olopon are sports featured for the year's event as part of the mandate of Mr. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration's in promoting inclusivity and showcasing people living with disabilities in different sporting areas.

Blind Powerlifting took the center stage on day 1, as 12 male athletes participated in three events; squat, bench, and dead lift in five different categories; 67Kg, 75Kg, 82Kg, 90kg and 102Kg.

In 67kg, Oladele Sunday took the 1st position with 385 kg. Samuel Ige came 2nd with 345 kg while Omishola Abiodun came 3rd with 280 kg in all events. In 75 kg, Oko Dennis came 1st with 385 kg while Tope Orimolade came 2nd with 370 kg in

all events. In 82 kg, Ojemen Cyril came 1st with 420 kg.

Tijani Taofeeq came 2nd with 360 kg while Adeola Akande came 3rd with 290 kg. In 90 kg, Ajibade Sodiq came 1st with 480 kg while Adeyemi Adeseye came 2nd with 400 kg in all events. While in 102Kg, Eze Samuel came 1st with 385 kg while Emmanuel Okoawo came 2nd with 230 kg in all events.

Adeyemi Adeseye, who participated in all three events, said the fiesta is another opportunity for him to improve the level of his performance in blind sports. Adeseye thanked the Lagos state government for the opportunity created for the visually impaired athletes to move forward in the world of blind sports.

One of the athletes, Sunday Oladele, was full of praises for participating in the fiesta as part of the competitions that will keep him going forward as an athlete to achieve his desire in sports.

He commended the Lagos state government for the privilege giving to them to participate in the competition.

Badagry Angels Crowned Champions Lagos Softball Tourney

Badagry Angels have been crowned champions of the Lagos U-15 Softball Championship held at the Badagry Grammar School playing

The week-long tournament began on the 11 November, 2024, reached its climax on Friday, November 15, where 8 teams participated in the event designed to drive the growth of the sports at the grassroots level.

As Champions of the tournament, Badagry Angels showcased their dexterity and skills against Rak Angels in the grand finale, maintaining their good position and dominance on the field before finally trounced their opponents 9 runs to 1.

The grit and agility exhibited by Badagry Angels on the pitch testified to the power of how to command the ball, forging valuable connections as well as making calculative runs on the pitch.

Speaking after the presentation of medals to the champions, Director General Lagos State Sports Commission, Lekan Fatodu represented by Director, Sports Development, Travih Nunayon, highlighted the significance of the tournament, bringing softball game closer to the suburb in an effort to expand and implement Governor



Babajide Sanwo-Olu's cardinal programme of inclusivity of all Lagosians, irrespective of their location, distance or community.

Fatodu stated that "We have mapped out the five divisions with the intention to know the sports that are peculiar to different communities. And to provide opportunities for every community to engage in sports and to further contribute to the growth of identified talents in achieving

their potential.

It's been a long journey of six month cumulative training of our coaches, working with the various students in their various schools, which we've tried to form clubs, grow these athletes and increase the level of their interest", Fatodu stated.

Member, Lagos State Sports Commission Board, Saidi Olanrewaju said the developmental championship is in line with the THEMES +

agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration's to reinvigorate sports and youth development at the grassroots level.

Olanrewaju noted that the event provides the right platform for budding talents to exhibit their skills in the softball game, stressing that the tournament is a deliberate efforts to develop grassroots sports. He assured that the state will continue to expose upcoming talents to championships to horn their skills and improve their performance.

Captain of Badagry Angels, Ifeoluwa Oluwafemi expressed excitement with the opportunity provided for the girls to compete and thank the Lagos State Government, the Lagos State Sports Commission and the Association.

"I feel very, very excited. I'm happy for leading my team to a successful softball championship, here in Badagry", said Oluwafemi.

After a successful outing in Badagry, Oluwafemi, a third baser revealed that she's looking forward to become a professional player in softball, adding that part of her plans is to showcase her talents across the world and compete at the international level and play among professionals.

CAF Awards: Lookman, Nwabali Make Final Shortlist, Ekong Out

Super Eagles forward Ademola Lookman and goalkeeper Stanley Nwabali have both been named in the final five-man shortlist for the CAF player and keeper of the year awards but defender William Troost-Ekong missed out on the final list.

Three weeks after releasing the initial long list, CAF has officially unveiled the top five nominees in each of the men's categories of the upcoming CAF Awards 2024, set to take place in Marrakech, Morocco by December 16.

Atalanta Europa League hero, Lookman, leads the final shortlist for the men's Player of The Year Award along with Ivory Coast's Simon Adingra, Guinea striker Serhou Guirassy, Morocco defender Achraf Hakimi and South Africa goalkeeper Ronwen Williams.

AFCO 2023 MVP, Troost-Ekong is a surprise omission from the final shortlist.

Chippa United goalkeeper, Nwabali, who starred for Nigeria during the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast earlier this year, will go



head-to-head with Williams again for the goalkeeper's gong along with Manchester United and Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana, Ivory Coast's Yahia Fofana and Egypt goalkeeper Mostafa Shobeir.

Former Super Eagles coach Jose Peseiro was also excluded from the final shortlist for the coach's

award which has Ivory Coast's AFCON-winning coach Emere Fae, Pedro Goncalves (Angola), Sebastien Desabre (DR Congo), Marcel Koller (Al Ahly) and Hugo Broos (South Africa).

Nigeria is, however, still in the running for the national team of the year alongside reigning African champions Ivory Coast, DR Congo, South

Africa and Sudan.

Other categories announced by CAF include Interclub Player of The Year, Young Player of The Year and Club of the Year, making a total of seven categories confirmed by CAF in the men's category of the awards.

The 2024 CAF Awards cover the period between January 2024 and October 2024.

Lookman is the favourite to win the Men's Player of The Year Award following his superb performance for club and country in the period under review.

The 26-year-old scored three goals at the 2023 AFCON tournament earlier this year and ended the season with an eye-catching performance against Bayer Leverkusen in the UEFA Europa League final where he netted a hat-trick to take his 2023/24 tally to 17 goals and 10 assists in all competitions for Atlanta.

This season he has continued similarly with eight goals and five assists in 14 games so far this season.

AFCON 2025: 21 Countries Secure Tickets for Morocco

With only a few matches left in the qualifiers, 21 teams have secured their places at the highly anticipated

Monday's results on Matchday 6 saw two more nations — securing their places in Africa's flagship football competition with Sudan and Benin sealing their slots.

Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon — clinched their spots last week joining a growing list of African football powerhouses ready for the tournament.

Zambia, Mali, Zimbabwe and Comoros were also among the countries that sealed their places last week.

The confirmed teams represent a blend of regular AFCON contenders and rising forces in

African football.

Host nation Morocco automatically qualified, alongside notable teams like Senegal and Algeria, who secured early qualification through consistent performances.

Egypt and title holders Cote d'Ivoire also bring strong legacies to the competition, with both countries boasting numerous AFCON titles.

Several teams have made a comeback to the continental stage.

DR Congo, Angola, and Equatorial Guinea will look to make an impact, while Uganda and Gabon are back with ambitions to advance deep into the tournament.

For South Africa, qualification marks a return to Africa's biggest football stage after their

impressive at the previous competition held in Cote d'Ivoire.

The qualification phase isn't over yet. Matchday 6 matches continue into Tuesday, to confirm the remaining teams, rounding off the 24-nation lineup for Morocco 2025.

Anticipation is building as the final slots are contested, with top African teams and emerging challengers vying to be part of the action.

The 21 countries qualified for TotalEnergies CAF AFCON 2025

- Morocco
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Algeria
- DR Congo

- Senegal
- Egypt
- Angola
- Equatorial Guinea
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Uganda
- South Africa
- Gabon
- Tunisia
- Nigeria
- Zambia
- Mali
- Zimbabwe
- Comoros
- Sudan
- Benin

Sliding Tackles: (2024/2025) Nigeria Premier League (NPFL) Season

(FANTASTIC) JOLLY (CRUISING FLIGHT); SO FAR! "BUT! CAN (UNSCRUPULOUS) NPFL CLUBS; REFEREES; ALLOW (SAFE-LANDING)?"!

Yes! It's Not CURRENT NEWS that the 2024/2025 NIGERIA PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NPFL) Season; KICKED OFF about 3 MONTHS ago! It's Again Not NEW NEWS that for the 1st time in Recent NPFL History, our TOP FOOTBALL LEAGUE started on SCHEDULE as initially ANNOUNCED by the NPFL Organisers (the NPFL BOARD), admirably led by HON. GBENGA ELEGBELEYE! Yes! It's also Not NEWS that this Season's NPFL COMPETITION, has Seen 11 MATCH DAYS already and Heading Comfortably to MATCH DAY 12 this Week-end! Yes! It's Further Not NEWS that SLIDING TACKLES has in the diligent pursuit and patriotic discharge of its Mandate as "The TORCHLIGHT OF NIGERIA FOOTBALL"! Has been devotedly WATCHING ONE NPFL MATCH, Per MATCH WEEK; in order to wholistically MONITOR and ASSESS what's happening in the NPFL Competition, this Current Season!

Yes! In Strict Adherence to the avowed Consistent POLICY of SLIDING TACKLES to always COMMEND GOOD WORKS and Outrightly CONDEMN BAD DEEDS in our Nigeria Football Industry? And! Having WITNESSED LIVE about 8 NPFL GAMES this Season; we are placed in a Premium POSITION to Make Sound Correct PRONOUNCEMENTS on the Developments and Happenings in the NPFL, this Ongoing 2024/2025 Season! Yes! Without Mincing Any Words, the Ongoing NPFL Season is going highly Commendably Well by All Standards and the Current NPFL Season has even beaten the much touted Performance of the Last NPFL Season; which previously was Adjudged as the BEST NPFL SEASON in Recent History and Times! Yes! The Current 2024/2025 NPFL SEASON can Honestly and Rightly; be Described as a JOLLY FLIGHT, CRUISING Steadily and Comfortably to a SAFE-LANDING, at the End of the Long Season! Yes! Everything concerning the Ongoing NPFL COMPETITION; have indeed been Top-notch and Excellent in Delivery!

Yes! SLIDING TACKLES is Bold to hand down a HIGH PASS MARK to this Current NPFL Season; Without Any Ado! Because, we are there LIVE and WATCHING the

Interesting Proceedings of the Different NPFL CRACKER MATCHES; Every MATCH DAY! Yes! It's True that the GENERAL ORGANISATION and CONDUCT of this NPFL Season's COMPETITION, has Sincerely Astounded a lot of Devotees of the Nigeria Football Leagues including (Praise-stingy) SLIDING TACKLES! Yes! We can Conveniently Say that the NPFL COMPETITION of our National Collective Dreams of Several Years; is Definitely and Finally UNFOLDING BEFORE US; after So Many Years of WAIT! Yes! The 2024/2025 NPFL Season's FLIGHT has indeed TAKING OFF Smoothly and in Supersonic Fashion and Maintaining and Sustaining the MOMENTUM; Every MATCH DAY! Yes! NPFL CLUBS are WINNING MATCHES; Everywhere THEY CAN; and it's No Longer ASSURED "BUSINESS-AS-USUAL" that the HOMETEAMS, MUST WIN HOME GAMES! Yes! The Current NPFL Season has Recorded an Unprecedented HIGHEST NUMBER of AWAY WINS/DRAWS! Yes! In fact! HOME WINS and AWAY WINS/DRAWS; are Struggling for SUPREMACY so far as at WEEK 11 of the Current NPFL Season!

And! Most admirably; the GOALS are raining down in torrents and in Classy Fashion, Every MATCH DAY! Yes! NPFL MATCHES are COMMENCED on SCHEDULE and APPOINTED DATES and TIMES! And! There are NO OUTSTANDING GAMES that always usually Stall the ENDING of the NPFL Season as Projected by the Organisers! Yes! OFFICIATING has been CLASSIC and WONDERFUL; and the MATCH OFFICIALS are really Making their HUGE STATEMENT; that at last; THEY ARE READY to DELIVER a NEW NPFL COMPETITION to the NATION! Yes! We acknowledge that there are still Some FEW OFFICIATING GLITCHES cropping up here and there, made ignobly Possible by the highly Condemnable Criminal Collaboration of Some Unscrupulous NPFL CLUBS and their Shameless Partnering MATCH OFFICIALS! But! That is NOT UNEXPECTED as there MUST BE ONE (Idiot) JUDAS, in EVERY 12 APOSTLES! Yes! Our FOOTBALL UMPIRES have indeed Behaved Themselves, So Far! And! They have Used their WHISTLES/FLAGS Patriotically and Judiciously Well this NPFL Season! SLIDING TACKLES gives a BIG THUMBS UP to our NPFL MATCH OFFICIALS and use this Opportunity to Urge Them, NOT

TO RELENT and to SUSTAIN THE TEMPO!

"BUT! CAN (UNSCRUPULOUS) NPFL CLUBS; REFEREES; ALLOW (SAFE-LANDING)?"!

Yes! The Many Interesting POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS of this NPFL Season, is there for Everyone to See! Yes! The NPFL CLUBS and their SUPPORTERS/FANS, have been WONDERFUL and BEHAVING THEMSELVES as NEVER SEEN BEFORE! Yes! That's the MAJOR REASON why we have NOT WITNESSED those Ugly ASSAULTS on MATCH OFFICIALS and AWAY TEAMS; Despite the NUMEROUS AWAY WINS and AWAY DRAWS happening EVERY NPFL MATCH DAY! Then! NPFL MATCHES are NOW BEING PLAYED AT NIGHTS UNDER FLOODLIGHTS (a Very Good Development)! Again! The RELEVANT AUTHORITIES are BRINGING DOWN THE SLEDGEHAMMER on MISBEHAVING CLUBS and MATCH OFFICIALS with Commendable Agility and Promptness! And! The Most Impressive of ALL POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS Witnessed so far in the Current NPFL Season; is the MASSIVE IMPROVEMENT of the MEDIA VISIBILITY orchestrated by the NIGERIA SPORTING MEDIA, which threw the NPFL COMPETITION open to the Doorsteps of the Nigerian People! Yes! The Marvelous Yeoman's Work of our SPORTS JOURNALISTS can be Unadulteratedly Seen from the Nigerian FOOTBALL FANS RETURNING TO NPFL MATCH VENUES! Yes! We are Steadily WITNESSING a FULL HOUSE of SPECTATORS at NPFL MATCHES; across the Nation!

Yes! It's also the Gospel Truth that there are Still some Sore Areas and Points to IMPROVE UPON in such CRITICAL AREAS like the INTRODUCTION OF THE VARTechnology to Aid OFFICIATING; and LIVE COVERAGE of ALL NPFL MATCHES; to get NPFL Closer to the Nigerian People! Yes! The Solid CITY OF ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY! And! We are Confident that bearing the heart gladdening Developments of the Ongoing NPFL Season; the NPFL BOARD shall GET IT RIGHT in due course! But! It's So Worrysome and Depressingly Unfortunate that while Nigerians are Enjoying and Applauding, a Great 2024/2025 NPFL Season and wishing for Even Better Days? Some Irresponsible and Myopic Unscrupulous NPFL CLUBS are Still Criminal-

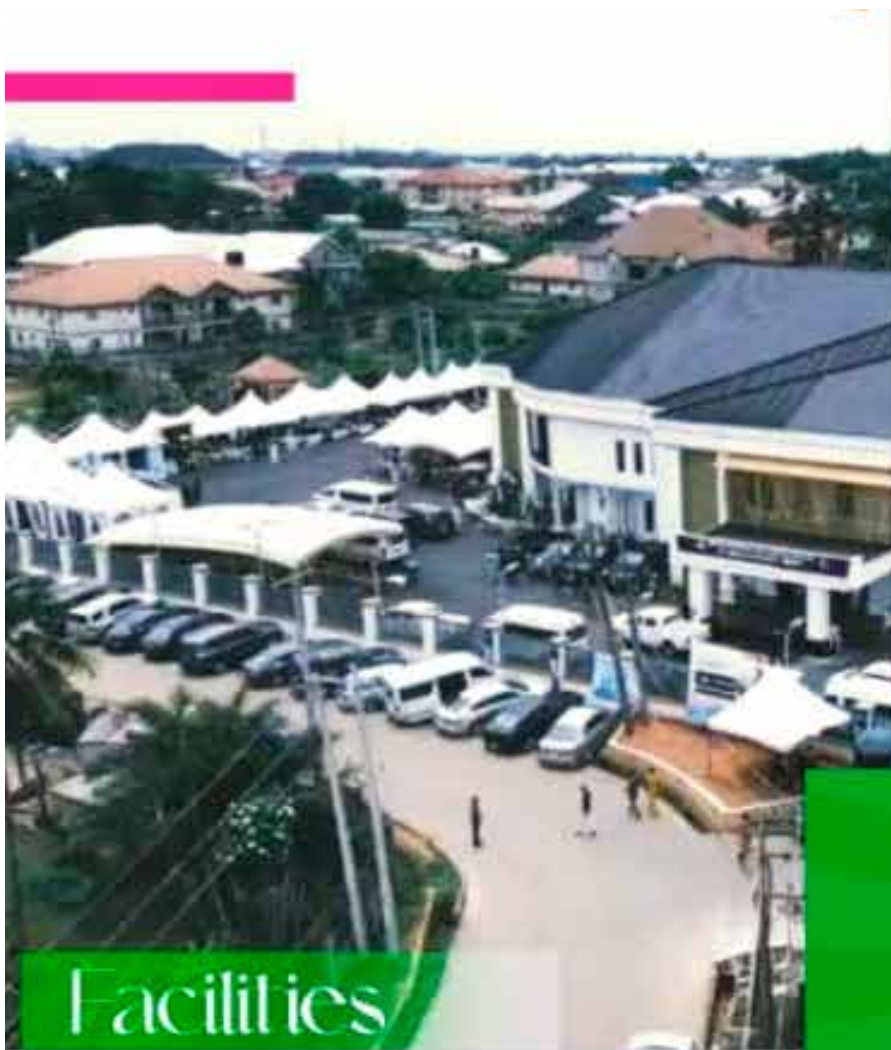
ly Partnering and Collaborating with Some Equally Shameless and Very Useless MATCH OFFICIALS, to SABOTAGE and DESTABILIZE the Current Smooth Jolly Cruise of the FLIGHT of this NPFL Season; WITH BAD OFFICIATING!

Yes! Even though the CASES of CRIMINAL OFFICIATING Witnessed So Far in the Ongoing NPFL COMPETITION; is indeed quite MINIMAL and in Very FEW GAMES? But! SLIDING TACKLES Seriously FROWNS at these FEW OFFICIATING INCIDENTS? Because, ONLY ONE COMPROMISED NPFL MATCH; CAN THROW UP; AN (UNWORTHY) LEAGUE CHAMPION for the NATION! Yes! We are Calling out the Unpatriotic NPFL CLUBS and their Partner Criminal MATCH OFFICIALS, to STOP the NONSENSE Immediately and ALLOW this 2024/2025 NPFL COMPETITION to FLOW as it's Currently DOING! And! We are also APPEALING to the NPFL CLUBS FANS/SUPPORTERS; NOT TO EMULATE what happened in JOS at the PLATEAU UNITED VS RANGERS MATCH, Where the AWAY TEAM (RANGERS) was ASSAULTED after the MATCH DAY 11 NPFL Encounter!

Finally! The Sincere Stand and Conclusion of SLIDING TACKLES on the Ongoing NPFL Season, is that of -SO FAR, SO GOOD! Let's just Keep It Flowing Like This! Special Commendation MUST GO to the HON. ELEGBELEYE led Hardworking and Visionary NPFL BOARD for a WONDERFUL IMPROVEMENT and a GOOD JOB WELL DONE! Big Kudos to the NIGERIA REFEREES ASSOCIATION (NRA) for the FANTASTIC IMPROVEMENT in the PERFORMANCE of their OFFICIATING WARDS (the NPFL MATCH OFFICIALS)! Special Accolades also go to the NFF MATCH OFFICIALS APPOINTMENT COMMITTEES for the Upright IMPROVEMENT of the OFFICIATING of NPFL MATCHES and the PROMPT SLEDGE-HAMMERING of Criminal MATCH OFFICIALS! And! Big Congratulations to the NPFL CLUBS and their SUPPORTERS; for GOOD BEHAVIOUR! Yes! We have indeed had a JOLLY (CRUISING FLIGHT) in the NPFL Season, So Far

"BUT! CAN (UNSCRUPULOUS) NPFL CLUBS; REFEREES; ALLOW (SAFE-LANDING)?"!

Barrister Iyke Igbokwe (Torchlight Of Nigeria Football) WhatsApp: 09136715922



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Gusau praises Edo Queens, charges team to win CAF Women's Champions League title



lar-spangled event.

"The NFF and the Nigeria football family are very happy at the accomplishments of Edo Queens over the past months, from winning the WAFU B title to reaching the semi-finals of the CAF Women's Champions League. We congratulate the Edo State Government and all those involved in this remarkable progress of the team.

"The ladies exhibited the much-talked-about Nigeria spirit to come from behind and defeat the Cup holders. Theirs is a statement in resilience, determination and ambition. I believe they have been highly inspired by that victory and have the capacity to go all the way and win the title."

Sundowns, who have reached, at least, the Final of every edition of the CAF Women's Champions League since the competition was inaugurated in 2021, went ahead in the 24th minute through Melinda Kgadiete, and held on to the advantage until the end of regulation time. However, five minutes into added time, Emem Essien drew the Nigerians level when her tenacity in the box paid off after the Sundowns' goalkeeper dropped the ball from a cross. Five minutes later, Mary Mamudu gave the Queens victory by lashing into the roof of the net after a good run and pass by Super Falcons' forward Goodness Osigwe.

The win handed the Nigerian champions leadership of group B, with the defending champions eliminated.

Edo Queens will take on TP Mazembe of DR Congo in the first semi-final on Tuesday, at 4pm Morocco time, before AS FAR of Morocco confront Masar of Egypt in the second semi-final three hours later.

An exultant President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau on Sunday commended the extraordinary fighting spirit of Nigerian champions Edo Queens in overpowering

defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns 2-1 on Saturday night, to reach the semi-finals of the ongoing CAF Women's Champions League competition in Morocco.

Edo Queens, who won the Nigerian title for

only the first time last season, went ahead to beat all comers to win the WAFU B Women's Champions League competition (a qualifying tournament for the continental championship) in Cote d'Ivoire, and have now made it to the last four of the dol-

Barcelona Reject Arsenal's €100m -Report

Barcelona has reportedly turned down Arsenal's €90 million offer for Brazilian winger Raphinha, insisting that they will only entertain offers of €100 million or more for the 27-year-old.

Raphinha, who has been in superb form this season, is considered an indispensable player by the Catalan club. With 12 goals and 10 assists in just 17 appearances, the Brazilian has firmly established himself as a key figure under manager Hansi Flick, who has even handed him the captaincy.

Arsenal, who previously attempted to sign Raphinha from Leeds United in 2022 before his move to Barcelona, have renewed their interest in the player. However, their initial €90 million bid was promptly rejected.

According to Spanish outlet *Fichajes*, Barcelona has made it clear that they will not consider offers below €100 million for Raphinha.

"His versatility in attacking roles has made him an essential part of Barcelona's squad, and the club is unwilling to sell one of its top talents for less than €100 million," the report stated.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is reportedly keen to add Raphinha to his side, valuing the winger's creativity and ability to play across both flanks, which fits well with Arteta's attacking system.

Additionally, doubts remain about whether the Gunners would be willing to spend such a large sum on a player who will turn 28 next

month. The club's current lack of a sporting director, though, adds further uncertainty, although PSG's Luis Campos is reportedly under consideration for the role.

Meanwhile, reports from Spain suggest that Barcelona could be willing to sell Raphinha for a record fee, with the possibility of using the proceeds to pursue long-term target Nico Williams from Athletic Bilbao. For now, however, Barcelona remains firm in its intention to keep the in-form winger.

However, Arsenal's transfer strategy traditionally focuses on younger players or more budget-friendly options for those over 27. Recent signings like Leandro Trossard and Jorginho came

at lower costs than what would be required for Raphinha.



OBITUARY REMINDER!!!

Sequel to the above, the funeral rites of our departed elder, senior and colleague, Mr IGIEBOR MICHAEL (a k a Ben Johnson) comes up as approved by his family. The Edo State Football Referees Council members are please directed to attend the service of songs slated for Thursday, 21/11/2024. Venue is 33, Omorodion Street, off College road, off Ekenwan road, Benin City. Time is 3pm. May the soul of late Mr Mike IGIEBOR rest in peace.Thanks & God bless you all.

E-signed by,
OKOBI SYLVESTER
(CPS)

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IGIEBOR MICHAEL
IYIEWUARE

RSVP: 08039131642

21st Nov. 2024: Body Leaves God's Caro Mortuary, No 85, Ekenwa Rd, Benin City to his Residence at: No 33 Omorodion Street off College Road Off Ekenwan Rd, Benin City by 10am
Service of Song at His Residence (address as above) by 3pm

23rd Nov. 2024, Social Dance at No 13 College Road Open Field event Centre Beside St. Francis Catholic Church Time: 1pm

24th Nov. 2024 Thanksgiving Service at Assemblies of God Church, Oyakhilomen Temple, No 4, Oyakhilomen Avenue Behind Former Ekenwan Park Off Ekenwan Road. Time: 9am



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STRICTLY BY INVITATION

OUR USUAL SLOGAN: IT IS POSSIBLE IN BONNY ISLAND- THE 4TH EDITION IN 2024 WILL NOT BE AN EXCEPTION : (1) LIFE IS ALWAYS WITH EXPECTATIONS WHICH AND IN THE RELIGIOUS REM THEY TALK OF SALVATION (2) AS TIME FLY THAT THE RACE STARTED ABOUT 4 YEARS AGO WITH THE MAIDEN EDITION AND THE NEED TO HAVE A REVIEW TO KNOW THE PROGRESS OF ACCESSMEANT (3) YES THE NLNG MANAGEMENT CAPTURED IT AS CSR TO ACTUALIZETHEASPIRATIONSOFTHEBONNY YOUTHS (4) THE ESTEEM MANAGEMENT OF GRAFTON ENTERTAINMENT HAS TAKEN A BOLD STEP NOT TO RELENT INSTEAD

CHALLENGE NITTO RELENT UNTIL THE TIME PLAYERS FROM THE ANCIENT KINGDOM WILL BE INVITED IN THE NEAREST FUTURE (5) ROMETHEY SAY WAS NIT BUILT IN A DAY BUT WE ALL HAVE. MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY TI GET SERIOUS INSTEAD OF PLAYING TO THE GALARY BY FIELDING PLAYERS THAT WILL NEVER BE PRODUCTS OF NATIONAL TEAMS INVITATION (6) THE BALL IS IN OUR CULT TO EITHER GET SERIOUS IN TEM SELECTIONS WITH YOUTHFUL PLAYERS INSTEAD OF RECRUITING A YOUTHFUL TEAM OF 80% TO MAKE MEANINGFUL IMPACT AND LOST THE PRICE MONIES AND ACHIEVE THE PRIMARY REASONS OF THIS ANNUAL FOOTBALL

TOURNAMENT THAT HAS ASSUMED THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS. (7) I HAVE ALWAYS SPOKEN TO THE ISSUES OF IT IS POSSIBLE IN BONNY ISLAND, DRAWS ARE USUALLY MADE, WITH OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES THAT HIS ROYAL MAJESTY HAS ALWAYS GRACIOUSLY GRACED THE FINALS WITH A GRAND RECEPTION AT THE PALACE BUT THE REALITIES IS WHEN THE PARTICIPATION IS OF SAME GREAT PURPOSE IT WILL NEVER BE FRUITFUL AS EXPECTED OF ACHIEVING THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES. Not until we move from our comfort zones to the realities on ground.
- AMB.