

Tompolo gives terrorists, killer herdsmen in N'Delta quit notice

By ISAAC OLAMIKAN,
Benin City

Ex-militant leader, Government Oweizide Ekpemupolo (aka Tompolo), has sent

a strong warning to killer-herdsmen and other terrorists in the forests of the Niger Delta to quit or get themselves to blame in due course.

He gave the warning through Ijaw interest groups, Edo State

Izonebe Development Forum, Ijaw Youths Council(IYC) and Ijaw National Congress(INC), on the occasion of his 51st birthday on Tuesday.

In commemorating the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



www.thetrumpet.ng

The Trumpet

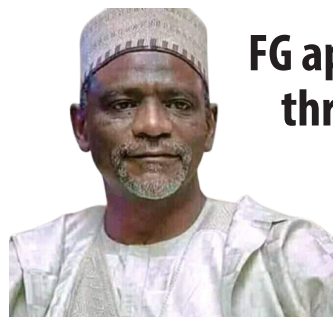
P A T R I O T I C V O I C E

@TheTrumpetNig @thetrumpetng @thetrumpetngr APRIL 13-14, 2022 VOL. 1 NO. 031 N200



'Why judge's barring of journalists in terrorism trials is unconstitutional'

→ 6



FG approves three new federal polys

→ 5

CHANGE OF NAME
PAY N1,500 ONLY TO DO CHANGE OF NAME, ADDITION TO NAME, CONFIRMATION OF NAME FOR BVN, EMPLOYMENT, VISA AND OTHER PURPOSES IN THE TRUMPET



Don't dare Nigeria on Pay-TV tariffs, Lawan warns Multichoice

→ 24

With VP in, presidential race finally takes shape

- Intrigues tear Aso Rock apart over Buhari's successor → 2
- President's loyalists queue behind Osinbajo, Amaechi, Tinubu
- Dark horse may emerge ■ PDP's political, ex-military chiefs mull Obi-Tambuwal ticket
- Saraki hinges PDP victory on consensus candidate
- Consensus talk not northern agenda, says Senate ex-president



Osinbajo



Atiku



Amaechi



Obi



Tinubu



Wike

FG declares Friday April 15th and Monday April 18th Easter public holidays

With VP's entry, presidential race finally takes shape

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**,
Politics Editor

Developments in the past 180-240 hours within the All Progressives Congress (APC) have, in bold relief, painted the colour and picture of the race for the presidential ticket of the ruling political party for the 2023 general elections. This is because two powerful members of President Muhammadu Buhari's cabinet declared their interest to succeed him. Transport Minister Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi at the weekend in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State made his public declaration while on Monday, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo stylishly entered the race. Suddenly, political fireworks were ignited and hidden facts started surfacing through actions and utterances of political actors.

In the main opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), a chieftain, Tunde Akogun, hinted that its power brokers were working on a Peter Obi-Aminu Tambuwal ticket. Also in the PDP and elsewhere in other opposition parties, presidential interest and ambitions have been declared. They include former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, erstwhile Senate President Bukola Saraki, Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed, all in the PDP; civil society activist Omoyele Sowore, and Kingsley Moghalu among others. Sowore, a former president of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) and publisher of Sahara Reporters, is running on the platform of African Action Congress (AAC).

Akogun hinted that Saraki, also a former Kwara State governor, is among those brokering the deal for the PDP to field former Anambra Governor Obi and current Sokoto helmsman Tambuwal for the 2023 electoral battle. Atiku has pledged to step down for and support a PDP ticket helmed by a Southeast candidate and not one headed by anybody from another region. Others in the race from outside the region are Atiku himself, Saraki,

Tambuwal, Bala and Zayyad Hayatudeen (all North); Rivers helmsman Nyesom Wike, Akwa Ibom State Governor Udom Emmanuel and Ovation magazine publisher Dele Momodu (all South South) as well as maverick Ekiti PDP supremo Ayodele Fayose (Southwest).

Before Amaechi and Osinbajo, former Imo State governor, Owelle Rochas Okorochoa and Kogi's current helmsman Yahaya Bello had publicly declared in the APC. Also in the race on the platform of the ruling party are Ebonyi State Governor Dave Umahi, Senate Chief Whip Orji Uzor Kalu and former Lagos State helmsman Bola Ahmed Tinubu who is among the party's three frontrunners including Osinbajo and Amaechi.

APC is yet to release its election timetable and schedule of activities but some of the aspirants like Tinubu, Osinbajo and Amaechi are consulting with its stakeholders and other influential Nigerians outside the party.

There has been name dropping by some aspirants' aides and confidants indicating the purported closeness of their principals to the Presidency. But the Presidency has remained silent since the body language of Buhari does not openly show his preference for anyone.

Buhari may not have given his blessing to any of the aspirants but feelers from the grapevine indicate that power brokers within the Aso Rock Villa have preferences among the contenders.

Although First Lady, Mrs Aishat Buhari, is not actively involved in Villa politicking, her influence cannot be underestimated. She was reportedly an associate of Kogi State Governor Bello but is believed to have recently tilted towards Amaechi.

Her running battle with one of Buhari's uncles, Mamman Daura, it was suspected, forced her into leaving the Villa for Dubai, United Arab Emirates. For this reason, her interest is not tilting towards the preferences of other members of the presidency cabal.

Kaduna Governor Nasir El-Rufai who



Osinbajo

until lately lost favour with the Villa over APC national leadership politics and outcome of its convention was a force to reckon with. He is said now to be a supporter of Tinubu within the kitchen cabinet. With his influence waning, it is doubtful if he can successfully pull through a Tinubu presidency project.

Attorney General of the Federation and Justice minister, Abubakar Malami, to many people is the defacto leader of the cabal. He took charge after the demise of Malam Abba Kyari, former Chief of Staff to Buhari, and he has been the pipeline through which most actions of the government are dished out.

While it may be difficult to pinpoint whose side Malami is tilting, it is obvious that he will not only support but strive to actualize Buhari's choice.

National Chairman of the APC, Senator Abdullahi Adamu, is a close associate of Buhari and his emergence as party supremo has enlisted him into the cabal. Some allege that his emergence as Buhari's preferred national chairman against all odds, point to his assigned mission in the party.

Amaechi has been a close ally of the President, since even ahead of 2015. His financial contributions

to Buhari's emergence in the 2014 APC primary, subsequent campaign as well as in 2019 cannot be over-emphasized or underestimated.

The former governor of Rivers is a key minister involved in driving the policies and programmes of the Buhari government, particularly the rail projects.

His conferment this year with a traditional title in Buhari's hometown, Daura is significant. This among others is eliciting opinions suggestive of his preference by the cabal.

Bureaucrats within the Presidency are not left out in the powerplay as most of them are rooting for Osinbajo to emerge as APC candidate.

Political Adviser to the President, Babafemi Ojudu, is believed to be the arrowhead of the Osinbajo Presidency project.

He came to the Presidency as one of Tinubu's political benefactors but he fell out with his former boss and openly professes that the best choice for the job is Osinbajo.

"The groundwork for Monday's declaration by Osinbajo started over a year ago. Vee Pee was just looking for an auspicious time to make his declaration," said a source close to Ojudu.

"Did you think the Vice President just woke

up and decided he would join the race?"

"He is a member of the Federal Cabinet and next in rank to the President who is working closely with President Buhari on the driver's seat. Who then is most qualified to continue and complete the programmes and policies of the administration, than Prof. Osinbajo?"

Considering the influence of the cabal, the race for the APC presidential ticket could be said to have been trimmed down to Amaechi, Osinbajo and Tinubu. But given the odds against the former governor of Lagos, there are fears among his supporters that he might be edged out of the race, probably forcing him to pull his structure out of the APC to a smaller party.

They are saying that throwing up Osinbajo at a time like this could be a grand plot to decimate Tinubu's chances in the Southwest.

A source said efforts are on by some Osinbajo loyalists in the cabal to use anti-Tinubu APC leaders in the Southwest zone to do the legwork for the vice president who is believed to have no political structure of his own. Ekiti and Ondo Governors Kayode Fayemi and Rotimi Akeredolu as well as former Ogun helmsman Ibikunle Amosun, and disgruntled APC forces in Oyo State led by an erstwhile Communications minister, Adebayo Shittu, are being wooed to work for Osinbajo. Ogun State Governor Dapo Abiodun will be automatically drafted into the Osinbajo project. Ojudu, it was learnt, was commissioned to woo Information minister Lai Mohammed and a former governor of Lagos, Akinwumi Ambode, in the new southwest agenda.

Across the north, Tinubu's allies are not

reckoned with too much in the Villa. Kano helmsman Abdullahi Ganduje, former Borno governor, Kashim Shettima and a past chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Appropriation, Abdul Mumuni, may have fallen out with the Presidency.

Also, Tinubu's acceptability among APC governors cannot be said to be total as the house is divided with most of them being careful not to go against the wish of the Presidency. It is believed that a most of them) are not on his side except a few like Ganduje as well as Tinubu's nephew and Osun State Governor Gboyega Oyetola, his Nasarawa and Imo counterparts, Abdullahi Sule and Hope Uzodinma.

The Trumpet gathered that Tinubu had wanted the meeting with the APC states' helmsmen to hold in his Abuja residence but they insisted it must be held at Kebbi Governor's Lodge. Kebbi helmsman Atiku Bagudu is the chairman of the Progressives Governors Forum.

Tinubu's reception, it was learnt, was reluctantly accepted by the governors who may have not forgiven him for rejecting their plea to consider Ambode for a second term in Lagos.

A source said Ambode approached the APC Governors Forum to help beg Tinubu to allow him a second term. Bagudu reportedly begged Tinubu but the latter went ahead and replaced e Ambode with Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

If Tinubu loses the APC race, he may leave the party amid rumours that his associates are holding alliance talks with a few parties such as the Social Democratic Party (SDP). He was said to be nurturing the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Tompolo gives terrorists, killer herdsmen in N'Delta quit notice

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

memorable day, the groups had embarked on a peace rally around the Benin City centre up to the secretariat of the Edo State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ) in Benin City.

One of the leaders of the groups, Chief Robinson Ogunkoru, stated that they decided to embark on the peace rally to show their love and respect for Tompolo for his peace advocacy in the country, especially in the Niger

Delta. Olopele Ebi Olopele, President of the Edo State Izonebe Development Forum, paid tributes to Tompolo for his efforts to ensure that peace reigns in the Niger Delta.

R e s p o n d i n g ,

Chairman of the NUJ, Comrade Festus Alenkhe, advised the groups not to let hoodlums hijack the rally. He commended Tompolo for his peace advocacy while congratulating him for attaining the age 51.

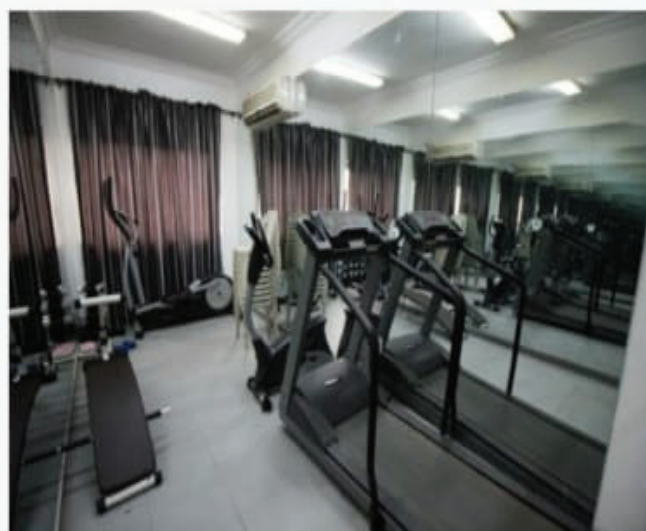


ELOMAZ HOTELS
...affordable luxury



Elomaz Hotels ultra-modern complex is strategically located in the tranquil environment of Maryland, with easy access to Mobolaji Bank Anthony Way and Ikorodu road, the main artery to Lagos Island, and 15 Minutes drive to/from the local and international airports at Ikeja. It is the ideal place to stay when you are in Lagos for business or pleasure.

Restaurant & Bar Rooftop
Conference Room, Banquet Hall,
Cybercafe, Gym, Car Hire,
Laundry, WiFi



Elomaz Hotels

Address: 3/5 Emmanuel St, Maryland Lagos
Tel: 0802 318 2295, 07053339183, 0814116111

ELOMAZ HOTELS
...affordable luxury

'Terrorists, bandits can't over-run country by 2023'

Buhari Media Organisation (BMO) has dismissed suggestions by some highly placed individuals and groups that terrorists could overrun the country by 2023.

It said in a statement signed by its Chairman Niyi Akinsiju and Secretary Cassidy Madueke that claims of a worsening security situation were not exactly true.

"We, at BMO, acknowledge that the country is grappling with some security challenges at the moment but it amounts to a disservice to the security agencies to suggest that the criminals

are having an upper hand to the extent of over running the country by 2023.

"What we find particularly galling is the impression created by leaders of religious and socio-cultural groups of little or no action to stem the activities of terrorists.

"This is not only false but also misleading considering how the country had fared recently in the war against insurgency after several years of suicide bombings and mass killings in major cities of Northern Nigeria.

"For the avoidance of doubt, total of 47,975 terrorists and their families have so far surrendered to troops in the region from September 2021 to date.



Akinsiju

"This is in addition to decimating the insurgents and restricting them to the fringes of the Lake Chad and the Mandara hills side

terrorism, the military has been carrying out air and land operations against bandits and other criminal elements even though more still have to be done," the statement added.

BMO also countered claims by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) that elections are not feasible next year as a result of security challenges.

It said: "We see it as a case of scare mongering especially as the country witnessed a worse situation in the past, yet elections were held.

"We also saw how the nation's security agencies ensured that the gubernatorial election in Anambra state took place in

spite of security threat.

"So we have a government in place at the centre which has the capacity to not only stem the tide of insecurity in the North West but also prove naysayers wrong about the 2023 election.

"We make bold to say that just like they did in the North East, the military on the watch of President Muhammadu Buhari will decimate criminal elements in the Zamfara and Kaduna axis and other parts of the country."

The group also reaffirmed that the Buhari administration has not been overwhelmed by the prevalent insecurity in the North West

With VP's entry, presidential race finally takes shape

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2
idea of retuning to being a regional leader by winning most southwest states through another party.

It is the opinion of some members of the party that Tinubu should play the big(ger) boy by greenlighting Osinbajo's aspiration and supporting him the way he did for the latter to emerge Vice President ahead of 2015.

An erstwhile Special Adviser on National Assembly Matters to two former Presidents, Senator Mohammed Abba Aji, urged the national leader of APC to support Osinbajo who he said has a solid support base in the north as well as thriving circles of influential supporters across the south which makes him more capable of winning the 2023 presidential contest than any other candidate.

He described Tinubu as a great party leader who should feel vindicated that the good idea brought forward in the person of Osinbajo has continued to flourish.

Aji, a member of the pro-Osinbajo Progressive Consolidation Group (PCG) that has been active since mid-2021, applauded the spontaneous nationwide celebrations that greeted Osinbajo's declaration for the 2023 presidency.

"I have been in politics since the early 80s and I can tell you that the Nigerian electorate is now much wiser, discerning and sophisticated than what you had in the

past; the spontaneous rallies are a show of strength, asserting the power of the real people and it's a strong pointer to Professor Osinbajo's very bright chances for ultimate electoral victory," he said.

"Asiwaju is a great leader of our party and his role in bringing about an Osinbajo Vice Presidency has been vindicated; having performed creditably, impressing President Buhari and millions of Nigerians.

"As a leader, when you bring a great idea, you should allow such to grow and Vice President Osinbajo's declaration for the 2023 presidency is a reflection of very sound growth and the next step is for him to assume the Presidency in 2023."

However, persons who understand Buhari said the President's disposition might not be towards any of the three leading APC aspirants.

One remarked: "All the jostling may end up as a huge joke as President Buhari that we know might spring surprises. He may not have his preference among any of these ones as he may prop up a dark horse.

"You should be guided by what happened with the choice of the APC national chairman. Look at how the President's men just raised Senator Abdullahi Adamu and the leading contenders were compelled to step down from the race.

"So, you should not overrule any possibility.

The game is not over until it is over."

"While the moves to outsmart one another continues among the power blocs within the Presidency continue, it is hoped that an acceptable candidate will emerge as APC presidential standard bearer."

Meanwhile, Saraki has said the quest by some presidential aspirants of PDP to form a united front ahead of the 2023 general elections is for the party to wrest power from APC.

Saraki said this informed their decision to canvass a consensus candidate among the aspirants.

The presidential hopeful spoke while briefing journalists after a meeting with Tambuwal, Bala Mohammed and Bayelsa Governor Douye Diri at Government House in Yenagoa.

Saraki stressed that as an opposition party, the PDP could not wrest power from APC if the party was not united.

He said Nigeria's overall interest superseded individual ambitions and that was why they embarked on the mission to consult Diri and other critical stakeholders on how to reach a consensus on the party's candidate in next year's presidential election.

Describing the PDP as the only hope to rebuild and reposition the country, Saraki noted that Nigeria was in bad

shape and needed to be salvaged from the bad governance of the APC adding that despite the propaganda of the ruling party, Nigerians were going through difficult times under the APC and that the only solution was for the PDP to retake power at the centre.

His words: "Our appeal to Nigerians is that we feel your pains, the hardship and insecurity. That is why our ambition is to return this country to PDP and make your lives better. We have come to seek your support as we approach 2023. We have spoken very well and feel encouraged by the governor's words. Let us start now in building those blocks that will ensure that PDP will make Nigeria a better place."

He thanked Diri for the warm reception and for his words of encouragement.

Diri urged the PDP to forge a united front if the party wants to win the forthcoming election.

Diri insisted that the party must not be factionalised due to individual ambition, but rather forge a common front to pursue victory at the 2023 presidential election.

Diri, who promised to work for the success of the party at the polls, commended the aspirants for putting their individual interests aside for the good of the party, adding: "There is no other way than unity of purpose of the PDP. We must realise that we

are an opposition party. We are not a party in power and cannot afford to be factionalised and fractionalised due to individual ambition.

Thank God for implanting this in the minds of these senior citizens of our party.

"I think this is the first time in Nigeria that presidential aspirants are coming together to talk about the unity of the party and forge a way forward. One thing that I will assure you is that the Bayelsa State chapter is prepared to work for the unity of our party, to take over governance and give Nigerians what we were giving them before the party in power came into office and destroyed the things we built in 16 years."

However, Saraki has said the negotiations among some presidential aspirants of PDP on the possibility of producing a consensus candidate should not be equated to agitating for a northern president.

Rather than considering such a patriotic effort as northern agenda, he said the aspirants are being driven by national interest aimed at a united Nigeria.

Saraki made this clarification after four presidential aspirants of the party; himself, Bala, Tambuwal and businessman, Muhammad Hayatu-Deen met with Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi at his Enugu State Lodge in

Abuja.

Emphasizing that series of consultations being made across the country by the consensus team was not a northern agenda Saraki said "when we started about three weeks ago, most of the aspirants we had then were mainly in the north. We were talking to the aspirants across the country. Now, because more people have come out in the South and we are all going to meet.

"All the aspirants are going to meet. We are talking about Nigeria. We are not talking about the northern aspirants or southern aspirants.

"I have good news that already, moves are being made by the aspirants in the South to meet and eventually all we all meet and see one consensus, that consensus is a Nigerian that represent all the groups.

"So, I just want to be clear about that, and be reassured it is not about just issue of a northern consensus, not at all, it's a consensus for the PDP and one Nigeria."

He said the meeting with the Enugu governor was fruitful adding that the four aspirants were consulting other governors and stakeholders on possibility of producing an acceptable candidate capable of winning election for the party.

Ugwuanyi urged the aspirants to uphold principles of justice, equity and fairness in arriving at a consensus candidate.

Buhari, notable Nigerians mourn Ubani's father, Pa Nwokocha

By **ONYEBUCHI SAMPSON**

President Muhammadu Buhari has condoled with the Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law, SPIDEL, Dr Monday Ubani over the death of his father, aged 101 years.

Pa Egbedubi Nwokocha died on January 3, 2022 in Lagos and will be buried at his hometown, Umuosoko, Awomukwu in Ikwuano Local Council of Abia State on April 22, 2022.

Other notable persons that have also sent their condolence messages to Dr Ubani, include; Governors Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, Governor Aminu Tanbuwal of Sokoto State, Governor Rotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State, Orji Uzor Kalu, former Governor of Abia State and the current Chief Whip of the Senate, Minister of Niger Delta, former Governor and former Senate Minority Leader, Godswill Akpabio.

Others are Minister of State for Mines and Steel, Dr. Uche Ogah, Senators Ekweremadu, Abaribe, Nkechi Nwaogu, Hon Sam Onuigbo, NBA President, Olumide Akpata, President of African Bar Association Mr Hannibal Uwaifor, Chief Judges of Abia and Lagos States, some Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, former Presidents of the Nigerian Bar Association and former Group Managing Director, Diamond Bank, Alex Oti amongst many others.

In a condolence letter dated April 11, 2022 and signed by Femi Adesina, Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Buhari was quoted as giving glory to God for the gift of longevity, which saw Pa Nwokocha live up to 101 years.

The President was also

quoted to have saluted the fact that Pa Nwokocha left his footprints on the sands of time, gaining reputation as a man of peace, a philanthropist, dutiful father, public spirited

individual, and a man of integrity.

Condoling with Dr Ubani, the only son of the deceased, and the many grandchildren and great grandchildren left

by the departed, President Buhari urged them to keep the flag of the good works hoisted by their patriarch flying, knowing that in that wise, Papa Nwokocha would

live forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew him.

The President also urged the family to give the departed befitting rites of passage, as the soul of Egoro Oti marches on.



President Buhari

Isoko Clans' leaders back IDU mandate over Delta South Senatorial District seat

By **MICHAEL EKOKORUWE, OLEH**

Isoko Clans Presidents-General (PGs) have, at an enlarged meeting, supported the mandate of the oil-producing ethnic nationality's apex social-cultural organization on the Delta South Senatorial District seat at the National Assembly.

The decision was made at a forum of the leaders held at Olomoro, Isoko South local government area of Delta State.

A communique at the end of the parley signed by the chairman and secretary of the forum, Chief (Dr.) Alloysius Okpe-logbo (PG, Okpe-Isoko) and Chief Adonis Obuwere (PG, Irri Federated

Union), stated that the forum supported IDU towards the growth and development of the Isoko nation and to optimize comprehensive intelligent engagement for the survival of the people.

The forum unanimously affirmed that: "We align with the position of IDU, the apex social cultural and administrative body of Isoko Nation over the Delta South Senatorial seat.

"That the Isoko have consistently supported the Ijaw and Itsekiri, following the political trajectory, in every senatorial and governorship election without any political blackmail, subterfuge and propaganda, all through the 19 and eight uninterrupted years respectively.

"The forum reiterates its commitment to the politics of fairness, and unanimously admitted the fact that, Isoko has occupied the Senatorial seat once, via Chief Mrs. Stella Omu, from 1999-2003, and succeeded by the incumbent, Senator James Manager, who is one of the long serving Senators, 2003 till date. This one term is politically insignificant compared to the years of elected political offices held by the Ijaw and Itsekiri."

The communique stressed that the senatorial position meant for three nationalities cannot be

usurped by one, either through any political trick or acquired by reasons of petty sentiment or lopsided zoning. It noted that for Delta South to enjoy new political progress, "now is the time for our sister-ethnic nationalities, the Ijaw and the Itsekiri to reciprocate this timely but accurate senatorial gesture."

It added: "We reinstate our unanimity as an ethnic Nation to respectfully appeal to all stakeholders to consider and reward Isoko's age-long affinity with the Ijaw and the Itsekiri, our political benevolence demonstrated tirelessly over the years and the support given to successive governments. The Itsekiri clamouring for the senatorial seat, without consideration to Isoko people, should be reviewed for posterity.

"When an Itsekiri man, Dr. Emmanuel Ewetan Uduaghan, indicated his interest to run for the seat of governorship, an Isoko man, named Chief James Obeuwou, equally indicated and bought form too. He was prevailed upon to decline/step down and Isoko massively as usual gave support to Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, to occupy the office for eight uninterrupted years, which ultimately is bigger than 50 Senators put together. "We encourage and appeal to

all political, cultural, business and religious leaders in other ethnic groups to key into this one and only pivotal senatorial Isoko request. We further appeal to those who may be hired or used as political saboteurs, to have a rethink and attitudinal change, especially within the Isoko axis, to engender victory at the polls."

The forum urged Isoko people to define the future through the pendulum of collective opinion, and not to surreptitiously undermine the potency of the ethnic nationality's collective decision over the Delta South Senatorial seat.



Emmanuel Uduaghan

FG approves three new federal polys

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH,** Education Correspondent

Three new federal polytechnics have been approved by the Federal Government in line with its determination to make tertiary education more accessible.

The polytechnics will be sited in Umunnoechi, Abia State; Orogun, Delta and Kabo in Kano.

According to a statement

by the Director, Press and Public Relations, the Federal Ministry of Education, Ben Bem Goong, the new institutions are to commence academic activities in October 2022.

The statement noted that this brings the number of federal polytechnics in the country to thirty-six (36). It added that all states of the Federation now have one federal polytechnic each.



'Why judge's barring of journalists in terrorism trials is unconstitutional'

Stories by **BERTRAM ONYEBUCHI**

Recently, the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, John Tsoho, issued a new practice direction on terrorism trials.

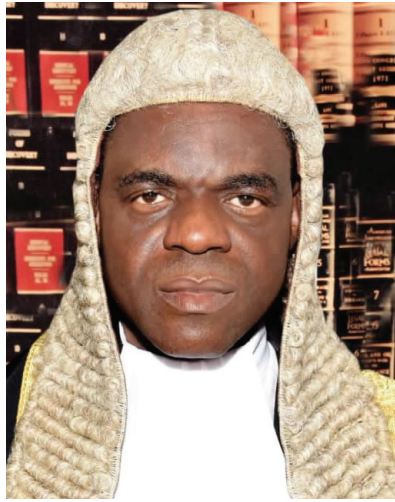
Under the new practice directive, judges may choose to bar journalists and the public from either covering or witnessing terrorism trials.

Although, the decision was primed to curb distractions, occasioned by the large representations and interests that accompanied such terrorism cases, there are views that the direction was principally targeted at the trial of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

According to the proponent of the new practice direction, many cases have suffered several adjournments, because of the attention given to terrorism matters.

But, leader of the defence counsel for the IPOB leader, Chief Mike Ozekhome (SAN), at the last trial date, indicated that the defense team will challenge the new direction.

Chief Ozekhome sug-



John Tsoho

gested that the direction was akin to secret trial and meetings of witches and wizards in their coven.

Another lawyer, Aloy Ejimakor, also condemned the new practice direction, stressing that such is unconstitutional by the clear provisions of Section 36 of the Constitution, which requires all trials to be in public.

He added that the new Practice Direction is ultra vires the Constitution and cannot be justified by a Terrorism Prevention Act that is unarguably subservient to the Constitution.

Ejimakor, in a statement, said subsection (3) of Section 36 of the Constitution, states that "The proceedings of a court or the proceedings

of any tribunal relating to the matters mentioned in subsection (1) of this section (including the announcement of the decisions of the court or tribunal) shall be held in public."

Quoting subsection (4) of Section 36 of the Constitution, he said "Whenever any person is charged with a criminal offence, he shall, unless the charge is withdrawn, be entitled to a fair hearing in public within a reasonable time by a court or tribunal."

He noted that the only restrictions the Constitution allows is on a case-by-case basis and it must be narrowly-tailored by the particular court or tribunal before whom the suspect is being tried, not

by an omnibus Practice Directions that seeks to envelope every case in one fell swoop.

He argued that narrowly-tailored exception can found at Section 36, subsection 4(a) of the Constitution, which states that a court or such a tribunal may exclude from its proceedings persons other than the parties thereto or their legal practitioners in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality, the welfare of persons who have not attained the age of 18 years, the protection of the private lives of the parties or to such extent as it may consider necessary by reason of special circumstances in

which publicity would be contrary to the interests of justice.

"The second narrow exception is contained in Section 36(4)(b) of the Constitution, which states that if in any proceedings before a court or such a tribunal, a Minister of the Government of the Federation or a commissioner of the government of a State satisfies the court or tribunal that it would not be in the public interest for any matter to be publicly disclosed, the court or tribunal shall make arrangements for evidence relating to that matter to be heard in private and shall take such other action as may be necessary or expedient to prevent the disclosure of the matter," he added.



Nnamdi Kanu



Mike Ozekhome

State seeks partnership with CI Arb over ADR

Lagos State GOVERNOR Babajide Sanwo-Olu has called for partnership with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) Nigeria Branch, to improve capacity in the use of Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) mechanisms.

The governor made the call when members of the Executive Committee of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) Nigeria Branch recently paid him.

According to a statement obtained by The Trumpet, Sanwo-olu commended executive members of the CI Arb Nigeria Branch for the visit and works being done in the field of ADR and training of ADR practitioners.

He noted that arbitration is an important tool to settle disputes and there is a need for capacity building in this area.

The governor assured them of his support to develop Lagos State into an ADR hub.

Earlier, leader of the delegation, Chief Akingbola Akinola SAN, thanked the governor for taking out time from his very busy schedule to receive the CI Arb delegation.

He observed that Lagos State plays a pivotal role in the Nigerian economy and it remains the focal point of economic, financial and commercial activities in the country.

Akinola stressed that a lot of infrastructural development is ongoing in Lagos State and that as disputes are an inevitable part of commercial activities, the establishment of an effective and efficient dispute resolution framework with well-trained and equipped human capital is essential for the economic growth as well as commercial activity within Lagos State.

While extolling the governor for his progressive nature, he stressed that the Institute is positioned to partner with the Lagos State Government in capacity building and the use of the ADR mechanisms to support the activities of the government.

Among the CI Arb Nigeria Branch delegation were the 1st Vice Chair, Mrs. Sola Adegbonmire, C.Arb; the 3rd Vice Chair, Mrs. Obosa Akpata, C.Arb; Branch Secretary, Mrs. Josephine Akinwunmi, FCI Arb; Branch Treasurer, Mr. Akin Omisade, FCI Arb; Chairman of the Training Sub-Committee, Mr. Seyilayo Ojo, C.Arb; Assistant Secretary, Mr. Ibifubara Berenibara FCI Arb; and the General Manager of the Branch, Ms. Chinelo Agbala.

The Lagos State delegation included the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat; the Attorney-General of Lagos State, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo, SAN, FCI Arb; the Special Adviser on Education, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab and the Account-General of Lagos State, Mr. Abiodun Muritala.

Lagos CJ petitioned over alleged discrepancies in car auction sale

Lagos State Chief Judge, Justice Kazeem Olanrewaju Alogba, has been urged to investigate the auction sale of a Toyota Corolla on December 19, 2021, by the Deputy Sheriff of the court.

Claimant and Judgment Creditor in a petition dated July 27, 2021 regarding suit no MCL/873/2013 between Abiodun Akinkoye Odunayo and Mr. Jude Ator, asked Justice Alogba to investigate the alleged manipulation of proceeds of the sales in the public auction by the Deputy Sheriff.

A petitioner, Mrs Odunayo, said the Toyota Corolla car was a subject of an execution levied in her favour on December 19, 2017, attached and taken to court premises.

According to her, the car was neither vandalised nor destroyed at the court premises, where it was parked during the EndSARS protest, but

remained intact.

Mrs Odunayo stressed that she participated in the public auction for the sale of the car and made a bid up to N1.2 million, while another person bidded N2.7 million.

According to her, the Deputy Sheriff, surprisingly informed her afterwards that the final

offer from the highest bidder stood at N552, 000.

"I witnessed the public auction together with others," she said.

The petitioner further claimed that after the sales, the Deputy Sheriff, in a letter informed her that, "a Toyota Corolla with Reg. No. BDG 602 EC was sold by public auction to

the highest bidder in the sum of N525, 000. The only amount recoverable by the Claimant/Judgment Creditor stands at N525, 000 less the government deductions."

She said the amount stated was contrary to the amount the highest bid for the car.

To this end, she is demanding that justice must prevail by paying her the exact amount realised from the sale of the Toyota Corolla 2005 model.

The petitioner said that her petition dated November 30, 2021 to the Chief Judge, which was received by the office was not replied three months after.

"It is pertinent to know my lord that I have waited for about three months, since I submitted my petition and I am yet to be contacted or informed of any development in respect of the

petition, copy of which is hereby attached for your Lordship's quick reference and necessary action.

"Waiting patiently for my lord's intervention in this matter of open fraud that someone thinks can be swept under the carpet," the petitioner stated.

However, the acting Chief Register, Mr. T. A. Elias, who in a letter dated March 15, 2022 in response to her petition, stated that her petitions dated November 30, 2021 and March 1, 2022 in respect of the subject matter were not successful.

The letter read: "A discreet investigation of your petition was conducted and no wrongdoing has been found on the side of the Lagos State Judiciary and its appointed Auctioneer.

"You are free to furnish any proof of your allegation, if you so wish. Accordingly, the petition is unsuccessful."



Kazeem Olanrewaju

Court declares restriction of estate dwellers' movement illegal

A Lagos High Court, Ikeja, has declared as illegal the restriction of movement of homeowners within Pearl Garden Estate situated at Sangotedo Village in Eti-Osa Local Council of the state.

The action was perpetrated by CMB Building Maintenance and Investment Company Limited.

Trial judge, Mufutau Olokoba made the declaration, while delivering judgment, in a suit filed by some of the homeowners against CMB (property and the estate management agents) and the Oyetubo Jokotade Estate Resource Limited (previous landowners).

The N100 million suit was filed by the claimants on February 9, 2015 following dispute with the property developer.

It was filed by Messrs Francis Adesuyi, Felix Obiakor, Martin Ajayi-Obe and Peter Afenotan in representative capacity on behalf of themselves and all interested homeowners within the Pearl Garden Estate.

In the judgment, the judge declared that the interference on the claimants rights by barricading and restricting their movement and that of other lawful residents in and out of the estate by the defendants and their agents was unlawful and an infringement on their rights.

He held that the purported estate charge of N35,000 imposed by the second defendant on the claimants was null and void.

The judge, however, declined to grant the claimants' request for an order against the defendants, granting them N100 million as damages, saying the defendants should only bear the cost of the action.

Experts in the justice administration and correctional sectors have called for a mechanism to ensure integration of ex-convicts into the society.

The experts stressed that attitudinal change towards ex-convicts is necessary to minimise criminality in the society.

They spoke at a two-day workshop on inmates' behavioural and cognitive modification, themed: "Remedial Programmes Symbiotic Reinforcement".

The event was organised by Prison Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), held at R & A City Hotel, Ikeja Lagos.

Executive Director of Prisoner's Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), Dr Uju Agomoh, who led discussion at the event, said a society that refuses to reintegrate offenders and ex-offenders further forces them to embrace those who have hard criminal networks and that will be worse for the country.

Dr Agomoh, who spoke on the "Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019 and Faith-Based Correctional Programmes", said unless ex-offenders are integrated into the society

Controversy trails appointment of Ishaq Bello as LPDC chair

Stories by **BERTRAM ONYEBUCHI**

Controversy has trailed the recent appointment of Justice Ishaq Bello as the new Chairman of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC).

The former Chief Judge of the High Court of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), who had upon his retirement on the bench, made an unsuccessful attempt to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) bench, replaces Mr. Emmanuel Ukala SAN, who recently resigned from the position.

However, it was gathered that members of the Body of Benchers (BoB) are not comfortable with the procedure, which brought about the emergence of Justice Bello.

Some who spoke on the issue argued that they were neither consulted in the process leading to the appointment nor given the opportunity during the plenary to ratify Bello's nomination.

They also said due process was not followed in the appointment, stressing that the immediate past BoB Chairman, Justice Olabode Rhodes-Vivour merely announced the appointment of the jurist towards the end of the last meeting of the body.

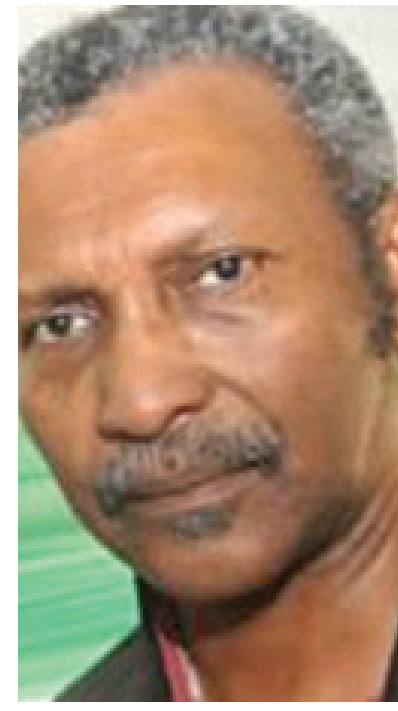
According to a member,



Olumide Akpata



Ishaq Bello



Bode Rhodes-Vivour

who spoke on the condition of anonymity, the practice had been that while the headship of the LPDC rotates between the Bar and Bench, both groups must reach a consensus on the choice of the candidate to head the all-important (BoB) committee.

The member said: "Sadly, that did not happen this time. "Due process was not followed; instead, a fait accompli was foisted on the body. That is not the precedent we are used to. The appointment is inchoate.

"I do hope that the new chairman of the Body of Benchers will seek the

earliest opportunity to present the nomination of Justice Bello for ratification at the plenary. Otherwise, it will be a bad signal for both the committee and the Body of Benchers."

The Body of Benchers and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) President, Mr. Olumide Akpata are yet to respond on the matter.

Recall that LPDC was recently in the news, following the resignation of Ukala and two other members of the committee over alleged interference by the Body of Benchers.

The two members who threw in the towel were the current Chairman of the NBA Section on Legal

Practice, Chief Ferdinand Orbih (SAN) and Boma Ayomide Alabi (SAN).

Ukala had in his resignation letter dated February 22, 2022 cited the complaint by senior lawyer, Mr. Lucius Nwosu SAN, who died recently, over a prima facie finding by the committee, noting that most members who spoke on the subject "were against the intervention of this august body (benchers) in the matter for very sound and obvious reasons including the fact that the matter was subjudice and that this august body has no jurisdiction to review any matter including the issue of prima facie finding

which is already before the LPDC.

"Surprisingly, the Chairman, the Honourable Justice Bode Rhodes-Vivour, ruled against the overwhelming views of the majority in favour of the minority views of mainly three members, namely; retired Justice James Ogenyi Ogebe, the Honourable Justice Ejembi Eko and R. A. Lawal-Rabana SAN,

This, senior lawyers said, portends grave danger to the maintenance of discipline in the Legal Profession since it opened up judicial proceedings before LPDC to the administrative review of the Body of Benchers.

Experts canvass ex-convicts' integration

without stigmatisation, the problem of minimising criminality will persist.

According to her, where a crime has been committed, there are three major dimensions that should be addressed, adding that it becomes problematic if any of them is missed.

She explained that the three dimensions are what you do with the offender, the victim and the community where the offence is committed.

"Often we kind of get so concentrated on the offender and forget the other two. So, there is a need to do everything



Uju Agomoh

to help reduce the risk of the offender committing an offence again.

"It is only when the offending behaviour is reduced, that you and I are safe. But then the other thing is about the victim. I have never seen a society as insensitive as ours. And this thing cuts across. The funny thing is that this was not what our traditional criminal justice system was.

"If society will begin to stigmatise the person when he is in custody and when he is outside the custody, we as a society will be worse for it. Again, as I said, we need to engage with the offender in such a way to reduce the offending behaviour.

"I think it is only when we begin to do this that our justice dispensation system will begin to have a human's face. And that does not negate the focus and interest of the support mechanism that needs to happen for the offender, not because you like the offender but because you want to reduce the offender's chances of re-offending," she submitted.

She stated that it will be good for us as a people, in terms of enhancing security, to have a comprehensive approach to addressing the processes of persons affected during a criminal offence, whether the offender, the victim, the family or the community.

In his remarks, the Controller General, Nigeria Correctional Services (NCS), Mr Haliru Nababa, urged participants to pay attention to the content of the programme.

Nababa, who was represented by Assistant Controller General, Training and Staff Development, Mr Lawal Gusau, further harped on the importance of training for human capital development.

He said: "Training is an important aspect of staff development without which an organisation cannot progress. "You will need the content of this course for your progress in the Service and the development of the organisation."

Also, the Assistant Controller General of Correctional, in

charge of Zone A, made up of Lagos and Ogun states, Mr Uche Nwobi, said the issue of restorative justice is designed to help the system.

According to him, if you go to custodial facilities, there is congestion. "But with the coming of restorative justice, we discovered that a lot of people who should have been in custody are out there, doing their job elsewhere and not within the walls of the prison.

Asked about the need for the controversial beauty contest involving Chidinma Ojukwu, he said inmates are treated like every other human being.

"In the system, we don't discriminate against anybody. We give them equal treatment to help them with what will happen after imprisonment," he said.

Earlier, the Executive Director of Prison Fellowship Nigeria (PFN), Bar. Benson Iwuagwu, said the country has a great need for the correctional system to become more responsive than it is.

Noting that the common characteristic before now is

a high rate of recidivism, he declared that such is a common denominator of a system that is either failing, failed or not effective.

He explained that it was on account of such that the Prison Fellowship International came up with programmes that are remedial to the inmate's behaviour.

Iwuagwu, said the purpose of the 4th correctional officer's workshop was to form a collaboration between the Nigerian Correctional Service and the Prison Fellowship Nigeria.

He urged the Correctional Service to begin to explore and exploit the opportunities that abound within the civil society and faith-based organisations, with a view to reforming the inmates.

He said: "They should look at what these organisations are offering. And in our particular case, we are offering specifically targeted objective programmes that address some of those behavioural attitudes that are disposed to crime and criminality.

"Because crime and criminality are critical factors, if they are not objectively and intentionally addressed, it creates an ugly situation."

Zoning committee recommendation will further unite PDP, Ayu pledges

● *Says NEC will communicate outcome*

By TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

National chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Iyorchia Ayu has assured party members that the recommendations of the party's zoning committee will further unite the party.

This is coming against insinuation that report of the 37 member committee led by the Benue State governor, Samuel Ortom may break the party considering division between outright zoning and open zoning.

He said the commitment with which members approached the assignment demonstrated that PDP is united in purpose and intent of returning to power next year.

Receiving the report of the committee Tuesday at the party secretariat, Ayu said "what you have done will help to unite this party in such a way that by next year, we should be talking of returning to 1999 and 2003 when we had 20 something governors, controlled both houses of the National Assembly and control the presidency because our ultimate aim as we keep saying is to win the presidency and that will happen



Ayu

very soon.

"And it can only happen because of leaders like you, the unity you have demonstrated shows that the PDP is a very united political party. We are not like the other ones that are bickering all over the streets and I want us to continue in that spirit. So that next year

we'll be at Eagle square on May 29 2023,"

He said the report which was received by the National Working Committee (NWC) on behalf of the National Executive Committee (NEC) will be transmitted to the national executive of the party.

He said "it will be discussed and then it is at that point that NEC will take a final decision.

"This decision will be known to party members across the country and all Nigerians who are eagerly awaiting the final decision of your committee."

On behalf of the party, he appreciated committee members for availing themselves the opportunity of taking up the assignment.

"Let me on behalf of NEC, because NWC is here, acting on behalf of NEC, thank you most sincerely for the wonderful job you've done in the short time for the party and how much you have done to unite this party.

"We are very proud of the work you have done we did not hear any rancor. We did not hear anybody even talking about what you discussed? Given the sensitive nature of your assignment, if you had already

released everything either by disagreement or rancor or anything it will be very difficult for this party, but you showed so much maturity and leadership. And I believe all members of this great party appreciate the way you have conducted yourselves."

The Vice chairman of the committee, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu who submitted the report every member of the 37 man zoning committee had ample opportunity to make their submissions.

According to him, the committee was united in taking decision to promote the interests of the party and we came up with the resolution which can only be submitted to the party leadership.

Elumelu said "our job is to finish, submit and theirs to take decision. So I believe that it is the NEC that has the statutory rights to release the content of what we have done. So I will officially on behalf of my colleagues make the presentation of submitting the report.

"Everything you've seen, is in accordance with the guidelines given to us by NEC to make and recommend."

APC swears in Ntukekpo as Akwa Ibom State chairman

● *Akpabio tasks him on unity of A/ Ibom APC*

By TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

The Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Akwa Ibom State, Obong Stephen Ntukekpo, has been sworn-in by the Senator Abdullahi Adamu- led National Working Committee(NWC) of the party at the national secretariat, Abuja.

Speaking shortly after the Oath of office and allegiance were administered on Obong Ntukekpo, the National Chairman charged him to ensure the unity, progress and success of the party in the spirit of no winner, no vanquish.

Adamu said, "let me, on behalf of the members of the National Working Committee(NWC) of our great party congratulate you on your inauguration as the Akwa Ibom State chairman of our party. This is a demonstration of our respect for the rule law and as a law abiding organization.

"We charge you to return home and reunite the members, grow the party and lead it to victory in all elections. Be assured of our support in this task. We are equally confident that you will succeed in this task because we believe in your ability.

"No group has lost out and no group has won because we are one united political family.

I know Akwa Ibom State has proven men, that are led by a man; Senator Godswill Akpabio, who is a man of integrity. I know him to be a man that can bring everyone together. What we need is that togetherness," the chairman declared.

Receiving the chairman and some members of his executive in his office, APC leader in the state and Minister, Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio, thanked President Muhamadu Buhari and the leadership of the party for standing firm and ensuring that the the rule of law prevails in the running of the party.

In his remarks, the former Governor of Akwa Ibom State gave a chronological description of how the insistence of some party leaders and stakeholders, that the right thing be done in the running of the party in the state, led to the recognition of Ntukekpo as the authentic chairman of the party.

According to him, "the office of the chairman shouldn't have been given to anybody from Uyo Senatorial District, because the governorship ticket of the party in 2023 is zoned to Uyo. I took it up with some leaders of the party and they said we are going to change it later and I said how? I reminded them that we have just finished our Congresses

and we are lucky that somebody from Eket Senatorial District just emerged the chairman of the party, so why do we behave like to the Ostrich?"

Speaking further, Akpabio noted that, "for us to have harmony in the state chapter of the party and to perform creditably and face the opposition with strength in 2023, we need to give the chairmanship to another District, so that the governorship can come from Uyo Senatorial District. I don't have any problem with anybody's aspiration. I can no longer be a governor by Nigeria's Constitution. I can only be a stakeholder and a man of peace. I can only push you people up and pray that the God that assisted me to where I am today, can also assist you.

The former Senate Minority Leader admonished the chairman to see his victory as the handiwork of God and should therefore, move immediately into uniting the party saying, "you are not APC State Chairman to make me anything. You're chairman to assist Mr President and the leadership of the party to be victorious in all elections in the state. Make sure you unite all contending forces within the party, so that as a united entity, we will face the opposition, defeat them and take over the reins of the leadership

of our dear state. This party almost took over the South-South region including Akwa Ibom State in 2019, but because of internal sabotage we failed. We never knew that after our campaigns, they left from there to another meeting at night".

Akpabio declared that, "my prayers is that may God almighty push away all those who sabotaged this party in 2019 to leave us alone and join APGA or LP so that this party will get the victory that God kept for us in 2023".

In his speech, Ntukekpo thanked Akpabio and other members of the party who stood firmly behind him and the party, when the goings were tough, saying, "with all amount of humility, I am here before you to tell you that we are very much disposed having been given this opportunity on trust, to do all these so that we will be able to achieve that onerous task which is to get to the Government House in 2023."

It is recalled that Ntukekpo's swearing-in came days after the Court of Appeal, Abuja Division, dismissed an Appeal by the defunct CEPC and affirmed the Federal High Court ruling that was declared in favour of Obong Stephen Ntukekpo.

Cross River Reps aspirant charges PDP leaders to conduct credible primaries

By TUNDE JOSHUA, ABUJA

Abong Pius Bessong aspiring for Ikom Boki Federal Constituency, Cross River State seat has charged the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to ensure proper and credible elections were conducted during primaries next month to select the party's candidates for various positions.

He said what the PDP just need to win all seats in Cross River in 2023 is to field acceptable candidates that will emerge in credible primaries to be conducted in May.

Picking his expression of interest and nomination forms at the party's national secretariat on Tuesday, he warned against imposition or any unacceptable consensus aspirant.

He said "I implore our party the PDP to change the pattern of primary in our different states. Let them go into proper detailing and surveying to know that an aspirant is more grounded before the ticket is given to such aspirant because in Cross River today, it is no more like it was before that PDP was everywhere. So if we must win our election, there should be credible and acceptable aspirant by generality of the people.

"So, I therefore wish to state clearly that if we do the right thing in Cross River State by doing the proper primaries, not by adoption or by consensus candidate, proper primary and a transparent one, so that if anybody is elected on the basis of transparency, I think the masses will be very happy to vote the

person into power."

Abong commended the electoral system and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for improving the voting process.

He said "I think election today is turning a new twist in our country, especially the rerun election in Ogoja has showed clearly that INEC is doing their best and this next election, I think far from it, there won't be any rigging, it will be one man one vote and as such, we should be dealing with transparent and credible and acceptable candidates.

"Now the people have arisen to say no to bribery, they won't collect anything and they are doing proper election. This will be the most credible election because everyone is willing to vote."



Ntukekpo

Reminiscing on indelible footprints of Oronto Natei Douglas (1966-2015)

By IPIGANSI OKUMO

In my early years in secondary school, I was very fortunate to have met an uncommon soul called Oronto Natei Douglas, fondly known as OND by friends and acquaintances. Though our meeting was a brief one, it impacted greatly on me. It changed my perspective and approach to life. However, little did it ever cross my imagination that I would be working with OND later in my life, to fight against injustice and build peace for the common good of the Niger Delta and Nigeria.

Until the mid-90s, Oronto and I never met again since our first encounter in the late '80s. As the religious enthusiasts would say, divine appointment brought us together and never to part again. We worked together until that sad day of 9th April 2015 when death took him away. During the colourful ceremonies of Oronto's funeral, the stoic side of my frail being was cajoled to saying it was celebration of life, but my inner being was immersed in an unending flow of tears and mourning. Oronto's death was a personal loss that created a huge vacuum in my life that I have to endure for many years.

As I reflect on the good times I shared with OND, I find his great legacies very comforting. However, one statement he had repeatedly said to me (which I have since classified as one pillar of Oronto's creed), came knocking strongly on my mind. OND, my mentor and brother by grace and divine connection, had told me over a thousand times that life is not about the steps you have taken but the footprints you have left behind. As I grew older, I began to appreciate, even more, the wisdom in this significant statement.

On this seventh memorial of OND, I am certain that many like me are remembering Oronto for the uncommon and indelible footprints he left behind. Oronto was an uncommon and extraordinary soul that traversed Planet Earth in the soil of the historical Ebela Kingdom in Ogbia, where crude oil was first discovered in commercial quantity in West Africa.

In his native home of Okoroba, he left his footprint as the first and youngest pupil of St. Mark's Primary School he challenged his teacher, who went to equity with unclean hands. This was OND's first recorded public victory over injustice and oppression. Oronto later joined his uncle, Ikiriko Apusubh Okogolo, of blessed memory in Abeokuta, who was serving in the Nigerian Army, and continued his primary education at the Army Children School, Alamala, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

On completion of his primary education, he got admitted to the United Comprehensive High School (UCHS), Wasimi, Abeokuta, for his secondary education. He led the arts and school drama and debate team to several contests within and outside Ogun State and returned victorious with numerous laurels. During his apex class at the school, he was appointed as the Deputy Senior Prefect. His academic performance in UCHS remains outstanding till date.

Propelled by his passion to always stand for truth and justice, Oronto proceeded to study Law at the Rivers State University of Science and



Douglas

Technology (RSUST), now Rivers State University, Port Harcourt. He also holds a master's degree in Environmental Law from the prestigious De Monfort University, Leicester, United Kingdom. At RSUST, he became the Editor-in-Chief of the University's Press Club. He also championed the activities of the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) in the university. Throughout his tertiary education at RSUST, he fought for the overall interest of the students. He was an intellectual freedom fighter.

Oronto belonged to the special breed of humans who never forget their roots. They understand that the reason God made you an indigene of one tiny village is for you to turn around the fortunes of that community and make it a place others would desire to be. This was exactly what Oronto did in his ancestral home of Okoroba.

In the late '90s OND initiated a programme tagged: Education First for his home town. It was an annual programme where Oronto personally gave out prizes and award scholarships to the best performing pupils. This step alone changed the attitude of the pupils. There was intense hard work, as pupils engaged themselves studiously to win the prizes.

This programme blossomed so much that the community benefited greatly. To boost the growing standard at the primary school, Oronto built and equipped a state-of-the-art kindergarten school (E.K. Clark Preparatory School, Okoroba for the community. The school was to prepare the little kids of the community before they are enrolled into the primary school. It was tuition-free. He provided uniforms, shoes, school bags, books and other study materials needed by the kids. This school changed the narrative and face value of his community. If all who have passed through schools can return and give a fraction of support to the schools they attended, schools would not have been under the current state we find them in the country.

One of his personal beliefs is that

the sure way to liberate a people from poverty is to give them quality education and he lived his life demonstrating this belief.

Apart from his unique contributions to advance the education of the people of his native hometown, Oronto contributed even in greater measure outside his home of origin. He built and equipped a library at UCHS, Wasimi, Abeokuta, Ogun State, his alma mater. Other libraries he built and equipped include the Melford Okilo Library in Ogbia Town; Goodluck Jonathan Library in Okoroba; Prof. Bruce Powell Library at the Federal University, Otuoke; Obigboc Mikimiki in Opume; Prof C.T.I Odu Library in Twon Brass; Obafemi Awolowo Library in Irele-Ikole Ekiti, Ekiti State; Resident Tuodolo Library in Bomadi, Delta State and a library in Umuobuna-Ohaozara in Ebonyi State.

It is also interesting to note that because of Oronto's love for education, he converted his only building in Yenagoa to a public library and named it in honour of Prof. E. J. Alagoa, one of Nigeria's leading historians. The library is equipped with laptops, desktop computers and e-readers that are available for use to registered members. It boasts of about 60,000 e-books, 70,000 digital materials that include journals and videos, 12,000 hard cover and paperback editions of books on various subjects. Sadly, this library is no longer functional because there is no one to provide funds to keep it going. He was to commence the building of another library in Ikot Nseyen in Ikono Council of Akwa Ibom State, before the cold hands of death snatched him away.

Oronto's selfless service to humanity cannot be exhaustively highlighted in a short eulogy of this nature. He stood for the Ogoni throughout his life, particularly in the darkest chapter of the community's history in the era of the dreaded Sani Abacha. He was a member of the legal team that defended Ken Saro Wiwa and the eight other Ogoni pro bono. He was beaten and battered, locked up and subjected to unimaginable humiliating

and inhuman conditions in course of his work in defence of the Ogoni.

For the rest of the Niger Delta, he was a voice and a mobiliser. He challenged the international oil companies (IOCs) operating in the Niger Delta to the extent that they described him as a bitter pill to swallow. OND founded and cofounded several community-based organisations (CBOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Notable among them are the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Chikoko Movement, Niger Delta Resource Centre, Ogbia Study Group, Community Defence Law Foundation and Douglas Educational Foundation, among others.

It is also pertinent to note that Oronto's activism was a contributory factor in the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Ministry of Niger Delta, the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) and the 13 per cent oil derivation fund being paid to oil-producing states. He also stood for democracy in Nigeria. He was at the forefront of the fight against military dictatorship in Nigeria.

During the administration of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, when Oronto served as Special Adviser, he launched the Bring Back the Book (BBB) Initiative in Lagos, Benin, Jos, Yenagoa and Abuja to revitalise the reading culture in Nigeria, especially among the youths so as to empower and prepare the Nigerian youth for the opportunities and challenges they would be facing in the future.

The BBB provided books and computers to schools and student in Oronto's quest to end book famine in Nigeria. He also played key roles in conceptualising the idea of the Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWin) programme that empowered many young Nigerians during Jonathan's administration. He was a brain box in GEJ administration and many attributed GEJ's election loss of 2015 to Oronto's ill health.

Oronto's life can be summarised as a life of sacrificial living. To him, living was giving and giving was living. He gave his best to the service of humanity locally and internationally. His wish was the younger generation to do better than him. Through his scholarship and philanthropy programme, he transformed many down-trodden lives for good. He was a God-fearing man who loved humanity especially the less privileged.

As I continue to reflect on the life of this great patriot, seven years after, I see Oronto's legacies everywhere around us to remind us of a glorious past, but a few questions come to mind. Has the democratic government of Nigeria, Bayelsa State, Ogbia Kingdom and his hometown, deemed it fit to immortalize this great soul? Are the legacies of this detribalised Nigerian being preserved? Will the great works of OND go in vain without a reward? It is better late than never.

Indeed, OND left uncommon and indelible footprints behind. May God bless his inheritance and continue to rest his great spirit in eternal peace. Amen.

Okumo, Secretary General of the Ogbia Brotherhood Unity, who worked with Oronto for about two decades, wrote from Abuja.

The Trumpet

PATRIOTIC VOICE

www.thetrumpet.ng

 ThetrumpetTv  @TheTrumpetNig

 @thetrumpetngr  @thetrumpetng

 0915 558 7787

ICPC vows to checkmate illicit financial flows in real estate

- *As commission intensifies investigation of completed, unoccupied estates*
- *To sanction land holding without development after stipulated years*
- *ICPC boss decried impact of corruption, others on economy*

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has vowed to checkmate Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Real Estate across the country.

The Director of Asset Tracing, Recovery and Management (ATRM) of ICPC, Mr Adedayo Kayode, made this known at the opening of a two-day capacity building for investigators, prosecutors and tax inspectors on IFFs organised by the Commission in collaboration with the Ford Foundation.

Mr Kayode further noted that the commission shall intensify its ongoing investigation of completed but un-occupied estates in the country as part of measures to address IFFs.

While presenting a paper titled "Illicit Financial Flows in Real Estate", Kayode identified the continuation of on-going investigation of completed but un-occupied estates across the country as a solution in tackling the menace.

He said, "The ICPC in accordance with its mandate to curb corruption is presently investigating cases of myriad of completed but abandoned estates scattered around the Federal Capital Territory with the intention of identifying those that instruments of IFFs.

"Furthermore, we are collaborating with the National Assembly to investigate, study and promulgate appropriate legislation to stem the tide of corruption in the real estate sector. We need a coordinated and concerted approach to fight IFFs: the law enforcement agencies need continuous investment in capacity building to trace and follow the money, their need for implementation and investigation of breaches of the Beneficial Ownership rule, data availability is a must and intelligence sharing."

Meanwhile, the director also mentioned that as part of measures to curb IFFs, the Commission shall commence the implementation of sanctions on land holding without development after a specified period of time.



Professor Owasanoye

He listed enforcement and compliance investigation of Capital Gain Tax on Real Estate transactions and strengthening international cooperation on investigation of cross-border real estate purchase transactions as more solutions to combating IFFs.

Others according to him includes full implementation of beneficial ownership regulation, and regulation of Foreign Exchange trading and movement.

Kayode, who noted that IFFs are laundered in order to disguise or conceal illicit origins, lauded the effort of government in the recent SIM card/NIN matching and deactivation of non-compliance as a good step in the right direction.

"A key sector to the laundering of IFFs at their origin globally is the Real Estate which is due to its informal, little regulated nature proves very attractive. Key culprits involved in the laundering of IFFs in the real estate sector are top public officers.

"The laundering activity is conducted in collaboration with real estate developers and accomplices in the Land Administration departments.

"Launderers of illicit wealth in the Nigerian real estate sector often engage in cash purchases which are done through the use of foreign exchange often procured from Bureau De Changes.

Often times after purchase, the property titles are not changed to reflect the new ownership," he stated.

The Chairman of ICPC, Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye (SAN), earlier in his opening remarks, decried the impact of corruption, IFFs and tax evasion on the economy, noting that they have resulted in massive resource leakages and hampered the development of the country.

"The IFFs impact a country's economic and social development in a myriad of ways. Undocumented flights of wealth to and from - as well as within a country - have severe repercussions on government revenues, wealth that could otherwise be invested in public spending and other forms of economic and social reforms.

"Nigeria is losing billions of dollars from expected revenue due to poorly structured contractual agreements and tax laws which encourage IFFs. The drain on resources and tax revenues caused by IFFs has thwarted the expansion of basic social services and infrastructure programmes that are targeted at improving the wellbeing and capacities of all citizens, in particular, the very poor," the ICPC boss said.

He added that new paradigms and policies to counter IFFs would be established to produce an unbroken chain of work from tracing, freezing, seizing, confiscation and recovery of illicitly-obtained assets, through transparent management and liquidation of such assets, to distribution of the proceeds to high-priority development needs.

Also speaking at the capacity building on IFFs, the Chairman of Inter-Agency Committee on Stopping Illicit Financial Flows from Nigeria, Dr. Adeyemi Di-peolu, disclosed that poorly negotiated and hidden contracts contributed to the IFFs.

"This capacity building is being organised to help investigators, prosecutors and tax inspectors to deal with IFFs. We want to develop core people who will make sure that agreements signed for the country and government do not lead to illicit financial flows," he remarked.

Lagos court sentences drug baron to six years imprisonment

By ALEX OLISE

Justice Ayokunle Faji of a Lagos Federal High Court, has convicted and sentenced a drug baron, Aniede Chimezie Bright, to six years jail term, for attempting to export 7.10 Kilograms of a banned substance, Methamphetamine, to Madrid, the Spain capital.

Justice Faji, convicted and sentenced the baron after he changed his earlier not guilty plea.

Earlier, the convict had pleaded not guilty to a count charge of unlawful export of the said banned substance, when he was first arraigned before the court sometimes in 2021.

The Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in the charge marked FHC/L/109c/2021, stated that the convict was arrested with the banned substance on March 28, 2021, at the Gate 'C' of the Departure Hall of the Murtala Muhammed

International Airport, Ikeja-Lagos, during the outward clearance of passengers Royal Air, Maroc, flight to Madrid, Spain via Casablanca, Morocco.

Charge against the convict reads: "that you Aniede Chimezie Bright, Male, Adult, on or about the 28 March, 2021 at Gate 'C' of the Departure Hall of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja-Lagos during the outward clearance of passengers Royal Air, Maroc, flight to Madrid, Spain via Casablanca, Morocco without lawful exported 7.10 kilogrammes of Methamphetamine, a Psychotropic Substance, under International Control and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 11(b) of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap.

N30, Laws of the Federation Of Nigeria, 2004."

The offence, according Mr. Abu Ibrahim, NDLEA prosecutor, is contrary to and punishable under Section 11(b) of National

Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation Of Nigeria, 2004, However, at the resumed trial on March 31, 2022, the convict through his lawyer, E. C. Ezeoke, signified his intention to change his not guilty plea. Consequently, the Judge adjourned for review of fact and sentence.

At the resumed hearing of the matter on Monday, the prosecutor, Mr. Abu Ibrahim, of the review of fact of the charge has tendered some exhibits, which includes: the Convict's confessional statement, his international passport, part of the analysed drug, the bulk of the drug and others which were admitted by the court.

Upon review of the facts of the charge and tendering of exhibits, the prosecutor urged the court to sentence the convict according to section 11(b) of NDLEA Act.

But his counsel, Ezeoke, pleaded with the court to tamper justice with mercy in sentencing the Convict.

Alleged €211,000 fraud: EFCC presents first witness against suspect

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has presented its first witness against one Ifekwu Dominic in a case before Justice S.O. Solebo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos on April 11, 2022.

Dominic is being prosecuted by the Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC on a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy to obtain money by false pretence, obtaining by false pretence, and possession of documents containing false pretence.

One of the counts reads: "Ifekwu Chukwuma Dominic, aka John Alfred, and Okechukwu, aka Connie Miller (at large), between 2014 and 2017, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud obtained the aggregate sum of 211,000 Euros from Imelda Dorflinger under the false representation that you Ifekwu Chukwuma Dominic had inherited gold from your father and needed the said money to pay taxes in order to enable you to have access to the gold, a representation you knew to be false."

Another count reads: "Ifekwu Chukwuma Dominic (aka John Alfred), on or about 22nd June 2016 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, and with intent to defraud, had in your possession document titled "Cashier Cheque", where you falsely represented to Imelda Dorflinger that you have been issued a cheque valued at \$590,000.00 and which document you knew contained false information."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges prompting the commencement of his trial.

During the proceedings, the witness, Mma Adamu Alhaji, an operative of the EFCC, who was led in evidence by the prosecuting counsel, I.O. Daramola, told the Court that the EFCC received a petition against the defendant sometime in September 2021 in which the defendant was accused to have defrauded his victim, Imelda Dorflinger, a German national, by posing as one John Alfred, with whom she developed an online friendship.

Court convicts undergraduate for cybercrime in Ibadan

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Justice Ladiran Akintola of the State High Court, Ibadan, Oyo State, has convicted one Ogunleye Olawale Sylvester to six months community service before for internet fraud.

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

The convict, who is a second year student of Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, was amongst those suspects arrested by officers of the Nigerian Army and handed over the EFCC for prosecution.

The convict pleaded guilty to one count charge. The count reads: "That you Ogunleye Olawale Sylvester on or about 11th November 2021, at Ibadan within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, impersonate David Miguel a white man from United States of America."

Upon his plea, the prosecution counsel, Sanusi Galadanchi reviewed the facts of the case and tendered indicting documents as evidence. He thereafter urged the court to convict and sentence the defendant as charged.

In his ruling, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Ogunleye to six months community service and ordered that he retribute the sum of \$550USD (Five Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars), and forfeit one Tecno Spark 3 mobile phone to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The CBN Governor and political affiliation

By the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act of 2007, the apex body is mandated to manage the monetary policies, 'issue legal tender currency in Nigeria; maintain external reserves to safeguard the international value of the legal tender currency; promote a sound financial system in Nigeria; act as Banker and provide economic and financial advice to the Federal Government'. It is currently being headed by Godwin Emefiele, who has served as Governor of the apex bank since June 4, 2014, having been appointed by the President Jonathan administration and reappointed by President Buhari. By the terms of engagement governing the bankers' bank, the CBN ought to be insulated from politics and politicking. It is worrying that, contrary to established conditions of service, the incumbent governor is deeply enmeshed in politicking.

In recent times Godwin Emefiele has been rumoured to nurse ambitions for the 2023 presidential ticket of the ruling party race. Many groups have reinforced the rumour through public displays and street activities. Cars branded with his name and campaign slogan have been seen around the country. The social media is also agog with such. The peak of it all came during the 26th of March 2022 APC National Convention when certain individuals thronged the venue and openly campaigned for him to be elected Nigeria's next president. This has raised fears and concerns from several quarters over the sensitivity of Emefiele's office. The Central Bank governor has neither identified with, nor dissociated himself from the many groups and their campaigns towards 2023.

The silence on the part of Mr. Emefiele is deafening. It contradicts the legally established neutrality of his office. The Central Bank of Nigeria is the chief implementer of the government's monetary policy. Policies from the Bank affect all states and individuals in

Nigeria irrespective of their political parties or orientations. Thus, anyone heading the apex bank should not be seen, conceived, portrayed, or perceived as being politically partisan, aligned with any political party. If he is, he is likely to be perceived as compromising or manipulating the monetary rules and fiscal policies of the country in favour of certain interests based on their political affiliations.

We condemn a situation in which our public officials continue to violate public service rules and other laws of the land without receiving appropriate sanctions. All arms of government, especially that which implements the law need to call Emefiele and others in his shoes into order without further delay.

We call on Mr. Godwin Emefiele to publicly declare if he has political aspiration, and then duly resign his office in line with the laws of the land. If he does not have such a plan or an aspiration, he should also publicly so declare and then repudiate any passion or support for the groups clamoring for him to run for political office.

Such canvassing groups too deserve to have some words of admonition. While we respect their freedom of expression, they should be careful not to drag Emefiele into murky waters. Such a thing portends danger to our political system and nascent democracy. It brings a conflict between stakeholders and vested interests. It may further expose the polity to 'accidental public servants' syndrome which certain political leaders in the past had used to explain away their incompetence and failure to perform in office. Neo liberal democracy operates in such a way that it is the individual aspirant who has a vision and pursues political offices to bring it forth.

Perhaps Emefiele needs to remember that his appointment was made by the PDP administration, but the current APC leadership retained him. This may not be unconnected with the professionalism with which he handled his office. One of the terrible things Emefiele can do at this point therefore is to compromise the integrity of the Central Bank.

The Central Bank of Nigeria needs to be always professional. The Governor, in the person of Godwin Emefiele, needs to be professional too. He should be politically neutral because people cannot afford to see policies of the CBN as being politically motivated. Emefiele needs no distraction at all from any political group because the economy is in dire straits. On the contrary, this is the time the Governor needs to be focused on the implementation of robust monetary policies that would support the fiscal policies of the government to grow the economy and address inflationary pressures.



THE TRUMPET

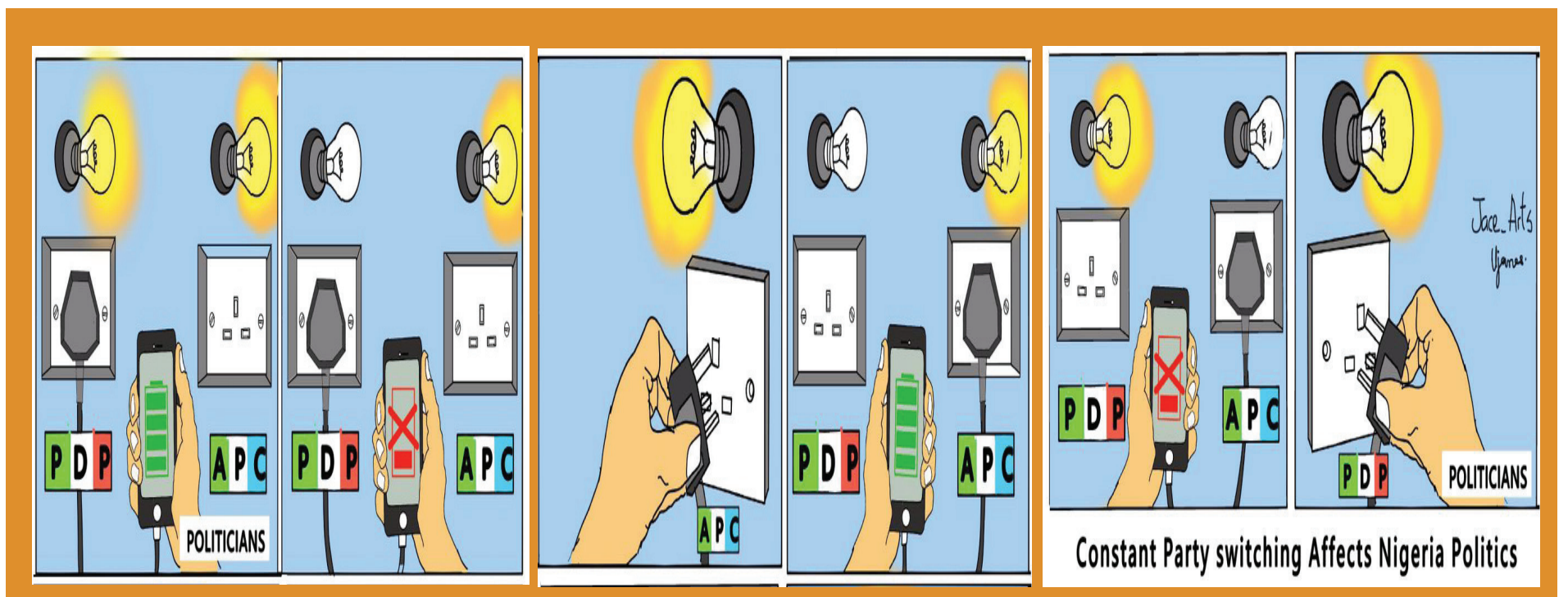
PUBLISHER/CHAIRMAN: **JOEL-ONOWAKPO THOMAS**
GMD/VICE CHAIRMAN: **GLORIA JOEL-ONOWAKPO**
EDITOR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: **OMOKIOJA JJK ETO**
WEEKEND EDITOR/DEIC: **OBAB SYLVA**
DEPUTY EDITOR: **EDWARD ADAMIDENYO**

ELOMAZ COMMUNICATIONS LTD

DIRECTOR: **NDUBISI FRANCES**
MANAGING DIRECTOR: **ENDURANCE EDAFEWOTU**

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: **CHIEF JOHN ARAKA**
ASSOCIATE CHAIRMAN: **PROF. HOPE EGHAGHA**
PROFESSOR **SAMUEL AGHALINO**
MALLAM LAWAL MOHAMMED HAMIDU
DR. PROMISE ADIELE
DR. KAYODE EESUOLA
ASSOC. PROF. SAMSON ALHAJI SHAIBU
DR. RALIA MAIJAMA'A ABDULLAHI
PROF OGHENEKARO OGBINAKA
EMAIL US @ **trumpetng@gmail.com**



Promise ADIELE

+234 80 37 1975 90
email: Promee01@yahoo.com



Sex, that biological indulgence between an adult male and female yielding their bodies to each other, is the central focus of Marvin Gaye's sell-out song Sexual Healing. Released in 1982, it cascades global amorous scene, especially for those submerged in romantic misadventure. In recognition of its universal appeal, it won Marvin Gaye two Grammy Awards from the album Midnight Love. Unfortunately, Marvin Gaye's father assassinated him a day before his 45th birthday on the 1st of April 1984. Although Gaye has transited to eternity, Sexual Healing continues to stake a huge claim in a world skating on the fringes of infatuation, illusionary love, and ebbing passion. For those of us committed to using art as a veritable instrument for diverse interpretations of worldwide events, Gaye's Sexual Healing provides an immediate, suitable template for the analysis of the relationship between the ruler and the ruled and many political conditions in

Nigeria. In discussing sexual intercourse, I am minded to interrogating how Nigeria's romance with their government easily establishes a parallel with 'the very act' concerning the 2023 elections. Religious fanatics and their sanctimonious inclinations should please look away and stay aloof. Their façade of holiness does not stimulate the mind or advance humanity. This is serious interaction with serious-minded people. While the government gloats in glory like a satisfied man after an exciting sexual experience, Nigerians bleed in pain like a conquered young lady after a painful sexual experience. Given the activities of terrorists, bandits, and other forms of extended insecurity in all the different nuclei of our country, will there be a change of government in Nigeria in 2023? It does not seem so because the country may likely not be safe enough for an election to take place. Under such circumstances, what will happen? Of course, the current government will

2023: Nigeria's sexual healing

continue in office.

Before the 2015 elections, Nigerians were seduced by unseen hands, titillated by the Prince of Persia. Everyone lost a common sense of discernment, the environment mattered very little as we were all guided into the bedroom to be explored and vanquished by the Change mantra. That he had no school certificate mattered little. We made enemies with our friends who pointed these things out but we were adamant like a young girl that repudiates her parents for the sake of a man. Collectively, our hormones rose but failed to achieve the desired rhythm. When he made mistakes, we sheepishly excused them, believing that we will all climax together, at the hills of victory over clannishness, economic tragedy, nepotism, corruption, insecurity and socio-political backwardness. But alas, we have reached orgasm most shamefully. We have not been healed sexually. Reaching orgasm prematurely is a painful experience especially when the body is begging for more action. At such times, one is stranded delicately in the realm of sexual frustration and ennui. All the vices for which we voted him

to power have increased in double fold. Insecurity has acquired a monstrous physique. The economy is in shambles too. Everyone is hanging on a precipice, waiting to tip over the abyss, looking and expecting 2023 to come quickly.

In 1984, did Nigerians enjoy the military regime? It was pain, pain, and more pain during the 'very act' but in 2015, we collectively wanted a repeat of that same pain. A brutal sexual partner will always remain the same even if he changes to a new garment. The first pain was in 1984, second pain was in 2015. Should we allow another pain in 2023? Look, read between the lines, think and observe the trends? Why is it that banditry and insecurity have both increased across the country? The thrusting has been painful for Nigerians. Yes, it has been a very painful and excruciating experience. Will this pain occur again in 2023? I see a situation where, if the banditry and insecurity become rampant, elections will be postponed. Then the current government will remain in power. I have come to this painful conclusion because it defies reasons why the armed forces of Nigeria cannot defeat ordinary

bandits. They stroll around now with daring impunity. They enter airports, bomb rails, kill passengers on trains, enter schools, block roads, and do whatever they like without any form of molestation. Do you in all honesty and responsibility think that elections will hold under such an inauspicious atmosphere?

Pastor Adeboye's veiled remark about the 2023 mirage is well known to everyone. We have been depredated like a woman that ignorantly but willingly submitted her body for the very act. We have been inflicted with utmost pain and conquered as a group. But it becomes a problem if we allow this pain to happen again in a graduated dimension. No rape victim ever wants to be raped a second time. No, let us resist what is coming. Sex, like governance, should be enjoyed not endured. Let the pain not happen again. Shockingly, our political gladiators jostling to occupy Aso Rock in 2023 have not asked themselves if there is indeed any vacancy in the seat of power. Nigeria is bigger than what is coming. IBB shifted the goal post many times when he was in power, but at some point, the pain became unbearable and Nigerians rose to chase him away just like when a woman is dissatisfied

in the very act and pushes her conqueror away. Even with his military boots, he couldn't succeed. I am however worried that those who chased IBB away are now tired from sexual exhaustion, they are limp, weary, and fatigued from diverse gratifications.

It is exactly one year before the general elections. Does Nigeria look like a country where elections will hold in twelve months? No media orientation for voters, no jingles too. Except for fanfare by the political parties, there is nothing political about the country. There is nothing to suggest that there will be an election here next year. If the painful sexual experience of the last seven years is not rejected, we will return to that same bed where the pillow has been soaked with our tears. Will elections hold in Nigeria next year or will the current government extend its tenure because due to insecurity, elections will not hold? Let us all stand up, dust our clothes and never return to this bed of sexual injury.

• *Dr. Adiele, a member of The Trumpet Editorial Board, teaches English at Mountain Top University and can be reached via Promee01@yahoo.com.*

Blossom OKIEMUTE CHUKWU

0803 088 7339



The South-East Governors Forum recently declared an open opposition against the secessionist groups in the region, notably the Independent People's of Biafra, (IPOB). They also threatened to launch counter-secessionist groups, in a bid to stand up more to the IPOB. Though this is seen as a welcome development from the South-East Governors, most analysts are of the opinion that the Governors have not done enough to daily reduce the influence of this group that has been advocating for the region's supposed ethnic agenda of segregation.

As a confirmation to the school of thought that the South-East Governors need to do more to wipe off secessionist influences, the leadership of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), has 'boldly' said the Governors of the South-East geopolitical zone and the elites in the region will not be allowed to decide the

fate of the Igbos. The group also noted that alleged plans by Governors of the zone to launch counter-secessionist groups, was dead on arrival, claiming that the people have lost confidence in them.

The secessionist group reacted to the statement credited to the Chairman, South-East Governors' Forum and Governor of Ebonyi State, David Umahi, who said leaders of the zone were more comfortable sticking with Nigeria than moving with Biafra. The Governor had also said counter-secessionist groups would arise if IPOB did not stop killings in the zone. Meanwhile, IPOB, in a statement by its Director of Media and Publicity, Emma Powerful, on Thursday October 7, 2021, lashed out at the Governors in this regard, emphasising the point that the Governors will not be allowed to decide the fate of the Igbos. Meanwhile, current

IPOB and S'East govs on sit-at-home orders

Anambra State governor, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, has directed the people of the state to observe a one-day prayer to counter what he called the "evil" effect of the Mondays sit-at-home order in the State. The governor, who gave the order on Saturday April 2, said the prayer session will work against the activities of the gunmen terrorising the state and the South-East region.

As he said the prayer session would hold on Monday, April 4, 2022, in churches and other religious worship centres across the state, he spoke at a stakeholders' peace meeting with security chiefs, traditional and religious leaders, in Awka, the state capital.

The sit-at-home orders has therefore become a major issue that can no longer be ignored in the state and region at large. This is because the outlawed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), from July 30, 2021, has continued to order sit-at-home in the region. It has also threatened to shut down economic activities in the region, adding that violators of the order would

be visited with violence.

It is on record that he sit-at-home order was originally engineered to protest against the arrest and detention of IPOB's leader, Nnamdi Kanu. However, after a while it scrapped the directive in the South-East region, saying the development was to embrace peaceful negotiations. Despite the suspension, majority of South-East residents still observe the order, shunning businesses and commercial activities.

The sit-at-home development has really taken a toll on the region's economy as banks, shops and other organisations remained shut on Mondays over the fear of attack.

As the Trumpet newspaper gathered, Governor Soludo ordered all public servants in Anambra State to always report to work on Mondays, like every other weekday. Meanwhile, on Saturday April 2, Soludo asked the Nigerian government to handle the trial of Nnamdi Kanu with speed or release him from detention.

With this declaration, the point here remains that

if Nnamdi Kanu is guilty as charged, the call from Governor Soludo should not be for the speedy release of Nnamdi Kanu, but that his case should be decided as fast as possible, to prevent societal negative elements from taking advantage of his trial to inflict more pain on the society. This is just like what the IPOB is turning itself to.

The question then is, if the IPOB and other like groups have been put where they ought to be in society, will they have the boldness to openly lash out at the Governors the way they have done? Will they have the political will to ask people to sit-at-home repeatedly and people will obey their orders in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear?

This is why it is pertinent for the South-East government and the federal government to do much more, in order to bring these questionable characters to book. This they can achieve by:

A massive re-orientation that will should sweep through the region, making the people understand that the solution to their

challenges does not lie in the creation of another state called Biafra, and helping the people walk in the light of a greater nation as they all contribute their quota to nation building.

Just like the Chairman, South-East Governors' Forum and Governor of Ebonyi State, David Umahi, has earlier said, there is no profit for the Igbos in aiming for Biafra, rather than working for a better representation in the Nigerian national circle.

Though Nigerians have misappropriated opportunities in government and different sectors of service, if IPOB's ultimate goal is truly the general good of all, even as they work for the good of their immediate communities, then, it is time for them to sheathe their swords and move forward in the true quest for justice and equity. This definitely is far more honourable, than looking for opportunities to bring the nation down both internally and internationally. It is time to be more honourable.

• *Mrs. Chukwu is on the freelance team of The Trumpet.*

ASUU reveals conditions for resumption of lectures

Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) Abuja zone says there will be no resumption in the ivory towers until a renegotiated 2009 agreement is signed, implemented and the University Transparency and Accountability Solution (UTAS) deployed.

Dr Salawu Muhammed Lawal, the ASUU Zonal Coordinator, disclosed this during a press conference at the University of Abuja in Gwagwalada.

According to him, the members are ever ready to return to their duty post as soon as their demands are met by the Federal Government.

He said: "You would recall that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) declared a four week rolling strike at the University of Lagos National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held on February 14.

"Owing to the failure of the Federal Government to act within that period, the national action was rolled over for another eight weeks following the resolution taken at an emergency NEC meeting at the Festus Iyayi National Secretariat on March 14.

"The action as you are probably aware is to among other things, compel the Federal Government to sign and implement the draft renegotiated 2009 ASUU-FGN Agreement submitted to it by the Prof. Munzali Committee since May 2021.

"Deploy for use in the Nigerian university system, was the home-grown payment and personnel solution called UTAS developed by ASUU as replacement for the failed IPPIS.

"As usual, the Federal Government has ignored ASUU's call for full implementation of that famous agreement and other memoranda signed with the union.

"No meeting has been held between the two parties since the commencement of the ongoing strike. The only exception is our union's re-submission of UTAS for a retest.

"The summary is that unless and until the renegotiated 2009 agreement is signed and implemented and UTAS deployed, there will be no work in public universities" he made this known."

The Abuja zone comprises Federal University of Lafia, Federal University of Technology Minna, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, and the University of Abuja.

ASUU has been on strike for the past 57 days.

Transport varsity, Daura takes off in September

Stories by **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH**, Education Correspondent

Minister Transportation, Hon. Rotimi Amaechi, has said that the University of Transport Technology, Daura, Katsina State, would commence activities by September 2022.

Amaechi gave the assertion at the site of the University in Daura after inspecting the level of work and taking a tour of the project in company of his Permanent Secretary, Magdalene Ajani, the Managing Director of Nigerian Railway Corporation, Fidet Okhiria, and other management staffers of the ministry.

According to him, "They (the contractors) said it remains seven buildings and that they will be ready before September.

"I have asked the permanent secretary to invite them for a meeting so that this school can start functioning from September.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the university was done by President Muham-

madu Buhari in December 2019, the project is being handled by China Civil Engineering Construction (CCECC).

The Minister also visited the Dala Inland Dry Port in Kano, he commended the contractors for the work done so far and urged them to ensure speedy completion of the project to enable President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurate it on time.

"If you say I'm not impressed that will be wrong. They promised me that they will complete the project by today.

"Have they completed the structures? Yes, but I didn't see the landscaping, the landscape has not been completed. So, I said until they complete the landscaping, I will not be able to bring the president here.

"Once they complete the landscaping, we can then bring the president to come and inaugurate the project, but it appears they have finished the structures," he affirmed.



Rotimi Amaechi

'FG spends N12bn monthly on feeding schoolchildren'

Federal Government spends about N12 billion on the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes (NHGSFP) monthly under the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (MHADMSD).

Dr Umar Bindir, National Coordinator, National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) of the Ministry said this on Monday in Abuja at a two-day stakeholders consultative workshop on the development of a national policy for NHGSFP.

He emphasizes the need for the country to have a national policy on school feeding programme to ensure sustainability.

According to him, the national school feeding programme

which was launched in 2016 was cost intensive as over N10 million children were captured under the scheme with each given a meal of N100 per day by the Buhari administration.

"Today we are focusing on the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP) to develop an inclusive policy for NHGSFP.

"This is to ensure that it is sustainable, measurable and highly impactful as directed by Mr President.

"As we speak we are feeding an average of 10 million children with the potential of that number increasing to 12 million probably in the next few weeks or months.

"Based on the impact of the

programme – attracting children to school, ensuring the children are healthy, the children of the poor and vulnerable attending school longer it is necessary that the programme is sustained," he said.

Mr Kim Do-Hwan, Head, Capacity Strengthening and Policy Coherence, UN World Food Program (UNWFP), gave his remarks.

He said the objective of the workshop was to engage critical stakeholders, who would jointly identify and agree on key components of a national school feeding policy.

Do-Hwan continued that the policy development process would take into account broad considerations that would benefit the NHGSFP as it was being implemented across the country.

He further said that the policy would serve as a foundation for the success and sustainability of the NHGSFP.

"It will remain as a guiding document that ensures continued investment from national and sub-national stakeholders beyond any singular political dispensation.

"The NHGSFP is a key pathway for the government of Nigeria to achieve one of its own objectives to advance progress towards the Sustainability Development Goal (SDG 2) on zero hunger.

"This aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improved

nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture."

Do-Hwan consequently assured UNWFP's commitment to support the achievement of SDG 2 in the country through effective partnerships, knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening.

JAMB releases results of 2022 mock examination

Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) has released this year's mock Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) results.

The board disclosed this in its weekly bulletin issued by the Head of Media and Public Relations, JAMB, Dr Fabian Benjamin, in Abuja.

The Mock UTME was conducted on 9th April, 2022.

According to JAMB, 175,978 candidates indicated interest to sit the mock examination in 757 centres.

The optional exercise was introduced by JAMB to give candidates the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) environment.

Those who sat for the mock examination should visit <https://www.jamb.gov.ng>, Click on "2022

Mock Result Checking" and input their

UTME Registration Number to access their results.



Umar Bindir



Donald Trump's daughter, fiancé on 'spiritual visit' to pastor Adefarasin

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE, METRO EDITOR/LAGOS BUREAU CHIEF

Daughter of an immediate past president of the United States of America (USA), Tiffany Trump, and her fiancé, Michael Boulos, have paid a visit to the House On The Rock Church in Lagos State.

During the visit to the church, the former president's daughter and her fiancé were received by the General Overseer of the religious centre, Paul Adefarasin.

Adefarasin confirmed the visit in a post on his Instagram handle on Monday and described their visit to his church as a fellowship hour with Donald Trump's 28 year-old daughter and Boulos, a son of a Lebanese-Nigerian-based

businessman.

In the picture released by the clergyman, Tiffany and her 24 year-old fiancé were seen listening attentively to Adefarasin during their discussion within the church premises.

Adefarasin, in another post, said one of the main highlights of his "past weeks was meeting Tiffany Trump and Micheal Boulos, who are engaged and thriving in their journey!"

"It was also particularly special to have spent this evening with some very dear friends, Tony & Oma Attah, Jide & Sola Coker, Nkiru Anumudu, Toyin Saraki, my beautiful wife Ifeanyi, and the hosts and parents of the couple, Sarah & Massad Boulos.

"To Tiffany and Michael,

thank you for being open with us and sharing your beautiful stories. This is just the beginning, so my advice to you, is to enjoy the process," Adefarasin added.

Tiffany and Boulos' visit to the church came barely a year after they got engaged, with the young Boulos presenting to Tiffany a 13-carat emerald-cut diamond from Dubai, said to be worth \$1.2 million.

Tiffany's fiancé has been described as an heir to billions of naira worth of investments, he was raised in Lagos and is a naturalised Nigerian.

His father, Massad, is the Chief Executive Officer of SCOA Nigeria. His mother, Sarah, is the founder of the Society for the Performing Arts in Nigeria.



His family moved to Lagos when he was an infant and attended the American International School of Lagos in Nigeria before proceeding to London, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Global

Business Management from Regent's University in 2018. He also bagged a Master's Degree in Project Management, Finance and Risk at City, at the University of London in 2019.

Boulos has been the Associate Director of SCOA Nigeria since 2016, the Director of Fadoul Group since 2019 and the Business Development Manager of Royalton Investment since 2019.

'Jealous woman' arrested for allegedly pouring hot water on another lady

By ALEX OLISE

Operatives of the Lagos State Police Command attached to the Ajah Division, have arrested a woman for pouring hot water on another lady for seeing her with her husband discussing together.

Police investigating the matter said the woman acted out of jealousy, without finding out what the husband was discussing with the other lady,

Man allegedly kills girlfriend, sleeps with corpse for six days

A man, Ifeanyi Njoku, has been arrested for allegedly killing his girlfriend, Precious Okeke, 24, in an estate at Badore, in the Ajah area of Lagos State, Thecitypulseneews reports.

Source revealed that the live-in lovers stayed on Oke Street, where Njoku allegedly killed his girlfriend for ritual purposes.

We learnt that a native doctor, who was assisting the suspect, instructed him to have sex with Okeke's corpse.

Njoku was said to have engaged in the illicit act with the corpse for six days, as the stench emanating from his apartment prompted his neighbours to inform the management of the estate.

A source, Elizabeth John, said during a search of the apartment, Okeke's decomposing corpse was found.

She said, "The boy killed his girlfriend about six days ago, and he confessed that he wanted to use the girl for money rituals. He said he was told that he should have sex with his girlfriend's corpse for seven days, but he was caught on the sixth day, Monday is supposed to make it the seventh day today (Tuesday).

before she took the option.

"The victim suffered serious injuries, which will cost so much to get treated."

According to the police, the suspect will be charged to court if both parties fail to settle the matter amicably before the end of the week.

It would be recalled that another housewife poured acid on a woman two weeks ago in the Ojo area of the state, in a suspected case of suspicion, without tangible evidence.

The victim of the latest incident is currently receiving treatment in an undisclosed hospital at Ajah, while the suspect is still being interrogated by the police.

Police to prosecute husband of late Osinachi, as FG vows to ensure justice

By ALEX OLISE

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command says it would charge Mr. Peter Nwachukwu, husband of the late gospel artist, Osinachi Nwachukwu, to court for culpable homicide.

It was gathered that the suspect, who is already in police detention, has been transferred to the FCT Command's Homicide Department for further investigation.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, Josephine Akeh, who made the disclosure, said Nwachukwu would be charged to court as soon as investigation into the matter is concluded.

Akeh, in an interview told our Correspondent that Nwachukwu, who is currently being detained at the Lugbe Police Station in the FCT, was arrested after the younger brother of the deceased reported the matter at the police station.

"We arrested the husband based on the report we got from the younger brother of the deceased gospel singer that he suspected the husband for culpable homicide, and we will communicate to you as the case progresses," she said.

But a police source, who would not want to be mentioned in print, said that following the transfer of the case to the homicide

department, the police has made certain revelations that would aid its investigation.

The source said that the police already have a voice recording of the deceased, where she narrated her ordeal while on admission at the hospital. In the said voice recording, the deceased was alleged to have said that her husband should be held responsible if anything happened to her.

The source said the voice message was recorded in Igbo language, which has since been translated by Igbo police officers to the police. It added that the suspect, who has since been transferred to the FCT homicide department,

has been behaving funny and not cooperating with the police. The source said that the suspect has written different statements as to how his wife died.

Accordingly, the suspect was said to have confessed that he used to beat his wife in the early years of their marriage, but had since stopped beating her.

Nwachukwu was said to have told investigators that his wife suffered cancer of the lungs, which he said was detected at the National Hospital and the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital, and that she had been on admission at the National Hospital for about 21 days before she passed on.

Ikoyi building collapse: LASBCA GM resumes duty, charges staffers on professional conduct

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

The General Manager of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Oki, has charged staff of the Agency to maintain professional conduct in all their official dealings.

Speaking at a meeting held recently with the staff of LASBCA, at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, after resuming of-

ficial duties, Oki expressed his gratitude to God for his vindication and subsequent reinstatement by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Oki, who thanked the members of staff for keeping the flag of the agency flying while he was away, promised to work even harder on his return, to ensure sanity in the built environment of Lagos State.

He noted that more

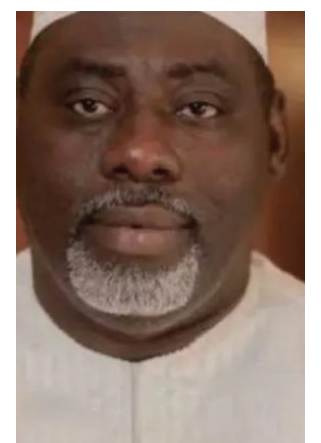
work has to be done to rid the state of illegal and non-conforming structures that could lead to building collapse, especially as the rainy season approaches.

The General Manager emphasised that all hands must be on deck to enforce the zero-tolerance to building collapse policy of the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in Lagos.

He enjoined everyone

to contribute their quota and prioritise teamwork in achieving the mandates of LASBCA and ultimately the T.H.E.M.E.S. Agenda of the State Government.

Recall that the General Manager of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Oki was suspended in November 2021, following the collapse of a 21-storey high-rise building along Gerrard Road in Ikoyi.



Oyo police declare man wanted for assaulting pregnant wife

By ALEX OLISE

The Oyo State Police Command says it has launched a manhunt for a middle-aged man for allegedly assaulting his wife.

This was confirmed by a top police source, after an incident which occurred in the accused's residence, where he was seen beating

his pregnant wife over Sahur (pre-dawn meal).

It was gathered that the distasteful incident happened around 4am at their residence, in Ogbere Housing Estate, Ibadan, Oyo State.

According to an eye witness, "This man always beats his wife over any little misunderstanding they have. I was able to record today's

event. He's a Muslim, so I think they had an argument over Sahur."

"This man didn't mind that she was pregnant with his second child and started pouncing on her. She waited for hours before she was able to flee to her parent's house. Meanwhile, the man has fled his house after being declared wanted by security

personnel."

In a related ugly development, a pregnant woman, two month-old baby, and two others have allegedly lost their lives during an early morning fire at the Bonny-Bille-Nembe Jetty in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Also, over 40 boats were burnt in the fire, said to be caused by persons who

attempted to load illegally-refined products, popularly known as 'Kpofire' in the local parlance.

The fire started at about mid hour, even as the victims, which also included a male adult, were reportedly burnt beyond recognition.

Rivers State Police Command have launched an investigation into the incident.



ADVERT RATES

SERIES DISCOUNT
 5-10 Insertions - 2.5% Extra
 10-15 Insertions - 5% Extra
 15-20 Insertions - 7.5% Extra
 21 Insertions and above - 10% Extra

All materials saved in CD or Flash Drive
 CorelDraw with All Fonts Curved.
 Colour - JPEG or PDF in CMYK
 Black and White - JPEG or PDF in Grayscale
 Proof must be attached with CD or Flash Drive
 All materials to reach us maximum 24hrs before publication

For Advert booking, pls call: Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368 09155587787

COLOR RATE			PUBLIC NOTICE			CORPORATE NOTICE			PRODUCT, COMPULIFE AND PROPERTY			
SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	Obituary, Goodwill Message, Annual Reports & AGMS, Financial Statements	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	6,135.10	6,595.23	1 x 1	5,664.59	6,089.43	1 x 1	4,587.47	4,931.53	1 x 1	3,786.98	4,071.00	
1 x 2	12,448.80	13,382.46	1 x 2	11,294.45	12,141.54	1 x 2	9,174.94	9,863.07	1 x 2	7,573.97	8,142.02	
2 x 2	24,941.96	26,812.61	2 x 2	22,588.91	24,283.09	2 x 2	18,349.89	19,716.64	2 x 2	15,147.94	16,284.03	
3 x 2	37,413.09	40,219.07	3 x 2	33,987.48	36,622.04	3 x 2	27,524.84	29,589.20	3 x 2	22,721.91	24,426.05	
4 x 2	49,884.02	53,625.42	4 x 2	45,177.83	48,566.17	4 x 2	36,700.09	39,452.60	4 x 2	30,295.53	32,657.70	
5 x 2	62,355.15	67,031.71	5 x 2	56,472.29	60,707.71	5 x 2	45,866.19	49,315.34	5 x 2	37,863.00	40,710.09	
6 x 2	76,142.50	81,853.18	6 x 2	67,975.12	73,073.25	6 x 2	55,049.68	59,178.41	6 x 2	45,443.82	48,852.10	
7 x 2	87,297.21	93,844.50	6 x 3	101,962.78	109,609.99	6 x 3	54,074.55	61,200.90	7 x 2	53,017.79	56,993.61	
7 x 3	166,172.00	179,229.37	6.5 x 3	110,459.64	118,744.11	6.5 x 3	89,455.78	96,164.94	8 x 2	60,591.76	65,136.14	
7 x 4	197,125.00	211,909.37	7 x 2	79,304.29	85,252.11	7 x 2	64,224.63	69,041.48	9 x 2	80,454.83	86,488.95	
8 x 2	99,768.24	107,250.85	7 x 3	128,456.43	138,090.67	7 x 3	96,336.94	103,562.21	10 x 2	86,147.92	92,609.02	
9 x 2	112,183.69	120,597.47	7 x 4	158,608.73	170,504.38	7 x 4	145,965.10	156,912.48	14.5 x 2	124,915.92	134,284.61	
9 x 3	168,358.90	180,985.39	7 x 5	198,260.25	213,129.77	7 x 5	182,500.19	196,187.71	5 x 3	56,804.77	61,065.13	
10 x 3	187,065.45	201,095.35	8 x 2	90,633.42	97,430.92	8 x 2	73,399.58	78,904.54	6 x 3	68,170.86	73,283.67	
14.5 x 2	260,395.00	279,924.62	8 x 3	135,950.22	146,146.48	8 x 3	125,871.78	134,674.05	7 x 3	79,526.68	85,491.18	
8 x 4	199,536.48	214,501.71	8 x 4	181,266.93	194,841.95	8 x 4	167,043.40	179,022.80	8 x 3	103,375.58	111,130.80	
9 x 4	224,478.54	241,314.43	8 x 5	226,238.74	254,477.52	8 x 5	208,805.79	224,469.23	6 x 4	100,634.10	110,944.41	
10 x 4	299,302.72	321,752.57	8 x 6	271,900.48	292,008.02	8 x 6	250,284.32	269,911.09	7 x 4	120,404.56	129,434.90	
14.5 x 4	520,790.19	559,849.45	9 x 2	101,962.78	109,609.99	9 x 2	93,773.60	100,872.44	8 x 4	137,692.17	148,019.082	
7 x 5	218,243.02	234,629.74	9 x 3	152,944.01	164,414.81	9 x 3	141,108.54	151,691.68	10 x 4	172,301.37	185,224.22	
8 x 5	299,304.72	321,752.57	9 x 4	203,925.29	219,219.69	9 x 4	187,921.52	202,015.71	14.5 x 3	187,057.43	201,086.73	
8 x 6	359,165.65	386,103.08	9 x 5	305,373.04	328,276.02	9 x 5	281,288.07	303,022.10	14.5 x 4	249,838.03	268,575.88	
9 x 5	404,061.37	434,365.97	9 x 6	367,065.92	394,595.86	9 x 6	337,805.68	363,141.11	7 x 5	141,001.98	161,793.93	
10 x 5	448,957.08	482,628.86	10 x 3	169,651.36	182,375.21	10 x 3	156,602.81	168,348.02	8 x 5	172,116.65	185,025.40	
11 x 5	493,852.78	530,891.74	10 x 4	226,258.00	243,176.28	10 x 4	208,808.58	224,469.23	9 x 6	278,649.91	299,548.66	
9 x 6	484,873.39	521,239.16	10 x 5	354,037.54	380,590.16	10 x 5	325,815.11	349,966.25	11 x 5	295,636.20	317,808.91	
10 x 6	538,748.49	579,154.53	10 x 6	424,845.04	456,708.42	10 x 6	390,978.13	420,320.48	11 x 6	340,573.10	340,466.08	
11 x 6	592,622.16	637,068.82	11 x 5	389,441.887	418,650.01	11 x 5	358,396.62	385,276.37	HP7.25 X 6	218,226.87	234,593.89	
HP 7.25 x 6	317,178.40	340,337.5	11 x 6	447,303.49	480,851.24	11 x 6	412,916.45	443,885.19	FP14.5 X 6	379,943.00	408,438.72	
FP 14.5 x 6	560,500.00	602,537.50	14.5 X 2	197,128.09	211,912.70	14.5 x 2	151,178.45	162,516.84				
			14.5 X 4	394,256.19	423,825.40	14.5 x 4	362,827.71	390,039.79				
			14.5 X 5	472,286.06	507,707.52	HP7.25 X 6	246,131.63	264,591.50				
			HP7.25 X 6	269,191.05	289,380.38	14.5 X 5	431,525.39	463,889.79				
			FP 14.5 X 6	460,275.00	594,225.62	FP14.5 X 5	423,373.39	455,126.39				
						Double Spread Half Page	832,371.68	894,805.68				
						Double Spread Full Page	1,334,669.15	1,434,769.344				

SPECIAL POSITIONS

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT	SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
Earpiece Front Page 1x2	201,875.00	217,015.62	Page 8 (Full Page)	750,000.00	806,787.50
Earpiece Front Page 2x2	403,750.00	434,031.25	Page 9 (Full Page)	674,500.00	725,087.00
Earpiece Front Page 3x2	593,750.00	638,281.25	Wrap around 1 Front Strip 1 Back Strip 4 Full Page Pull Out	25,650,000.00	27,573,750.00
Earpiece Back Page 2x2	409,687.50	440,414.06	4x6 Front Page	5,187,000.00	5,576,025.00
Earpiece Back Page 3x2	628,187.50	675,301.56	6x6 Front Page	6,982,500.00	7,506,187.50
Inside Earpiece 2x2	199,500.00	214,462.50	7x6 Front Page	9,975,000.00	10,723,220.00
Inside Earpiece 3x2	285,000.00	307,325.00	10x6 Front Page	14,250,000.00	15,318,750.00
Centre Spread	1,795,500.00	1,930,162.50	FP (Strip) 2x6	641,891.25	690,033.09
Double Spread	1,558,000.00	1,674,850.00	BP (Strip) 2x6	625,452.64	670,319.08
Centre Spread (HP)	1,017,063.80	1,093,343.59	Back Page 10x6	5,320,000.00	5,782,750.00
Double Spread (HP)	741,000.00	796,575.00	ROP 2x12	771,400.00	829,255.00
Page 2 (Full Page)	1,420,250.00	1,526,768.75	ROP (Strip) 2x6 Colour	266,000.00	285,950.00
Page 3 (Full Page)	1,311,000.00	1,409,325.00	ROP (Strip) 2.6 (B/W)	717,000.00	763,825.00
Page 4 (Full Page)	1,187,500.00	1,276,562.50	3x6 Front Page	1,140,000.00	1,225,500.00
Page 5 (Full Page)	1,064,000.00	1,143,800.00	2x6 Under Mast Head	3,990,000.00	4,289,250.00
Page 6 (Full Page)	940,500.00	993,937.50	12x2 Front Page	4,788,000.00	5,147,100.00
Page 7 (Full Page)	817,000.00	878,275.00			

LOOSE INSERT ADVERTS

Handling Charge	95,000.00
RATE PER 1,000 COPIES	
SINGLE	19,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	38,000.00
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS	
Technical Data	
Number of Columns	- Six (06)
Full Page Depth	- 14.5 inches
Full Page Width	- 10 3/8 inches
Print Process	- Web Offset Litho
OPTIONS FOR ADVERT MATERIAL	
COPY DATE	
WITHIN ABUJA	- 5 Days prior to publication
OUTSIDE ABUJA	- 7 Days prior to publication
CANCELLATION	
Cancellation will only be accepted stated in writing at least five working days before publication.	
Note: Late Cancellation of Advert will Attract 40% Penalty	
<small>For more information, contact: The Advertisement Department, THE TRUMPET Head Office: 506 Oladipo Diya Street, Abuja, FCT. www.thetrumpet.ng, Email: info@elomazmedia.com Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368</small>	



Nigerians, businesses reach crisis point under constant collapse of national grid

*Nigeria has some of the brightest minds in the world, with most of them either born and bred in the country or in the Diaspora doing well in most countries of the world. Surprisingly, over six decades after Nigeria's independence, the country constantly remains under the spell of epileptic power supply and total darkness. Lamentably, with the several billions of dollars successive administrations had injected into the power sector, the nation still grapples with the worse power crisis ever, **JOHNMARK UKOKO** writes.*

From the days of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (ECN) to the National Electricity Power Authority (NEPA), Power Holden Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and the current unburdened power sector under the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Generating Companies of Nigeria (GenCos) and Distribution Companies of Nigeria (DisCos), the story remains the same and has even become worse.

Nigerians have had to grapple with epileptic power supply for several years, leading to the death of many Nigerians either during operation in hospitals as a result of power outage or in firms that rely on uninterrupted power supply only to be disappointed by public power cut and many local manufacturing firms that had to shut down their plants due to lack of electricity or had to relocate to the neighbouring countries where stable power supply is guaranteed.

In the current political dispensation, successive administrations have injected huge sums of money into the power sector, but Nigerians and the business sector wriggle under constant collapse of the national grid, thereby leaving Nigerians and the businesses without public power supply.

President Olusegun Obasanjo was reported to have spent \$16 billion on the power sector, without commensurate impact to the extent that at the twilight of his administration, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Power, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu, who represents Aniocha Federal Constituency of Delta State, wondered where the \$16 billion went.

Former President Goodluck Jonathan administration also spent several billions of dollars in the country's comatose power sector and at the end of his administration, power generation stood at a mere 5,000 megawatts.

Brilliant minds like the late Bola Ige, Prof. Bartholomew Nnaji and other great Nigerians were appointed as ministers of power under President Obasanjo, the late former President Umaru Yar'Dua and Jonathan without much improvement in the sector.

When President Muhammadu Buhari's administration assumed office, with his change mantra, he promised to fix the country's troubled power sector once and for all and to fulfill his pledge, Buhari appointed former governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Raji Fashola as Minister of Housing, Works and Power with a view to overcoming the country's perennial power challenges.

Four years after, in the saddle, the story was the same, it was one national grid collapse after another news that Nigerians were told by



Muda Yusuf

Fashola, prompting President Buhari to replace Fashola with Saleh Mamman.

When the former Lagos State governor was removed from the power sector, many Nigerians hailed the move, based on the fact that Fashola is a lawyer and as such is novice in the power sector, which ordinarily should be the turf of electrical and mechanical engineers.

They described Mamman's appointment as "a round peg in a round hole," but two and half years after, President Buhari sacked Mamman over poor performance, as his tenure witnessed several collapses of the national grid like his other colleagues, who held sway before him.

Mamman was sacked in September 2021 and was replaced immediately by Abubakar Aliyu, who was before his redeployment, Minister of State for Works and Housing.

At his resumption of office, Aliyu promised to turn the fortunes of the power sector around saying: "Nigeria was in Slumber for over 30 years until President Buhari took over in 2015."

He said due to the power sector reforms embarked upon by the Buhari administration, foreigners are now willing to invest in the sector.

Speaking earlier in the year at the Nigeria international partnership forum in Paris, France, he said the government was wooing foreigners to invest in the sector, just as he showcased all the policies and practical steps the government had taken to attract

foreign investors into the sector.

But in spite of the promises, the country had witnessed collapse of the national grid four times this year alone and with each collapse, the entire country had been thrown into total darkness for days.

Most Nigerians have, therefore, insisted that Aliyu like Mamman, Fashola and all the Minister of Power beginning from the late Ige had failed to delivered on the promises they made to Nigerians.

Speaking to The Trumpet on why the country had been unable to fix its power sector challenges, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), Dr. Muda Yusuf, blamed the sector's challenges on policies and political interference.

He said the power sector reforms had not adequately addressed the challenges and delivered the desired outcomes, while citizens expectations remain largely unmet, adding that the privatisation of the power sector had failed and that the constant collapse of the national grid had become an embarrassment to the country.

"The entire experience in the power sector has given privatisation a bad name. There are issues of due diligence, technical capacity, financial capacity, political interference, metering issues and other challenges," he lamented.

Yusuf, who blamed the DisCos owners for arbitrary billing and their failure

to provide Nigerians prepaid meters, insisted that they were responsible for payment defaults by many Nigerians, adding that electricity theft, technical losses and cost reflective tariff were some of the issues hampering the growth of the sector.

He also raised concerns about the capacity of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) Plc to effectively play its role of providing liquidity to support the country's electricity supply chain.

Yusuf raised the issue of scarcity of gas to supply for power generation, adding that there was the need for more holistic approach to the multiple challenges facing the country's power sector.

On the effects of the constant failure of the national grid, Managing Director of Liberty Industries Nigeria Limited, Abuh Kamal, said he could not understand why the grid continued to crash, saying the government should sanction engineers working in the sector.

He said the constant collapse of the grid had compelled many manufacturers to relocate to neighbouring countries where stable power supply is guaranteed.

"To be candid, the Federal Government should no longer tolerate all the excuses being given by the Minister of Power. He should be fired. Not just him, but with the top engineers working in the sector.

"If government comes hard at them, there will be a remarkable change in the situation. I am aware Nigeria has brilliant engineers as other professionals. So, I can't understand why the power situation has not improved since 1999 when huge amounts had been invested in the sector," he lamented.

Others who responded to the power crisis, said seven years into the President Buhari's administration, the power situation has not improved.

As President Buhari asked Obasanjo a few years ago after the Elumelu Committee discovered that his (Obasanjo's) administration pushed a whopping \$16 billion into the power sector: Where is the power?

While Nigerians may not know how many billions of dollars President Buhari's administration will spend on the sector in his eight-year tenure, till years to come, one thing is certain, Nigeria will also likely ask President Buhari in the years ahead: Where is the power?

Only time will tell if Nigeria will ever join the league of countries that enjoy uninterrupted power supply in the 21st century.

But the question many Nigerians are asking is: "How will Nigerians and businesses survive with the incessant collapse of the national grid and the high cost diesel and other petroleum products? Only time will tell.

Women in business chart pathway to breaking barriers, biases

Stories by **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Nigerian Women in Business have stressed the need to chart viable pathways to break barriers and biases in the socio-economic and political spheres of the country.

They stated this while brainstorming at an event organised by Bizwatch Nigeria, the country's foremost business news publishing platform on the sidelines of International Women Day (IWD).

The event, which was held through a Webinar, had President of the Nigeria British Chamber of Commerce (NBCC), Mrs. Bisi Adeyemi; founding Partner of Prolyseis, Mrs. Adeidunnu Uba; Managing Director of Edufun Technik Stem, Mrs. Uchenna Onwuauaegbu-Ugwu as speakers.

Hosted by a journalist and business enthusiast, Mrs. Amina Omoike, the Webinar was attended by

women from all walks of life, just as the keynote speaker, Mrs. Bisi Adeyemi, stated that for all gender barriers and biases to be broken, there was the need for a paradigm shift that would be embraced by everyone.

"We need to first change our thinking individually, which will have a direct influence on our approaches to life generally. If we indeed desire change, we need to consider doing things differently, such that the change we so much desire will be inevitable," she said.

Nothing that women were critical to nation building, wealth creation and development, the NBCC boss charged women to be resilient and determined to break certain barriers, adding: "You need to build resilience with good character and you need good character, competence, courage, confidence, connection, contribution, coping and

control to break existing barriers that impede women from thriving in their chosen careers.

"To be financially tough, one has to be financially independent and spend wisely. Have a budget, invest and save. One key point to breaking the barrier is to also have a vision and goal. Your goal will direct you, help you stay focused and help actualise your goals. Define your purpose and be ambitious."

Adeyemi added that women need to make the right choices, avoid procrastination and be well organised.

Also speaking, Uba lamented how women often feel limited due to lack of confidence and effects of the imposter syndrome.

While encouraging everyone, particularly women to be intentional as it relates to building self confidence, Uba stated: "To break the imposter syndrome, we as women, need to hold business ac-



Bisi Adeyemi;

countable. Another way to step out of imposter syndrome is to ask tough questions.

"Be clear on what you want to achieve, give your business time to grow, be patient, grow your network and be intentional

about what you are doing.

On her part Onwuauaegbu-Ugwu urged women to be courageous and do what they need to do with their heads up high, advising that they should pay no attention to detractors and naysayers.

Stanbic IBTC Bank launches rewards4 saving promo season 2



Wole Adeniyi,

Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, a subsidiary of Stanbic Holding Plc, has launched the season2 of its savings campaign tagged Reward4 Savings Promo, as part of its continued commitment to promoting a savings lifestyle while rewarding its customers.

With the theme: Bigger and Better, the bank said the second edition of the campaign promises to be bigger and better than the second edition with more prizes to be won this season.

Chief Executive Officer of Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, Wole Adeniyi, stated that the reward4 saving promo season two would produce more millionaires across all regions in the country.

He said that during the monthly promo the bank will rewards 840 customers

in the monthly draws, 10 customers each across seven zones will be rewarded with N100, 000 each for the next 12 months.

"We will also reward 28 customers, one customer per zone with one million naira in the quarterly draws and seven customers, one customer per zone with N2 million in the grand finale. Stanbic IBTC is committed to promoting savings culture in society, hence the camping. We seek to encourage people to develop the habit of saving for the rainy day.

"As promised we will continue to introduce more incentives that will not only improve customers experience but also impact the lives of our customers," he said.

Speaking on the importance of having reserve

funds to cater for financial and personal needs, he added that Rewards4 Savings Promo season two is an avenue to further appreciate the bank's esteemed customers while also promoting a savings culture.

Adeniyi, who said the bank encourages its customers by rewarding them for taking financial steps required to build up reserve funds, also urged customers to leverage the bank's online account opening option on mobile App for the United States of America's dollars.

The Rewards4 Savings Promo is in line with Stanbic IBTC's unwavering commitment towards prioritising its customers' financial wellbeing, as well as boosting a positive savings culture in the country," he stressed.

Union leaders bar FG officials from gaining entrance to FIIRO

Some union leaders working at the Federal Institute of Industrial Research Oshodi (FIIRO) in Lagos, recently prevented Federal Government officials from entering the agency's premises.

The officials, who came from the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Abuja, FIIRO's supervisory ministry, visited the agency on a routine internal staff audit, were denied access to its premises by some of disgruntled trade-union executives.

The *Trumpet* learnt that the routine staff audit had to do with physical presentation of all staff to determine those who are not longer in service, as a result of retirement, dismissal, or death and to equally determine members of staff who have upgraded their training to show their credentials for promotion.

It was also learnt that some of those resisting the audit exercise were those with some questionable character, who are jittery that the audit exercise might expose them.

A source in the agency disclosed that some of the union leaders have been promoted without recourse to due process just the union was afraid that allowing the audit would expose them as they could hardly substantiate their claims but gave excuses that the union was on strike.

It was further learnt that the purported strike had nothing to do with the disruption of the internal audit, as management of the agency and the union members have always been engaged in the FIIRO's activities since October 2021 when the strike started.

U.S. tasks African leaders to invest more in agriculture to avert food crisis

Following the Russia and Ukraine war threatening Africa's food security, government of the United States of America (USA) has enjoined African leaders to increase investments in the agricultural sector to boost production, especially through small holder farmers.

Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Ambassador Cindy

McCain, gave the charge at a media briefing in Rome, nothing that Ukraine had been a major source of wheat for about 138 million people in over 80 countries including Ethiopia, South Sudan and Nigeria.

According to her, before the war over 40 per cent of wheat, corn and fertilizer exports from Ukraine went to the Middle East and Africa, which are already grappling with hunger,

adding that the Korean Agriculture Organisation estimate that about 13 million people worldwide would be pushed into food insecurity as a result of the Russia Ukraine conflict.

She noted that the war was compounding the impact of climate change on the vulnerable population, stressing the need for governments to increase domestic food production.

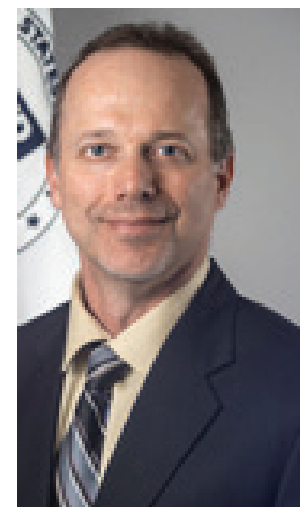
"There are going to be some tough choices

to be made by African countries. It is about increasing investments that will make it easier for seeds to get to the market, which increases the flow of goods as quickly and efficiently as possible."

McCain also encouraged governments across the continent to remain open to trade and not close their doors to other trade partners, adding: "Stay open to trade, allow our markets to operate, do not close off shipping routes."

On his part, representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Jim Burnhart, said: "High food prices and soaring fertiliser prices globally are already threatening Africa's food security drive.

"The invasion couple with the weakened food system could result in significant increases in global poverty, hunger and malnutrition, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa."



Jim Burnhart

Best Western Plus Elomaz Hotel, Asaba.

Address: Plot 22 A/B -27 Core Area, DBS Road,
GRA, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.



NCFRMI-IMAAN driving leadership despite daunting challenges



Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim

By **OMOBA KENNETH AIGBEGBELE**

In 2019, Nigeria pledged to the Global Refugees Forum to include matters of refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their host communities in the national development plans and strengthening of the country's protection capacity, ensuring availability and access to durable solutions for refugees and IDPs.

Sustaining Nigeria's role in regional and sub-regional efforts in adjusting the root causes of displacement and Concerned Persons of Interest, was also included in the plan.

As party to the 1951 United Nations (Geneva) convention relating to the status of refugees and its 1967 protocol, Nigeria joined the global community in December 2018. In order to operationalize the pledges, the country produced implementation road map, which was approved by high level stakeholders' meeting on 30th November, 2021, to which we are committed.

Nigeria has already made significant progress in terms of localizing and operationalizing the programme on migration, starting from a favourable asylum policy, land provision for refugees/IDPs/returnees, and inclusion in strengthened national education, health and water system to assist displaced women, men and children and the affected host communities.

In furtherance of its pledge, it invested in inclusion, protection

capacity and durable solutions, aligning with the national development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) under Hon. Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim has domesticated these policies and programmes to effectively implement, initiate and facilitate constructive dialogue on migration, map-out sustainable strategies for migration activities as well as promote resilient migration governance in Nigeria.

The NCFRMI is partnering and collaborating with CSOs, NGOs, CBOs and faith based organizations for migration development with the support of International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other international partners to bring development to the grassroots and concerned persons, as the civil societies organizations are key partners in leveraging the Nigerian migration governance structure put in place by the dynamic leadership to aid policy formulation and implementation, and have continuously advocated for the proactive leadership shown by the Federal Commissioner who has remained a rallying factor for various humanitarian partners in the country.

Peering into the extra-ordinary achievements of NCFRMI, Guild of Civil Societies and Media Executives for Equity, Justice) in Nigeria, (GOCMEJ) President, Omoiba Kenneth Aigbегbele posited that migration governance in Nigeria has been on a continuous improvement

basis since the expansion of the commission's mandate via a presidential directive to include coordination of all migration-related matters in the country as well as the resettlement and orientation of IDPs in the country.

Howbeit, NCFRMI in making tremendous improvement by reviewing the migration policy first launched in 2015 along with its 2019-2023 plan of action. As the commission has recorded several performance indices in terms of government intervention and programmes aimed at providing IDPs, Refugees and Migrants with durable solutions consisting of the best tools to enable the IDPs and Concerned Persons become self-reliant and useful to their communities and the overall development of the country.

GOCMEJ further applauded NCFRMI for deepening fiscal transparency and accountability in all activities of the commission and for advocating for a paradigm shift to a truly localized community to community approach/person to person in building capacities for the implementation of humanitarian and development assistance across the country.

The NCFRMI in terms of partnership has assiduously worked and functioned with major stakeholders in providing training and life skills to Persons of Concern across the nation, such as Projects Skill-Up, Reliance as well as GoDigital, partnering with I. Create, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), in a pragmatic approach by initiating the GoDigital programme in training at about 50,000 Persons of Concern in Abuja-FCT, in empowering them with information communication technology (ICT), capacity building to hone their skills in ICT.

The Project Skill-Up programme is geared towards training the persons in shoe-making, welding, tailoring, catering, tilling, videography, graphics, website design, carpentry, hairdressing and barbering with starter kits given to each participant spread across the country to empower them with the ability to develop their creative energies and become self-reliant.

Presently, the management of NCFRMI, in spite of the daunting challenges confronted on daily basis in changing the narrative, shifting the goal post in a new way of doing things by encouraging and advocating for the IDPs not to remain in camps while they enjoy mundane things, but sustainable and durable solutions aimed at teaching them skills that would eventually enable them to cater for themselves and their dependants.

Aigbегbele added that "GOCMEJ believes that in

tackling humanitarian crisis developmental approach, the Commission is faced with daunting task of catering for the millions of internally displaced persons across the nation.

"The approach, commitment to work by the present management, strategies put in place and resort to development approach will ameliorate the Nigerian situations, as NCFRMI is a frontier humanitarian organ saddled with the responsibilities to provide protection and support for IDP's, Migrants, Refugees, Stateless Persons and Returnees) from any point of the globe just like the recent returnees from Ukraine affected by the invasion of the nation by Russia."

The Commission has successfully carried out repatriation and reintegration of such persons from Libya, and other countries over the years and has also facilitated the safe return to Nigeria refugees with the desire to return and presently seeking asylum in Cameroon, Chad and the Niger Republic.

He lauded the Commission's overall goal in strengthening the institutional framework for the realization of the rights, dignity and well-being of vulnerable persons through the mitigation of impact and achievement of durable solutions to internal displacements in Nigeria as documented, implemented, advocated and canvassed by the Imaan-led leadership.

The project Zero Hunger Initiative spearheaded by the present management, is aimed at bringing immediate relief to vulnerable Persons of Concern and their families facing food insecurity, incorporating a whole societal approach to providing assistance and support to Persons of Concern. The program is also designed and developed to streamline and enhance accessibility, distribution and availability of mainly food and non-food items, thereby eliminating waste and duplication of efforts, which pilot phase has already commenced with DEPOWA, Nigerian Army, etc. while it has also launched and piloted this initiative in Abuja, Nasarawa, Kaduna, Wase in Plateau, Ikorodu in Lagos and Borno State respectively.

This same initiative has been endorsed by the African Union (AU) and domiciled in its yearly calendar, thereby endorsing the theme and actions of the Commission by advancing the cause with its (each-one-feed-one initiative) and adopted '2022, as the year of Nutrition', strengthening resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent.

The NCFRMI has embarked upon a massive media campaign, sensitization and awareness blitz in order to prevent and reduce the risk of statelessness among the displaced population. It has also

partnered the National Identity Management Agency (NITDA) and the National Population Agency in capturing and profiling of Persons of concern in order to provide them with identification that will allow them access necessary services such as health, financial services and a whole lot of other incentives.

Nevertheless, project Reliance has been very effective and has conducted assessments on food/non-food items distribution, reducing the suffering of migrants and displaced persons. It is a comprehensive empowerment programme initiated by Hon. Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, geared towards making refugees, migrants and displaced persons sustainably reliant by helping them with start-up capitals and starter packs in various trades and businesses of their choice, partnering with CBN to re-launch and capture more Persons of Concern, encompassing states like Kebbi, Lagos, Ebonyi, Imo, Enugu, Niger, Kwara, Nasarawa, Cross Rivers, Borno, Katsina, Zamfara, Bauchi and Rivers state. The NCFRMI is also collaborating with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) on health grounds to roll-out Covid-19 vaccines to all persons concerned.

GOCMEJ's states categorically, that the NCFRMI has changed the conversation, shaped opinions and as well created a template to work with stakeholders, CSOs and NGOs as never seen before in any government office or department, that the management of NCFRMI has their eyes and ears closest to the grassroots, vulnerable people and Persons of Concern unlike before and they have the support of the multi-stakeholders across the country who are on daily basis partnering with the Commission to enhance its mandate.

Just as the Federal Government is keen in alleviating 100 million Nigerians from poverty level, the NCFRMI is at the forefront with the support, direction of the Office of the Honorable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, as its supervising Minister and the motherly role played on sustainable basis to make NCFRMI effectively driven and focused on the task ahead. The NCFRMI has been open to all stakeholders, CSOs, NGOs and supporting agencies including development partners as it has recognized that all hands must be on deck for the successful delivery of its mandate to Nigerians far and near.

GOCMEJ has, therefore, passed a vote of confidence on the present leadership of NCFRMI on its review of migrant policy, policy on refugees and concerned persons and has pledged total support of the civil societies, NGOs, and executives under its umbrella across Nigeria, to assist in delivery of the mandate of NCFRMI.



Portable and Tiwa Savage on stage

Defying laws of packaging, logic and industry standard

ADEDAYO SHOWEMIMO
Writes

In the music business, there's no 'almighty formula' to 'blow' its an industry where 1 + 1 will NEVER give you 2" - Legendary Hustler, 2015.

With this in mind, we all know that anything goes and anyone can blow at any time with any method, but no one with a proper understanding of how the Nigerian music industry works would have anticipated the 'unprecedented' success of Ogun State born singer, Habeeb Okikiola otherwise known as 'Portable Olalomi' or 'Dr Zeh' who was a totally unknown name in the music industry, in Nigeria, In Africa and in the world until 12th of December 2021 when a video went viral on Instagram showing Portable on his knees thanking rapper, Olamide for blessing

him with a verse on a song that would take the world by storm even before its official release.

From that moment on, the phrase 'Zaazuu Zeehhh' became a thing and as they say, the rest is history.

But how did this history come about exactly? Who had the vision to release a song from this seeming 'diamond in the rough' without following 'due processes'?

By 'due process', I mean, till date, there's no well written biography of Portable Olalomi, no photoshoot, no EP, no record of him spending time with producers to work on his sound, no known stylist, no official photographer, never granted an interview on radio, tv or even Instagram live, absolutely nothing, just vibes and insha Allah.

Despite all these, Portable in a space of 10 days became the hottest viral sensation,

got a number 1 song in the country, in just a few days he was on stage performing with the biggest acts on the African continent - Wizkid, Davido, Burna Boy, Olamide and Tiwa Savage - a feat that hundreds before him who have spent years in the industry cannot boast of.

Any reasonable record label or industry consultant with all the requisite music business knowledge definitely would not have released a debut song for Portable Olalomi in December. There's data to show that it's difficult if not totally impossible for a new artist to 'blow' in the month of December - for obvious reasons - but 'Zazzuu' did it.

A record label would surely not have released a song for Portable Olalomi in his 'rough' state, with no proper skin care routine in place, feeding, making him look good, getting

a stylist on board to define his looks and getting professional photos to make him look appealing and presentable, but again, 'Zazzuu' did it without all these.

Like the known Mavin Records model that applied to superstars like Rema, Ruger and Ayra Starr, get them in a studio, groom them and have them spend time with different producers for about 6-months to prepare them for the journey ahead. None of these applied to Portable Olalomi and if he had gone this route, he surely would not have 'Blown'. His success was embedded in the raw, ugly and uncut version of his persona, any attempt to refine and package him would have ended in premium 'tears' for the investor.

Now that he's here, special shout out has to go to rapper Olamide for taking the chance to feature on his song and

a bigger shout out has to go to his manager and promoter, Quadri Taoreed, also known as Kogbagidi who saw the vision and went with his guts.

As expected, the intellectual industry experts are already predicting doom and an early demise for Portable Olalomi's career and rightly so.

But for someone that has defied all the odds and logic that got him to this point,

it is only expected that his team will now take this as a serious business and begin the process of refining him, plugging him into the right collaborations and strategies that will ensure longevity for him. Vibes and insha Allah can only get you so far, sustaining the momentum is no easy feat and if he wants to be relevant for a long time, then there's need for serious introspection and a proper structure.





'Asa Live in Lagos Concert' holds May 8

International singer, Bukola Elemide, popularly known as Asa is set to host her fans to a night of live music tagged 'Asa Live in Lagos'.

The concert is billed to hold on Sunday, May 8th at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria

Island, Lagos.

The concert will see the soulful artiste perform her songs alongside a live band and some amazing Nigerian music artistes.

Shedding light on what fans should expect at the show, Asa during a virtual press briefing held recently,

in Lagos said: "I grab every opportunity to come home and perform. I do not want to be a stranger at home. Coming home this time around, I am super excited. People need to see what Asa has been doing elsewhere around the world. So it's a

good thing to be back home performing. It's going to be a different experience and vibe." Ace comedian, Basketmouth who is collaborating with Asa to host the show disclosed that they are trying to create what the audience will never forget in a longtime.

Bolanle Olukanni to host ninth edition of NECLive

ID Africa has announced media personality, Bolanle Olukanni, as the host for the ninth edition of the Nigerian Entertainment Conference, NECLive.

Olukanni is a TV host and filmmaker known for hosting Project Fame West Africa, The Juice and Moments with Mo. She hosted NECLive8 in 2021 becoming the first woman to do so and will be reprising the role at Landmark Event Centre in Lagos where the conference will take place on Friday, April 29, 2021. NECLive9 will be simultaneously broadcast live on Hip TV (DStv and GOtv) and online platforms.

In 2017, the filmmaker directed and produced her first documentary titled "God's Wives", which received a

nomination for Best Documentary at the Africa Magic Viewers Choice Awards.

For the highly anticipated entertainment conference, speakers and participants will discuss the theme "Sustaining The African Momentum," focusing on economic power for self and country, opportunities via communities of Africans in the diaspora and social impact and development through entertainment.

Other confirmed speakers for NECLive9 include Anyiko Owoko from Kenya, actor and comedian, Mr. Macaroni, founder of ChessInSlums, Tunde Onakoya, Dr Busola Tejumola, the Executive Head of Content and West Africa Channels at MultiChoice amongst others.



AMAA short film festival: StarTimes adds prize for best documentary

Africa Film Academy, in partnership with StarTimes Nigeria, has expanded the prizes for the Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAAs) short film festival.

A special prize of \$1000 has been added for the best documentary.

The submission of short films which opened on March 20 will end April 20, 2022. To participate, the entry is open to short films produced or released between 1st January, 2020 and 20th April, 2022. Also, short films must not be longer than 40mins while entries in indigenous language must be subtitled in English language.

'The Shorts' will be live and available for the viewing pleasure of StarTimes Subscribers on ST Nollywood Plus channel from 25th April, 2022 and also available on StartimesON App.

"The festival will commence on April 25, 2022 and run for a whole month till May 25, 2022. During the festivals, exceptional films that make the cut will compete for prizes," AMAA's founder, Peace Anyiam-Osigwe said.

"The first prize will get

\$3000 and a laptop; the 2nd Prize will receive \$2000 and a phone; while the 3rd Prize gets \$1000 and a phone. We have added a special prize of \$1000 for the best documentary. Already, we

have received hundreds of entries from filmmakers, who specialize or have short films," she added.

Ms Anyiam-Osigwe further shed more light on the film festival saying, "this partnership is big to us because it enables us to grow the short film industry in Nigeria and across Africa. We are happy that StarTimes keyed into this journey with us to give opportunities to young and existing filmmakers."

On his part, StarTimes CEO, Alex Jian, said the collaboration with AMAA is very crucial and strategic with the growing demand for quality local content by Nigerian and African film practitioners. Jian further noted that StarTimes is glad to strengthen its partnership with AMAA to bring significant impact to the Nigerian and African film industry by ensuring the growth of filmmakers and getting value for their productions.



Makinwa, Gbemi, Uti Nwachukwu, others attend 'The Real Housewives Of Lagos'

It was a night of glamour and extravagance in the true Eko style at the exclusive launch party of The Real Housewives of Lagos. Some of the guests at the show included Toke Makinwa who was also the host of the show, as well as popular media personalities Tolu 'Toolz' Oniru, Bolanle Olukanni, Noble Igwe and Gbemi Olateru-Olagbegi; as well as actors Kunle Remi, Akah Nnani, Uzoamaka Aniunoh, Basketmouth and more.

Also in attendance were BBNaija stars, Whitemoney, Erica

Nlewedim, Elozonam, Prince Nelson Maria Chike Benjamin, Pere and Vandora.

The Real Housewives of Lagos follows the lives of 6 opulent women in Lagos, Carolyn Hutchings, Laura Ikeji-Kanu, Chioma Ikokwu, Toyin Lawani-Adebayo, Iyabo Ojo and Mariam Timmer. These women did not hold back in bringing all the glam and fabulousness to the premiere.

RHOLagos is produced by Livespot 360 and will be streaming exclusively on Showmax with a new episode dropping every week.



NFF search: who gets Eagles coaching job?

By **OVIRI KELVIN**, Sports Editor, Abuja

After former interim coach of the Super Eagles, Augustine Eguavoen, stepped down and the entire technical crew was sacked by the NFF, Nigerians have been skeptical about who takes over the coaching affairs of the nation's senior men's football team.

Following the Super Eagles' exit from the TotalEnergy Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Cameroon and their inability to secure the World Cup qualifying ticket to Qatar 2022, it is expedient that some things need to be put right to chart a way for the nation to re-attain the feat it once had in world football where Nigeria emerged 5th in April 1994 FIFA rankings.

However, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), aware of the daunting task to reposition the Super Eagles for future tournaments, with the AFCON 2023 in Cote D'Ivoire imminent, are seriously in search of a head coach to fill the void left by Gernot Rohr.

Apparently, the NFF has set the machinery in place to rebuild the technical crew of the Super Eagles, mandating its Technical and Development Sub-Committee to make recommendations within 5 days to the Executive Committee on new coaching crews for the Super Eagles, and other national teams.

Why the rebuilding of the Super Eagles is sacrosanct, and to quell the wide speculations about hiring a local coach as allegedly posited by the Minister of Youths and Sports, Sunday Dare, the President of NFF Amaju Pinnick stated that the football governing body has zeroed on acquiring the services of a foreign coach.

Following the resolution to hire a

foreign coach for the Super Eagles, snippets from the Glass House have revealed that some foreign coaches have been penciled to be considered for the Super Eagles' job with Portuguese José Peseiro among the list. Spain's Ernesto Valverde, former Paris Saint-Germain coach Laurent Blanc, and Philip Cocu rumoured to be among the crop.

Who finally gets the job among this crop of foreign coaches is a puzzle that the exclusive right of the NFF to solve. But with urgency to finish the Super Eagles' coaching project, the football governing body will not gamble with time to announce to Nigerians the successor of Gernot Rohr.

Portuguese José Poseiro, the coach earlier contacted by the NFF to take over the Super Eagles after the sack of the German coach last year, is a football tactician who has coached in several clubs in Portugal, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Africa, Romania, and Venezuela.

Poseiro, as an assistant coach in Madrid in the 2003-04 season, proceeded to Portugal to manage Sporting CP, a Primeira division club, which ended as runner-up in the UEFA Cup in 2005.

He has also coached in several clubs besides Sporting CP in Portugal like Porto, Victoria Guimaraes, Braga, Nacional, Oriental, União Montemo, and União Santarém, the club he started his coaching career in 1992.

The 62 years old gaffer also had a brief spell in Africa with Al Ahly of Egypt, winning the Egyptian Premier League in the 2015-16 season. He won the Portuguese Cup with Braga, AF Madeira Cup with Nacional, and helped Porto to the finals of the Portuguese Cup where they ended as runner-up.

Following, Spain's Ernesto Valverde rumoured to have been included in the list for consideration has



Amaju Pinnick

managed top-flight clubs in Spain, with the most recent being Barcelona.

The football manager, outside the confines of Spain, managed Olympiacos on two occasions, winning the Greece league title three times and the Greece Cup twice.

Though without a coaching spell in Africa, Valverde who also coached Athletic Bilbao with a Spanish Super Cup added to his honour, won a treble with Barcelona in the 2017-18 season. He was also named the La Liga Coach of the Year in 2015-16 by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

Contending with the Portuguese and Spanish football coaches for the Super Eagles job, is the former French national team's coach, Laurent Blanc.

Blanc, according to records, has coached four teams in his career with many honours won. His spell with Bordeaux in France Ligue 1 recorded a treble in the 2008-09 season while his PSG's three seasons reign hauled in over ten trophies for Paris De Princes with three consecutive wins of the French Ligue 1 title.

Going by the names and personalities of the coaches, the NFF has work to do to get the perfect fit for the African style of football and to give the team a blend of local talents and touch of foreign exposed players to go beyond the feat recorded by Clemens Westerhof in 1994.

Probably hoping to

continue the successful spell of his fellow compatriot with the Super Eagles, Philip Cocu, the Dutch football manager, took charge of PSV for 5 seasons from 2013 to 2018, winning the Dutch league three times, and Jonah Cruyff Shield twice.

Reacting to the list of coaches, Nigerians have expressed diverse views geared toward achieving the best for the national team from their own perspectives.

Ayodele J. Ayodele said, "Wow! If this is true, then this list is impressive. Laurent Blanc or Valverde for me."

Hon Dino described Philip Cocu as being unsuccessful in his coaching career, rooting for either Laurent Blanc or Valverde.

"Philip cocu is never a successful coach, please go for Laurent Blanc or Valverde," said Hon Dino.

Olayode Oladimeji opined that the former Cameroon national team's coach would be a better successor to Gernot Rohr

He said, "What of that Cameroon coach at Afcon? That guy is good."

Cameroon's coach in the recent Afcon tournament, Antonio Conceicao, has also been said to be linked with the Super Eagles' job.

Antonio Conceicao, who took the host Cameroon to third place in the Afcon tournament, was relieved of his duties with Rigobert Song appointed to replace him.

Osimhen eyes Simeon Nwakolo's Serie A record

Victor Osimhen has surpassed Obafemi Martin's eleven goals in a Serie A season to set sight on Simeon Nwakolo's 20-goal record.

Osimhen, in Napoli's match against Fiorentina on Sunday, scored his 12th Serie A goal to overtake his fellow compatriot's record.

The young prodigy, who was out of Serie A season for over a month after sustaining a head injury, thrived in Napoli's attack to punch in a late strike for the Partenopei.

Napoli, in their last match against Fiorentina, lost 3-2 at home to put their Serie A title hunt in jeopardy and this prompted a reaction from the manager Luciano Spalletti.

Speaking after the defeat, Spalletti said: "This is a very costly defeat and in certain ways was undeserved. Fiorentina played their game and earned the win, but we started strong, then tried to play too long and allowed them to take control of midfield."

"When we conceded the second goal, it all became far

more difficult. We have to take some of the blame for what happened, but it's so disappointing because the fans and the attitude of the whole team throughout the week was the right one.

"Fiorentina plays man against man, Milenkovic pushes far up to chase his man and leaves these spaces we could've made more of. If you don't have the quality to dribble your way out of trouble, then you end up with long balls.

"Osimhen wasn't in the best shape today, as he skipped a couple of training sessions. He did well but could've done better in these physical duels with Igor.

"Of course, things change, because now it's all more difficult. We have no choice other than to be professional, try to win the next game, and see what happens. It is no longer in our hands," he added.

Napoli, continuing its pursuit of the 2021-22 Serie A title, welcomes Roma to the Diego Armando Maradona on Monday, April 18, 2022.



Usyk wants Joshua rematch outside UK

By **ADAKU WALTER**

Anthony Joshua is set to fight Oleksandr Usyk in their highly-anticipated rematch this summer - but the contest may not hold in the United Kingdom as promoter Eddie Hearn had hoped, reports express.co.uk.

Last September, AJ lost his WBA (Super), IBF, WBO and IBO heavyweight titles to the Ukrainian, who comfortably outclassed the former champion to win via decision.

The Brit's promoter Eddie Hearn wants the rematch to go ahead at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium - where their September bout was fought - as he believes a home crowd in London could inspire Joshua to victory. However, complications appear to have risen.

Saudi Arabia have reportedly made a site offer which could potentially generate twice as much revenue as staging the bout in north London. On top of that, Hearn revealed Usyk

would prefer to fight on an international stage.

"If contracts and site fees that have been offered come to fruition, it would make going to the UK very difficult for us to get Usyk to do, quite frankly," the Matchroom Boxing boss told Mirror Sport. "We can see it from their point of view, 'why would I bother going back to England for half the money?"

"We can't take a site that pays significantly less to Usyk. We want to go to London, it would be a big advantage for AJ to take this fight back to London, but if a site fee generates double the money, there's no way Usyk will allow us to go to London. So we do have to take that into consideration, but AJ is ready to fight wherever the fight takes place.

"We've had a number of offers and dates. We're going through the contracts at the moment and we'll see where it will be, but I think two weeks to sort everything out is a good yardstick.

'The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude'

— Oprah Winfrey.



APRIL 13-14, 2022 VOL. 1 NO. 028 N200

Don't dare Nigeria on Pay-TV tariffs, Lawan warns Multichoice

Asks S'African firm to stay action

By TUNDE JOSHUA, Abuja

Senate President Ahmad Lawan has read the riot act to Multichoice Nigeria. He warned the Southern African firm not to dare Nigeria by going ahead to hike the tariffs of its services while the matter was yet being investigated.

Consequently, he inaugurated a seven-member adhoc committee headed by the Senate Deputy Chief Whip, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, to investigate the while warning that no foreign operator in the country should take Nigeria for granted.

The committee was set up by the Senate on 30th April, 2022 against the backdrop of an announcement of tariff hike by Multichoice, a pay TV service provider, popularly referred to as DStv.

"No operator should take us for granted. We mean business. We want you to be here. Nigeria always provides the climate for you to do your businesses but don't abuse the laws of our country.

"Our consumers here are people who are innocent and we are prepared to protect them.

"Meanwhile, stay action. No increase. No increase. And that is to say don't dare our country. No increase in tariffs," the Senate

President warned.

"The reason for setting up this adhoc Committee is well known and this is in consistent with what we are supposed to do as members of parliament, as distinguished senators.

"When the legitimate interests of our people are threatened, we are supposed to ensure that we protect them.

"It has been the practice of many companies, especially foreign companies operating in Nigeria to treat the Nigerian consumers of their products in a different way and manner that is not consistent with global best practices.

"I'm not going to preempt the outcome of this investigation but one thing is clear, that the Senate is prepared to go all the way to unearth the exact situation that is happening with respect to how much Nigerian consumers of the DStv or Pay-TV tariffs are charged and how does that compare to other jurisdictions in other countries.

"DStv, one of the operators, has shown the tendency to increase the tariffs without due consultation with stakeholders and we feel this is not the right way to go about it and therefore we even need to find out whether or not what we are paying already is not out of the roof and different from what other countries are charged.

"So your task as a committee is to look at the issue very dispassionately with a very clear mind and focus on what we need to know.

"The Consumers Protection Council and other agencies of government and even NGOs and CSOs are supposed to attend this kind of investigation. We need to know what roles actually such government Institutions established for the purposes of protecting Nigerian consumers perform. What are their problems if they are not doing well.

"The report, at the end of the day, is supposed to be a report that will guide the Senate to take resolutions that will ensure that Nigerian consumers of the products, Pay-TV, are fully protected but at the same time that will not emasculate the businesses. We want to see a win-win situation for both consumers and operators.

"But let me be very clear at this point, we are going to take on any operators who decide to charge Nigerians tariffs that are not charged anywhere outside this country.

"I also want to add here that any operators, especially foreign, who doesn't want to respect and obey our laws should leave. Afterall, it is only in this country that most of these operators behave the way they do, whether



Lawan

they are telecoms or DStv or whatever.

"In other climes, they do better. They respect the consumers. They respect the laws of the countries where they operate. It is only in Nigeria where they don't give us any respect and I think we will take them on.

"I pray that they do the right thing so that they will not run into any trouble of

fighting the injustice. What happened in the past should provide us lessons and issues that we should look at.

"Infact if Nigerian consumers were extraordinarily cheated, they should be paid back. They do that in other countries. So I hope that all operators will cooperate with this committee. That when they are invited to appear before the committee they will appear."

Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi said: "the investigation into the activities of the Pay-TV service providers is long overdue as their activities, over time has reaped off Nigerians of their hard earned income.

"It is mind burling that barely two years of the price hike by the Multichoice which was followed by a big uproar by Nigerians, comes another unexpected increment without proper consultation with critical stakeholders.

"This incessant hike in tariff without recourse to constituted authorities is a thing of great concern that calls for questioning.

"This investigation is an opportunity to right the wrongs and bring this service providers to operate within the confines of the law as obtainable outside the shores of the country."

I'm delighted mentoring politicians, says Atiku

'I contested governorship election four times'

By TUNDE JOSHUA, Abuja

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has said that he mentored many young politicians and that he was delighted doing so.

Encouraging young politicians not to be daunted by challenges in politics, he disclosed that he contested for the governorship position four different times before he finally won it in 1999.

Atiku disclosed this during an interaction with leaders of his support groups from across the country in Abuja.

He said he was delighted that more young people were participating in politics today and that it was his dream to mentor the young generation and hand over his political structure to them.

According to him, "it is encouraging that these days I see many young people come to me declaring intentions to run for various political positions, some state assemblies, some national assembly and even some aspiring to be governors.

"The beautiful thing is that

this shows that our democracy is being strengthened. I also started early like many of you. I started in my late 30s. During our time, our direction was to fight the military and return the country to civil rule.

"In joining politics, you have to be focused, principled and courageous. For example, I contested for the governorship position four times before I was finally elected. That is politics for you. You have to be determined and be courageous."

He thanked leaders of the

groups for the roles that they played during the 2018-19 election and commended them for their discipline and determination to be better organized than the last outing.

"That we are more organized now is a reflection of the fact that we are now more experienced and with experience comes more knowledge and what that means is that if there was any mistake that we made last time, we are in a better position to avoid such mistakes now," he added.