

TRIBUTE/PAGE 7

Prof. Wale Omole: The Consequential Builder Who Left Before 802nd Sitting

BACK PAGE

Who Will Protect Uni-Abuja From Untouchable Wike (2)?

SPOTLIGHT/PAGES 40&41

World Diabetes Day: Insurance Gaps Fuel Late Diabetes Care, Deepen Financial Hardship



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Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

Vol. 43, No. 18,258 ■ ■ November 14 – 15, 2026 Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria N500

2027 POLITICS BECLOUDS GOVERNANCE AS RIVERS COMMUNITIES GROAN UNDER POLLUTION, DISEASE

PAGES 4-5





Nigeria Records Zero Ebola Transmission As 62 Contacts Complete Monitoring

• NCDC Confirms Recovery Of Index Patient

NEWS/ PAGE 2

Two Weeks After Attack On Sowore, Police Yet To Arrest Named Suspects



NEWS/PAGE 43

Ogun 2027: Court Orders INEC To Publish Adebutu's Name Within 24 Hours



NEWS/PAGE 3

Africa Must Not Become Foreign To Itself, Says Lumumba NEWS/ PAGE 2

Accountability, Institutional Responsibility Vital To Success Of Govt Agencies – **NDDC** NEWS/ PAGE 43

Economic Hardship Makes Communities Easy Targets For Criminals, DIA Warns NEWS/PAGE 2

Nigeria Records Zero Ebola Transmission As 62 Contacts Complete Monitoring

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze**, Abuja

- NCDC Confirms Recovery Of Index Patient
- FCT Remains On High Alert – Faswe

NIGERIA has recorded no secondary transmission of the deadly Bundibugyo Virus Disease, an Ebola variant, following the completion of a 21-day monitoring period for all 62 contacts linked to the country's index case, according to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC).

The centre also confirmed that the index patient, who was medically evacuated to Switzerland on October 26 for further treatment, had recovered, tested negative for the virus and been discharged from hospital.

Director-General of NCDC, Dr. Jide Idris, announced on Friday that all identified contacts had completed monitoring without developing the disease, describing the development as an encouraging milestone in the country's response to the imported case confirmed in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on October 20, 2026.

Idris, who disclosed this to journalists in Abuja, noted that 13 of the 62 contacts developed fever or other non-specific symptoms during the monitoring period.

He, however, stated that laboratory tests conducted on all 13 returned negative results, adding that seven suspected cases reported across Adamawa, Rivers, Borno, Lagos and Ekiti states in the past three weeks were investigated and subsequently tested negative for the virus.

Despite the positive development, the NCDC boss cautioned against declaring the outbreak over, stressing that the completion of contact monitoring alone does not meet all the requirements for a formal declaration that an outbreak has ended.

Idris stated that Nigeria would maintain heightened surveillance and preparedness, particularly in view of the continued occurrence of Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

According to him, the National Emergency Operations Centre remains activated, with the Incident Management System operating at Level 3, the highest response level for Ebola virus disease.

He explained that the national response involved contact tracing across healthcare facilities and households, strengthened infection prevention and control measures, laboratory investigations, healthcare workers training and the deployment of protective equipment.

Idris stated that the NCDC also intensified public enlightenment and community engagement to counter misinformation and encourage cooperation with health authorities.

He, however, warned that increased movement of people during the approaching December festive season, religious gatherings, concerts, sporting events and political activities would require sustained public health vigilance.

The NCDC boss urged Nigerians and international visitors to seek medical attention promptly when unwell, particularly after travelling or having possible exposure to infectious diseases.

Idris advised members of the public not to assume that every fever was malaria, urging patients to disclose their travel histories and possible exposure to healthcare workers.

He also called on organisers of mass gatherings to provide adequate sanitation, safe drinking water, medical assistance and mechanisms for promptly reporting suspected illnesses.

"All inbound international travellers are still required to complete the Nigeria Health Declaration Form before arrival, while healthcare workers have been urged to maintain a high index of suspicion and report suspected cases without delay," he said.

The NCDC boss maintained that there was no cause for panic, but insisted that vigilance, early detection and public cooperation remained critical to protecting the country from further importation of the disease.

Also speaking, the Mandate Secretary, Health Services and Environment Secretariat, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Dr. Dolapo Fasawe, maintained that Nigeria was not relaxing its Ebola surveillance measures despite the successful completion of a 21-day isolation period by members of its Rapid Response Team, who had contact with a suspected Ebola patient.

Addressing questions on the FCT's response to the suspected Ebola case, Fasawe explained that the FCT was vigilant, stressing that health authorities would continue to monitor the situation in line with international health regulations.

She noted that the FCT Epidemiological Unit was initially alerted by a private health facility about a suspected Ebola case involving a patient with a relevant travel history.

"Following the notification, the FCT Rapid Response Team was immediately deployed, with members subsequently undergoing a three-week isolation period after contact with the patient. The team successfully completed the isolation period and returned healthy," she added.

Fasawe explained that following laboratory confirmation of the Ebola infection, an incident management structure was immediately activated in the nation's capital, bringing together relevant federal agencies and development partners to coordinate the response.

She also assured residents that private health facilities in the FCT had been accredited and were familiar with established Ebola response protocols, including access to emergency contact numbers provided by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC).

Fasawe noted that the preparedness of private hospitals was critical to ensuring early detection, prompt reporting and effective management of any similar health emergency.

Pressed on whether the completion of the 21-day isolation period meant surveillance activities had been relaxed, she insisted that the country remained on alert.

She clarified that although the isolation period for the identified contacts had ended, Nigeria would still need to observe another 21-day period without a new confirmed case before the World Health Organisation (WHO) could officially declare the country Ebola-free.



Members of The Bridge Club with guests at the end-of-the-year symposium of The Bridge Club Lagos on Xenophobia and Pan-Africanism on Thursday at the Continental Hotel, Lagos.

Economic Hardship Makes Communities Easy Targets For Criminals, DIA Warns

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

- Institute Proposes Seven Reforms To Strengthen National Security
- Don Identifies Poverty, Drug Abuse As Security Threats

ECONOMIC hardship and weak social structures are making communities vulnerable to criminal infiltration and exploitation, the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) has warned.

The agency urged stronger collaboration between security agencies, researchers and communities to address the root causes of insecurity.

Chief of Defence Intelligence, Lt.-Gen. E.A.P. Undiandeye, gave the warning on Friday at the inauguration of the Africa Institute of Resilience Studies (AIRS) at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Asokoro, Abuja.

The inauguration brought together senior military officers, security and intelligence officials, academics and other stakeholders under the theme, 'Building a Resilient Africa: Research, Policy, Practice and Impact.'

Undiandeye, who was represented by the Deputy Chief of Defence Intelligence, Air Vice Marshal B.R. Mamma, said Nigeria and other African countries were confronted with interconnected security threats, including terrorism, banditry, cybercrime, organised crime and communal conflicts.

He observed that criminal acts were being compounded by climate change, mass displacement, financial crime and weak institutions.

According to him, the ability of communities, economies and institutions to withstand shocks, adapt to changing circumstances and recover from crises is as important as the capacity to respond when threats occur.

"Criminals and extremists find it far harder to infiltrate or exploit a community that is economically stable, socially cohesive and well informed," he said.

He noted that defence intelligence was fundamentally about anticipating threats, detecting them early and providing the information required for informed decisions before harm occurred.

He said early warning would only be useful when society has the capacity and institutional structures to act on intelligence.

The DIA chief said the Armed Forces and other security agencies could not build national resilience alone, stressing the need for sound research, reliable data and evidence-based policies.

He welcomed the institute's flagship programmes, including Community Policing Research, Community Vigilante System, Economic Resilience and Green Livelihood Initiative, and Community Resilience Index.

He said the programmes reflect the understanding that lasting security depends not only on weapons and military operations but also on sustainable livelihoods, public trust and accurate assessment of community vulnerabilities.

On community-based security initiatives, Undiandeye cautioned that they must operate within the law, respect human rights and maintain close coordination with established security agencies.

"They should complement and never substitute for the formal security architecture of the State," he said.

Earlier, Chairman of the AIRS Board of Directors, Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba, called on the Federal Government to rename the country's National Security Strategy as the National Security and Resilience Strategy to reflect the need to build the capacity to withstand, adapt to and recover from security threats.

Ndoma-Egba said the proposed change goes beyond semantics, arguing that the language of a national strategy influences how government understands threats, allocates resources, designs institutions and measures performance.

He said security and resilience serves the same purpose but are not interchangeable, explaining that while security focuses on preventing, deterring and defeating threats, resilience ensures that the country continues functioning when threats materialise.

"Preventing a terrorist attack is a security task. Keeping hospitals open, markets trading and schools teaching, caring for victims and restoring public confidence after an attack is a resilience task," he added.

Ndoma-Egba, who is a former Pro-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University, said a country could possess strong armed forces and intelligence services but still lack the institutional, economic and social capacity to survive a major crisis.

He observed that the 2019 National Security Strategy contained commitments to building community resilience but failed to translate them into concrete objectives, institutions and measurable indicators.

According to him, threats were not adequately ranked by likelihood and impact, while government agencies often responded to the same threats separately without effective coordination.

Ndoma-Egba proposed seven reforms including making resilience a distinct pillar of national security, conducting regular national risk assessments, establishing a national risk register and strengthening inter-agency coordination.

Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng

Investors Demand Reforms, Security Guarantees To Unlock Nigeria's Opportunities

From **Joseph Chibueze**, Abuja

NIGERIA'S ambition to attract billions of dollars in foreign investment faces a critical test as international investors have identified opportunities across key sectors of the economy but warned that weak institutional structures, policy uncertainty, insecurity and a difficult business environment could undermine the country's investment prospects.

The President of Business Summit Group, Dr. M. Haider Uzzaman, disclosed that investors with potential investment commitments approaching $100 billion were exploring opportunities in Nigeria's oil and gas, renewable energy, artificial intelligence, financial technology, agriculture, agritech, poultry, education, healthcare and logistics sectors.

However, he cautioned that attracting investors would achieve little unless the government addresses the institutional, policy and operational bottlenecks required to translate investment interest into viable businesses, sustainable jobs and measurable economic growth.

Speaking in an interview at the end of a two-day Global Business Summit in Abuja, Uzzaman said the gathering had attracted participants from more than 50 countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Bangladesh, with some participating virtually.

Govt Moves To End Decade Of Blackout In Sokoto Communities

From **Tunde Omolehin**, Sokoto

IN a decisive move to address the prolonged electricity challenges affecting Binji, Tangaza, Gudu and Silame Local Councils, which have been without electricity supply in the past 10 years, Sokoto State government has awarded a contract worth N5.5 billion for the rehabilitation of the 33KVA electricity line and the restoration of township electricity distribution networks in the two areas.

The Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Dr. Bashir Muhammad Achida, disclosed this while briefing journalists on the outcome of Wednesday's state Executive Council meeting.

According to Achida, the project, upon completion, would go a long way in improving electricity supply in the four local councils, thereby stimulating socio-economic activities and improving the living conditions of the people.

"His Excellency is deeply concerned about the 10-year electricity blackout in Binji, Tangaza, Gudu and Silame Local Councils and has decided to intervene by awarding this contract to restore electricity supply to the affected communities," he added.

The commissioner also disclosed that the state government has awarded a contract for the rehabilitation of Government Technical College, Binji, at N988 million.

Achida explained that the decision to rehabilitate the institution was informed by its deteriorating condition, which had adversely affected effective teaching and learning.

2027: Youth Minister, City Boy Movement Mobilise Sokoto Youths For Tinubu, Aliyu

From **Muhammad Gazali Garba**, Sokoto

THE Minister of Youth Development, Ayodele Olawande, and the Director-General of the City Boy Movement, Francis Oluwatosin Shoga, have urged youths in Sokoto State to support President Bola Tinubu and Governor Ahmed Aliyu for a second term in 2027.

They made the call on Thursday at the Giginya Memorial Stadium, Sokoto, during a youth mobilisation and sensitisation rally organised by youth groups in the state ahead of the 2027 general election.

Speaking at the event, Olawande said the Tinubu administration had demonstrated commitment to youth development through education, skills acquisition, entrepreneurship support, job creation and inclusion in governance.

He cited the separation of the Ministry of Youth Development from Sports, the National Youth Conference and empowerment programmes under the Renewed Hope Agenda as evidence of the administration's focus on young people.

"President Tinubu believes in the Nigerian youth. He has given us a voice, a ministry, and opportunities never given before. The best way to repay him is to stand with him in 2027," Olawande said.

Shoga said the City Boy Movement had registered more than 4.8 million members nationwide, with structures in all states, local governments, wards and polling units.

He said the movement, under the patronage of Seyi Tinubu, would sustain its grassroots mobilisation, campus engagements, market and motor park outreaches.

Africa Must Not Become Foreign To Itself, Says Lumumba

By **Moyosore Salami**

A renowned Kenyan scholar and statesman, Prof. PLO Lumumba, has warned that Africa risks betraying its Pan-African ideals if countries continue to treat fellow Africans as foreigners across colonial borders.

Lumumba disclosed this while delivering a keynote address titled, 'Africa Must Not Become Foreign to Itself: Xenophobia, Pan-Africanism and the Future of African Belonging,' at the invitation of The Bridge Club on Thursday in Lagos.

He said the contradiction between the continent's call for unity and the hostility African migrants face in other African countries threatens the vision of a united continent, stressing that national identity should not undermine solidarity among African people.

He described xenophobia as an ideological contradiction, saying Africans who were once divided by strangers had learnt to regard one another as strangers.

"The great tragedy of African xenophobia is that a people once divided by strangers have learnt to regard one another as strangers," he said. "Pan-Africanism will remain an unfinished promise for as long as an African can cross a colonial border and suddenly cease to be regarded as a brother or sister."

He recalled that African leaders, including Kwame Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere, had championed continental unity and declared that colonial boundaries were artificial divisions that should not prevent Africans from coming together.

Lumumba said the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) represents the continent's commitment to integration, but noted that the experiences of African migrants often contradict that ambition.

He cited the treatment of Ghanaians in Nigeria, Nigerians in South Africa, Zimbabweans in Johannesburg and Congolese in other African countries, saying continental brotherhood often collapses under the pressures of nationality, employment and economic competition.

He said Pan-Africanism should not be limited to diplomacy but must be reflected in solidarity among ordinary Africans.

"A Nigerian need not cease being Nigerian in order to recognise a Ghanaian as a fellow African," he said. "A healthy patriotism can coexist comfortably with Pan-African solidarity; it is insecure nationalism that requires an outsider against whom national identity may constantly be defined."



Special Adviser to the President on Political Affairs, Alhaji Ibrahim Massari (left); , National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu; President Bola Ahmed Tinubu; Yinka Tinubu; Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila; and others during the Jumm'at Prayer at Shehu Shagari Central Mosque, Area I, Abuja ... on Friday. PHOTO: STATE HOUSE

Tinubu, Sultan, Zulum, Southwest Governors Expected At MUSWEN Assembly

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar; Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Zulum and governors of the six Southwest states are expected at the 11th General Assembly of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN) in Ibadan, Oyo State capital on Sunday, November 15, 2026.

The outgoing MUSWEN President, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, disclosed this on Thursday at a press conference held at the organisation's headquarters on Iwo Road, Ibadan, where he announced preparations for the assembly.

He said the Sultan of Sokoto, who is also President-General of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, would attend as Special Guest of Honour, while Zulum would deliver the keynote address.

The governors expected at the gathering are those of Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo states.

Oladejo said the assembly, scheduled to hold at the University of Ibadan Mosque Auditorium, would also mark the end of his six-year tenure and the inauguration of a new leadership.

He disclosed that the Central Working Committee had approved the Shura Committee's recommendations for the incoming executives.

Under the proposed leadership, Alhaji Rafiu Adisa Ebiti will emerge as President, while Alhaji Thabit Wale Sonaike and Alhaji Jamiu Ekungba will serve as Deputy Presidents I and II respectively.

Oladejo congratulated the incoming leaders, urging members and Muslim communities across the states to support the new administration.

"Leadership may change, but our commitment to the progress of Islam and the welfare of Muslims in Southwest Nigeria must remain constant," he said.

He also presented a stewardship account of his six-year administration and thanked members and stakeholders for their support.

Ogun 2027: Court Orders INEC To Publish Adebutu's Name Within 24 Hours

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

Says Commission Lacks Powers To Unilaterally Remove Candidates

THE Federal High Court, Abuja on Friday, held that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has no power to unilaterally disqualify a candidate from contesting an election and ordered the reinstatement of the name of the governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ogun State, Ladi Adebutu, on the Commission's candidates' list within 24 hours.

Justice Peter Lifu, who also held that Adebutu's right to fair hearing was breached, noted that the power to disqualify a candidate after the name had been forwarded "resides with the Federal High Court or State High Court."

He said the exclusion of Adebutu's name was unlawful, unconstitutional and of no effect.

He made these pronouncements after he had earlier dismissed INEC's preliminary objection seeking the dismissal of the suit filed by the PDP.

The judge said, "I have carefully assessed the originating summons and I see that it bears the name of the senior counsel and was signed by him. It also has the names of other counsels in the law firm," he said.

He said the court perused the originating summon and considered it competent.

The preliminary objection was, therefore, dismissed.

In the substantive suit, the judge said the 2nd plaintiff (Ladi Adebutu), stated that he sought the office of the Governor of Ogun State in 2019 and he was the 2023 governorship candidate.

He added that he participated in the primary for the 2027 poll, and that on August 29, 2026, the party published his name, and there was no challenge.

Special

2027 Politics Overshadows Governance As Rivers Communities

*While government intensifies political activities ahead of the 2027 general elections and pushes for renewed oil production in Ogoniland, communities such as Bille in Degema Council, Aleto in Eleme, Kula in Akuku-Toru and Kpean in Khana Council remain trapped in environmental degradation, hunger, insecurity and loss of lives. With years of promises of remediation yet to translate into lasting relief for many affected residents, the widening gap between the country's oil wealth and the hardship of its host communities raises fresh questions about environmental justice, government priorities and the value placed on human lives, **ANN GODWIN** writes.*

ON September 3, 2026. The time was bout 8:00am. The atmosphere was serene with people moving about in Bille community, Degema Council of Rivers State freely.

For Joy Amos, the day seemed perfect. She was resting in her room at No. 18, Opu Ibiila Community, when what appeared as disturbing gas emissions and bubbling beneath the ground eventually erupted into a devastating explosion. The blast shattered the windows and set part of the building ablaze. The explosion left Joy with severe burns and was initially taken to a private clinic in Bille, where she received treatment for about nine days.

When her condition was not improving, however, she was moved to Port Harcourt on September 12 for further medical attention. Sadly, after weeks of treatment, Joy died on September 22, 2026.

Joy's tragic experience in Bille Kingdom was linked to persistent gas seepage and bubbling that had affected the community since October 2025.

Joy's case in Bille gas leakage is, however, not an isolated environmental disaster. Today, her death is a painful reminder of the human cost of environmental pollution in the Niger Delta, where communities sitting on enormous oil and gas wealth continue to grapple with deadly emissions, oil spills, contaminated water, deteriorating health and the destruction of livelihoods.

On October 15, 2026, at least 20 people were also reportedly injured, while several houses and properties were damaged following a gas pipeline explosion in Aleto community, Eleme Council of Rivers State. Even as the Federal Government has continued to intensify political activities ahead of the 2027 general elections, including efforts to secure the resumption of oil production in Ogoniland. However, residents of some oil-bearing communities including Bile, Eleme, Kula and Kpean in Rivers State are battling a more immediate struggle for survival.

Several victims were rushed to hospitals for treatment, while stalls, a mechanic workshop and vehicles parked within the workshop were among the properties destroyed by the inferno.

More disturbing were reports that the pipeline had been leaking for about three weeks before the explosion. Community leaders said, they raised the alarm over the danger posed by the leakage, but nobody listened to them and no preventive measures were taken before the incident occurred.

This incident reinforced concerns about the consequences of ignoring early warnings in communities hosting critical oil and gas infrastructure.

The human cost of these environmental and resource-related conflicts was further underscored on October 23, when 10 people were reportedly killed after a boat capsized during a confrontation over the removal of an oil vessel in Kula Kingdom, Akuku-Toru Council of Rivers State.

The incident followed an alleged oil spill in the area and the subsequent seizure of an Ibeto-linked crude vessel, identified as Anambra Basin FSO, alongside tugboats by members of the community.

Latest inquiries, as at October 30, indicated that top military personnel were making efforts to broker peace between the aggrieved community and the vessel owners. However, there have been concerns about the absence of publicly known developments regarding the resolution of the dispute and the underlying grievances.

Also, in Kpean community in Khana Council, farmlands have been destroyed, livelihoods gone as residents continue to battle unabated oil spill.



Spill site in Kpean community in Khana local council of Rivers State that devastated farmlands, crops, trees. PHOTOS: ANN GODWIN







These incidents paint a troubling picture of a region where environmental degradation, inadequate emergency response, resource-related tensions and the struggle for economic survival continue to define everyday life.

In Bille, despite the intervention of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which distributed relief materials, concerns remain over the long-term health implications of the gas seepage and the need for transparent investigations, protection of residents and possible relocation of endangered households.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), meanwhile, has proposed a total budget of N873.78 billion for the conduct of the 2027 general elections, with substantial allocations for election operations, technology and capital expenditure.

The residents of oil-impacted communities are in stark contrast: while billions of naira are being mobilised for the electoral process, the communities where the revenues are prospected bear the consequences of the oil production and have continued to wallow in poverty, pain and deaths with no care, no serious intervention from the government.

Civil society organisations, including Spaces for Change, Miidekor, and HOMEF have visited the area and also called for transparency, accountability, protection of affected communities and urgent action by relevant authorities.

The recurring tragedies in Rivers State raise fundamental questions about the value the country places on lives and livelihoods of people living in communities that sustain its oil and gas economy. At a time when political actors are increasingly positioning themselves ahead of the 2027 elections, residents of these communities are asking questions about access to safe drinking water, functional healthcare, environmental justice, compensation and protection from hazardous industrial activities.

Yet, for residents who continue to live with the consequences of the gas emissions, displaced and rendered homeless by oil spill, relief materials alone cannot address the scale of the crisis.

They need credible investigations, effective remediation, healthcare support and concrete measures to prevent further loss of lives.

The recurring tragedies in Rivers State raise fundamental questions about the value the country places on lives and livelihoods of people living in communities that sustain its oil and gas economy. At a time when political actors are increasingly positioning themselves ahead of the 2027 elections, residents of these communities are asking questions about access to safe drinking water, functional healthcare, environmental justice, compensation and protection from hazardous industrial activities.

For many, the contradiction is difficult to ignore: while political conversations increasingly revolve around elections and the economic benefits of renewed oil production, communities continue to count their losses from pollution, explosions, destroyed fishing grounds and unresolved environmental emergencies.

The situation also brings renewed attention to the much-publicised Ogoniland cleanup project, which was flagged off by former Vice-

Feature

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Groan Under Pollution, Disease, Death





President Yemi Osinbajo on June 2, 2016, following the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

A decade after the ceremony, questions persist about the pace, reach and visible impact of the remediation exercise. Monitoring by *The Guardian* showed that the cleanup which is being handled by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), is not translating into tangible improvements in the lives of affected people. Residents of Bodo, Kpean and Goi communities continue to endure immense hardship, unable to return to their primary sources of livelihood

The renewed push to resume oil production in Ogoniland has also heightened the need to demonstrate that environmental remediation, community trust and accountability will not be sacrificed for economic considerations.

At the Yorla Oilfield in Kpean community in Ogoniland, massive oil spill ravaged the area, Cassava farms that should be approaching harvest were been rendered useless. Mangroves, palm trees and other vegetation were coated in crude and left to decay, while nearby creeks and waterways remain heavily polluted.

Eleven months after a high-powered Federal Government delegation led by the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, visited the area and assured residents of urgent intervention, *The Guardian* findings revealed that though the devastation is said to have been cleared, there is no further steps taken by relevant authorities to restore the area.

On December 22, 2025, Ribadu-led a Federal Government delegation to the spill site at the Yorla Oil Field in Kpean community, Khana Local Council of Rivers State, to assess the extent of the environmental damage.

The severity of the devastation was immediately apparent. Sharp sand had to be poured across parts of the oil-impacted terrain to create a pathway for the NSA and his delegation to access the spill site.

A follow-up visit by *The Guardian* to Kpean community and interactions with residents and traditional leaders revealed the depth of their pains.

Findings showed that the community has no functional healthcare facility and no reliable source of potable water, leaving residents exposed to the health consequences of prolonged environmental pollution.

Ironically, a health centre reportedly built by Shell in the community has remained non-functional since its completion.

For residents, however, any attempt to restart oil activities without first addressing the existing environmental damage amounts to putting the cart before the horse.

Some women who spoke during *The Guardian* visit lamented the loss of livelihoods, hunger, deteriorating health and the psychological trauma associated with living in a polluted environment.

Rose Lison Imaloy, Women Leader of Opuama community in Kpean, said the crude-coated farmland, polluted waterways and abandoned wellheads remained stark evidence of a crisis that could not be wished away by official assurances.

According to her, severe pollution has affected the community's land, air and water resources, destroyed fishing and farming activities and reducing access to periwinkles, fish and other seafood that residents once depended on.

She alleged that the pollution had also triggered widespread illnesses, including suspected cases of cancer, while some community members had died.

With no functional healthcare facility, Imaloy said, residents were forced to depend largely on patent medicine stores whenever they fell ill.

Another resident, Karinubari Charles, expressed disappointment that nothing tangible had been heard from the Federal Government since the NSA's visit.

She said the community had been neglected despite the assurances given during the high-profile visit.

Charles called for urgent government intervention, insisting that affected residents needed healthcare, potable water, livelihood support and a comprehensive cleanup of their environment.

She said, those pushing such narratives were motivated by personal financial interests rather than the welfare of the affected communities.

Charles demanded proper settlement of the communities, comprehensive cleanup and direct engagement between government, operators and the people affected by decades of pollution.

Also speaking with renowned environmental activist and Executive Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Dr Nnimmo Bassey, at the spill site, Bassey said the ravaged site resembles a war front.

"This looks like a scene of fire," Bassey said during a visit to the affected community. "All this destruction of mangroves, palm trees, mangoes and the rest were just damaged by the spill itself."

The spill occurred at the Yorla Oilfield in the Kpean community in Khana Council of Ogoniland, last year.

For residents, however, the tragedy is not merely about another oil spill. It is a reminder of decades of environmental degradation and what they describe as government neglect, even as moves intensify towards possible resumption of oil production in the area.

Bassey said what was particularly disturbing was that the spill had been reported promptly by community members including the traditional ruler of Kpean community, Chief Lucky Gbene Ewor, who has continued to monitor the environment.

"The spill was reported right on time. The community people are monitoring the environment all over Ogoniland and Kpean community in particular. They reported the oil spill, so those authorities could not say they didn't know about it," he said.

He expressed concern that despite the government's awareness and the scale of the damage, meaningful remediation had yet to commence.

Bassey argued that no government that had witnessed such destruction should delay action to restore the environment.

"There is nothing by the government to help the communities," he added.

For Bassey, the unfolding crisis should serve as a warning against any hurried resumption of oil production in Ogoniland.

He recalled that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) assessment of Ogoniland recommended, among other measures, the decommissioning of decrepit oil facilities.

"What UNEP recommended was a decommissioning of decrepit oil facilities and this is what I believe should be done," Bassey said.

He listed immediate clean-up, environmental restoration and compensation for affected farmers, fishermen and communities as priorities.

"The first step is to clean up the environment. The second step is to restore the environment. The third step, which could be done at the same time as the second step, is to compensate the farmers, the fishers and the community for their loss," he said.

Bassey also took exception to reports that the outcome of recent high-level visits to Ogoniland suggested that the area was ready for oil production.

He said government officials who visited the affected areas could not reasonably claim ignorance of the environmental crisis.



Impacts of pipeline explosion in Eleme local council of Rivers State recently.



Another environmental advocate, Dr Celestine Akpobari, said the Kpean incident was particularly painful because it reflected problems that had plagued Ogoni communities for decades.

Akpobari described the Bille incident where water turns dark after about two minutes when fetched as strange. He accused authorities of failing to respond with the urgency required after the incident.

According to him, the oil spill had effectively destroyed the fruits of months of labour.

The traditional ruler of Kpean community, Chief Lucky Gbene Ewor, said residents did not understand how government officials could describe Ogoniland as ready for oil production while communities continued to grapple with abandoned oil infrastructure and environmental pollution.

"This thing is like film, but it's sad that I'm seeing it as reality. We watch it on video and we think it's mere home video and all that. But I'm here live witnessing this," he said.

He pointed to the extensive farmland and said the timing was particularly devastating because farmers should ordinarily be preparing for cultivation.

The traditional ruler said the community would need proper environmental assessment, compensation and clean-up before any discussion about resuming oil production could be taken seriously.

"They have not even visited to say, let them change all these wellheads. Nothing like that. Fencing around this place, nothing. Access road, we don't have," he said.

He also rejected claims by some politicians from Ogoniland that government was doing well in addressing the concerns of the people.

Ewor appealed to the international community and other stakeholders to intervene.

"We need the international community and people to come and help us," he said.

Similarly, Ogoni socio-cultural group, KAGOTE (Khana, Gokana, Tai and Eleme), has called on the Federal Government to use the Ogoni Remembrance Day of Ken Saro Wiwa for the development of Ogoniland in honour of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni who lost their lives in the struggle .

The president of KAGOTE, Chief Lesi Maol, said that the history of Ogoni oil is written not only in economic figures, but also in the sacrifices of Saro-Wiwa and others who stood for the dignity and wellbeing of Ogoni communities.

Saro Wiwa and others were executed on November 10, 1995, by the military government of General Sani Abacha and the people have continued to remember that date.

Maol said that while KAGOTE appreciates the efforts of the Federal Government and the Rivers State government in addressing the developmental needs of the Ogoni, more should be done to boost development in the area in order to improve the lives of the people.

Well, as President Tinubu moves around some states to campaign for 2027 elections, the affected residents in Bille, Kpean , Eleme and other affected communities have urged him to personally visit the affected communities and see things for himself and not just to go for campaigns when people are dying.

Diary



Sitting: Mr. Yibo Koko (left); Mrs. Folashade Akinremi; Mrs. Bolanle Austen-Peters; Founder and creative producer LITF, Mr. Jonny Baxter; British Deputy High Commissioner, Mrs. Baxter; Mrs. Joke Silva; Mrs. Tola Adegbite and others at a reception in honour of the Lagos International Theatre Featival 3.0 at the Deputy British High Commission in Lagos ...on Wednesday



Sokoto State Governor, Ahmad Aliyu (second right); President's son, Seyi Tinubu (right); Minister of Youth Development, Ayodele Olawande; Director-General of the City Boy Movement, Francis Oluwatosin Shoga and others during a rally to support President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Ahmed Aliyu for a second term in 2027.



Managing Director, Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG), Adeleye Falade (left); Fireside Chat Moderator/ Managing Director, Tenaris Nigeria, Mrs. Rosario Osobase; Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, Seplat Nigeria, Mr. Effiong Okon; President, Women in Energy Network (WIEN), Mrs. Eyono Fatayi-Williams; Executive Director/Human Resources Manager, Esso Exploration and Production Nigeria Ltd., Mrs. Emem Abraham; and Executive Director, Oando Plc, Dr. Alex Irune during the executive leadership fireside chat at the WIEN Gala and Awards held in Lagos.



Co-Founder, Alitheia Capital, Jumoke Akinwunmi (left); Member, Executive Council at the Women in Management and Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ), Awuneba Ajumogobia; Co-Founder /Managing Partner, Alitheia Capital, Tokunboh Ishmael; Chairperson, Board of Trustees, WIMBIZ, Ebisan Akisanya, and Director Airtel Business at Airtel Business Africa, Ogo Ofomata, during the third edition of W.O.M.A.N 2026 conference held in Lagos.

Metronotes

WIMBIZ 2026: Unilever Nigeria Rewards Impact Investment Winner With Grant

By **Suliyat Tella**

IN line with its commitment to supporting women in business, especially in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Unilever Nigeria, one of the world's leading manufacturers of Personal Care brands, has rewarded Kairox Leadership Academy, winner of the 2026 Impact Investment at the 25th yearly Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ) Conference, with a grant of N1 million.

The grant aims to support the Academy's efforts to help young people bridge the gap between formal education and the acquisition of practical, relevant skills. This support aligns with Unilever's Future-X Campus Ambassadors Programme and its commitment to youth empowerment by equipping young people with relevant skills and opportunities.

Head of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Sustainability at Unilever Nigeria Plc, Zainab Obagun, said "the grant reflects the company's commitment to supporting individuals and initiatives that create opportunities for young people..."

2026 World Orphans Day: Yayi's Wife Unveils N500m Orphanage Project

From **Azeez Olorunlomeru,** Abeokuta

• Supports 258 Children With N15m Through Chadash Foundation

AS part of activities marking World Orphans Day 2026, the Chadash Empowerment Foundation has commemorated the fifth edition of its yearly outreach with interventions in Abuja and Ogun State, including the construction of a N500 million orphanage home for JK's Orphanage, donations exceeding N15 million to five orphanage homes and the distribution of food supplies to 350 orphans.

The two-day celebration, with the theme: "Building a World of Hope," held recently, featured cash donations, full tertiary education scholarships for three students, the distribution of 192 school bags, as well as food items and essential provisions to support the children's daily needs. In Ogun State, the outreach reached 258 children across five orphanage homes.

The Founder of Chadash Empowerment Foundation, Temitope Adeola, wife of the Ogun State All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship candidate, Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola, popularly known as Yayi, said the yearly "outreach reflects the foundation's commitment to ensuring that every child receives the love, care, support and opportunities needed to realise their potential."

When Ile Bintin Gathers To *Ji Roro,* Dine And Wine

By **Eniola Daniel**

IN the words of Chinua Achebe in *Things Fall Apart,* 'A man who calls his kinsmen to a feast does not do so to save them from starving. They all have food in their own homes. When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so.

Putting into consideration that togetherness is inherently good, members of the Ile Bintin continue to maintain the reason for the formation of the group.

They athered recently at the home of Squadron Leader, Olusegun Ahmed, at 23, Lawson Street, Lagos Island for an evening of merriment and discussion.

While Ile Bintin is literally translated as a 'small house'. It is best described as a mini-united nations. Ile Bintin started with four friends who began a regular outing and stay in a sizable tiny space.

SMC Holds Investiture For New Patrons, Members, Urges Public-spirited Service

By **Sunday Aikulola**

SECRETARIAT Membership Club (SMC) has held investiture for patrons and members.

A statement signed by its President, Otunba Ayodeji Randle, noted that the investiture took place on Sunday November 8 and marked another milestone in the club's history as it formally inducted and honoured its new patrons and honorary members.

The distinguished personalities honoured, at the ceremony, included the founding patron, Chief Sylvanus Ghasarah,, and a new patron, Dr Taiwo Afolabi, who was represented by Mr Diran Seboyejo. Also inducted as honorary members were Mr Babatunde Kwame Ogala, SAN, and Owodunni Opayemi, Executive Chairman of Beaton Bau Nigeria Ltd.

USGEAAN Oyo Seeks Stronger Academic Links Between Nigerian, U.S. Varsities

By **Oguejiofor Emmanuel**

THE Oyo State Chapter of the United States Government Exchange Alumni Association of Nigeria (USGEAAN) has called for stronger academic collaboration between private universities in Nigeria and institutions in the United States, highlighting the potential benefits for students, lecturers and the wider higher education sector.

The call was made by the Oyo State Coordinator of USGEAAN, Mrs Jumoke Olowookere, while speaking as Keynote Speaker at a preparatory engagement, ahead of the 2026 Private Universities Educational Forum, scheduled for Friday, November 27, 2026, at the International Conference Centre, University of Ibadan.

The forum was organised by Foresight Educational Consult and is expected to bring together representatives of private universities, prospective university students, secondary school authorities and parents.

She emphasised the importance of building stronger international academic relationships that could expand opportunities for Nigerian institutions and their students.

She noted that collaboration between Nigerian private universities and their counterparts in the United States could create opportunities for knowledge exchange, faculty development, research collaboration, scholarships, internships and exposure to international best practices.

Ahaneku Pledges Stronger Partnerships As Medical Sciences Academy President

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE newly inaugurated President of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Nigeria, Prof. Joseph Ahaneku, has pledged to strengthen medical research, promote health education and expand the Academy's partnerships during his two-year tenure.

Ahaneku, who is a renowned consultant chemical pathologist and current Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Science and Technology, made the pledge in his acceptance speech at his investiture, where he outlined his vision for advancing the Academy's activities and consolidating the achievements of previous administrations.

Describing the Academy as a family of patriotic medical researchers committed to improving healthcare, he said: "The Academy, in my opinion, is a family of tested and trusted, patriotic medical researchers and enthusiasts who are committed to the promotion of medical research, health education and wellness of Nigerians in particular and humanity in general."

He said his administration would adopt horizontal and vertical relationship strategies to strengthen internal participation and external partnerships.

By Eniola Daniel

Prof. Wale Omole:

The Consequential Builder Who Left Before 802nd Sitting

Rain Of Tributes From Friends, Associates

ON Wednesday, November 4, 2026, Professor Adebowale Omole was at Rutam House, Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Lagos, to chair the Editorial Board meeting of The Guardian, which marked his 5,605th day as chairman of the board or the 801st time he had chaired the board before he departed to the world beyond on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.

Before he was announced as the Chairman of the Editorial Board in 2011, after Dr. Reuben Abati left to serve in Goodluck Jonathan's government, Prof Omole had served as Vice-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) between 1991 and 1999, a period the institution said formed a significant chapter in its pursuit of academic excellence, institutional development, and the preservation of its reputation as one of Nigeria's foremost centres of higher learning.

When The Guardian visited his home in GRA, Lagos, yesterday, his driver, Abdulmalik Atanda, described him as a family and people's lover with a good heart, and a personality whose home was a regular place for all.

He said he would miss his selflessness and his preaching of contentment.

"I always told him that I wished I were his child. His no was a no, and his yes, a yes. He helped so many people, and if he didn't have anything at the moment, he would promise the person, and surely, he fulfilled it," he said.

While people keep paying tribute to the prince from the Biladu Ruling House of Ijesaland, Osun State, one word remains constant: "he was a builder," meaning that Prof. Omole never left an institution or person without impartation.

In the condolence register opened in his house, Chief Olusegun Osunkeye wrote: "We have lost a scholar, intellectual, amiable gentleman, and friend. May his soul rest in peace."

Veteran journalist Dare Babarinsa, who titled his tribute A Giant Flies Away, said Professor Wale Omole was a good man and that his passage on Wednesday, November 11, fills one with nostalgia.

"He was a substantial part of the story of Great Ife, where he ran the shop for almost eight years as the first alumnus to become the Vice-Chancellor. He changed the Obafemi Awolowo University, and the institution changed him too. At 38, he became a Professor, and he became VC ten years later. His unceremonious exit, following student protests, affected him. Yet, he remained a social force in Yorubaland and Nigeria, playing key roles in Ijesaland, where he was born in 1942, and at the Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, Ikeja, where we worshipped together.

"A few years ago, his wife died, and this weighed heavily on him. Cerebral and relentless, he found purpose as the chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Guardian*. He was a giant among men. We will miss him. May his valiant soul rest in peace."

The Òràngún of Òkè-Ìlá, Oba Adedokun Abolarin, said, "A Builder Has Gone Home."

"The last time I saw Prof. Wale Omole was at Ilesa. I had gone on a courtesy visit to the newly enthroned Owa of Ijesaland, His Imperial Majesty, Owa Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, Ajimoko III, Owa Obokun Adimula and Paramount Ruler of Ijesaland, and there we met.

"We relived, briefly, the years in Ife, not the years when he was Vice-Chancellor. No. We spoke of the mid-70s to the mid-80s when my generation looked up to them as builders of our great university, the University of Ife.

"Those were the years of foundation, the years when men gave their youth, their intellect, and their strength, not for reward, but for a vision bigger than themselves."

He added: "Prof. Omole was very fond of Great Ife, as an alumnus should be. He loved it deeply, not with words alone, but with work. He built it selflessly, with other greats, brick by brick, idea by idea, sacrifice by sacrifice. He believed in Ife. He believed that a university could shape a nation, and he gave himself to that belief.

"His demise at 84 is another attestation to a simple, sobering truth: life itself is extremely short.

"84 years may sound long, but to those who knew him, it feels like a brief visit a short season to plant, to build, to love, and to leave. And that is why we must crave legacy, not luxury. We must build, not just live.

"What endures is not what we gather, but what we build for others; not the titles we hold, but the institutions we strengthen; not the wealth we keep, but the lives we lift.

"Prof. Omole built. He built a university. He built men and women. He built a legacy that will outlive us all. When the history of Great Ife is told, his name will be there, not as a footnote, but as one of the builders.

"May his soul rest in perfect peace. May his family be comforted. And may Great Ife never forget her own. Adieu, Prof. Wale Omole. A builder. An alumnus. A legend."

Also, the 12th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Idowu Olayinka, said: "He was one of us. He was of the finest stuff our school has ever produced since its establishment in February 1934.

"I had not heard from him for a very long time, which I considered unsatisfactory. The only WhatsApp number I had for him wasn't going through. As a last resort, I had to contact his nephew, Dare, son of the late Broda Segun, Professor Segun Omole (1950 to 2008) of the Department of Petroleum Engineering, University of Ibadan. .

"I finally got Professor Wale Omole on the phone on Thursday last week, November 5, 2026. We spoke for about four minutes. I told him I had asked after him from the Publisher of *The Guardia*n, Lady Maiden Ibru, when we met recently. Immediately after our call, he called me back saying he would come to look for me very soon. We spoke for another four minutes. To now imagine he passed on to eternity barely six days after what has now turned out to be our last conversation hurts very deeply.

"You sent your wife, now of blessed memory (Mama Ronke), to represent the Omole Dynasty at my Inaugural Lecture in February 2010. You personally attended my Inauguration Ceremony as the 12th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan at the Chapel of the Resurrection in December 2015. This is just to underscore the fact that you took me as your favourite kid brother. Needless to add, it was a duty for me to honour many of your invitations at our ancestral home in Ilesa, in Ibadan, and at Ikeja, where you lived after retirement from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

"You were one of the earliest old students of Ilesa Grammar School to become a Vice-Chancellor, after the legendary Professor Hezekiah Adedunmola Oluwasanmi, who was promoted to Professor in 1958, elected the first Nigerian Dean of Agriculture at the University of Ibadan, and served with distinction as the second Vice-Chancellor at Ile-Ife from 1966 to 1975. It was he who moved the new university from its temporary site in Ibadan to the permanent site at Ile-Ife. After you, came Professor Oyewusi Ibidapo-Obe at the University of Lagos, Professor Rotimi Tayo at Caleb University, Imota, Professor Adebisi Balogun at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Professor Isaac Adewole and Idowu Olayinka at the University of Ibadan, Professor Olasebikan Fakolujo at Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Professor Oladiran Famurewa at King's University, Ode Omu, and some others, including those in the diaspora.

"Condolences to the entire family you left behind to mourn you. Your services to ILEGRAMS are indelible, and all Omoluwabis owe you a debt of gratitude. I pray for the repose of your gentle soul. Good night, great scholar, community leader, mentor. Adieu, Sir."

Speaking on his demise, former Managing Director of *The Guardian*, Martins Oloja, said: "Professor Omole was significant to the building and rebuilding of the paper. He was not just the Chairman of the Editorial Board of *The Guardian*; he was also a director of significance in the company. As a former Vice-Chancellor of Obafemi Awolowo University and not just a former Vice-Chancellor, he was a significant, impactful, and consequential Vice-Chancellor, he contributed immensely.

"I attended some board meetings with him, and he was also a leader on the board who shaped board decisions a great deal. The Alex Ibru family respected him for that and for his contributions.

"Prof. Omole was part of the board meeting that confirmed me as Editor of The Guardian after only 21 days in office as Acting Editor in 2012. He was also there when I was confirmed as Editor-in-Chief, and he was also there when I became the Managing Director. He was part of my growth process at *The Guardian*. He was one of the critical factors in the rebuilding of *The Guardian*. He was a passionate and knowledgeable person."

Speaking also, a neighbour of the late professor, Opeyemi Akindele, said: "Baba was our landlord. My office is the building next to his house. He was a nice, cool, and calm man. He was always ready to resolve issues and defend people against unjust treatment.

"Prof. was a builder who was always bringing people closer to him. I've known him for close to four years, and he never once gave us any issues. He was happy to be part of our activities in the office."

In her tribute, Chief Funmilayo Oyinlola Okuku wrote: "Wale, you came, you saw, and you conquered. Rest in perfect peace. Amen."

Francis Abayomi of *The Guardian* Editorial Board wrote: "Rest in peace, dear Prof. You were a great teacher and builder of the nation. You did your best for humanity."

In a letter of condolence signed by its chairman, Chief Dr. Oluyomi Finnih, the Residents Association, Sanni Sonoiki Estate, stated: "We wish to express our sincere condolences on the transition of our beloved pioneer member, father, brother, and elder statesman, Professor Adebowale Omole. His shocking demise at this time is a significant loss to the family, the community, the Body of Christ, educational institutions, and the entire nation.

"The news of his passing is shocking and still very difficult to comprehend. He was an excellent lecturer of unwavering integrity and a dependable Christian.

"While we deeply commiserate with the entire family during this trying period, we pray that the Almighty, who understands every situation, grants the family the fortitude to bear his departure."



Omole

Politics

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2027: Dissecting Makinde's Reset Agenda For Nigeria

The presidential candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) in the 2027 elections and Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has unveiled a Reset Agenda proposing state police, devolution of powers and economic restructuring to address Nigeria's governance challenges if elected. ***SEYE OLUMIDE*** *writes.*

UNDER his proposed Reset Agenda titled 'Reset Nigeria: A Governing Programme for a Productive, Secure, Capable and Accountable Federation,' Governor Seyi Makinde is seeking a fundamental reorganisation of the federal structure, the economy and national institutions. He argues that excessive concentration of authority at the centre, weak institutional coordination and poor accountability have undermined development.

"Reset Nigeria means correcting that course and building a federation capable of making our unity work," he declared while presenting the programme.

The proposal comes amid public concerns over rising living costs, insecurity, unemployment, unreliable electricity, poor infrastructure and declining household purchasing power. Makinde acknowledges that Nigerians are bearing the consequences of rising food, transport, energy and housing costs, insisting that economic reforms must ultimately be judged by their impact on living standards.

Economic Restructuring And Productivity

At the centre of the Economic Reset is a promise to reorganise national priorities around productivity, domestic production, employment and lower production costs. Makinde argues that the economy is constrained by the failure to connect agriculture, transportation, energy, manufacturing, finance and security into a coordinated production system.

Rather than introduce a separate policy for every problem, the framework would identify productive sectors and remove obstacles preventing them from expanding. Its guiding principles include establishing the true cost of government interventions, assigning responsibility for results, connecting related policies, setting measurable deadlines and discontinuing arrangements that consume public funds without delivering value.

One proposal is to prioritise federal road construction along economically important corridors linking farms, industrial clusters, ports, markets and border communities. Projects, the programme says, should be assessed not merely by kilometres constructed or funds released, but by the economic opportunities created through improved transportation.

Under a proposed Federal-State Road Compact, states undertaking projects on federal roads would have agreements with the Federal Government covering financing, reimbursement, construction standards, supervision and maintenance. Makinde believes this would address uncertainty surrounding state expenditure on federal infrastructure.

Agriculture also features prominently. A national food-production strategy would coordinate farming, security, storage, processing, transportation and market access. Initial priority commodities are rice, maize, cassava, beans and tomatoes, subject to assessments of production capacity, household consumption and regional suitability.

The Federal Government would coordinate national standards, provide shared infrastructure, facilitate financing and address constraints crossing state boundaries, rather than run farms or processing businesses. The argument is that increased production alone will not reduce food prices if farmers cannot safely reach their farms, preserve harvested produce or transport it to consumers.

The programme identifies food and agro-processing, textiles and apparel, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, and construction materials derived from local minerals as priority industrial value chains. Federal and state governments would work with private investors to identify their infrastructure, energy, skills, financing and regulatory requirements. The intended outcome is an environment in which local businesses can expand production, create jobs and compete in domestic and international markets.

Refinery, Electricity And Fiscal Reforms

On energy, Makinde promises to end what he describes as the cycle of public expenditure on government-owned refineries that fail to operate reliably. He proposes an independent technical, financial, environmental and asset assessment of all government-owned refineries within the first six months of his administration.

Within 12 months, each refinery would be assigned one of three options: partnership with a technically qualified private operator; conversion into a commercially viable petroleum, petrochemical, storage or logistics facility; or orderly decommissioning. Viable transactions would be concluded within 18 months, with production or conversion milestones enforced by the end of the third year.

The principle, he says, is that government ownership should serve a demonstrable public interest rather than become a permanent justification for financing commercially unsustainable operations.

On electricity, the governor proposes a targeted protection arrangement for low-income households. Qualifying metered households would receive their first 50 kilowatt-hours monthly at a protected rate. Funding would be based on verified electricity delivered rather than estimated consumption, with priority metering for qualifying unmetered households. He also proposes support for eligible off-grid households through competitively procured solar-home-system and mini-grid connections.

On macro-economic management, Makinde promises fiscal discipline, monetary stability and a transparent foreign-exchange market. The Central Bank would retain operational independence in pursuing price stability, while the Federal Government would support monetary policy through responsible borrowing, improved revenue administration and increased domestic production.

Makinde rejects artificial exchange rates and preferential foreign-exchange arrangements that reward access rather than productivity. His fiscal framework would restrict routine monetary financing of federal deficits. Major borrowing proposals would disclose their purpose, repayment sources, foreign-exchange exposure and expected economic or social returns.

Foreign-currency borrowing, he says, should be exceptional and restricted to projects with identifiable foreign-currency earnings or concessional financing demonstrably cheaper than domestic alternatives. The proposals seek to combine market-based management with targeted social protection. Their viability, however, would depend on fiscal capacity, reliable data and institutions able to enforce the rules.

> *Makinde's central proposition is that Nigeria's problems cannot be resolved through isolated policy announcements without confronting the institutional weaknesses that have undermined successive administrations.*

State Police And Decentralisation Of Security

Perhaps the most politically consequential proposal is the decentralisation of policing. Makinde argues that Nigeria's security architecture concentrates operational authority at the centre while expecting governors and communities to respond to threats over which they have limited lawful control.

He says security challenges cannot be resolved simply by deploying more personnel, weapons and vehicles without improving intelligence, local knowledge, communication and accountability. His proposal is to complete the constitutional, legal, financial and operational arrangements for state police.

States seeking to establish police services would have to demonstrate sustainable funding, transparent recruitment, professional training and independent disciplinary and complaints mechanisms. State police would focus principally on public safety and crimes within their jurisdictions. Federal agencies would retain responsibility for terrorism, border security, organised crime and offences crossing state or national boundaries.

The two levels would operate through interoperable communication systems, shared intelligence and common criminal records. National standards would govern the use of force, detention, investigation, firearms and human rights. Independent oversight and judicial review would be required to prevent state police becoming instruments of political, ethnic or religious persecution.

Makinde also proposes a common Threat-to-Action Standard across security agencies. Every credible warning would have an identified lead agency, supporting institutions, a responsible command structure and a traceable response. Serious incidents would trigger operational reviews to establish what authorities knew, what action they took and where failures occurred.

Security operations would also be linked to economic recovery in affected communities. Under proposed Security and Economic Recovery Plans, protecting farming communities, transport routes, schools, markets and health facilities would go hand in hand with restoring legitimate economic activities.

Devolution And A New Federal Arrangement

Another major component is a proposed Federal Responsibilities Review to determine which responsibilities should remain exclusively federal, which require national standards but state-level implementation, and which should principally pass to states or local governments.

Makinde promised to undertake the review within his first year, producing proposals for constitutional amendments, legislation, fiscal adjustments and transition arrangements. He argues that transferring responsibilities without corresponding funds, personnel, assets and accountability would merely relocate existing failures.

The proposal has implications for natural resources, particularly solid minerals. Under the present constitutional arrangement, the Federal Government retains primary control over mineral resources, including licensing, while states contend with many environmental, security and social consequences of mining within their territories.

Makinde proposes giving state governments a greater role in decisions concerning the exploration and exploitation of solid minerals. Although the Federal Government would continue issuing mining licences under the existing framework.



Makinde

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Is Seyi Makinde A Politician Of Conviction Or Convenience?

By **Remi Ladigbolu**

I was part of the backroom communications team of the late Governor Abiola Ajimobi during the final 15 months of his administration. That experience gave me some insight into the manoeuvring that preceded the last-minute substitution of Joseph Tegbe with Adebayo Adelabu as the preferred All Progressives Congress (APC) gubernatorial candidate for the 2019 elections. Adelabu eventually lost to Seyi Makinde.

I sometimes wonder how that episode would have unfolded if Makinde had been in Ajimobi's position. From what I have come to understand about his political temperament, I suspect he would have resisted the pressures reportedly brought to bear and stood by his original choice, come rain or shine. This is my assessment, reflecting my impression of a politician prepared to resist powerful interests when he believes they are dictating his choices.

That disposition lies at the heart of the argument surrounding Makinde. To some, he makes difficult choices at the cost of alliances. To others, ambition takes precedence over loyalty. Some dismiss his presidential campaign as a joke; others see it as retaliation against Tinubu for what Makinde considers a betrayal.

Makinde's political conduct must be judged by the principles behind his decisions, their consistency over time and their consequences for the public. Resisting pressure does not automatically make a decision right, just as abandoning an alliance does not prove courage. Political independence is meaningful when it serves a purpose beyond the freedom to make personal choices.

Makinde's account of the ministerial appointment is revealing. He said Tinubu had told him that he wanted a development economist for the budget and economic planning portfolio, prompting him to recommend former Oyo State Commissioner for Finance, Bimbo Adekanmbi. Makinde said the President later settled on Adebayo Adelabu for the ministerial slot allocated to Oyo State and asked him to present Adelabu as his own choice. Makinde said he declined, insisting the appointment be acknowledged as Tinubu's decision.

Adekanmbi served as Deputy Chief of Staff from 2011 to 2015 and later became Commissioner for Finance, Budget and Planning under Ajimobi. Makinde subsequently appointed him to chair the committee overseeing the Ibadan Airport upgrade, citing his contribution to the Ajimobi administration.

Makinde has since endorsed Adekanmbi as his preferred successor in Oyo State, and Adekanmbi has emerged as the APM candidate for the 2027 governorship election. Makinde says he has advised him to chart his own course and that he does not intend to be a political godfather. Whether he can endorse a successor and allow him genuine independence remains to be seen.

On X, commentator Mr. Lurvy alleged that Makinde had abandoned or undermined former associates, including Atiku Abubakar, Ademola Adeleke, Hosea Agboola, Rauf Olaniyan, Bisi Ilaka, Joseph Tegbe, Mukaila Lamidi (Auxiliary), Oriyomi Hamzat and Dotun Sanusi. The allegation does not prove that every person named was betrayed, but it raises questions about the durability of Makinde's political commitments.

There is a wider political principle at stake. Those who support a candidate do not own the mandate voters eventually give him, nor are they automatically entitled to appointments, privileges or permanent influence. But political leaders should not treat relationships built before attaining office as expendable once they gain the freedom to make independent decisions. Where genuine agreements exist, they should be honoured or any change explained. Where expectations were never agreed, political supporters must also recognise that access to power is not an entitlement.

The G5 dispute ahead of the 2023 presidential election illustrated these competing interpretations. Makinde and the other governors opposed Atiku's candidacy amid the PDP leadership crisis and their demand that power return to the South. Supporters saw a stand for fairness; critics called it betrayal. Some members of the coalition that helped Makinde win in 2019 also complained of being sidelined. These disagreements cannot all be assessed in the same way, but they raise a question that extends beyond Makinde. Political alliances are often built around shared interests and electoral objectives, but leaders must be prepared to explain when they depart from the commitments that brought those alliances together. Equally, political partners must recognise that an elected leader's primary obligation is to the electorate.

The departures from his administration have brought these questions closer to home. Segun Ogunwuyi, Chief of Staff since July 2021, resigned on October 12, 2026. His letter gave no reason. On November 10, he joined the APC in Ogbomoso alongside Rasak Gbadegesin, popularly known as Agbeti. The defection also involved chairmen of three local councils and other APM chieftains. Reports linked the split partly to disagreement over Makinde's choice of Adekanmbi as successor.

Former appointee Joshua Afolabi claimed Ogunwuyi had not been consulted about the APM move and had earlier expressed reservations, although his resignation letter did not confirm this. Other departures included Fatai Owoseni, Babatunde Oduyoye, Funmi Arulogun, Tara Adefope and Kabiru Salami. In November, Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Ayobami Oluwaseun Ojo; Special Adviser on Budget and Economic Planning, Simeon Adegbola Oyeleke and Sunday Olugbenga Falana, a member of the Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC), also resigned. Oyeleke cited an uncomfortable work environment.

At the November 10 budget presentation, Makinde said the departures would not change his government's direction. He also said a female official resigned after he rejected what he called an impossible request, but did not identify her or disclose the request. The governor is entitled to make decisions he considers necessary, but the departure of several senior officials raises legitimate questions about the working relationships and disagreements within his administration. The responsibility to govern independently does not remove the need for effective relationships within government or honest explanations when those relationships break down.

The public consequences of Makinde's decisions provide another basis for assessing his leadership. His administration has advanced the Ibadan Circular Road, conceived under Rashidi Ladoja; developed agribusiness in Fasola and Eruwa, removed the secondary school education levy, invested in primary healthcare and expanded Amotekun. Their value rests on results for residents, not announcements or expenditure alone. Continuing projects initiated by previous administrations is also worth acknowledging. Public projects should not be abandoned because political opponents conceived them.

The same principle of responsible stewardship must apply to public assets and environmental decisions. The proposed conversion of parts of the Ogunpa Forest Reserve for Baywood Estate has raised environmental concerns. The government says due process was followed and an environmental impact assessment was conducted. Environmental organisations, however, say they were not consulted and that the EIA report had not been produced in court. A government that expects its political independence to be respected must also be prepared to explain decisions affecting shared public resources and respond to legitimate concerns about their consequences.

Presenting the 2027 budget, Makinde said the Fasola Agribusiness Transformation Centre, designated Nigeria's first agricultural transformation centre by the African Development Bank, had generated over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs. He reported 16 agribusinesses with investments worth more than N20 billion and over 30,130 biometrically captured smallholder farmers. He also cited a 288 per cent rise in internally generated revenue, from N26.59 billion in 2019 to N103.25 billion in the last full financial year, 2025; Oyo's third-place ranking in the 2025 Subnational Ease of Doing Business assessment and the return of about 65,000 out-of-school children to classrooms.

He also cited three examples of people accessing government services or opportunities without relying on godfathers or personal connections in government: a lawyer shortlisted among the top three candidates for a position in the state anti-corruption agency, a farmer who approached the Agriculture Ministry and received the service he needed, and a civil servant whose promotion to Grade Level 16 was resolved. These examples point to a governing philosophy in which access to public institutions should depend less on personal connections and more on fair procedures. The real test is whether ordinary citizens can experience that principle consistently, not just in individual cases presented by the government.

This brings the discussion to Makinde's Reset Nigeria Agenda, unveiled on November 4. Built around four pillars—the economy, security, education and the socio-political system—the agenda connects his experience in Oyo with a broader argument about how Nigeria should be governed. Its significance lies not only in the proposals it contains but also in the relationship between them.

The economic proposals address the structural costs of living and doing business, the connection between production centres and markets, and the relationship between government and businesses. These are questions of opportunity and access. Farmers need more than the capacity to produce; they need roads, markets and institutions that allow them to earn from their work. Businesses need more than government incentives; they need predictable policies and public officials who apply rules fairly. Economic development therefore requires a system in which opportunity is not determined by proximity to political power.

The same thinking runs through the proposals on security and education. Stronger intelligence and coordination among security agencies, alongside reviews of major incidents to identify failures, point to a security system that must learn from its mistakes and take responsibility for its performance. In education, the emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy, keeping children in school and linking learning to vocational skills recognises that access to education must lead to meaningful opportunities. Security, education and economic development cannot be treated as isolated government responsibilities. Insecurity disrupts production and schooling, while weak education limits the ability of citizens to participate fully in the economy.

The socio-political pillar brings the argument together through proposals for devolution, stronger institutions and accountability. Devolution is important because decisions should be taken closer to the people affected by them.

•Ladigbolu is a journalist based in Lagos.



Mike Dada

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We no longer guess. We need to count the numbers for it to count. In any case, democracy is a game of numbers. Through sentiment analysis, digital footprint tracking, evaluation, consistent control and periodic polling, we can measure the "conversion rate" of a campaign.

Transforming Lagos: Inside Obafemi Hamzat's Seven-pillar Blueprint For Africa's Economic Gateway

By **AbdulHakeem AbdulLateef**

LAGOS is more than a sub-national entity; it is Nigeria's economic nerve centre, a primary commercial gateway to West Africa, and a relentless engine of enterprise and ambition. Governing a megacity of this scale requires more than routine administration—it demands a philosophy that anticipates future demographic and economic pressures while improving the daily lives of ordinary residents.

It is against this backdrop that Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat's 2027–2031 manifesto, The Lagos Promise (Ìlérí Èkó), merits rigorous public scrutiny. Structured around seven development pillars, the blueprint outlines 100 specific pledges—87 classified as firm commitments and 13 as longer-term aspirations requiring multi-institutional collaboration. Rather than offering abstract political slogans, the document presents a detailed operational framework for building a more connected, productive, and accountable state.

Putting Human Capital First

At the core of The Lagos Promise is the principle that sustainable economic growth is impossible without healthy, educated, and secure citizens. Under the People First pillar, the manifesto prioritizes accessible healthcare and vocational empowerment.

Key targets include expanding Maternal and Child Centres from 10 to 15, establishing 120 flagship primary healthcare centres by 2031 (alongside an initiative to upgrade 100 existing primary facilities), and constructing two new general hospitals in Ogombo and Ibeju-Lekki. Furthermore, the plan aims to expand coverage under the Ilera Eko health insurance scheme to reach one in every three Lagosians. For a market trader in Mushin, a fisherman in Epe, or a young family in Badagry, expanding affordable healthcare is a practical necessity. Equally notable is the proposed Skills Passport—a formal certification system designed to validate technical competence and bridge the gap between vocational trainees and employers.



Hamzat AbdulLateef

Modernizing Megacity Infrastructure

Traffic congestion, flooding, and housing deficits remain persistent friction points in Lagos. Under the Renewal pillar, Hamzat treats infrastructure not merely as road construction, but as an integrated urban ecosystem.

The transport agenda proposes quadrupling the public bus fleet from 1,000 to 4,000 vehicles, extending the Blue Line rail to Okokomaiko, advancing the Green Line toward the Lekki Free Trade Zone, and linking the Blue and Red rail corridors via a major interchange at the National Theatre. Crucially, the manifesto commits to integrating road, rail, and water transport through a unified ticketing card and synchronized timetables. Beyond transit, the plan targets bringing the Adiyan Phase II waterworks onstream and achieving 95 per cent waste collection coverage by 2030, paired with upgraded drainage networks to strengthen climate resilience.

Decentralizing Economic Opportunity

Lagos thrives on the energy of its micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The Opportunity pillar seeks to widen the state's economic base without imposing new tax burdens on residents.

To decongest established commercial hubs and spread industrial growth across all five administrative divisions, the manifesto proposes establishing four new industrial parks in Epe, Badagry, Ikorodu, and Ojo. Simultaneously, it sets an ambitious target to train one million young Lagosians in technology and digital skills over four years, ensuring the state's youth can compete in the global digital economy. To promote equitable growth, the framework stipulates that at least 50 per cent of beneficiaries in state-backed enterprise programmes must be women-led businesses.

Reforming the Machinery of Government

A manifesto is only as credible as the institutions tasked with executing it. Having served as Commissioner for Home Affairs in Lagos State, I know firsthand that translating policy into tangible public benefit requires institutional discipline, inter-ministerial coordination, and strict supervision.

Under the Machinery of Government pillar, Hamzat introduces the Hamzat Compact—a governance model anchored on six operational steps: promise, publish, review, listen, verify, and respond. Backed by public service charters and quarterly performance audits, the framework establishes a formal citizen-feedback mechanism aimed at resolving routine public complaints within 30 days (with initial responses within seven days). By subjecting ministries and agencies to measurable, publicly tracked targets, the compact seeks to ensure that public offices act as enablers rather than obstacles to citizens.

Inclusion, Security, and Everyday Dignity

The remaining three pillars—Inclusion, Security and Resilience, and Everyday Dignity—focus on ensuring that progress is felt across every demographic and community.

To bring governance closer to the grassroots, the manifesto proposes establishing satellite secretariats in Badagry, Ikorodu, Lagos Island, and Epe, alongside a dedicated statutory agency for child protection and expanded support for senior citizens and persons living with disabilities. On security, the plan pairs expanded street lighting and CCTV surveillance across residential, peri-urban, and riverine communities with modernized fire, rescue, and flood-response capabilities. Finally, to ease household cost-of-living pressures, the agenda outlines a home-ownership pathway featuring a 10 per cent initial deposit and single-digit mortgage interest rates.

The Test of Experience and Character

Policies ultimately depend on the competence and integrity of the leadership executing them. At the unveiling of his manifesto, Hamzat anchored his philosophy on three traditional Yoruba values: Ìt ríba (respect), I (work), and Òtít (truth).

In a complex megacity, governance cannot be treated as an experiment devoid of institutional memory. Hamzat's academic grounding—holding a PhD in Systems Process Engineering—combined with two decades of hands-on public administration as Commissioner for Science and Technology (2005–2011), Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure (2011–2015), and Deputy Governor since 2019, gives him an intimate grasp of how Lagos's ministries, budgets, and infrastructure systems operate.

As Lagos approaches its next political chapter, voters must look beyond rhetoric and scrutinize capacity, fiscal discipline, and proven administrative track records.

The Lagos Promise offers a comprehensive roadmap for generational progress. The ultimate test, however, will lie in disciplined execution—ensuring that every policy commitment translates into measurable dignity, opportunity, and prosperity for every Lagosian.

Dr. Abdul Hakeem Abdul Lateef is a former Commissioner for Home Affairs, Lagos State.

Muslims Urged To Step Up Political Participation, Demand Equity

By **Shakirah Adunola**

ISLAMIC scholars, community leaders, and political stakeholders have declared that true nation-building will remain an elusive dream in Nigeria until Muslims overcome political apathy, embrace active civic engagement and demand equity, justice and fair representation across all levels of governance.

This consensus was reached at the Quarterly Da'wah Workshop organised by the Lekki Muslim Ummah (LEMU), held at the Vice Admiral Jubrila Ayinla Multipurpose Hall, Lekki Central Mosque, Lagos. The event, themed *"Muslims, Politics and Good Governance,"* brought together prominent Islamic leaders, legal practitioners and statesmen to deliberate on the Ummah's civic responsibilities ahead of the 2027 general elections.

In his welcome address, the LEMU President, Ibrahim Kayode Akiode, an engineer, described leadership as a trust (*amanah*) that demands personal accountability, starting from individual households, businesses and community institutions to the highest public offices.

He urged Muslims to reflect on whether their daily conduct mirrors the honesty, compassion and fairness expected in public life.

Chair of the occasion and former Senator representing Ogun West Senatorial District, Senator Akin Odunsi, insisted that "true Muslims should not run away from politics." Refuting the popular notion that politics is inherently dirty, the elder statesman argued that governance requires individuals of tested moral character to manage its affairs. He credited his own clean track record in active politics to the foundational Islamic values instilled in him by his family, mosque and education.

Delivering the first lecture on *"Role of Muslims in Nation Building,"* former Commissioner of Home Affairs, Dr. AbdulHakeem AbdulLateef (Hon. Iyepe) reminded the audience of the Qur'anic mandate charging Muslims as the best community evolved for mankind to command good and forbid evil.

He warned against treating political participation as optional, emphasizing that voting is a civic duty and an act of worship (*Ibadah*). Cautioning against political apathy, he urged participants to secure their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and actively participate in electing competent leaders, highlighting the exemplary humility and governance track record of Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat.

Guest of Honour and legal expert, Dr. Muiz Banire, SAN, challenged Muslim organizations to move beyond passive commentary and establish a defined political agenda.

He urged the Ummah to negotiate binding terms with candidates before extending electoral support, noting that numerical strength must be converted into structured political influence through strategic coordination.

Expanding on this imperative, the Executive Chairman of the Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC), Ustadh Disu Kamor, delivered a paper titled *"Justice, Fairness, Equity and Inclusiveness: Essentials of Good Governance."* He stressed that justice (*'adl*) and fairness (*qist*) are mandatory Qur'anic principles that must govern statecraft.

Citing documented imbalances across executive appointments, cabinet formations, Shariah arbitration recognition, and hijab rights, particularly across the South-West, South-East and South-South regions.

Kamor asserted that perceived exclusion weakens societal trust and corrodes governance. Drawing lessons from the political organization of Muslim communities in the United States, he outlined actionable frameworks such as MPAC's *ENGAGE* initiative, the *A Fair Deal or None* campaign charter and the *Leadership and Governance Impact Programme (LGIP)* to build capacity, enforce accountability and ensure structured representation.

Corroborating the imperative of principled civic engagement, Chief Imam of Lekki Central Mosque, Imam Dr. Ridwan Jamiu, speaking on *"2027 General Elections: Voting as a Civic Responsibility,"* emphasized that democracy, at its core, is a mechanism of consultation (*shura*) to choose leadership.



Chief Imam, Lighthouse Estate Mosque, Lekki, Imam Najeem Jimoh (left); former President, Lekki Muslim Ummah, LEMU, Dr Waliu Braimo; Executive Director, MPAC Nigeria, Kamor Disu; Chief Imam, Lekki Central Mosque, Dr Ridwan Jamiu; Special Guest, Dr Muiz Banire; President, LEMU, Ibrahim Akiode;, Chairman of the occasion, Senator Akin Odunsi; former President, LEMU, Dr Kamoru Omotosho and Vice President, LEMU, Tajudeen Animashaun, during the Lekki Muslim Ummah Quarterly Da'wah Workshop themed "Muslims, Politics & Good Governance" held at Lekki Central Mosque, Lekki... last Sunday.

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Editorial

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End Electricity Rhetoric, Deliver Power

THE alarm raised by the Chemical and Non-Metallic Products Employers Federation (CAN-MPEF) about high cost of electricity amidst failure of the national grid is only a rehash of what most Nigerians are going through. The Federal Government should be very concerned. The Federation reportedly disclosed that Nigerian manufacturers spent an estimated N1.35 trillion on alternative power in 2025, while 18,935 manufacturing jobs were lost in the first half of the year. These figures are frightening. They demonstrate the devastating consequences of Nigeria's electricity crisis on industrial productivity, employment and national economic growth.

It is shameful that at 66, Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa and one of the continent's most richly endowed nations, cannot guarantee its citizens a constant and reliable electricity supply. After decades of policy pronouncements, reform programmes, privatisation and enormous public expenditure, Nigerians are still condemned to darkness. There is so much rhetoric about transforming the power sector but very little action. Nigerians are tired of lame, ready-made excuses. They demand delivery of power.

The persistent collapse of the national grid, plunging millions of homes and businesses into darkness with embarrassing regularity, is a national disgrace. Industries spend billions of naira annually on diesel-powered generators. Hospitals struggle to perform life-saving operations. Universities conduct research under unstable electricity conditions.

Regrettably too, small businesses are crippled by soaring energy costs, while potential investors increasingly regard unreliable electricity as one of the greatest obstacles to doing business in Nigeria. No country aspiring to become a modern industrial economy can continue to function under such debilitating conditions. These days, most Nigerians cannot sleep comfortably at night or work effectively in their offices because of unbearable heat and absence of electricity to power their fans and air conditioners.

The Federation identified electricity supply as one of the most significant constraints confronting manufacturers, particularly producers of chemicals, plastics, rubber, glass, ceramics and other non-metallic mineral products whose production processes are heavily dependent on energy. It lamented that average electricity generation remained below 5,000 megawatts against an estimated national demand of about 18,345 megawatts. Gas supply constraints, transmission bottlenecks and recurring grid collapses have continued to undermine the capacity of the sector to meet the country's electricity needs.

For these industries, irregular electricity is not merely an inconvenience; it threatens production processes, damages equipment, increases operating costs and undermines competitiveness. Ironically, all this is happening in a country blessed with some of Africa's largest natural gas reserves and enormous renewable energy resources. Nigeria has the natural endowments to generate substantially more electricity than it currently produces. What is missing is not the availability of resources but the political will, institutional discipline, competent management and sustained investment required to harness them.

The greatest structural weakness of the present electricity arrangement is its continued dependence on an overburdened national grid attempting to serve more than 200 million people across 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The repeated collapse of the grid exposes the fragility of this highly centralised system. Nigeria must therefore accelerate the decentralisation of electricity generation and distribution, fully exploiting the opportunities created by the Electricity Act 2023. State governments, private investors and industrial clusters should be encouraged to develop independent and embedded electricity generation systems capable of meeting local demand.

Meanwhile, the growing adoption of solar energy by households and businesses is exposing another fundamental weakness in the electricity distribution model. Nigerians are increasingly investing in solar panels, inverters and battery storage because they can no longer depend on the national grid. This development is understandably unsettling the revenue models of electricity distribution companies (DisCos), which depend largely on consumers purchasing electricity from the grid. But the DisCos should understand that consumers cannot be expected to remain permanently dependent on an unreliable electricity supply.

Thirteen years after the privatisation of the electricity sector, the promise of improved efficiency, increased investment and reliable power supply remains largely unfulfilled. Rather than guarantee stable electricity, the privatised system has left consumers paying for darkness while spending additional fortunes on generators, diesel and solar installations. This is an indictment of a reform programme that has failed to deliver its central promise.

The Federal Government and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) must recognise that solar energy is not an enemy of the electricity market but an important part of its future. The increasing adoption of renewable energy should encourage DisCos to rethink their business models and embrace distributed generation, mini-grids and partnerships with independent power producers. Consumers who invest in alternative energy must equally be protected against arbitrary charges, unfair billing practices and regulatory harassment. The survival of DisCos cannot take precedence over the welfare of electricity consumers.

Beyond these structural reforms, the Federal Government must urgently prioritise adequate gas supply to power generation companies, settle outstanding debts in the electricity value chain to restore confidence and investment, and establish a predictable and transparent electricity tariff framework. It must also encourage captive and embedded power generation, particularly for industrial clusters, while providing incentives for renewable energy investments. The concerns raised by manufacturers over prohibitively high borrowing costs must also be addressed. Manufacturers cannot expand production, modernise equipment or invest in alternative energy when the cost of credit is itself prohibitive.

The Federal Government must stop treating electricity as another subject for endless policy conferences, committees and official pronouncements. What the country needs is a measurable and time-bound electricity recovery programme with clear responsibilities, transparent funding and consequences for institutional failure. The government must also publish regular performance reports showing improvements in generation, transmission and distribution. Ultimately, electricity is not a luxury. It is the lifeblood of modern economic development. Without reliable power, Nigeria cannot industrialise, create sufficient employment, attract sustainable foreign investment or compete effectively in the global economy. The purpose of electricity privatisation was to improve service delivery, not merely to transfer public assets into private hands.

The Tinubu government must rise to the occasion and give Nigerians what they have been denied for far too long: constant, affordable and reliable electricity. It is not rocket science. It is a basic obligation of governance.

LETTER

Where Is Potable Water In Karu, Five Months After Project

SIR: The commissioning of the Karu Satellite Town Water Supply Network by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, on 22 June 2026, was presented as a historic milestone in the provision of potable water to residents of Karu, Orozo, Jikwoyi, Kurudu, and neighbouring communities.

The project, reportedly involving the installation of approximately 190 kilometres of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipelines, was celebrated as evidence of the Federal Government's commitment to ending the neglect of satellite towns and ensuring that access to clean water becomes a reality for ordinary residents.

At the commissioning ceremony, the President was quoted as declaring: 'Today, we declare that the era of neglect of our satellite towns is officially over.'

These were commendable words, and the project represented a welcome development. Prior to the commencement of the Karu water supply project, the people of Karu have enjoyed water supply from the FCT water board and before the project kicked off in 2025, access to Potable water from the FCT water board stopped sometime in April 2025 leaving residents of Karu at the mercy of private water vendors but five months after the historic commissioning the water taps in Karu and environs remain dry without a drop of water. However, a fundamental question now demands an honest and urgent answer:

What is the actual status of this water supply project, and why are residents of Karu still reporting a lack of reliable access to potable water?

As residents continue to struggle to obtain water for their daily household needs, the disconnect between the public announcement of a completed project and the water available at the point of use raises serious concerns about its operational status, commissioning arrangements, and the effectiveness of its distribution network.

For many households, access to water remains a daily challenge with some families spending as much as N8,000 daily to access water from private water vendors. Families have been left with little choice but to purchase water from private vendors to meet basic needs such as cooking, bathing, washing, cleaning, and sanitation. This places an additional financial burden on residents who already face considerable economic challenges.

Water is not a luxury. It is a fundamental human necessity, essential to public health, sanitation, dignity, and human welfare. Residents should not have to continue paying out of pocket for a basic necessity that a publicly funded infrastructure project was intended to provide. The situation raises important questions about public infrastructure delivery, the operational readiness of the project and accountability for public expenditure. Questions the presidency and the FCT administration must answer

In the interest of transparency, accountability, and public service, the following questions deserve clear and specific answers:

What is the current operational status of the Karu water supply project? Has the entire network been commissioned and made operational, or was the commissioning primarily a formal ceremony pending further technical and distribution works?

Why are residents still without reliable potable water? If the project has been completed and commissioned, what explains the continued lack of dependable household supply in affected parts of Karu?

Has the network been fully connected and tested?

What proportion of the intended communities and households is currently receiving water, and what evidence can the FCT Administration provide to substantiate its claims of service delivery?

What challenges are preventing effective distribution?

Are there outstanding issues involving the reservoir, trunk pipelines, tertiary distribution networks, pumping facilities, electricity supply, water treatment, pressure management, or household connections? If so, what measures are being taken to resolve them?

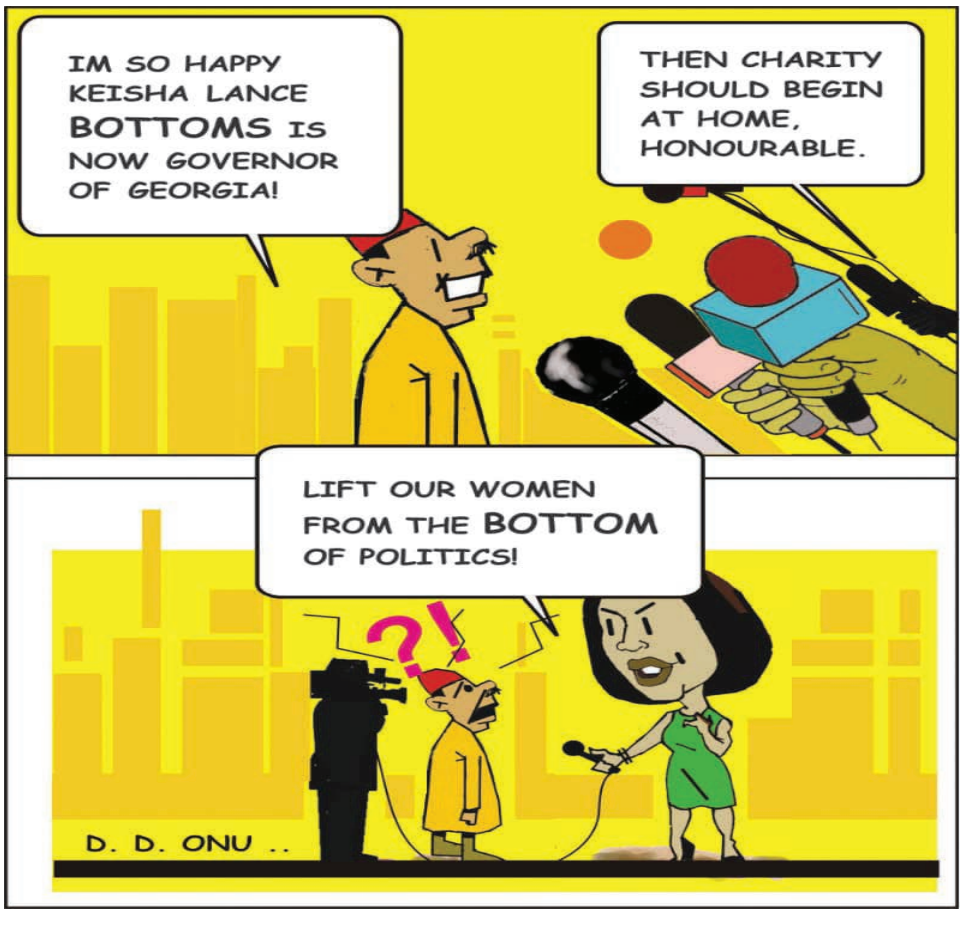
What is the government's timeline for reliable water supply?

Residents deserve a definite, publicly communicated schedule for resolving outstanding problems and ensuring that potable water reaches the communities the project was designed to serve.

These are not unreasonable demands. They are legitimate questions from citizens seeking accountability for public infrastructure and the responsible use of public resources.

• *Bernard Enahoro Obomas is a Concerned Resident and Public Accountability Advocate, Abuja.*

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Opinion

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Thanks To Trump, Women, Minorities Soar In American Politics

By **Nduka Uzuakpundu**

THE mid-term results of American election are pointers to the shape of future things to come: Trump, to glee of his notorious temper, as a stormy petrel, has offended too many Americans - Democrats and Republicans, alike - by his ill-advised wars against Russia, Iran and aiding the genocide against innocent Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The war against Iran is unpopular: it has caused an astronomical increase in the price of gas (petrol) to nearly six dollars per gallon from pre-war price of three, to the discomfort of a majority of American auto owners and countless businesses - agriculture and mass transit, say - that are gas-allied. In the same breath, it has squeezed disposable cash out of most middle class households.

Americans were appalled that Trump funnelled scarce national resources to the Jewish State of Israel in committing genocide against innocent Palestinians in Gaza.

Those were some of the reasons that caused the cousin of a seismic shift in Congress and some states like Georgia, Ohio, New Mexico and Texas, where women and minorities broke new grounds in, supposedly, Republican redoubts.

In Georgia, Keisha Lance Bottoms, born by enslaved parents, was elected the first African American governor of Georgia. Ohio, Amy Acton emerged victorious to be the state's first woman governor. Texas, Gina Hinojosa would serve as the first Latina governor of the oil-abundant state. Something profoundly new happened in the State of New Mexico: Deb Haaland, a Native American, was elected as the first woman governor.

Still, across party lines, it's widely held by seasoned psephologists that Bottoms was the best sprinter in the mid-term election. She had, as an aiding wind, her long stint in the politics of Georgia and a brief showing inside Biden's White House.

Out of these impressive firsts achieved by women, it does seem to me that they would spring a more ambitious development, soon: two women - both African Americans from the Democratic Party - as the first successive women presidents of the United States of America after Trump's exit.

It's a development that might compare favourably to John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both white, who were second and third vice-presidents and later presidents, in that order.

You never can tell, American voters of the two leading parties - the Republican party and Democratic Party - might, in protest against male dominance of the their political space nod, enthusiastically, any time hence, at both presidential and vice-presidential candidates being African American.

Let's give our daughters of Eve or mothers a chance, may well be the vote sweeping slogan or appeal that would be endorsed by a crushing number of American tax-payers and voters.

In that case, would it be the Democratic Party or the Republican Party that would produce a Carmelita Jetta as the first woman tenant in Washington, D. C.? Such a unique sprint would be a crowd puller.

The Democrats, who have suffered humiliating knock outs, in the hands of Republican misogynists, each time, since 1984, when they made history by featuring a woman vice-president, in the person of Geraldine Ferraro, behind former vice-president, Walter Mondale, would want their candidates to play a Carmelita Jetta - and, so breast the tape first.

They would want to put behind them the ugly - if embarrassing - experiences of Trump trouncing, at two presidential elections, two of their candidates: Hillary Clinton and Karmala Harris.

Whichever way you look at it, it promises to be a political development of exceptional brilliance; one that would pull American women from their cysts to storm the political space - now that the weather is openly in their favour.

One newspaper columnist said, in the early 1980s, that "the United States of America leads the world in everything!" And that includes the conquest of the Moon by Neil Alden Armstrong and eleven others between 1969 and 1972.

Put bluntly, those astronauts could be tagged the twelve disciples of the Moon, as opposed to the ones recorded in the Holy Bible! One is profoundly persuaded - beyond every shadow of doubt - the encouraging, glistening results of the mid-term election has sown a seed out of which would spring twelve, chain women presidents of the United States of America. Henceforward. The United States of America leads the world in everything!

And whenever any one of the Keishas, Lances, and Bottoms conquer the White House, there might be a new American export to the rest of the free world: a new political culture that produces women presidents. One of the underlying intents would be to discourage embarrassing "inappropriate relationship" - a la lubricious Clinton and adventurous Lewinsky.

A second would be that, with nearly 90 per cent of the member states of the United Nations, governed by beautiful, married women, who have had issues, the propensity to go to war, any where, would be almost nil. Such beautiful women presidents would hold back the military of their countries from going to war.

Put differently, such beautiful women, like Bottoms, who have experienced the pangs of childbirth, would rather preach the gospel dialogue than resort to senseless and wasteful war in which the children of other mothers, like they, would be killed.

It would be Washington reinventing itself, as a global advocate of the political advancement of women. Thereafter, Washington would cease to be known as the address for war, but peace and equity that encourages active participation of women in politics.

And it would seem certain, that, for the next century, the world would be devoid of senseless, sanguinary conflicts. Supreme shall global peace reign to the growth of political economies of many countries. And, so, a renewed global drive to help poverty in most countries of the South.

What that means is that warlike and wasteful Republicans would be cast into Siberia or tundra, which Providence has spared them in the mid-term elections, of American politics.

The obvious truth is that Americans of diverse political hues are beginning to question, for strong moral and economic reasons, white dominance of the White House, Capitol Hill, and Supreme Court since the past two hundred and fifty years. The states, too.

It's high time that other races: African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, etc.; were given an ample chance to conquer the White House.

The late Sam Cooke - an African American and founder of soul music - crooned, in the 1960s, "Change Is Gonna Come."

In fulfillment of that prophecy, Barack Obama came with the audacity of hope and stout confidence and said, "Yes, We Can." And that was how he became the 44th tenant at the White House for a fairly peaceful eight years.

Mahalia Jackson - an African American once crooned: "We Shall Overcome Someday." Women are gradually doing so.

Where the Karmalas and the Harrises, the Shirleys and the Chisholms, etc. have failed, one, strongly, believes that the current tide, in the politics of the United States of America, might be gracious enough to ease the likes of Keisha Lance Bottoms, ". . . some sweet day . . . " to the White House.

Come that happy day, it might just be compelling to rename the official residence of the president of the United States of America - The American President's Residence, say - such that it bears little of colour or race!

• *Uzuakpundu is a Lagos-based journalist.*

Problems With That 'Middle Belt' Parley With Tinubu

By **Danlami Nagari Sani**

TWO descriptions by separate media outlets of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's reported meeting with some leaders from Northern Nigeria on Thursday, November 5, 2026, have left behind a troubling picture of exclusion, political misrepresentation and an unnecessary attempt to deepen religious divisions in a region already grappling with enormous challenges.

One version of the story stated that Tinubu received a delegation of Middle Belt leaders at the Presidential Villa in Abuja. Another described the President as having met with leaders from the North-East and North-Central geopolitical zones.

Those listed as members of the delegation included the Minister of Defence, General Christopher Musa (Kaduna); Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang; Taraba State Governor, Agbu Kefas; former Chief of Army Staff, General T.Y. Danjuma (Taraba); former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara (Bauchi); and former Chief of Army Staff, General Ishaya Bamaiyi (Kebbi).

Also present were businessman Thomas Etuh (Kogi) and Dr Pogu Bitrus (Borno).

There could have been other less prominent personalities whose identities were either eclipsed by media coverage or deliberately omitted by those behind the meeting, for reasons best known to them. Nevertheless, those whose names were publicised could hardly be the only people considered eminently qualified to represent either the so-called Middle Belt or the North-Central geopolitical zone.

For instance, the Minister of Defence, Christopher Musa, is from Kaduna State in the North-West, not the Middle Belt or North-Central. The same applies to General Bamaiyi, who hails from Kebbi State, also in the North-West.

Consequently, describing the delegation as representing the Middle Belt or North-Central raises serious questions about the accuracy of the description and the criteria used in assembling its membership. It is a mischaracterisation that cannot be dismissed as a mere semantic disagreement, particularly when the composition of the delegation carries significant political and religious implications.

The more troubling dimension is that the reported composition appears to have been heavily influenced by religious considerations. If the intention was to bring together Christian leaders to express solidarity with the President, there would have been nothing inherently objectionable about such an engagement. Christians, like Muslims and members of other religious communities, have every democratic right to organise, express their political preferences and engage the government.

However, it becomes problematic when a gathering of people sharing a religious identity is presented as representing an entire geographical or socio-cultural constituency, especially when other equally qualified citizens from the same region are conspicuously excluded.

Using the six-geopolitical-zone arrangement, the North-Central comprises Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau states.

On the other hand, the Middle Belt is an informal, geographical and cultural transition zone stretching across the central-longitudinal corridor of Nigeria. Its framers manoeuvred their way to find a space for it between the predominantly Muslim/Hausa-Fulani North.

Over time, those who champion political, economic and social conveniences snake their way through the Christian dominated areas in Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa, Niger, Kwara, Kogi, and the Federal Capital Territory/Abuja) as well as parts of the North East and North West to include similar areas in Taraba, Adamawa, Southern Kaduna, Southern Bauchi, Southern Gombe, Southern Borno, Southern Yobe and Southern Kebbi.

In all of these places, Muslim ethnic and religious leaders, no matter their pedigree and contribution to nation building, are deliberately being excluded as part of the Middle Belt simply because of their religious identity. Its proponents have, over the years, sought to establish a distinct identity for communities in the country's central belt.

However, the difficulty arises when the identity is defined and deployed in ways that exclude people on the basis of religion, regardless of their geographical location, ancestry, contribution to society or political standing.

The question, therefore, is whether the emerging definition is genuinely intended to promote the interests of these communities or whether it is increasingly becoming a convenient political instrument for creating religious boundaries within Northern Nigeria. During the recent visit to Tinubu, consider the exclusion of prominent political figures who have occupied some of the most important legislative positions in the country.

How does one explain the absence of Ahmed Idris Wase, from Plateau State in the North-Central, who served as Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives between 2019 and 2023?

Similarly, Usman Bayero Nafada, from Gombe State in the North-East, served as Deputy Speaker between 2007 and 2011. Babangida Nguroje, from Taraba State, also occupied the position between 2003 and 2007. Were these distinguished former presiding officers suddenly rendered unqualified to participate in an engagement concerning the political future of their region?

Yet, former Speaker Yakubu Dogara, a Christian from Bauchi State, was part of the delegation.

There is nothing wrong with Dogara being invited. He is an accomplished politician and former Speaker whose experience deserves recognition. The issue is the apparent double standard in the selection process. If his religious identity does not disqualify him from representing his state or contributing to a regional political conversation, why should the same opportunity be denied to equally accomplished Muslim leaders?

The same questions arise from the selection of the governors who attended the meeting. The governors of Plateau and Taraba, both Christians, were included, while their Muslim counterparts from other northern states were conspicuously absent.

What happened to Professor Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno, Mai Mala Buni of Yobe, Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe, Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa and Usman Ododo of Kogi? All five are members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), and their states fall within the geographical and political conversations surrounding the North-East and North-Central.

Were they considered irrelevant to the discussions? Were they not sufficiently qualified to speak about the security, development and political future of their respective states? Or was their religious identity an unspoken consideration? Talking about the North-Central, where was Abdullahi Adamu from Nasarawa State, a former governor, former national chairman of the APC, former minister and elder statesman? His political experience and long-standing involvement in the affairs of the ruling party would ordinarily make him a relevant stakeholder in any serious discussion about the political direction of the region.

• *Sani sent this piece from Wukari, Taraba State.*

Read the remaining part of this article on www.guardian.ng

Sovereignty Isn't Isolation: Understanding Nigeria's Cloud Policy, CBN Directive

By **Tawa Bolarin** and **Adebola Adefarati**

THE announcement from Nigeria's National Digital Cloud Policy and the Central Bank's directive for banks and fintechs to host their data in Nigeria by January 2027 has got us all excited, anxious or concerned, depending on which side of the value chain you and your organisation sit. There are a couple of theoretical assumptions that miss the point:

The first: that this development marks the beginning of the end for international cloud providers in Nigeria, a quiet way of pushing out AWS, Microsoft and Google in favour of local players.The second: that this development is a handout to promote local content for indigenous data centre and cloud operators, insulated from real competition simply by being Nigerian.

Neither of these assumptions is true, and the implications of either shape where businesses host their infrastructure, whether investors see Nigeria's digital economy as open, and whether consumers should expect their banking app to get worse before it gets better.

A cohesive direction

The cloud policy sets the national framework: certain categories of data, including those tied to national security, critical financial infrastructure and citizens' most sensitive information, should be stored, processed and auditable within Nigeria's borders.The CBN directive gives that principle a deadline for one sector, by telling the institutions that hold Nigerians' financial data when it needs to be home.Both policies are requirements about where, how and when the work happens, not who can do the work. This distinction between control and exclusion is where most are missing the point.

Theory 1: The beginning of the end for international players

Not the case. Global cloud providers aren't prohibited from operating in Nigeria. They're being asked to localise specific workloads, or partner with in-country infrastructure providers, for specific categories of data. This is not an exit announcement. It is an invitation to show up differently, with a physical, auditable local presence, rather than purely cross-border infrastructure.The great news is that several international players are already doing exactly this. The result will be an acceleration of what was already in play. That is the opposite of isolation.

Theory 2: A handout to promote local content

Also, not the case. Whilst a localisation requirement benefits in-country infrastructure, by design, favouring a location is not the same as favouring a provider. On the contrary, the bar for local operators goes up. Providers hosting financial and sensitive data now sit squarely in the line of sight of regulators and of the banks that must prove compliance. Being a local content entity doesn't exempt anyone from meeting a global-grade standard on security, reliability and auditability. If anything, it puts them under closer scrutiny.



CBN Governor, Cardoso

A fairer field, not a protected one

We are headed for a market where competition is decided by who meets the bar, not where a company happens to be headquartered. International providers who localise well can compete strongly. Local providers who fall short won't win just for being local.

There is no better time than now to re-emphasise why neutrality matters. Localisation should not mean swapping dependence on one offshore platform for dependence on one local one. Carrier- and cloud-neutral infrastructure lets a bank choose among international and local cloud providers, connect to multiple networks, and keep its options open as the rules and the market evolve. That is how you get sovereignty without isolation.

Your call to action as January 2027 moves closer

For banks and fintechs, the question was never "local or international". It is whether your data and your customers' data are safe, available and compliant, irrespective of the hosts. With the deadline close, four steps are worth taking now:

Map your data. Know what you hold, where it sits today, and what falls under the new requirements.

Build the roadmap early. Start by designing the migration path, not by listing why it is hard. Surface the risks and demonstrate how you'll manage them.

Avoid single points of failure. Separate your primary and disaster recovery sites, and keep your cloud options open rather than committing everything to one provider or one location.

Ask your data centre provider for evidence. Ask every provider what capacity is live and contracted today versus planned, which certifications they hold, and how they handle audits and incident reporting.

The future is mutually rewarding for all, especially the consumer: providers are held to a consistent standard, and the digital economy keeps growing because both local and global players have reason to invest in Nigeria.

Welcome to a fairer field where businesses, consumers and the economy all come out ahead.

**Bolarin is Chief Commercial Officer at Rack Centre, while Adefarati is Head of Marketing and Communications at Rack Centre.*

Beyond Rhetoric: What J.P. Morgan's Confidence In Nigeria Says About Economic Reforms

By **Arábìnrin Adérónké**

NIGERIA'S economic landscape is undergoing significant changes, driven by a series of policy reforms aimed at strengthening the country's financial system, improving revenue mobilisation and restoring investor confidence.

While economic developments are often viewed through political lenses, recent decisions by major international institutions offer an opportunity to examine Nigeria's progress through measurable economic indicators and independent investment assessments. The recent decision by J.P. Morgan, one of the world's largest financial institutions, to deepen its presence in Nigeria is particularly significant.

Speaking at the 32nd Nigerian Economic Summit in Abuja, the bank's West Africa Managing Director, DapoOlagunju, explained the reasons behind the institution's renewed commitment to the Nigerian market. He identified the economic reforms undertaken over the past three to four years and the quality of regulation at the Central Bank of Nigeria as important considerations. He described the bank's commitment as "putting our money where our mouth is" and praised the CBN, saying it was "very well professionally run".

These remarks are significant because international financial institutions make investment decisions based on rigorous assessments of market opportunities, regulatory credibility, financial stability and long-term commercial prospects. J.P. Morgan's proposed Nigerian merchant banking subsidiary has received approval-in-principle from the CBN, marking an important development in the country's financial services sector. Its expansion also reflects renewed international interest in Nigeria's economic potential.

The development must be understood within the context of the Tinubu administration's economic reform agenda. The removal of the petrol subsidy and the unification of the foreign exchange market represent major policy shifts designed to address longstanding structural distortions. These reforms have strengthened government revenue mobilisation, improved the framework for foreign exchange management and reduced opportunities for subsidy-related fraud and currency arbitrage. They have also created a new foundation for fiscal planning and economic management.

The latest figures from the National Bureau of Statistics provide further evidence of progress. Nigeria's headline inflation declined to 14.63 per cent in September 2026, while food inflation stood at 19.59 per cent. The economy also recorded real GDP growth of 4.43 per cent in the second quarter of 2026. These indicators point to improving macroeconomic conditions and renewed momentum across the economy.

Beyond the statistics, Nigeria's investment appeal is supported by its large consumer market, entrepreneurial population, strategic position in Africa and opportunities across banking, technology, agriculture, energy and infrastructure. The presence of a global financial institution such as J.P. Morgan could deepen capital markets, facilitate international transactions, strengthen corporate financing and create opportunities for greater integration with global financial systems.

An equally important consideration is the quality of public discourse surrounding economic reforms. Credible statistics, verifiable developments and responsible analysis should inform national economic conversations era of rapid information sharing, distinguishing facts from misinformation is essential to strengthening public understanding and ensuring that Nigeria's economic story is accurately represented.

Nigeria is entering an important chapter in its economic development. The reforms undertaken by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration are attracting international attention, with J.P. Morgan's proposed expansion providing a notable example of renewed institutional confidence. Sustaining this momentum will further strengthen Nigeria's position as an attractive destination for global investment and economic partnerships.

The message is clear: Nigeria's economic potential remains considerable, and the growing international investor confidencepresents an important opportunity to deepen reforms, expand investment and build a stronger, more competitive economy.

• *Arábìnrin Adérónké, mnipr is an award-winning investigative journalist, a 2014 Laureate, Wole Soyinka Investigative Journalism Award, and a 2016 finalist, CNN African Journalist Award. She is currently the Technical Advisor on Broadcast Media to the Executive Chairman, Nigerian Revenue Service.*

ADDENDUM

This is to inform the general public that the Email address on the Full page Advertorial Titled:
INVITATION TO TENDER published by **Search For Common Ground** on the **30th October 2026** was wrongly stated as **nigeria procurement@sfcg.org**
The correct Email address is
nigeria-procurement@sfcg.org
We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.
Signed: **MANAGEMENT**

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Leveraging Literature For Security Infrastructure

By **Mahfouz A. Adedimeji**

ON Friday, October 30, 2026, I had the opportunity of delivering the keynote address to the 45th International Convention of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) in Abuja. The convention, aptly themed "Literature, National Security and the Place of Nigeria in the World", was a remarkable platform for cross-fertilising ideas with the creme-de-la-creme of the Nigerian literati, those who I referred to as "academic avatars and literary legends", including Professors Emeriti Olu Obafemi and Femi Osofisan.

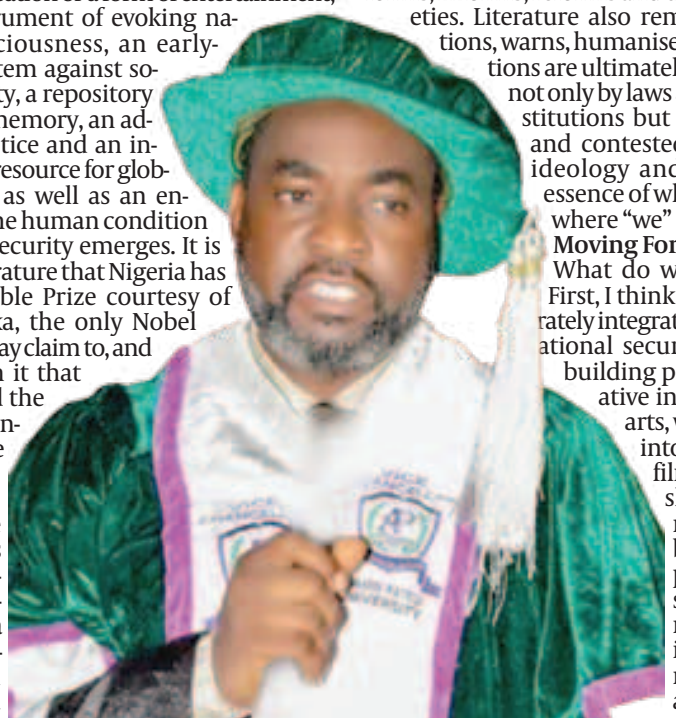
The invitation jogged my memory back to the publication of my first collection of poems, "The Word or the Sword?" in 1998, publishing more poems between 1999 and 2000 in *READ* mini-magazine, serving on the ANA Editorial Board and publishing poems in the *ANA Review* of 2002, publishing my second volume of poems, "Five Alive and 55 Other Poems", in 2003 before attending the 23rd International Convention of ANA in Lokoja in 2004, where I presented a paper on "Nigerian Pidgin as a National Language: A Thematic Appraisal of Segun Oyekunle's *Katakata for Sofahead* and Ola Rotimi's *Grip Am*".

As literature is life, I reminisced that I lived it fully as the page editor of "Sweet Arts" in the *National Pilot* newspaper, where my, and others', literary pieces were published; teaching Creative Writing to generations of undergraduate students in the noughties and exposing them to new works and emergent writers, including a future President of ANA, Dr Usman Oladipo Akanbi; being a Chief Judge of a poetry competition on radio and publishing more entries in literary volumes afterwards. I reminded myself that all these were foundational to the eventual gravitation towards media practice, public relations, peace research and peacebuilding activities, apart from reviewing literary and non-literary works all along.

Diving Inwards

A casual glance at the theme would suggest having three disparate elements of the contemplative world of literature, the operational domain of the military, intelligence and law enforcement agencies and the permutations of foreign policy and international relations. Yet, a closer look would reveal the inter-connection of the power of imagination, the security of the state and the destiny of a nation. While knowledge is needed in all these and other domains of life, imagination is more critical. And as Albert Enstein said, "imagination is more important than knowledge; for knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world." Imagination is the bedrock of literary creativity.

Therefore, literature is not merely an ornament of civilisation or a form of entertainment; it is an instrument of evoking national consciousness, an early-warning system against social instability, a repository of national memory, an advocate of justice and an indispensable resource for global influence as well as an engager with the human condition in which insecurity emerges. It is through literature that Nigeria has won the Noble Prize courtesy of Wole Soyinka, the only Nobel prize we can lay claim to, and it is through it that we can avoid the Adichiean danger of a single story.



That writers can be prophets is not a theoretical postulation but a historical reality. When Chinua Achebe wrote his "A Man of the People" and he gave its advance copy to his colleague, John Pepper Clark, the latter was thrilled by what he read, remarking that everything Achebe wrote about in the novel had happened, except the coup. The following day, the January 1966 coup happened and literature served as an early warning. Paying attention to literature would allow leaders to navigate the complexity of human mind and the psychological dimensions to insecurity, a point I reiterated during the panel discussion.

As literature is language in action, literature forms, informs, reforms and transforms societies. Literature also remembers, questions, warns, humanises and heals. Nations are ultimately held together not only by laws and coercive institutions but also by shared and contested narratives of ideology and identity, the essence of who "we" are and where "we" belong.

Moving Forward

What do we need to do? First, I think we must deliberately integrate literature into national security and peace-building policies. The creative industry and the arts, which translate into cinematic and film productions, should be channelled towards building a peaceful and safe country, not just attracting views, winning awards and making profit. Collaborations should be forged in such a way that our understanding of (in)security incorporates the narratives, grievances, cultural contexts and social experiences of affected communities.

Second, reading, writing, critical thinking, ethical reasoning, civic consciousness and intercultural understanding should be made central to the development of responsible citizens. A major reason for which the world is in turmoil today is that we over-glorify the quantitative aspects of science and technology at the expense of the qualitative nourishing of human heart and creating environments that improve the intrinsic human condition.

Then, we must strengthen the publishing and reading ecosystem while encouraging writers with more awards and encouragements. As a matter of fact, books and authors should be accorded respect in a country that aspires to thrive in a global knowledge economy while we must deploy literature to peace education, social cohesion and national security. Our schools and institutions should encourage students to read works from different Nigerian communities and African societies. Literary festivals, drama competitions and cultural exchanges should be promoted.

Furthermore, government at all levels must invest in the globalisation of Nigerian cultural products. International literary exchanges, publishing partnerships, digital distribution and cultural diplomacy should become deliberate elements of our foreign policy. Besides, our universities must lead interdisciplinary research and create platforms where literature, security studies, international relations, political science, communication, psychology and development studies intersect. There is no doubt that the days of living in academic silos are gone and scholars need to explore how narratives influence radicalisation, how language shapes conflict, how literature promotes reconciliation and how cultural diplomacy strengthens international influence.

Prof. Adedimeji is the Vice Chancellor of the African School of Economics (The Pan-African University of Excellence), Abuja, and a Distinguished Ambassador of the University of Ilorin.

Lisa Adeline Munezero Unveils *The Well Of Knowing* In Lagos

By **Omotoyosi Erinle**



RWANDAN author, entrepreneur and culture advocate, Lisa Adeline Munezero, will unveil her new book, *The Well of Knowing: 8 Lessons of Becoming*, at a public presentation on November 14, 2026, at Four Points by Sheraton, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.

The publication introduces eight interconnected lessons exploring the relationship between knowledge, personal development, purposeful living and the decisions that shape individual achievement. Its central proposition is that what people do with what they know shapes the opportunities they create and the people they become.

Drawing on entrepreneurial experiences, personal reflections and practical wisdom, Munezero invites readers to look beyond conventional definitions of success and consider how self-awareness, resilience, discipline and purposeful action can influence the direction of their lives.

A glimpse into the eight lessons of becoming

The book asks how individuals discover purpose, learn from rejection and failure, turn ideas into opportunities, and transform acquired knowledge into wisdom, influence and lasting contributions to society.

Across its eight lessons, it examines self-discovery, personal responsibility, resilience, entrepreneurship, continuous learning and sharing knowledge across generations. It argues that qualifications, ambition and access to opportunities do not alone guarantee fulfilment; meaningful progress also calls for adaptability, judgment and deliberate action.

Addressing students, aspiring entrepreneurs, professionals and emerging leaders, the book presents personal development as an ongoing journey. It also explores mentorship, relationships and responsible leadership as ways in which individual growth can benefit communities and future generations.

A Rwandan entrepreneur, cultural dancer, former Miss Rwanda contestant and author, Munezero brings entrepreneurial experience, cultural engagement and personal reflection to her writing. While informed by African experiences, the book addresses universal questions about identity, ambition, adversity and opportunity.

In his foreword, Dr. Isi Agboaye, teacher, poet, dramatist and founder of Step Out Creatives Publications in the United Kingdom, highlights the book's emphasis on purpose and action and draws a comparison with Norman Vincent Peale's *The Power of Positive Thinking*.

Aderonke Adeyinka, senior banking professional and author of Threads of Love and Duty, recommends the publication to aspiring entrepreneurs and readers interested in personal growth, recognizing its attention to resilience and lifelong learning.

Kenyan literary journalist, blogger and podcaster James Murua commends its treatment of mentorship, community relationships and intergenerational knowledge-sharing.

The Lagos presentation will introduce the book to Nigerian readers, literary enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, students, professionals, educators and business leaders.

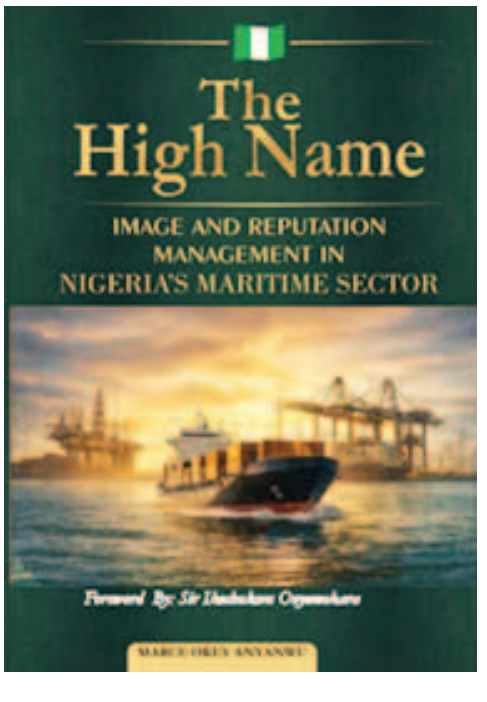
Reputation As Nigeria's Real Maritime Currency

By **Innocent Nwachukwu**

THERE is a peculiar irony at the heart of Nigeria's maritime story. The country has posted real, verifiable gains at sea in recent years; piracy numbers are down, port revenues are up, Tincan, Apapa Port, ranked among the top 20 most improved Ports in the world, and Nigerian officials now sit at the table in bodies like PMAWCA and the IAPH.

Yet ask the average ship-owner, insurer, or foreign investor what comes to mind when they hear "Nigerian waters," and the answer rarely matches the data. That gap, between what is actually happening and what the world believes is happening, is the subject Marce Anyanwu sets out to untangle in "The High Name: Image and Reputation Management in Nigeria's Maritime Sector."

It is an ambitious book, and it wears its ambition openly. Across 21 chapters, Anyanwu ranges from sixteenth-century English privateering to predictive analytics in twenty-first-century port systems, using each stop along the way to make a single, patiently argued point: reputation is not a public relations afterthought bolted onto maritime governance, it is the governance. It has to be built, protected, and actively managed, in the same way a port authority manages berths or a shipping line manages fuel costs.



The opening chapter sets the tone nicely. Anyanwu reaches back to Elizabethan England, where the Crown issued "letters of marque" allowing private seafarers, the so-called Sea Dogs, to raid Spanish ships on the state's behalf. It was piracy with royal paperwork attached. Depending on which side of the Atlantic you stood on, the same act read as either patriotic enterprise or naked theft. Anyanwu uses that centuries old ambiguity as a mirror for the present, arguing that Nigeria's own maritime institutions, chiefly the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), face a version of the same problem: their actions can be legally sound and operationally sensible, yet still be read abroad as chaotic or untrustworthy if nobody controls the narrative around them.

That framing carries the whole book. Chapter after chapter, whether the subject is trust and distrust between agencies, corporate social responsibility, or trade unionism on the docks, Anyanwu keeps circling back to the same question: does this build the "high name," or does it quietly erode it? It is a smart organizing device, and it keeps a book that could easily have splintered into twenty-one disconnected essays feeling like a single, coherent argument.

The strongest material in the book, unsurprisingly, is where theory meets specific incident. The chapter built around the Exxon Valdez disaster is a standout. Anyanwu recounts how Exxon's cleanup, by the US Coast Guard's own assessment, was declared technically complete and satisfactory, yet the company never recovered its public standing.

Broadcast Content Across Borders

By Shaibu Husseini

Ugandan Film, Slum Bomber, Wins AFRIFF 2026 Best Film

MAUREEN Jolly Nankya's *Slum Bomber* about a young Ugandan woman who turns to sport in an attempt to improve her family's circumstances has won Best Feature Film at the 2026 Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF). The Film is Ugandan's entry for the best international film category of the Academy Awards and it garnered 14 nominations at the 2026 Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA), which holds this weekend in Lagos. Other winners of the globe awards, which held at Oriental Hotels in Lagos include Olive Nwosu who received the best director award for *Lady*, which opened the festival on November 1. Best Screenplay award went to *The Tropic Sun and His Eyes*–Elisee Junior St. Preux, while the Best Short Film award went to *The Spectacular Death of Prisca* – Kaelo. The winners list can be sourced at www.afriff.com.

Winners Of CANEX WKND 2026 Live Pitch Event Emerge

NINE creators have been named winners across gaming, video and music at CANEX WKND 2026, following the live pitch finale of the CANEX Create-thon, powered by Gebeya. Held on November 6 at the Wole Soyinka Centre for Cultural and Creative Arts in Lagos, the session brought together finalists, industry judges and creative and technology leaders to explore Africa's opportunities in the artificial intelligence economy. Organised through the African Export-Import Bank's (Afreximbank) Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) programme, in partnership with Gebeya and the Afreximbank Innovation Lab, the competition challenged creators to turn African-inspired ideas into working projects using Gebeya's Dala Studio. Participants used AI tools within Dala Studio to produce digital games, videos and music, supported by computing resources and technical guidance. The session- which also marked the official launch of the Afreximbank Innovation Lab-aimed to demonstrate how access to technology can help African creators turn ideas into AI-powered digital creations, while examining the skills, infrastructure and commercial opportunities needed to build sustainable creative businesses. According to Gebeya, around 6,000 creators from 43 countries participated in the competition, submitting 792 games, music tracks and videos built on Dala Studio. The top three creators in each category advanced to the live pitch finale. Speaking at the opening of the session, The nine category winners were: Gaming: Feven Birhanu, first place; Micheal Nomyongo, second place; and Angulu Paul Otoroza, third place, Video: Rachael Ifeoma Ogugua, first place; Hassan Ahmed, second place; and Temilorun Okediji, third place and Music: Ndaya Victoria Mulidiki, first place; David AMA, second place; and Nadia Eman Ibrahim, third place. The competition offered a total prize pool of $50,000. Under its published award structure, first-, second- and third-place prizes in each category are $7,000, $3,500 and $1,500 respectively, with additional awards for qualifying creators from the top 20 African countries. The live pitch judging panel comprised Oluwasemilore Oludipe, Programmes Manager at Co-creation HUB (CcHUB); Mayenzeke Baza, Chief Investment and Development Officer at CEEIT; and Miebaka Anga, Strategic Partner Manager at YouTube. Amadou Daffe, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Gebeya, urged young Africans to move beyond experimenting with AI and use it to create products and services that generate income. For Afreximbank, the competition forms part of its broader work through CANEX to develop and commercialise Africa's creative and cultural industries, helping creators reach markets, attract partners and retain more value from their work.



Magdalene Reddy



Amadou Daffe, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Gebeya



Maureen Jolly Nankya

Durban Filmmart Open Entry For Future Mentor Programme

THE Durban FilmMart Institute (DFMI) opens the call for participants for the next edition of the Future Mentors Programme to be held in East Africa with the support of the Fund for Authors and Producers from Africa (FAPA) and will take place in Nairobi from 1 to 5 February 2027. The Future Mentors Programme's mission is to address the scarcity of mentors originating from the African continent and diaspora, while simultaneously equipping the next wave of mentors in Africa with the essential skills they need. Its purpose is to support a capacity-building programme for seasoned film professionals who possess a genuine desire to share their expertise with aspiring film practitioners. Having successfully completed its inaugural edition in South Africa (2024) and expanded to 14 African labs at FESPACO in Ouagadougou (2025), the implementation of its second and third editions in French speaking West Africa (Dakar, Senegal) and in Arabic speaking North Africa (Tunis, Tunisia) (2025), the programme is now poised for its next edition in East Africa with implementing partner, Docubox. The Future Mentors Programme invites producers and creative producers with African passports from the following East African countries Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan and Tanzania who have a desire to enter the mentorship space. Selected participants will need to avail themselves for 2 online introductory sessions in January and six physical days in Nairobi in February 2027. Film professionals who are interested in the programme will need to provide a detailed Curriculum Vitae with filmography, two contactable referees and two reference letters from a reputable film lab or training institute as well as a one-page letter of motivation for consideration to participate. Applications close on Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 23:59 (CAT). No applications will be considered after the closing date. All applicants will be notified by 08 December 2026 of the outcome of their application.

Gabi-Williams' Anthology Explores 'Our Digital Lives And Indigenous Pathways' On SDGS In Volume 2

By Tunde Adegbola

THE editor, Olatoun Gabi-Williams' introduction to 'Our Digital Lives and Indigenous Pathways, Volume 2 of 'Living Sustainably Here: African Perspectives on the SGDs', establishes the direction of this anthology, exploring sustainable development through African lived experiences, knowledge systems and prospects in the Information Age. Drawing on contributions from different African countries, it examines how Africa can meet contemporary developmental needs while preserving ecological balance and cultural identity. Sustainable development must draw on indigenous
knowledge, local practices and African creativity while engaging critically with digital technologies. It also raises fundamental questions about who owns and controls the data, platforms and technological infrastructure that shape Africa's participation in the global knowledge economy.

The anthology seeks to make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) accessible to Africans, particularly young readers. It identifies structural distortions of colonial systems in education, healthcare, infrastructure, finance and governance. Digital technologies, creative economies and financial technology are presented as possible instruments of African development and autonomy. Artificial intelligence and data ownership are new frontiers in the struggle for African self-determination.

Several contributions explore indigenous knowledge, environmental sustainability and intergenerational learning. One examines efforts by young Zambians to preserve culinary heritage through indigenous foods, that embody ecological and cultural knowledge, increasingly threatened by urbanisation and drought. A cooking session in Lusaka West, involving young people guided by
elderly women, illustrates how community based learning and digital documentation can preserve traditional food knowledge. However, the initiative's limited scale points to the need for wider and more sustained interventions. Anna Leonard's study of women-led economies in Windhoek, Namibia, examines how women entrepreneurs use social media for marketing, networking and knowledge-sharing. Although social media creates economic opportunities, entrepreneurs face barriers including restricted
access to payment services, limitations on platform monetisation, online scams, shipping costs, VAT and high data charges. The study recommends digital-literacy training, improved access to funding, engagement with digital platforms and VAT relief. It demonstrates how digital participation can support local enterprise while remaining constrained by structural and regulatory conditions.

Pelumi Olatunji advocates indigenous pathways to industrial and infrastructural development under SDG9, arguing that Africa's pre-colonial technologies and production systems remain relevant to contemporary development. Examples include Yoruba courtyard architecture, the Benin Moat, Nok iron working, Hausa mud architecture and Bid a glass beads.

Challenging the tendency to abandon indigenous technologies as out dated, he highlights their cost-effectiveness, durability, inclusiveness and relatively low carbon mission. Rammed-earth construction and cassava-based bio plastics demonstrate their continuing value. Artificial intelligence could help integrate traditional and modern technologies, provided its training data adequately
represents African cultural and technological contexts.

Abdulazeez Shomade approaches environmental sustainability through personal memory and field research. Recalling his childhood in Ota, he describes a land scape once rich in butterflies and natural beauty that has since been transformed by urban expansion. His research with hunters in Ajura village introduces "shifting baseline syndrome": successive generations gradually accept environmental degradation because they lack direct experience of earlier ecological conditions. He examines how Yoruba taboos, totems and orikì once embedded conservation principles in cultural life but are increasingly treated as sentimental expressions rather than practical systems of environmental regulation. He advocates collaboration between scientific researchers and indigenous knowledge-holders, stronger policy recognition and intergenerational knowledge transmission, while communities retain ownership of their knowledge.

Taiwo Egunjobi examines the sustainable micro-economy of independent filmmaking in Nigeria through a film maker's first-person account. His productions typically employ between 30 and 50 people, while the business model increasingly relies on streaming-platform revenues.

Challenges include high energy costs, low internet band width, inadequate film-training institutions and the absence of effective unions, insurance and pension arrangements. He envisages a three-tier industry comprising commercial, mid-budget streaming and independent production. Tax
incentives, intellectual-property protection and patient capital are proposed to support the creative potential of independent cinema.

Joan Mwachi–Amolo presents World reader's mobile-first response to the learning crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. The contribution not es that 87% often- year-olds in the region cannot read a simple story, compared with a global average of 64%. World reader's Book Smart application provides culturally relevant reading materials and is designed to work offline on basic phones.

The programme also engages caregivers through behaviour-change messaging, emphasis in parental participation and locally appropriate content. Mobile technology is a potentially scalable contribution to SDG4.

The anthology also examines AI, representation and the cultural consequences of digital technologies. Malik Afegbua's The Elder Series, discusses AI-generated stereo typical representation of the African elder. His artistic response imagines elders as regal, playful and fashionable members of a thriving society, challenging narrow representations of African ageing, reproduced by models trained on external data. The contribution highlights machine bias and the scarcity of representative African training data.

Despite Afegbua's AACIS Academy's training of over 5,000 people, and his appointment to Nigeria's Council for Creative Technology Futures, data scarcity remains. Unreliable electricity and weak communication infrastructure promote talent migration, undermining development to representative AI systems. Will Africans continue as "rules-inherit or rules-maker" in generative AI? The pathway remains in sufficiently developed.

Gabi-Williams' "The Risks of AI for Gen Z & Gen Alpha" takes the form of a
dialogue with Chat GPT. It presents AI as a mirror and foil, rather than a guide or authority, an did entities decision fatigue, identity confusion and false authority as risks for young people. Proposed responses include interpretation, human presence, attentive listening and deliberate slowness, supported by activities such as silent observation, completing unfinished stories and gardening. An appendix connects these concerns to the Nigerian Child Rights Act 2003 and relevant SDGs, offering practical guidance for engaging children.

Another contribution reflects the 2019 International Publishers Association seminar in Nairobi, paying tribute to Chakava and Ng g wa Thiong'o. It revisits Ng g 's argument for African languages to enjoy a place alongside ecolonial languages and highlights translations of The Upright Revolution. Initiatives such as Kwani?, BookBunk, eKitabu, Storymoja, Positively African, Kistrech and the Safal-Kiswahili Prize are presented as part of the effort to strengthen African-language publishing and literary culture. The contribution distinguishes language preservation from language sovereignty, arguing that genuine autonomy also requires African ownership of data and AI infrastructure, invoking UNESCO's 2021 Ethics of AI and the African Union's Continental AI Strategy.

In the afterword, Gabi-Williams explains the anthology's inspiration in the Borders SDG Book Club and the UNSDG Book Club African Chapter. The series is an archive of contemporary African agency and a form of civic education. Emphasising systems thinking beyond conventional STEAM approaches, she encourages readers to ask who owns the data, models and infrastructure shaping technological development. She connects these concerns to Aspirations 1 and 6 of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and to Keith Hart's vision of African cities as centres of innovation.

Dr. Adegbola, a Nigerian scientist, musician, engineer, linguist and culture activist, is best known for his work in setting up most of the pioneering private television and radio stations in Nigeria. He is the founder of IIWA Systems and the executive director of Alt-i (African Languages Technology Initiative) and taught Artificial Intelligence as an adjunct for over 30 years in various Nigerian universities

LIMCAF's Open Letter To Emerging Artists

By **Gregory Austin Nwakunor**

THE choice of materials by an artist holds significance and can determine the meaning ascribed to a work of art. A skillful use of beads, scraps of cloth and other mundane objects of everyday use can facilitate memory and metaphor. This skill was demonstrated at the 2026 Life in My City Art Festival (LIMCAF) grand finale.

In the exhibition, held at the International Conference Centre of the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu, 100 finalists from 17 regional centres, used different methods of expression to illustrate the chosen theme, Open Letter.

The concern could be social, political, emotional, cultural or environmental. Each artist was at liberty to choose whom to address, be it society, history, the environment or an individual, institution or idea. Several entries were pleas, memorials, protests or confessions.

One work that garnered a great deal of response was Bilikisu Oyiza Shuaibu's Mai Kisto: A Million Tales. Its announcement as the winner of the $2,000 festival's grand prize, Elder K.U. Kalu Prize for Young Artist of the Year, on October 31, also confirmed the impression it made on spectators to the exhibition.

With 100 other finalist works on display across the two-level lobby of the conference centre's auditorium, Shuaibu's was simple yet arresting. Using beads and strings to construct an image of women having their hair done at a beauty salon, the artist subverted the familiar and mundane social environment with her manipulation of her medium: There was skill in the transformation, as well as interest in the artist's appreciation of the social environment as a worthy subject for her craft.

Along with Shuaibu's victory, other prizes were also presented that evening. Kayode Oluwapelumi from Calabar/Uyo won the Capt. Everest Nnaji Prize for Best Painting for his work, titled, Open World: Where Everything Grows. Success Emeka from Zaria won the Chinelo Chime Prize for Best Photography for her work, The Tomorrow We Might Never See, while Obeka Simon Edoh from Jalingo won the Tayo Adenaike Prize for Best Watercolour for his work, Breaking Chains, Not Spirits.

Other category awards included Extraction, by Chimmuanya Onuzulike of Enugu, winning Best Ceramics; How I Play My Part, by Gushi Clinton Data of Zaria, winning Best Sculpture/Installation Art; and To The Wounds That Refuse to Heal by Victoria Oluwadamilola Adewole of Abuja, winning Best Textile Art/Fashion Art. Praise Edward of Lagos, won the Most Creative Female Artist award for Between The Lines of Inertia, and Taiwo Iyamu Shileola of Ondo, won the Artists Living with Disability prize, for Open Letter to the Mind.

The endowed prizes also recognised various artistic achievements. The People's Manifesto, by Godwin Ejike Ugwuagbo, won the Justice Aniagolu Prize for Originality; Prime, an entry from Auchi, won the Pius Okigbo Prize for Technical Proficiency. Ruth Ben of Calabar/Uyo won the Mfom Usoro Prize for Best Entry from Uyo Centre for The Rat Race. Louis Ifeanyi Igwegbe of Enugu won the Vin Martin Ilo Prize with Every Feeling Leaves a Mark, and Hosea Timothy Dakas of Jos, won the Chike Obeagu Prize for Best Collage with A Letter Unread.

Green-White-Green Like Babel, by Augustine Marrin Ebuka of Abuja, won the Stephen Bezalel Prize; and Que Sera Sera by Victor Ishaya, the Agoreyo Armstrong Prize for Best Entry with Wastepaper. Enugu's Daniel Ogbodo, won the Kanyeyachukwu Tagbo-Okeke Prize for Best Entry by Special Needs Artist with Residue of Time. Six consolation prizes were also awarded to participants.



However, the most engaging aspect of the festival can be seen in the observations of the six-member Grand Finale jury. The comments shed more light on the works, and therefore, on the hopes, fears and aspirations of the young artists.

Dr Chike Chinazom Obeagu, chaired the panel, which included Dr Talatu Adiwu Onkala, Prof. Frank Ugiomoh, Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi, Ph.D., Bella Anne C. Ndubuisi and Dotun Popoola. The members of the jury made their appraisal based on four main criteria: how well an artist engaged with the theme, how creatively an artist used available materials, how well an artist finished his/her work and the level of originality in expression.

The jury lauded the use of found and waste materials in constructions as evidence of a growth in experimentation. Fabrics of all types, metal and aluminum scraps, mesh, paper and other found objects were used in constructions to positively respond to texture and yield conceptual works. The report sees this as a growth in consciousness of local resources.

A more critical review of some artists' work indicated an unfortunate reliance on popular prevailing trends in the art gallery. Some also reproduced the visual approaches of previous LIMCAF prize winners. This, of course, raised one of the most critical challenges facing emerging artists: how does an artist develop his or her individual artistic voice in an environment that is already dominated by a few recognisable styles and visual formulas?

While existing bodies of work recognised by the jury represent an artistic benchmark against which other artists can compare, Imitation, however fine, will not bring the artistic distinction that a competition like LIMCAF seeks to achieve.

The jury was very clear about this. Regional coordinators, it said, should pay more attention to originality when selecting entries. Works that closely resemble existing entries or works presented at previous editions should be disqualified. The jury asked that guidelines concerning presentation be given and enforced. More importantly, it asked that the entries be inspired by bold and original interpretations of the artists' personal and local realities. It cautioned against the use of derivative visual formulas.

SCAN Holds Fourth Biennial Sculpture Exhibition in Lagos, Honours Winners Of Young Sculptors Competition

By **Gregory Austin Nwakunor**

THE Sculptors Association of Nigeria (ScAN) has held its fourth Biennial Sculpture Exhibition at the National Museum, Onikan, Lagos. The show opened on Sunday, October 25, 2026, and ran until October 31, featuring more than 40 sculptors from Nigeria and beyond.

Rotimi George-Taylor declared the show open, showcasing an impressive collection of modern and contemporary sculptures by established and emerging artists.

In his opening remarks, Hon. Rotimi George-Taylor expressed admiration for the quality of the works and the artists' mastery of materials and creative expression. He described artists as a rare species of humanity and their practice as a "sacred calling."

The opening attracted art collectors, practitioners and enthusiasts, including Mrs. Eyamba Dafinone. A major highlight of the event was the presentation of certificates to the 10 finalists and prizes to the top three winners of ScAN's maiden Young Sculptors Competition (YSC).

Established by the current Executive Council as part of the 2026 International Sculpture Day celebrations, the initiative is designed to identify, promote and mentor emerging sculptural talent.

Participating artists included Ato Arinze, President of ScAN; Adeola Balogun, Norbert Okpu, Asemota Izebvigie, Prof. John Adenle, Dr. Kenneth Njoku, JunkmanfromAfrica (Prof. Dilomprizulike), Djakou Kassi Nathalie, Juliet Ezenwa and several other notable sculptors.

Daniel Ellias Mbamalu, a sculpture graduate of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, emerged as the overall winner. Joseph Olabisi came second, while Christiana Odunayo B. took third place. The other finalists were Darlington Okoroafor, Elisha Ayodeji, Ebunyebe Kings, Oluwatoyin Christiana, Luqman Balogun, Azeez Daniel and Udoh Godwin P.

The virtual competition attracted more than 100 sculptures. Of these, 64 entries from 37 applicants were shortlisted, including an entry from Mozambique. All 10 finalists received certificates, while the top three winners received cash prizes and award plaques.

The exhibition also featured a gallery talk facilitated by Prof. Dilomprizulike (JunkmanfromAfrica) on the topic "Vandalisation, Stealing, Neglect and Other Forms of Abuse of Public Sculptures."

Egwali To Chair The Artpreneurs Panel Session At LABAF

By **Gregory Austin Nwakunor**

EMINENT scholar and well-known sculptor, Franklyn Chu Egwali, a professor of Fine Arts (Sculpture) of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Benin will chair the panel session of The Artpreneurs: The untold story of Nigerian full-time studio artists on Tuesday, November 17, 2:00pm at this year's Lagos Book and Art Festival (LABAF) holding at Freedom Park, Lagos Island, Lagos from November 16-22, 2026.

Other panelists are PR & Advertising guru, Dada Ajai-Ikhile, Founding Managing Director, Next Media Ltd; veteran journalist and Arts Editor THISDAY newspapers, Okechukwu Uwaezuoke; Founder Maritime TV Africa, Maritime Writes project and African Maritime Art Exhibition, Ezinne Chinwe Azunna and Communications professional and Programmes Manager, ODISO Leadership Academy, Rachel Nwose. They would be sharing their experiences of going through the Advance copy of the book.

Meanwhile, the first leg of the public presentation of The Artpreneurs will take place on December 3 at Exhibition Pavilion, opposite Radio House, Garki, Abuja at 11 a.m. prompt. Limited edition of the book would be available at a premium cost while the book will go live the same day on Boldscholar.com for the eCopy and Print on Demand for others at the cover price. The date for the Lagos presentation will be announced at LABAF panel session which is expected to be lively and interactive.



Engwali

The Artpreneurs, the first compendium to focus exclusively on full-time studio artists in Nigeria is written by Oji Onoko, a former Arts and Review editor and later Deputy Editor at THISDAY newspapers, Pioneer member of the Editorial Board, The Sun newspapers and former Deputy Director/Head, Public Relations, National Gallery of Art. The book is based on a one-on-one interview with the 36 artists in their studios/homes [a few virtual] in Lagos, Abuja and Kaduna across three generations: The Pioneers, 1980s; The Bridge Builders, 1990s/2000s, and The Young Turks, 2010s.

Other events planned for the festival, which begins on Monday, November 16, include, Celebration of the 35 Years of the Committee for Relevant Art (Founded June 2, 1991), Screening of Documentary, Femi Osofisan@80 Sessions.

Also lined up is the presentation of COMEDICTION, an educational programme on Language & Literacy development. It is a communication-entertainment project — where pronunciation, language, humour, music, storytelling and audience interaction become creative material for entertainment.

There will be exhibition by members of the Cartoonist Network Association of Nigeria, an art workshop and collaborative installation, where participants will create artistic interpretations of their fingerprints using drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, etc.



FWIFT Underscores Training, Collaboration For Women In Film, TV, Digital Media

By **Omotoyosi Erinle**

FORUM for Women in Film, TV and All Digital Media (FWIFT) has expressed the need for women in film, TV and digital media to train and collaborate.

This was stated in a communique issued at the end of its national convention, which held on Thursday, October 29, 2026, at Glover Memorial Hall, Lagos, under the theme "One Industry, Many Voices: Building Together."

The convention attracted women from film, television, radio, advertising and digital media, with the aim to support one another, grow the industry and build real agency for women professionals.

The keynote speaker, Sandra Mbanefo Obiago, while underscoring the need for collaboration, said: "Tearing another sister down is an opportunity wasted when you could have had an elevating conversation.

"Be humble. It makes it easier to collaborate."

FWIFT Patron, Erelu Bisi Fayemi, also shared her thoughts at the convention, saying: "You don't need to have more money, speak through your nose, be bigger, be smaller or be lighter to be successful. You are enough."

FWIFT announced three future plans. The first is FWIFT Law Clinic. It said there would be a Law Clinic to provide practical advice to participants on setting up and registering a company, and on the rights and protection of women working in the media.

The second is a Finance Workshop, which is expected to unveil grant and finance packages available to media professionals, and inform women on how to access them, in addition to business plan writing, and getting finance-ready.

Funtainment As Wande Coal, Hermes Iyele Thrill Guests At Maltina Unveiling

By **Daniel Anazia**

THE Balmoral Convention Centre Ikeja was on Friday, November 6, beehive with a full-blown celebration as iconic malt drink Maltina, unveiled its new look to trade partners, distributors, consumers and friends of the brand — marking 50 years of nourishing Nigerian homes.

It was not just a pack change; it was a party as the unveiling was brought to life through a creative performance by Hermes Iyele, combining poetry, dance and music around the theme of rebirth, followed by a celebratory toast led by Nigerian Breweries executives.

A dance group thrilled the crowd with energetic routines before music star Wande Coal took the stage to do what he does best. With DJ Brightstar on the turntable, churning out popular hits and lively mixes from the superstar's classic catalogue that resonated with the guest, they were kept on their feets.

First introduced as Maltona in 1976 and renamed Maltina in 1977, the malt drink has stayed in Nigerian homes for over five decades with its story built on nourishment — multivitamin enrichment in 1993, calcium fortification in 2009 — and on people, through Maltina Nourishment Tour, Maltina Dance All, Maltina Teacher of the Year, and its Christmas and Ramadan festive campaigns. That history was everywhere in the room.

Now with a new look, but the same nourishing taste, the refreshed pack comes with an enriched signature orange, gold accents and barley elements that reinforce it malt credentials.

Speaking at the event, the Marketing Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc., Sarah Agha, reflected on the journey and the thinking behind the refreshed identity. She highlighted malt drink's longstanding commitment to nourishment and happiness, noting that the new look represents a more contemporary and confident expression of the brand as it prepares for its next chapter.

She reassured consumers that while the visual identity has evolved, the familiar taste and nutritional credentials remain unchanged. "This is not just about refreshing our identity; it is about reaffirming our commitment to nourishment and to families across Nigeria," Agha said.

"Our new look makes these commitments even more visible. While our identity has evolved to welcome a new chapter, our taste and nutritional credentials remain unchanged. It is still New Look, Same Nourishing Taste," she added.

In '*Ólójó*, Jamal Balogun Explores Mortality, Human Choices

By **Moyosore Salami**

A YOUNG man's habit of procrastination sets off a chain of mysterious events in *Ólójó*, a new Nigerian mystery film by Jamal Balogun, which is scheduled to premiere on November 29, 2026.

The film follows Kamil Onikoyi, a carefree young man whose failure to manage his time threatens to disrupt his elder brother, Abdulquadri's Nikkah to Saidat. Entrusted with delivering the wedding rings, Kamil becomes distracted along the way. Even after collecting the rings, he makes an unnecessary stop at his friend Osama's apartment, further delaying his journey to the wedding venue.

On his way, Kamil boards a commercial bus driven by a mysterious man known as Olojo. What begins as an ordinary trip soon takes an unsettling turn when the driver abandons the main road for an isolated route through the wilderness.

Kamil is joined by passengers from different walks of life, including Otunba, a wealthy and arrogant businessman; Gbotemi, a witty and unpredictable stranger; Memunat, a distressed pregnant woman; and Kareem and Kareema, a couple whose relationship is marked by tension.

As the journey progresses, strange encounters and conversations leave the passengers questioning where they are going and what their driver intends. Meanwhile, at the wedding venue, Alhaji Ibrahim, Alhaja and Aunty K try to manage the growing tension as Abdulquadri and Saidat wait for the rings to arrive.

Balogun said the decision to begin the story with Kamil's procrastination was deliberate. He wanted to introduce the supernatural mystery through a situation audiences could recognise from everyday life.

"I wanted the story to begin with something audiences could easily relate to. Procrastination is a seemingly harmless human weakness, but it can have unexpected consequences. By using Kamil's everyday flaw as the trigger for a supernatural mystery, I wanted to show how ordinary decisions can lead us into extraordinary situations. It makes the story relatable while gradually drawing viewers into the unknown," he said.



The filmmaker uses the passengers to examine the differences and shared vulnerabilities that exist across social classes. Their individual circumstances bring different perspectives to the journey, but the uncertainty surrounding their destination places them in a situation where wealth, status and background offer little reassurance.

"The passengers represent different sides of society, each carrying their own fears, regrets, ambitions and personal struggles. Despite their differences in wealth, status and background, they are brought together by a journey that forces them to confront questions about life, mortality and their choices. Their individual stories reinforce the film's central message: beneath our social differences, we are all human, vulnerable and ultimately uncertain about what tomorrow holds," he said.

The choice of the supernatural mystery genre also gives the filmmaker room to approach questions about life and death through suspense rather than a conventional drama. He said he wanted the film's unexplained events to hold viewers' attention while encouraging them to reflect on the decisions and experiences of its characters.

"I chose the supernatural mystery genre because it allows me to explore deeper questions about life, death, destiny and human existence in an unexpected way. Rather than simply telling a conventional drama, I wanted to use suspense and the unknown to challenge audiences' perceptions, keep them curious, and leave them thinking long after the film ends," he said.

Ibquake, The Loud Choir Serenade Guests At MultiChoice New Package Unveiling

By **Daniel Anazia**

FOLLOWING French media titan CANAL+'s completion of its landmark takeover of MultiChoice and a massive overhaul of DStv and GOtv packages, the broadcast giant on Wednesday, November 4, formally entered a high-stakes new era with its "Expect More" campaign.

Held at The Royal Box in Victoria Island, the unveiling brought together familiar faces from entertainment and lifestyle to media representatives, industry stakeholders, partners, and other guests.

Co-hosted by media personality and actress Folu Storms and Deji Osikoya, the evening blended performances from spoken word artiste Ibquake and the ensemble, The Loud Choir, who thrilled guests with a medley of some of Nigeria's biggest songs. The duo kept the energy high throughout, guiding guests through the night's programme and the interactive spaces inspired by each package.

Speaking on the changes, Chief Executive Officer of MultiChoice Nigeria, Kemi Omotosho, said the new packages were shaped by feedback from subscribers, reflecting what Nigerians have asked for, which is, more value, choice and more content that speaks to them.



TEETH 4 TEETH ... With Justin Akpovi-Esade

What Happened To Obus In 'My Flatmates'?

IT is Season 10 of one the most hilarious sitcoms on Nigerian television, My Flatmates. However, fans were stunned to find out that one of the characters that has made the programme, produced by comedian, Bright Okpocha aka Basket Mouth and the late Kayode Peters, viewer's favourite, Obus(played by Buchi Ojei) is missing.

Obus, one of the misfits flatmates is a hustling lawyer who always reminded everybody how many years he spent in Abraka (which is Delta State University) to get his Law degree, has been replaced by a real graduate of Abraka, Justice Atigogo who is simply called 'Barrister'.

It will interest you, yes, you reading this now to know that Atigogo, a graduate of Theatre Arts from the Delta State University, is T4T's junior from the same department in school back in the day.

The question on everyone's lips is, has Atigogo who is now 'Barrister' officially replaced Barrister Obus?

Basket Mouth has not issued an official statement to that effect, same way he did not say a word when Tiwa, Baba Landlord's step daughter was replaced by another Tiwa who does not have the same verve like the old Tiwa, and in terms of resemblance, the casting Director did a very bad job. At least, Atigogo looks slightly like Buchi, slightly, but they both have different styles. Maybe that is why he is not bearing Obus, rather just 'Barrister'. While Obus is more controversial, 'Barrister' has not fully sank into the role of Obus.

The only transition of roles that has worked in *My Flatmates* so far was that of Sandra to Chidinma. Sandra divorced Nduka (Okey Bakassi) and he married Chidinma. It was not a case of another Sandra replacing Sandra like the case of Tiwa and now Obus even if he is called 'Barrister'.

When the issue came up for debate online, someone suggested that Obus who has been a close friend of Basket Mouth (both of them are comedians) had a falling out with Basket Mouth over money as he felt he was not getting enough for the work he was putting in. Another not too nice person said the break up of his marriage affected him psychologically and he was finding it difficult to cope with the rigours of production. T4T refuses to buy into the marriage break up theory as that incident happened some couple of years ago and he has been on My Flatmates since.

Whatever ever may be responsible for the replacement of Obus (if that is actually the true situation) then the sitcom has lost an irreplaceable character. Obus cannot be replaced by anybody, not even a fellow professional like 'Barrister' Atigogo. Yes, Atigogo is good, but he can't be Obus and he should not even attempt to be Obus. Basket Mouth should have written the character of Obus out of the sitcom and write in Atigogo as someone else like he did for Okon of Lagos who is now part of the flatmates.

Anyway, this is congratulating Justice Atigogo for landing a role in one of Nigeria's most watched sitcoms even though he should not have been Obus through the back door.

Be Careful What You Say In One Nigerian State, "Dem Dey Beat"

T4T, at first, thought it was the usual skits people see online daily, but it was not. Dr. Reuben Abati and Oseni Rufai were interviewing one Udengs Eradiri, one of the governorship candidates of a Nigerian political party in next year's general elections in Bayelsa, well, that was how Arise TV introduced him. He was asked why some folks went to a radio station in the middle of a live programme to allegedly beat up some people. One would expect Eradiri to at least be diplomatic and try to explain away the incident the way most politicians would, but alas, he did not. He rather said the people were not beaten up, "they were disciplined". Really?

"They were not beaten up, they were disciplined. We needed to extract the Ijaw loyalty from them. Wen you go smoke your rubbish and you think you can disrespect the IYC(Ijaw Youth Council) president, you should be taught a lesson", he said.

And when Abati asked him if corporal punishment was among the IYC's key objectives, Eradiri, with a straight face, said: "We dey beat." Abati decided to extract an affirmation from him and again, the politician said: "Ijaw youths beat, we dey beat."

As funny as the interview came across to anybody who watched it, it also calls for a deep reflection. This is a man aspiring to govern a state who is on live TV boldly endorsing extra judicial punishment for an alleged infraction of some group of people who had dissenting views about the president of a youth association. Let that sink, a youth association president o. And they were allegedly dragged from the radio station and 'disciplined'.

If a character like Eradiri becomes Governor of the state, a Tik Tok video criticising his activities would earn one a thorough 'discipline' in the mode used by the IYC.

This is what T4T has to say: Eradiri is highly qualified to be North Korea's president if there ever should be any vacancy for that position.

Sokoto: Aliyu Increases NYSC Allowance From N10,000 To N20,000, Donates Hilux To Coordinator

From **Muhammad Gazali Garba**, Sokoto

SOKOTO State Governor, Ahmed Aliyu, has approved an increase in the monthly allowance for National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members serving in Sokoto State from N10,000 to N20,000.

The governor announced the approval while declaring open the 2026 Batch C Stream Two NYSC Orientation Course at the temporary orientation camp, College of Administrative and Business Studies, Umaru Ali Shinkafi Polytechnic, Farfaru Campus, Sokoto.

He also approved a one-time gift of N30,000 each to the 1,523 corps members participating in the orientation exercise.

On the outstanding state allowances, Aliyu disclosed that a committee had been constituted to review the unpaid entitlements following an appeal by the State Coordinator. He, however, directed that payment of the revised monthly allowance should commence immediately.

Governor Aliyu further announced the donation of a brand-new Hilux vehicle to the NYSC State Coordinator for official use.

He also directed the immediate repair of water and electricity facilities at the orientation camp to improve



Sokoto State Governor, Aliyu

the welfare of the corps members.

The governor also approved the slaughter of five cows daily for the corps members throughout the period of the orientation exercise to ensure adequate feeding and improve their welfare.

In addition, he announced a cash reward of 1 million for the winners of the crocodile race and 500,000 for the runners-up during the swearing-in ceremony.

He urged the corps members to abide by the rules and regulations of the NYSC scheme and uphold its core national values.

Governor Aliyu reaffirmed his administration's unwavering commitment to youth development, national unity and the welfare of corps members serving in the state. He assured them that Sokoto State remains peaceful, hospitable and fully prepared to protect them, support their legitimate aspirations and provide an enabling environment for them to serve, learn and contribute meaningfully to the development of the state and the nation.

Speaking at the occasion, the NYSC State Coordinator, Mr. Tyoyer Gabriel, disclosed that out of the 2,100 corps members allocated to Sokoto State, only 1,523 reported to the orientation camp. He appreciated the state government for its continued support for the NYSC scheme, particularly the ongoing renovation of the permanent orientation camp in Wamakko.

Earlier, the State Chairman of the NYSC Governing Board, who is also the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Alhaji Almustapha Sidi, congratulated the corps members and urged them to remain focused on their mandatory national service.

He assured them of adequate security and welfare throughout their stay in the state.

Highlights of the ceremony included a parade, administration of the oath of allegiance to the corps members and other activities.

Heavy Knocks For Your Money! (2)

By **Segun Durowaiye (08055356855)**

Continued from GUARDIAN WEEKEND, November 7-8, 2026

WHEN the heavy knocks from Barrister Phillips landed on Sanjo's head that rainy day, he felt like his world had suddenly caved in and collapsed! Sanjo was shocked, perplexed and utterly confused as he felt he had done nothing wrong to deserve such an inhuman treatment.

"Oh God Almighty, not again…" he groaned in pains. He instantly applied the brakes and stopped motion on the Third Mainland Bridge. He packed the highly expensive jeep beside the bridge and gently handed the keys to his ungodly and bohemian boss.

"Sir, I have had enough…let me go and die at home…these are your keys…thank you sir…" he said in tears. He opened the door and got down in the heavy downpour. He was crying like a three-week old baby. He started walking all alone to his house. And he had nothing in his pocket, not even N10. He was as broke as a freed prisoner, who had served 30 years jail term. The rains continued in intensity. The evil-minded Barrister, took his umbrella, got down and quickly entered the front seat of his sophisticated Navigator Jeep and drove himself home. That particular day when he trekked home, Sanjo would never forget the experience in a hurry. It was a long, torturous day filled with pains and agony.

Sanjo had made up his mind that he wouldn't work with his wicked boss again against all odds, and impending problems. He started eking out a living as a labourer in a block-making factory. Exactly 10 years later, Barrister Phillips Langbodo's fortune had dwindled drastically. His legal business wasn't booming as before. He had fallen from grace to grass. To be precise, he had become very poor. This had further affected his health and he now suffered a debilitating stroke that wanted to claim his life. He was really at the point of death and everything about him was terrible and moribund.

That very Monday morning, Barrister Phillips was rushed to All Saints Modern Hospital, Lagos Island when he was gasping for breath and was about dying. A rickety and old *Keke Marwa* or Tricycle was used to rush the dying Barrister to the highly-equipped hospital. It was the greatest surprise when it was discovered that Sanjo Oluwanishola was the owner of the ultramodern hospital! Barrister Phillips was shocked when he discovered this fact and he instantly suffered another stroke attack on his left leg when he sighted him! He was dumbfounded! The fact was that Sanjo had risen to wealth and fame after toiling day and night in the uncertain world of business for some years. He had now become a business magnate with many block-making factories and he owned a couple of thriving bakeries in the country. He owned many other successful companies too. He had become a baron in the world of business. He was the Chairman of All Saints Modern Hospital.

With tears in his eyes, and prostrating, Barrister Phillips Langbodo begged for mercy and forgiveness from his former driver. "I'm sorry for my past misdeeds and cruelty…I just didn't know what hooked me then…" he begged with tears streaming down from his eyes. "I've forgiven you, God-willing, " Sanjo said, that fateful day, "don't take any money from him for treatment," he gestured to his Doctors.

Despite Sanjo's magnanimity and kindness to the evil-minded Barrister, he died in chronic pains on the hospital bed that eventful night. God has a way of meting out judgment to evildoers and oppressors. There is always a Judgment Day for people who hurts and treats fellow human beings badly.

Concluded.

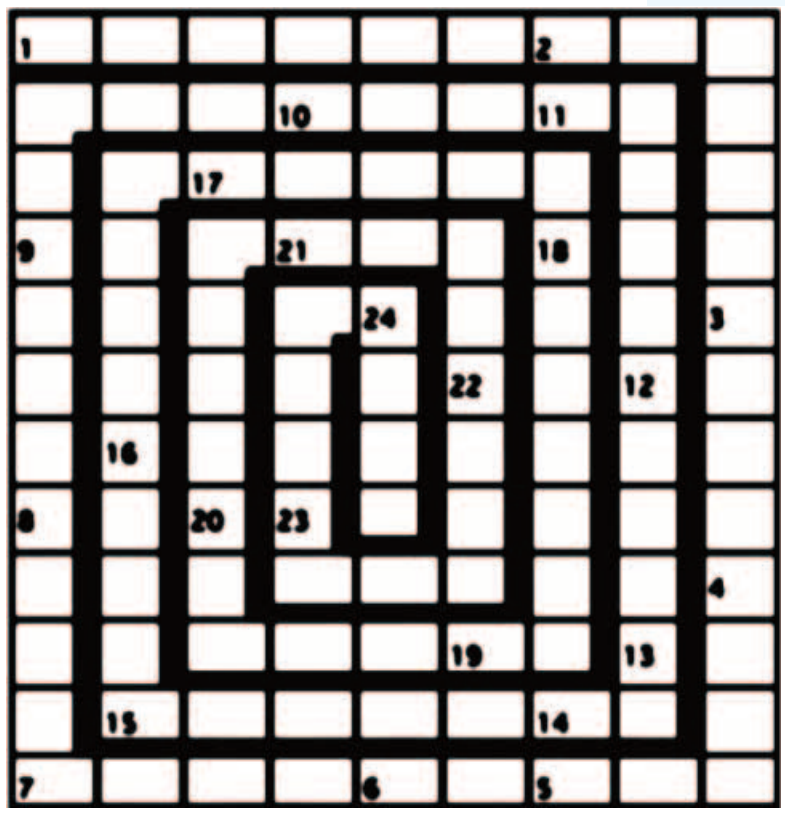
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Overlapping Word Game

with OLULANA KAYODE 08023183727
olulana3@yahoo.com

Solution

1 Infantino
2 Inorganic
3 Niche
4 Exclaim
5 Image
6 Ageless
7 Essay
8 Yahoo
9 Oxford
10 Dabble
11 Blemish
12 Shadow
13 Owlet
14 Lettuce
15 Celery
16 Ryokan
17 Nsukka
18 Ado Ekiti
19 Isi Uzo
20 Onicha
21 Akure
22 Egbedore
23 Refer
24 Ruse



Overlapping Word Game

1 ocal council in Borno State, (7).
2 Governor Charles Soludo's State, (7).
3 Nigeria Ex Vice President, (5).
4 An instrument like a small guitar, (7).
5 Smallest amount possible, (5).
6 Capital of Kazakhstan, (6).
7 Cattle disease in Africa, (6).
8 Originating in a particular place, (6).
9 Check whether something is true, (6).
10 Zamfara State ex Governor, (6).
11 Form image in mind, (7).
12 Cloud of interstellar dust and gas, (6).
13 Most recent, (4).
14 Supporting base for hay, (7).
15 Somebody whom people follow, (6).
16 Erased place or mark, (7).
17 Real existence, (7).
18 Ruling unjustly, (10).
19 Cross River State capital city, (7).
20 Somebody from Arabia, (7).
21 Having anaemia, (7).
22 Microscopic organism, (7).
23 Break free from captivity, (6).
24 Mountain top, (4).

Word Search

Past United States Presidents

Ford	Pierce	Clinton
Bush	Buren	Lincoln
Tyler	Taylor	Kennedy
Grant	Nixon	Jackson
Hayes	Carter	Fillmore
Adams	Arthur	Johnson

D	W	E	Y	D	E	N	N	E	K	H
R	N	E	T	N	E	O	D	N	J	B
O	O	G	R	A	C	X	F	U	H	S
F	S	N	E	B	R	I	T	S	T	M
I	N	L	L	U	E	N	U	E	E	A
L	H	O	Y	R	I	B	R	Y	D	D
L	O	C	T	E	P	H	E	A	S	A
M	J	N	R	N	A	R	T	H	U	R
O	N	I	G	R	I	G	R	A	N	T
R	O	L	Y	A	T	L	A	H	S	U
E	L	O	N	O	S	K	C	A	J	B

(c.) Olukayode Olulana

Birthday

JONATHAN, Goodluck Ebele Azikiwe, politician and former President, will be 69 on November 20, 2026. He was born on November 20, 1957, in Ogbia to a Christian family of canoe makers from the Ijaw minority ethnic group.

He received a bachelor degree in Zoology (second-class honours), a masters degree in hydrobiology and fisheries biology; and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Port Harcourt.

Before his entry into politics in 1998, he worked as an education inspector, a lecturer and an environmental-protection officer.

He served as the President from 2010 to 2015.

Prior to that, he served as Vice President to the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua from 2007 to 2010; and in oil-rich Bayelsa State as Governor of Bayelsa State from 2005 to 2007.

Since leaving office, Jonathan has continued to defend his administration. In 2019, he was appointed as the honorary Special Adviser to the Bayelsa Education Trust Fund Board.

In June 2019, Goodluck Jonathan emerged as chairperson of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP). In July 2020, Jonathan was appointed Special Envoy of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to lead mediation talks during the 2020 Malian protests.

He was appointed in 2023 as head of delegation for the African Union and COMESA in the 2023 Zimbabwean general election. On Friday, August 25, 2023, he addressed a press briefing giving Zimbabwe's electoral authority poor ratings.

Compiled by Gbenga Akinfenwa, oluwagbenga.akinfenwa@guardian.ng or gbengaherkin@gmail.com



Jonathan

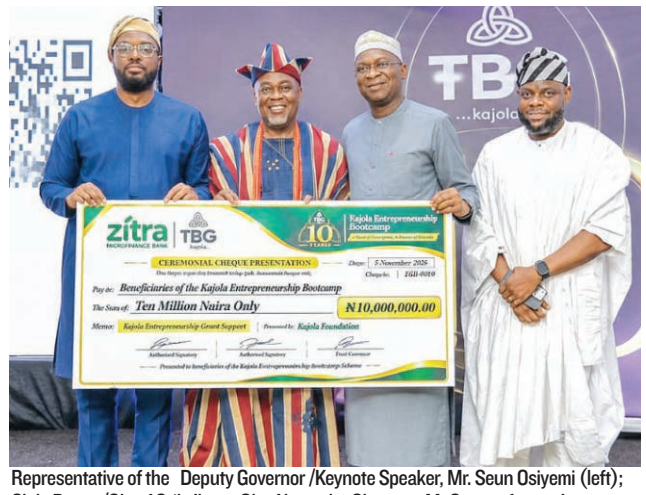
Events



Pastor at Trinity House, Robert Omole （left); Chairman Organising Committee， Deji Popoola; Minister at Trinity house， Tosin Alao; Member of the organising committee， Mike Egor; Guest Artiste， Chandler Moore; Senior Pastor， Trinity House， Ituah Ighodalo; Member Trinity House， Mrs. Stella Egor; Member of the organizing committee， Mr. Misan Arenyeka; Members of Trinity House， Mrs. Gloria and Lloyd Omeronye, during the POP24 (Power of Praise) programme at Trinity House in Lagos



Deputy Managing Director, CFAO Motors Nigeria Ltd., Otunba Kunle Jaiyesimi (left); Managing Director, Coronation Asset Management Ltd., Aigbovbioise Aig-Imoukhuede; Olu of Oregun Land (Awori Kingdom), Ikudoro I, Oba (Dr.) Olukunmi Olusesan Akingbola; Managing Director, First Royal Investment Ltd., Dr Ewelike Anthony; and Head, Retail Sales, Coronation Asset Management Ltd., Monisola Olayemi at the branch opening of Coronation Asset Management in Ikeja, Lagos.



Representative of the Deputy Governor /Keynote Speaker, Mr. Seun Osiyemi (left); Club Patron/Olu of Orile Ilawo, Oba Alexander Olusegun McGregor; former Lagos State Governor, Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN); and Guv'nor of the TBG Club, Femi Adeyeye during the presentation of cheques to beneficiaries of the Kajola Enterprise Bootcamp during the Founders Day Dinner and Award event of the Thursday Business Group (TBG) held in Lagos.



Logistics Manager, Unilever Nigeria Plc, Ayokunle Ajijola (left); Head of Safety, Unilever East & West Africa, Jane Muchunu; Driver, Oritsetimeyin Logistics Ltd. and Overall Best Driver, Folarin Ismail; Transport Manager, Oritsetimeyin Logistics Ltd., Rashidat Agbaje and Head of Customer Operations, Unilever East & West Africa, Moraa Osoro, during Unilever's Transport Safety Week 2026 held in Agbara,Ogun State.



District Governor-nominee, Ade Oyenekan (left); District Governor-elect, Samuel Ayetutu, newly inducted President of Rotary Club of Greenfield, Kayode Oyesile; his wife, Olajumoke Oyesile; District Governor,Bukola Olabisi Bakare and Past District Governor, Omotunde Lawson during the investiture of the fifth President of Rotary Club of Greenfield in Lagos.



Assistant Business Development Executive, Abiok Publicity Limited, Olayinka Ajayi(left); Group General Manager, Abiok Publicity Limited, Emperor Oaikhina; Head Girl, Ibukun Olu Nursery and Primary School, Dopemu, Agege, Miss Aniyikaiye Darasimi; Head Boy, Master Korede Lateef,; Chief Engagement Officer, Abiok Publicity Limited, Saheed Lawal; and Assistant Executive. Human and Asset Resources Management Abiok Publicity Ltd, Funmi Ogunyemi, during the presentation of books and stationeries to Ibukun Olu Nursery and Primary School, Dopemu, Agege, in commemoration of Abiok's 50th anniversary.

NaijAidUK Tackles Nigeria's Emergency Response Gap

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

A UNITED KINGDOM (UK)-registered non-governmental organisation, NaijAidUK, through HealthAid Charity, is strengthening efforts to address gaps in emergency preparedness and response in Nigeria, as it marks 10 years of humanitarian service with a series of specialised first aid, clinical and mental health training programmes that brought together participants from different parts of the country.

The four-day programme, held in Lagos from October 27 to 30, 2026, engaged healthcare professionals, students and members of the public, equipping them with practical knowledge and skills to recognise emergencies, provide appropriate first response and support individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

The initiative reflects NaijAidUK's commitment to extending emergency response knowledge beyond hospitals and healthcare facilities by building a wider network of people capable of taking appropriate action before professional medical assistance arrives.

The programme commenced with an Immediate Life Support (ILS) training for clinicians, including doctors, nurses, midwives, community health workers and other healthcare professionals.



Some participants at the event

UNIBEN Alumni Hold Biennial General Assembly

THE University of Benin (UNIBEN) Alumni Association will hold its Biennial General Assembly from Nov. 18-22, 2026 at the varsity campus under the Distinguished Chairmanship of Sir Makole Omo Azugbene.

A statementby its President Worldwide, Emmanuel Oriazuwa and Chairman, Planning Committee, Dr. Isaac Ejebe, said Special Guest of Honour is Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu; Guest Speaker, Prof. Roland I. Otaru (SAN), while Chief Host is the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Edoba B. Omoregie (SAN). Members will visit to the VC and tour of projects on Wed., Nov. 18; Thursday is Council meeting at 2p.m. Election holds on Friday at 10am; Dinner/awards night holds on Saturday at 2p.m.



Graduand and daughter of Jide Ajani, General Editor of Vanguard, Oloruntobiloba Ajani, Mofifoluwa Ajani (left), and Michael Obolo, during the graduation ceremony of the University of Derby , England, where Mofifoluwa completed her Masters Programme in Nursing (with Merit, last Wednesday,.

FATE Foundation Picks November 19 For Policy Dialogue Series On Entrepreneurship

By **David Emokpae**

THE FATE Institute, an arm of the FATE Foundation has announced date for its 12th Policy Dialogue Series on Entrepreneurship.

While announcing the date at a press conference in Lagos, the organisers said the programme will hold on Thursday, November 19, at the Ecobank Pan African Centre, with policymakers, private sector leaders and ecosystem stakeholders expected to discuss ideas that will foster sustainable entrepreneurship in Nigeria and advance policies that strengthen the country's entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The dialogue, with the theme: Powering MSME Productivity: Unlocking Access to Energy, Talent, and Finance, will seek to identify practical actions that institutions can collectively pursue to strengthen the productivity of Nigerian enterprises.

Speaking at the briefing, the Executive Director of FATE Foundation, Ayomide Akindolie-Igwe, said entrepreneurship is critical in driving the fabric of Nigeria's economy, adding that Nigeria cannot realise its aspirations of a $1tr economy without powering entrepreneurs.

Akindolie-Igwe stated that the organisation has through its research identify key blockers to growth for businesses in Nigeria. She noted that lack of access to finance, talent and energy stifle the growth of businesses in Nigeria.

Guardian Fashion

● STYLE ● ELEGANCE ● LIFESTYLE





Timeless Glams On **GTCO Fashion** Weekend 2026 Runway

...Empowering Emerging Designers, Entrepreneurs Across Globe

By **Maria Diamond**

LAGOS was the top destination for everything style and beauty when GTCO Fashion Weekend raised the curtain of its ninth edition with 'Fashion Is Timeless' as the thematic roadmap that routed the two-day event from masterclasses, to exhibitions, streets wear showcases, runways among other highlights.

As the fashion industry continues to play a vital role in global economy, Nigeria's hold remains steady to the plow without looking back through organisations like the Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc' GTCO Fashion Weekend, which in the last nine years has stayed committed to not only showcasing the dynamics of African culture, heritage and lifestyle through fashion but also significantly contributing to the economic growth of the country by empowering entrepreneurs and developing businesses.

The two day event which took place last weekend at the GT Centre Victoria Island Lagos last weekend brought together fashion designers, entrepreneurs, industry professionals, beauty experts and fashion enthusiasts.

The Masterclasses

The series of masterclasses this year featured facilitators from the fashion, beauty and lifestyle industries including Olamide Olowe; Rachel Ojuromi; Ihsan Bilal; Renee Morris and Sherlina Nym who all taught the audience the dynamics of the industry at different levels.

The Runway

If anything stands GTCO Fashion Weekend out aside from giving free spaces to one hundred and forty exhibitors, it is the intentionality of providing emerging designers from Nigeria and across the globe, its runway platform to showcase their collections.

The diverse showcase of fashion from global ethnicities beyond the shores of Africa, blending contemporary fashion with timeless traditional styles is what makes GTCO Fashion Weekend a global stage.

Across the two days, the runway show featured collections from Tongoro, FIA Factory, Ibrahim Fernandez, Washington Roberts, Maison Sara Chraibi and Imane Ayissi, Sukeina, House of Marvee, Selam Fessahaye, Kim Shui, Ohlanna Bu Zikora and LaQuan Smith.

The Craft Fabric Market

Amongst the many lineups this year including the GTCO Fashion Collective, the introduction of the Craft Fabric Market stood out, providing visibility for indigenous textile producers and traditional artisans, including Aso-oke weavers and Adire dyers.



'As the fashion industry continues to play a vital role in global economy, Nigeria's hold remains steady to the plow without looking back through organisations like the Guaranty Trust Holding Company plc' GTCO Fashion Weekend which has stayed committed to not only showcasing the dynamics of African culture, heritage and lifestyle through fashion but also significantly contributing to the economic growth of the country by empowering entrepreneurs and developing businesses.'

Survival, Accountability, Vulnerable Children's Protection Loud In *Tray Of Locust Beans*



By **Maria Diamond**

BRINGING a powerful account of survival, accountability and the protection of vulnerable children to the forefront of public conversation, 'A Tray of Locust Beans' tells the story of a girl's survival.

The story that began with the vulnerability of a thirteen-year-old girl and the intervention of people who refused to look away has found a new audience through cinema.

Drawn from a real case handled in Ekiti State, the film traces the importance of timely intervention and the people whose actions can alter the course of a young girl's life.

Officially selected at the African International Film Festival (AFRIFF) 2026, the short film premiered by Lufodo Productions, in collaboration with Kinsman Studios at Film House, Landmark recently, places a deeply consequential social issue within a cinematic narrative that challenges audiences to confront the realities of sexual violence against children and the failures that often allow it to persist.

Based on a short story by renowned writer and gender advocate Mrs Bisi Fayemi, A Tray of Locust Beans follows Mabel, a thirteen-year-old girl who experiences sexual abuse and an ensuing pregnancy, navigating a system that too often fails children in vulnerable circumstances.

The premiere, which opened with a red-carpet reception before an exclusive screening and post-film panel discussion, attracted prominent voices from government, the development sector, gender advocacy and the Nigerian creative industry to confront child sexual abuse, institutional responsibility and the power of storytelling.

Directed by Orobosa Ikponmwen, with a screenplay by Ololade Okedare and Ayobola Eniola, the film features Somachi Chilaka, Joke Silva and Korede Lawal. Executive Produced by Joke Silva, Soji Jacobs and Mrs Bisi Fayemi, the production brings together established creative talent and a story rooted in the urgent realities of child protection.

The screening was followed by a conversation hosted by veteran broadcast journalist and publisher of TW Magazine, Adesuwa Onyenokwe. The panel brought together Mrs Bisi Fayemi, Joke Silva, director Orobosa Ikponmwen, Barrister Rita Ilevbare, a lawyer and gender-based violence advocate who coordinates the Ekiti State Sexual Assault Referral Centre, and Mrs Titilola (Lola) Vivour-Adeniyi, Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA).

At the heart of the conversation was a question that extended beyond the film: what happens when the institutions and individuals entrusted with protecting children fail to act?

Reflecting on the inspiration behind the story, Mrs Bisi Fayemi, whose work in gender and development spans more than 35 years, drew attention to the recurring cycle of neglect, violence and limited opportunities that can shape the lives of girls and their children when intervention comes too late. She emphasised that social change cannot be left to public office holders or policymakers alone.

"Not all of us will be a first lady. But there's something that you can do to ensure that we break that cycle of violence and oppression."

Fayemi who urged individuals to recognise the responsibility that comes with the positions and platforms they occupy hopes the film will get people thinking about the roles they play based on where they are.

Read the remaining part of this story on www.guardian.ng

EAT Unveils *Reverie*, Celebrating Renewal, Reinvention In African Luxury

By **Maria Diamond**

EXPLORING renewal and reinvention through contemporary African luxury, Ejiro Amos Tafiri (EAT) has unveiled REVERIE, a Spring/Summer 2027 (SS27) collection that brings together expressive silhouettes, intricate craftsmanship and a refined colour palette presenting a visual statement that celebrates the evolving language of African fashion.

The showcase, held in Lagos recently, brought together distinguished guests, fashion industry leaders, patrons and representatives of the British Council Nigeria, including chef and media personality Hilda Baci, for a presentation of the house's latest collection.

Through considered design and craftsmanship, Reverie reflects EAT fashion house's continued exploration of contemporary African aesthetics, presenting pieces that balance creative expression with the distinctive design sensibility for which the brand is known.

Founded by designer Ejiro Amos Tafiri, popularly known as Nigeria's Drape Queen, the fashion house has spent 16 years developing a distinctive identity within the luxury fashion landscape. Its design language is characterised by expressive drapery, fluid tailoring and the thoughtful use of indigenous textiles, bringing African craftsmanship into contemporary fashion.



Ejiro Amos Tafiri

The Lagos unveiling followed the third edition of 'Fashioning a Legacy: Leaving a Mark in Time', held recently at the British Council in Ikoyi, Lagos. The conference brought together designers, stylists, retail professionals and emerging creatives to discuss building sustainable careers and creating lasting impact within the fashion industry.

Together, the events reflect Ejiro Amos Tafiri's continued engagement with the broader creative ecosystem, connecting fashion, education, craftsmanship and the development of emerging talent.

The Reverie presentation forms part of the house's 16-year milestone and will be followed by an exclusive showcase in Abuja on November 28, 2026. The forthcoming event will bring together members of the diplomatic community, government officials, fashion patrons and invited guests for a further presentation of the house's work.

As Ejiro Amos Tafiri looks towards its next chapter, Reverie embodies an ongoing exploration of renewal and reinvention, reinforcing the house's commitment to advancing contemporary African luxury through expressive design and intricate craftsmanship.

Detty December: **Seyi Vibez** To Headline Apitainment Music Festival In Abuja

By **Maria Diamond**

ABUJA is setting precedence for the 2026 Detty December experience with Apitainment Music Festival, as it sets the motion for an electrifying night of music, entertainment and unforgettable experiences, bringing together Afrobeats lovers, nightlife enthusiasts, concertgoers, diaspora guests and fun-seekers for one of the season's major entertainment highlights.

The oncoming 2026 Apitainment Music Festival scheduled to hold on December 19, 2026, at the Abuja Velodrome further reinforces the brand's commitment to elevating Abuja's entertainment landscape and delivering premium live experiences that bring music, culture and community together.

The event will be headlined by Afrobeats sensation Seyi Vibez who is renowned for his distinctive sound, energetic performances and growing influence on the Afrobeats scene.

Seyi Vibez will deliver an engaging live experience for fans with his latest Swaguu album adding to an already impressive catalogue, concertgoers can look forward to performances of popular records including "Pansa," "Back 2 U" and "GTA," alongside other fan favourites.

Over the years, Apitainment has established itself as a key player in Abuja's live entertainment scene, producing some of the city's biggest concerts and lifestyle experiences. Its portfolio includes Davido Live in Abuja, which held twice, Young Jonn Live in Abuja, Capital Picnic, AWG Fest and Drip City. These events have featured an impressive roster of Nigerian music acts, including Lil Kesh, Odumodublvck, Ice Prince, Ruger, Fido, Soundboi, Ajebo Hustlers and Morravey, among others.

Speaking ahead of the festival, Apitainment's Chief Executive Officer, Adewumi Segun Gabriels, expressed his excitement about the upcoming event, reaffirming the company's commitment to delivering exceptional entertainment experiences in the capital.

"We believe Abuja deserves the best experiences in December, and we have consistently worked towards delivering that over the years. Every edition presents an opportunity to raise the bar, and this year's Apitainment Music Festival will be another exciting and memorable experience for everyone who attends," he said.



Industry Impact Summit Honours 50 Men, Examines Leadership, Social Impact

By **Oguejiofor Emmanuel**

FIFTY men have been honoured for demonstrating exceptional leadership and transformative growth at the second edition of The Industry Impact Summit in Lagos. The event themed, 'Responsibility & Impact: The Role of Men as Builders of Brands, Businesses, and Society', is an annual roster of distinction for men recognised for their proven track records of transforming communities and advancing national-building.

In his keynote address, the Convener and Editor-in-Chief of The Industry Newspaper, Goddie Ofose, said the summit was scheduled near the International Men's Day, which falls on November 19, to give the global celebration a local relevance. According to him, men build businesses from ideas sketched on paper into institutions, and shape society through the jobs they create, the intrinsic values they uphold and the families they sustain. "Today is about responsibility," he said.

Ofose noted that women are celebrated far more often than men on most platforms, stressing that this idea does not come from a place of resentment. "It is about time we acknowledged that men also sacrifice. Men also break down," he said.

A panel session, moderated by the Group Head, Digital Marketing, TGI Group, Kenneth Iruonagbe had Executive Vice President, Strategy and Innovation, Chain Reactions Africa, Franklin Ozekhome; Managing Director, mediaReach OMD Nigeria, Stephen Onaivi; Executive Director, Media Investments, OMG WeCa, Yinka Adebayo; Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Brands Optimal Limited, Otis Ojeikhoa; and Business Unit Director, Plus Acuity, Emmanuel Adediran as panellists.

Opening the discussion on industry building, Onaivi said the work extends far beyond physical metrics, describing the industrial ecosystem as a revolving cycle in which professionals get back as much effort as they put in.

Speaking on leadership, Adediran, who credited Onaivi and Adebayo as mentors, said the measure of success changes once a professional moves into management. "The moment you become a manager or a leader, your KPI is no longer about how well you can perform as an individual," he said.

Ozekhome was asked which personal milestone he considers more important than any recognition he has received. He pointed instead to a lesson about assumption, noting leaders with decades of experience often assume they already know enough, but that he still feels nervous before speaking and responds by reading, learning and asking questions.

Beyond the 50 honourees, the newspaper gave special recognition awards to six agencies and they are: the Most Outstanding Advertising Agency, the Most Outstanding Public Relations Agency, the Most Outstanding Digital Marketing Agency, the Most Outstanding OOH Agency, the Most Outstanding Media Independent Agency, and the Most Outstanding Experiential Marketing Agency.

The gathering also observed a minute silence for the late founder of Marketing Edge Magazine and Edge Media, John M. Ajayi, who died on December 10, 2025.

Students Benefit From Rotary Basic Education, Literacy Project

By **Isaac Taiwo**

STUDENTS of Ajao Estate Junior High School have benefitted from the Basic Education and Literacy Project executed by Rotary Club of Anthony Golden. The students got school bags, exercise books and biros.

They were also admonished on how to live a humanitarian and moral life.Speaking at the event, the Impact President of the club, AniekanUdoh said the materials were given to 100 students, particularly members of the Interact club to register their interest in the school that they have adopted it.

"We are very much interested in the progress of this school as well as in the students, hence on yearly basis, we endeavour to make our presence felt in the school through impactful projects.

"This is their formative years and we are ensuring we sow such a seed into the students' education that would embellish their future leadership quality," he said.

The school's principal, Mrs. KasilaKotunAmode appreciated the club, adding that they expect more assistance in the future. She promised to continue working on the students' lives to make them imbibe the habit of helping others.

Representative of Education District II, Hamzat Ahmed described the project as a laudable one that would go a long way to reducing the financial burden on the students' parents.

BHM Restructures, Appoints New Leaders

By **Gbenga Salau**

BHM Holdings, the African communications services group, has announced a new leadership structure as it marks the 20th anniversary of its founding. Founder, Ayeni Adekunle has become Group Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair of BHM Holdings. In the new role, he will lead group strategy, governance, investments, technology, talent and international expansion while stepping away from the day-to-day management of the group's operating companies.

Iretomiwa Akintunde

JOHNSON has been appointed Managing Director of BHM, the group's public relations and reputation management consultancy, while NjidekaAkabogu Eke-Uche has been appointed Managing Director of ID Africa, its pan-African communications, media and intelligence company. Both appointments take effect on 1 January 2027.

Plaqad, BHM Holdings' artificial-intelligence and communications technology company, is led by Joseph Enesu, who pioneered BHM AI Labs and has overseen the development of Plaqad Intelligence.

The changes formalise a holding-company structure under which BHM, ID Africa and Plaqad operate as distinct BHM Holdings companies, each with dedicated leadership, capabilities and growth priorities.



Iretomiwa



Njideka

Ayeni said: "Twenty years ago, the ideas we had were much bigger than our resources. We wanted to build an African company that could do excellent work, develop great people, create useful platforms and compete with the best companies anywhere in the world.

"We got many things wrong, we learned, we changed and we kept building. Today, World PR Day is celebrated in more than 65 countries. NECLive continues to shape the creative industry and cultural initiatives around the world. Our research is helping people understand communications across African markets, and the work our teams do for clients has been recognised repeatedly by some of the most respected organisations in our industry.

"But I am even more excited about what comes next. The appointment of Iretomiwa and Njideka, Joseph's work at Plaqad, our investment in artificial intelligence and the completion of our first private placement are all connected. We are building an institution that can outlive its founders, develop new leaders and create African solutions for the world."

Founded in Lagos in November 2006, BHM has developed from a small Nigerian public relations business into an international communications group working directly and through franchise relationships in Nigeria.

NMA Commences Public Voting, Announces Final Contenders For Brand Of The Year

By **Moyosore Salami**

ORGANISERS of the Nigerian Marketing Awards (NMA) have thrown the voting process of this year's edition of the awards open to the public, while also announcing the three finalists: Heineken, Malta Guinness and MILO, contending for the prestigious Brand of the Year 2026 Award.

The Founder and Convener of the Awards, Prince Tony Agenmonmen, disclosed this in a statement.He explained that the three brands were arrived at following a rigorous evaluation by the Awards Decision Council (ADC), comprising distinguished marketing and communications professionals.

Agenmonmen added that with the announcement, the three brands now advance to the public voting stage, making it possible for Nigerians to be part of the voting process.The former President, National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria (NIMN) further explained that the winner will be determined by a combination of judges' scores (50%) and public votes (50%), bringing expert assessment and consumer choice together in deciding this year's outstanding brand.

According to him, the public voting, which has since opened since Sunday, 1 November 2026, is expected to close on Monday, 9 November, this year, with the winner unveiled at the fifth edition of the Awards, tagged: "Reimagine Marketing", slated for Saturday, 21 November 2026, in Lagos.

BNXN, Others Light Up Mainland Block Party

By **Suliyat Tella**

NIGERIAN singer, Daniel Etiese Benson, popularly known as BNXN, headlined the Mainland Block Party held at the Police College, Ikeja, Lagos, on Friday, November 7.

The singer thrilled fans with performances of some of his popular songs, including Finesse, Gwagwalada, featuring SeyiVibez, and Ejimele, featuring Asake.He also performed tracks such as 16, Online, Shamayan, Back Outside and Cold Outside, entertaining the audience with a selection of his hit songs.Other artistes that performed at the event included Doublegeex2, Winnerman and Yedka.

Doublegeex2 entertained the crowd with his hit songs such as Shalewa, Ore Agbako and Esin Meta Lolaye, featuring Lil Frosh.The event also featured a line-up of hype men, including Toby Shang, Emmyblack, Tenny Eddy, Ayo Santos, Teened and Diego, who kept the audience engaged throughout the party.

Disc jockeys who entertained guests with music selections included DJ More, DJ Dimple Nimple, DJ Dreezi, Titanium and Smalls the DJ.The Mainland Block Party has continued to feature A-list Nigerian artistes, bringing some of the country's biggest music stars closer to fans both mainland and Island. Through its events, the platform provides opportunities for music lovers to enjoy live performances by their favourite artistes.

In another development, Nigerian singer SeyiVibez is set to perform at TafawaBalewa Square, Lagos, on December 29, in an event powered by The Plug and Mainland Block Party.



BNXN

BAOSA Donates Legacy Projects To Alma Mater

By **David Emokpae**

AS part of the celebration of the 171st Baptist Academy Founder's Day Anniversary, the Baptist Academy Old Students Association (BAOSA) unveiled seven legacy projects at their alma mater.

Some of the donated projects are: the BAOSA Garden; the unveiling of the redesigned school badge; the renovated home economics and agricultural science laboratories; renovated physics and chemistry laboratories; and the solar lighting installation on the school premises. They also laid the foundation for two projects by turning the sod for a proposed lecture theatre and medical clinic/prep room.

The BAOSA Global President, AjomaleOlumide, said that over a billion naira worth of projects were delivered. He added that the other two buildings yet to come up will cost N500 million. He also stated that twice every year, the association give prizes and scholarships to disabled students.

TOICE Conference, Expo Holds November 25

By **GbengaSalau**

THE second edition of the Tour Operators International Conference & Expo (TOICE) 2026 has been slated for Wednesday, November 25, 2026, in Lagos, themed, "From Collaboration to Commercialisation: Building Strategic Partnerships That Drive Profit and Sustainable Growth in African Tourism".

The convener, Mr. Ibrahim MakanjuolaAdebusoye said the Tour Operators International Conference & Expo is bringing industry stakeholders together to transform strategic partnerships into profitable business opportunities.

"TOICE 2026 will provide a platform for tourism professionals to explore how collaboration can move beyond discussions and goodwill to generate measurable business outcomes. Africa's tourism industry holds enormous potential for economic growth, job creation, investment, and cultural exchange. From its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes to its vibrant cities, historic destinations, and unique hospitality experiences, the continent has much to offer the global travel market. Yet, unlocking this potential requires more than attractive destinations and memorable experiences. It demands stronger partnerships, innovative business models, improved service delivery, and a deliberate commitment to turning tourism opportunities into sustainable commercial success.

‘Quality Of Teachers Defines A Country’s Educational System’

__Dr. Suliat Ajoke Ogungboyega,__ popularly known as Jim-Salam is the Provost of the Federal College of Education, Iwo, Osun State, where she is working to strengthen teachers education, expand academic programmes and improve the institution’s infrastructure. Since assuming office, she has secured approval for 10 additional programmes and equipped four laboratories.Ogungboyega is an educationist and academic with years of experience spanning teaching, research and educational administration. She has taught at primary, secondary, college of education and university levels, and served in various capacities, including departmental unit coordinator, programme coordinator, project supervisor and principal of the International Secondary School. She is a firm believer in the importance of teachers to national development, she advocates better working conditions, improved remuneration and the integration of digital skills into teacher education. In this interview with __SULIYAT TELLA,__ she speaks about her journey in education, the challenges facing teachers’ education in Nigeria, her vision for the college and the need to create more opportunities for women in leadership.

Tell us about your journey into the education sector

MY journey into education has been driven by purpose, passion, commitment and a deep desire to make a positive impact on people’s lives through knowledge. I see education as more than the acquisition of certificates. It is an instrument for developing individuals, strengthening families, transforming communities and building a nation. As an educationist who has served in different capacities, these experiences gave me an understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the education sector, particularly in effective leadership, teachers’ discipline, innovation and collaboration among stakeholders. My academic and professional journey has strengthened my conviction that the quality of any educational system cannot rise above the quality, commitment and preparation of its teachers. This belief has shaped my approach to teaching, research, administration and institutional leadership. My emergence as Provost of the Federal College of Education, Iwo, was not an isolated achievement. It represents years of preparation, professional service, perseverance and faith in God’s plan. I see leadership not as an opportunity to exercise authority but as a call to service. It gives me an opportunity to contribute more significantly to teacher education and national development. Ultimately, my goal has always been to make a difference wherever I find myself.

What was your reaction when you received the news of your appointment as Provost?

I received the news with a mixture of gratitude to Almighty God, joy, humility and a great sense of responsibility. I saw it as a call to service. I was deeply grateful for the confidence reposed in me by the appointing authority and for the support, encouragement and mentorship of those who contributed to my professional journey. At the same time, I recognised that leading a college of education comes with enormous responsibilities. I have responsibilities to the students, staff, governing council, government, host communities and the Nigerian education system. As a woman, I also recognised the significance of occupying a leadership position in an institution that plays an important role in preparing the next generation of teachers. I accepted the appointment with a clear understanding that leadership is not about the prestige of an office. It is about the value one adds, the people one serves and the legacy one leaves behind.

Give an insight to your experience in your new role as provost?

Since assuming office, the journey has been both demanding and rewarding. It has provided opportunities to address institutional challenges, strengthen existing programmes and work towards achieving the vision I have for the college.



Dr Suliat Ajoke Ogungboyega

What are your major priorities for the college, and what changes would you like to see during your tenure?

My vision is to build a college that is academically excellent, technologically driven and recognised for producing competent and professional teachers. One of my priorities is to sustain existing programmes while pursuing approval for new ones. I thank God that, within the first six months of my administration, I was able to secure approval for 10 additional programmes from the relevant regulatory body. These include programmes in Chemistry, Physics, Fine and Applied Arts, Building, Political Science, Geography, among others. Another priority is to equip our laboratories to meet the requirements for approval of dual-mandate programmes. Within the first six months of my administration, I was also able to equip four laboratories. I want to strengthen student welfare and increase enrolment through different strategies, including publicity and maintaining good relationships with our host communities. I also want to strengthen the college’s internally generated revenue. This has been one of my priorities from the beginning, and we are working seriously towards achieving it. Staff development and improved professional conduct are equally important to me. I want to create an environment where members of staff are encouraged to improve their skills and deliver their responsibilities effectively. At the end of my tenure, I want the college to be recognised not merely as a growing institution but as a centre of excellence in teacher production.

‘Governments should prioritise career progression for teachers and ensure that they are adequately remunerated. When teachers are properly supported and their welfare is improved, they are more likely to give their best.’

‘There is a need to bridge the gap between theory and practice in our educational system. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is becoming alarming partly because there is a wide gap between what students are taught in classrooms and the skills required in the world of work.’

What are the major challenges in the college, and how do you plan to address them?

One of the major challenges is the gap between the development needs of the college and the resources available to meet them. Funding remains a challenge, just as it is for many other public institutions. Some capital projects require attention to ensure their completion. Another challenge is financial sustainability. We have limited resources compared with our needs, and we must find ways to meet our growing operational demands. My approach is to address these challenges through strategic planning, prioritisation, accountability and collaboration. We cannot solve every problem at once. We have to identify our most urgent needs, pursue available funding opportunities and ensure that resources are applied responsibly.

What role do you think colleges of education should play in improving the quality of teaching and learning in Nigeria?

This is a very important question because colleges of education play a pivotal role in the Nigerian educational system. They train the teachers who will shape the future of coming generations. The quality of a country’s education cannot rise above the quality of its teachers. In other words, the quality of teachers determines the quality of the educational system. Permit me to quote the Executive Secretary for NCE programmes, our Amazon of Education, Dr Angela Ajala, who said in 2026: “If you miss it with teachers, you miss it with Nigeria. You miss it with teacher education, you miss it with Nigeria.” We can build classrooms, procure equipment, equip laboratories and develop curricula. However, if there are no qualified and professionally trained teachers to implement these policies, the expected results may not be achieved. Teachers are at the centre of implementing educational policies. They are the ones who use the laboratories and equipment provided and implement the curricula developed. The importance of teachers cannot be overemphasised. Teaching is the mother of all professions. A teacher teaches the doctor, produces the lawyer, trains the computer analyst and educates the surgeon. Behind every profession, there is a teacher. That is why the government must not toy with teacher education. Colleges of education must ensure that teachers receive the right training, practical experience and professional preparation to perform their duties effectively.

What changes would you like the government to make to improve the teaching profession in Nigeria?

The government must provide teachers with the necessary equipment to perform their duties. A teacher should not be expected to work without the tools required to deliver effective teaching. Governments should also prioritise career progression for teachers and ensure that they are adequately remunerated. When teachers are properly supported and their welfare is improved, they are more likely to give their best. An angry man is not a happy man, and the same applies to teachers. When their welfare is improved, they can work beyond expectations. Another important issue is the need to bridge the gap between theory and practice in our educational system. The rate of unemployment in Nigeria is becoming alarming partly because there is a wide gap between what students are taught in classrooms and the skills required in the world of work.

Sometimes, students are taught with outdated equipment, only to encounter modern technology and methods when they enter the workplace. They may find it difficult to fit into the demands of the industries they hope to work in. The classroom should reflect what is obtainable in the industries. We must improve internship opportunities, teaching practice and other programmes that expose students to practical experiences. We must also embrace digital transformation in our schools. Teachers should be digitally equipped, and our teaching methods, pedagogy and curriculum content should reflect current technological developments. We cannot continue to operate as though we are still in the past.

Women are increasingly taking up leadership positions, but they still face several challenges. What obstacles have you encountered as a woman in leadership?

Women have made remarkable progress in education, public administration, business and other sectors. Their contributions to government institutions and other organisations cannot be overemphasised. However, we must acknowledge that barriers still exist.

One of the challenges women face in leadership is the need to combine domestic responsibilities with official assignments. Women often have to balance these different responsibilities, and that can be demanding.

In my professional journey, I have learnt that advancing in a demanding career requires resilience, continuous learning, emotional intelligence and the courage to take responsibility.

I have also learnt not to allow challenges to limit my capacity or aspirations. Instead, I focus on competence, preparation, integrity and the quality of my work.

As a woman leading a tertiary institution, do you feel the need to constantly prove your competence amongst male counterparts?

Women in leadership positions can testify that their competence is sometimes questioned more than that of their male counterparts. They are sometimes subjected to additional tests before their abilities are recognised.

I have also had similar experiences. However, my philosophy is that leadership is not about being above another person. It is a call to serve. I have always allowed fairness, integrity and results to speak for me when it comes to my competence. The responsibilities of a woman in a leadership position are enormous.

Read the remaining part of this interview on www.guardian.ng

Victor Ehindero: How Skin Health Inspires Deep Investigation Of Cause-And-Effect

By **Maria Diamond**

AFTER observing how often Africans patronised imported skincare products that were not necessarily made with their needs in mind, Victor Ehindero, a serial entrepreneur created melanin-rich skin products, accounting for local climate conditions that subject the skin to acne, hyperpigmentation, and uneven skin tone.

Ehindero is the Founder and CEO of Potio Beauty, a direct-to-consumer skincare brand established in Ibadan, Nigeria, in December 2025. He holds an LLB (Hons.) in Law from the University of Ibadan and an MBA from Rome Business School. His recognitions include: Nomination for The Future Awards Africa Prize for Entrepreneurship, 2023 Award of Honour, LEAD Conference, Bowen University, 2022 University of Ibadan Prize for Entrepreneurship, received three years in a row.

Presenting an insight into what it takes to build and nurture a healthy skin especially for blacks; Ehindero explores the unique African climate and skin texture and the importance of product performance that serves these criteria.

Why did you go into the beauty industry?

I chose the beauty industry mainly because creating something that truly works seemed unattainable. As much as we have amazing beauty businesses in Nigeria, the market by effectiveness is still super under-served. This is why Potio was built to give a permanent healthy fix and restore confidence.

More importantly, my personal skin health journey fundamentally changed how I viewed ingredients, shifting my relationship with skin health into a deep investigation of cause-and-effect. This led to us making sure our products never contain fillers, synthetics and carcinogens. We focus on clean and safe formulations only.

What basic skin health narrative are you changing in the African beauty ecosystem?

That melanin focused skincare should not be an afterthought but the standard. Any skincare that does not build on melanin is not fit for the African skin and climate condition.

I genuinely hope a few years from now we can show the global beauty industry that beyond absorbing harmful UV radiation from the sun, shielding the DNA inside the skin from damage, melanin is an ultimate antioxidant and free radical scavenger that keeps the skin safe, protected and healthy.

You operate in an industry highly consumed by women with insatiable aesthetic needs, how do you relate to the emotions and intensity that women channel into the quest for skin care results?

By being extremely transparent on the timeframe and results; anybody who is actively seeking for new results especially if they have a constant problem, they already have a timeframe and a set expectations in their head. They have this 'If this doesn't work during this time, I'm out'. So what we at Potio Beauty is to enlighten them on how the products work. This is what to expect and this is the likely timeline to see results. For example, if we are treating acne, you will get to see visible changes within 1-4 weeks. If we are treating hyperpigmentation, visible changes after 9-12 weeks. This is also dependent on usage consistency and skin types. For some of our clients, they see results in less time, for some it's longer. By doing this, it manages their expectations and also increases brand loyalty.

Tell us about your on-the-spot decision-making style as regards proffering solutions to skin health issues, and what core values are you trying to instill in Potio as it grows?

My decision-making is incredibly fast paced especially in the beauty industry where instant solutions are required. More importantly, I believe when we move we should move fast and this rubs off on how we treat skin health issues.

My core value speaks to taking responsibility for everything including failure. I empower everyone in the team to take personal responsibility for their work, solve problems proactively and treat the business with an owner's mindset. This has been what has helped me to stand apart for years in entrepreneurship. Your work speaks so much about you. Nonchalant and zero sense of urgency to work would shoot you in the leg and that is how you will be described in rooms you are not present.

What would you say are the core daily healthy skin routines from within and out that everyone, especially women shouldn't skip?

From the outside: Gentle cleansing (morning or night). Moisturising and using Sunscreen – the use of sunscreen is non-negotiable.

From the inside: Good hydration, quality sleep (7-8 hours) and good diet; eat good food.

Considering your background in law, how does a legal mindset shape the way you negotiate partnerships, protect intellectual property, and run a fast-growing consumer brand?

One of the biggest things having a legal background has done for me particularly in the consumer landscape is knowing how to approach every single structural negotiation in the entire business process. Anything people pay for, can incur so much happiness and conflict because there are already certain expectations they want to be met.

Partnership that does not in any way benefit what you are building is easily filtered out with your existing knowledge. Also, the business relationships you make are better defined and you are properly protected as we have a lot of parties who can try to take advantage of loopholes. Like I always say, entrepreneurship without the knowledge of the law is serious rough play.

Winning the UI Prize for Entrepreneurship three years in a row signaled an early drive. What was the pivotal moment when you decided to commit fully to building a physical beauty product over digital media services?

When I started my entrepreneurship journey donkey years ago, my first set of businesses were digital services because they were relatively easy to set up back then and you can be a one man moving machine. This means all I needed was just myself. No need to necessarily depend on so much. I did this and found so much success. But I always loved the concept of physical scale, I loved the general operations that are involved in building large scale physical products businesses. And this is why Potio Beauty was established.

What is the biggest lesson you have learnt as a young African entrepreneur in the beauty industry?

I really believe it is to 'understand your market deeply'. A lot of people think it is cliche to say this but very quickly after you build anything in this landscape, you will find out why this market knowledge is needed. Sometimes, a consumer observation remains as mere observation. Other times it is valid but does not have enough market consumers to make it run successfully. While sometimes the consumer observation is valid, has enough market consumers and buyers but it's not a recurring need that people will keep coming back to. Putting anything you want to build through these three lenses will help you really filter and arrive at the final conclusion. Does this observation really need a product? If it does, by all means, build. But if it doesn't, please ignore.

From the Future Awards Africa nomination to university honours, how has early accolades influenced your sense of responsibility as a young founder in Nigeria?

When you get early heads up and acknowledgments, it just lets you know that nothing is impossible and people are indeed watching. I have a strong personal validation that makes me strive to build correct. I always want to solve a problem. I want to make people's lives better in my own capacity – to increase their confidence. With this in mind, I built businesses like Pottv Media which is our digital media business, PotEarn Technologies which is our E-commerce business. That sense of purpose also drove me to build Potio Beauty, our beauty business.

What influenced your vision for African brand storytelling?

One book I read cover to cover when it came out in 2018 was *Africa's Business Revolution* by Acha Leke, Musa Chironga and George Desvaux. At the time it came out, Africa's business environment was poorly represented and nearly invincible. Most executives in the West just knew Africa by its reputation for complexity, conflict and corruption, whereas there is so much more. For me, I needed a roadmap. I knew there was a time I would expand existing operations. This in turn, armed with so many insights on how to navigate in 5-20 years. It's no surprise that 8 years after reading that book, I am building this through Potio Beauty.

Building a fast-paced D2C start-up can be demanding. How do you disconnect, reset, and guard against founder burnout?

On a lighter note, I sleep a lot. Having a fast-paced D2C business means your decisions have to be well thought out and sound. You will not achieve that if you are poorly rested as this would disrupt your brain' vital maintenance process. One wrong decision and you are in trouble.



Victor Ehindero

'Melanin focused skincare should not be an afterthought but the standard. Anything skincare that does not build on melanin is not fit for the African skin and climate condition'

Fola: Breakout Star Inching For The Sky

By **Daniel Anazia**

FOLA has built his following on melody and feeling, and the question hanging over his second album is whether that voice can stand without borrowed star power. *9*, a 14-track project released on October 9, is crowded with big names: Davido, Ayra Starr, BNXN, Darkoo, Bella Shmurda, and Zlatan all appear. For the Dangbana Republik act, whose real name is Afolarin Odunlami, the guests list shows how far he has come. It is also a test.

The first numbers were strong. *9* reached the top of Apple Music Nigeria's albums chart soon after release, and in an early snapshot reported on October 9, all 14 tracks sat in the platform's Nigerian Top 100. By the next morning, HypeTribe's chart report had 13 of them in the top 20. Four songs released ahead of the album, *Attention!, Treat U Right, Miss U II (Nriri)* and *Fine Ting*, held some of the best positions. Many listeners already knew some of these songs, so, the album landed on an audience that had been warmed up. That is not the same as a crowd discovering a whole body of work at once. Expectations were high before the release, too. His 2025 debut, *Catharsis*, showed he could carry his melodic style across a full album and not just a hit single.

At the 2026 Headies, he led the nominations with 10, including Album of the Year and Best R&B Album for *Catharsis*, plus Best Recording of the Year and Next Rated. Those nods cover earlier work, not *9*, but they set the bar. Fola is no longer judged as a newcomer. He is judged against himself.

The Striker's Number

THE title is a football joke with a serious edge. The number nine is the striker's shirt, the player expected to finish chances. Fola says that is how people see him. "Every single song I put out, it just hits. It's no misses. So they always call me striker because a striker never misses," he said on Apple Music's Africa Now Radio.

It is a confident claim, and the album's themes of ambition, growth and reward match it. But a striker is judged by what he does with the chances, not by how many arrive. For Fola, those chances are the bigger audience and the better-known collaborators. They will count most if he uses them to deepen his own sound.

He told *The Native* that originality is his rule. "I have always told myself that I'll always make sure originality is my thing. I won't ever try to sound like someone else," he said. "I always try to do my thing the way I wanna do it the way I see things, the way I perceive things, the way I see everything I put my hands on, and be myself as much as possible."

Saying it is easy. The music has to prove it, and on *9* he tries to, mixing his usual melodic instincts and romantic storytelling with spiritual reflection and nods to older Nigerian music.

The album opens with *Awade*, which draws on Fuji and pays tribute to Wasiu Ayinde's song of the same name. Talking drums give it a traditional texture, while Fola reflects on life's struggles and the need for divine guidance. It is one of the clearest attempts to link today's Afrobeats to older Nigerian sounds.

The second track, *How Many?*, folds in spoken words from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's 2018 Harvard Class Day address, which touches on fear, procrastination, self-doubt and the demands of creativity. It gives the album a reflective side that goes beyond romance and celebration.

Crime samples 2Baba's *If Love Is a Crime*, placing Fola in conversation with an earlier generation of Nigerian pop. He does not present himself as cut off from the country's musical past. He credits the people who shaped the sound younger artistes now work with.

He thanked both Adichie and 2Baba publicly. "Today, I'm beyond grateful to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and the legendary 2Baba for their contribution to the arts, their blessings on my sophomore, and for leaving my generation multiple standards to aspire to," he wrote on X.

Collaboration Without Losing The Lead

THE guests list is central to the album's appeal, but it carries a risk. With established names in prominent slots, *9* could come across as a collection of opportunities won through association. Fola has to keep the project his own.

His account to *The Native* suggests he was hands-on. 2am in Toronto, featuring Davido, was not meant for the album at first. He had finished the project and returned to the recording while in Toronto.

"I had the song already, and it was not even one of my favourite songs. It was not in contention for the songs I was going to pick for the album," he said.

After listening again, he felt it needed something extra and approached Davido. In his telling, the feature was a fix for a song he had reconsidered, not a famous name added to a finished record.

Treat U Right, with Ayra Starr, grew out of a different moment. Fola says he had finished his verse when he heard one of her songs and decided to reach out to her. The collaboration, he explained, came from his response to her music.

BNXN features on *My Type*; he described him as one of the early industry figures who spotted his potential and backed him, and the two have continued to appear on each other's projects.

On *It's Over,* the closing track, he brings together Bella Shmurda and Zlatan. Fola said he had already picked it as the album's closer and wanted Zlatan on it to give it a fitting finish. He described Bella Shmurda as a longtime collaborator and said his place was deliberate too.

These accounts show that Fola helped choose and shape the features. They do not show how much control he had over the songwriting, production, sequencing, recording decisions or the business behind the album.

Only Fola and his management can answer that. Still, in an industry where a feature can open a new audience, being able to make deliberate choices is part of building a lasting identity.

Fola's rise has been helped by the visibility that comes from working with bigger names. But his own account suggests he does not want to stay a guest in other people's worlds. He wants to lead projects, make the calls on his records and develop a sound listeners can pick out without a featured name.

The Numbers, The Verdict

THE chart story is a good start, but it has limits. Phenomenal reported that the album topped Apple Music Nigeria's albums chart by October 12. Streaming charts, though, are snapshots of particular platforms on particular days. They do not tell you total sales, whether listeners stick around, profits or the size of an artiste's audience across all services.

They also show how much earlier singles can lift an album. In Hype Tribe's October 10 snapshot, *Attention*!, *Treat U Right, Miss U II* (Nriri) and *2am* in Toronto sat in prominent positions, and the report noted that the previously released tracks were performing strongly alongside the new material. That is no knock on the achievement. It does mean the real test comes later, when the launch excitement fades and the unfamiliar songs have to find listeners of their own.

In an October 28 review for The Nollywood Reporter, Abioye Damilare Samson praised Fola's vocal delivery as one of his strongest assets. He also credited the production for letting him move between Afrobeats, R&B, highlife influences and percussion-led arrangements without losing the softness of his voice.

The review found stretches where the album loses momentum. It argued that familiar phrasing and delivery come round too often, particularly on Waf. The reviewer found him most convincing when melody met direct emotion, as on *Miss U II (Nriri)* and *Stubborn. Awade* and *How Many?* brought in spiritual and motivational themes, and *Treat U Right*, with Ayra Starr, was singled out as one of the more compelling moments.

The review is a useful counterweight to the chart figures. Streams measure how people respond to music, while criticism looks at how well it is built and developed. Neither replaces the other. The two also need not conflict. An album can sell well and still leave room to grow, and the complaint about repetition reads less like a verdict on what he can do than a nudge to push his writing and vocal arrangements further.

What Comes Next

FOLA'S rise has been helped by the visibility that comes from working with bigger names. But his own account suggests he does not want to stay a guest in other people's worlds. He wants to lead projects, make the calls on his records and develop a sound listeners can pick out without a featured name.

He made that clear when *The Native* asked where he hopes to stand in five years. "I still want to be the striker. I just want to be known for doing great things, shutting down the arenas, getting the Grammys, and doing everything I can for Afrobeats," he said.

That is a big ambition, and a good album launch will not be enough. He will need to keep growing as a songwriter, try new production directions and show that his music holds attention once the excitement of a release has passed. He also needs a live identity and a connection with fans who come for his own records, not just his collaborations.

SBthaproducer, Magicsticks and Dave Nunes are among the producers on *9*, and they give it a varied foundation with movement between moods and influences. The next question is how far can he stretch that range while keeping the vocal character at the centre of his appeal.

There is also the matter of travel. A growing profile in Nigeria is a solid base, but the international goals he has spoken about will need steady releases, strong live shows and a catalogue people recognise. His wish to help Afrobeats grow will be judged by the music he keeps making.

For now, *9* has done what it needed to first: it has kept him in the conversation. The chart run shows his audience was ready, and the review points to both the strengths of his sound and the places it needs work.

The task now is to make those experiments more consistent, so that each new project shows listeners something they did not already know.

The number nine carries the expectation of a decisive finish. In music, however, a successful career is not built on one scoring run. It depends on the ability to adapt, create and remain relevant after the applause surrounding a new release has subsided.

He has made a persuasive case for his growing commercial relevance with *9*. Whether the album marks the arrival of a fully formed Afrobeats force will depend on what comes next: not simply more collaborations or higher chart positions, but a body of work that listeners can recognise as unmistakably his.

As it moves beyond its release-week momentum, the bigger test is whether the singer can turn commercial attention into a distinctive and enduring musical identity.



Fola

Chacx Taps African China's Legacy To Give 'Forgive' Wider Resonance

By Daniel Anazia

SINGER Chacx has released *Forgive*, a single featuring veteran musician African China. The song, which dropped on Friday, October 30, brings the emerging artiste together with African China, known for his street-inspired music and songs addressing social realities.

The meeting of Chacx and African China in *Forgive* brings more than two generations of Nigerian music into one recording. It also places a familiar question at the centre of a new release: can music built around everyday experiences and human relationships retain its relevance in an industry increasingly shaped by changing sounds and commercial ambitions?

The collaboration offers Chacx an opportunity to connect his developing career with the experience and audience recognition of an established musician. For African China, it provides another platform through which the themes associated with his musical identity can reach listeners across generations.

The title, *Forgive*, suggests a subject with broad human appeal. Forgiveness, reconciliation and the management of strained relationships are enduring concerns, although the song's precise message and musical treatment would need to be assessed from the recording itself.



Its arrival invites reflection on the place of socially conscious music in Nigeria's contemporary soundscape. African China built recognition around songs that engaged with everyday realities, a tradition that remains important to discussions about music as both entertainment and social commentary. His appearance on the track could introduce younger listeners to that tradition while allowing Chacx to explore a different dimension of his artistry.

Born in Edo State and christened Manu Charles Chukwuye, the fast-rising singer, who was raised in Edo and Lagos, began his music career in 2019 with the release of *Obi Mo*, featuring Cme2k. He followed with a debut Extended Play (EP) titled *New Beginning*, a five-track project released in 2021.

In 2022, Chacx released *Blessed*, featuring Portable and Shocker Lo Se Beat, and followed with his second EP titled *Advanced*, a six-track EP which was released in 2023. Riding on the success of the project, he followed with a new single titled *Hold Me*, which dropped in 2024.

The singer dropped *Baby Girl* and *Feelings* in 2025 before putting out *Fake Friends* and signing a recording deal with Homeboy International Music earlier this year. *Forgive* adds to his growing catalogue.

Penon Paul Leads Night Of Worship, Live Recording

By Daniel Anazia

WORSHIP music is increasingly finding new expression through live recordings that bring congregations, gospel ministers and music lovers together. Against this backdrop, gospel singer Penon Paul is set to lead 'Sounds of Worship', a night of praise and live recording featuring Judikay, Shallom Jonathan and other gospel artistes.

Organised by gospel music minister, songwriter, and recording artiste Penon Paul through Penon Music, a fast-evolving music outfit known for projecting authentic gospel sounds with excellence and spiritual integrity, the event, which is billed to hold on Sunday, November 15, by 5:00 PM at Favoured Place, 25 Ikorodu Road, Wasimi-Maryland, Lagos, marks the return of an initiative birthed from a deep desire to create an atmosphere where people can encounter God through authentic, Spirit-inspired worship.

Founded in 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown, Sounds of Worship began as a weekly online worship gathering streamed on Instagram and Facebook. What started as an hour of worship every Thursday has grown to become an expression of a larger vision: to create a platform where worshippers could come together beyond religious routines, musical performances, and conventional expectations to genuinely seek the presence of God.

Now returning in a live physical gathering, the initiative takes another significant step with a worship experience that will also serve as a live music recording. The vision, according to the convener, Penon Paul, is simple: to see hearts drawn closer to God through worship, and to create an atmosphere where the focus remains on the One who deserves all the glory.

His ministry is rooted in passion for God's presence, songwriting, and the expression of biblical truths through music. His approach to worship places emphasis not merely on musical excellence but on the spiritual significance of worship as a lifestyle and an expression of devotion to God.

"Sound of Worship is not a concert where you come to watch stars; it is a consecrated altar where worshippers become the offering. It is more than a conventional gospel concert," Paul said, adding that "the gathering is intended to redirect attention from performance and entertainment to the heart of true worship."

"We have a lot of sound, but little worship. God is looking for worshippers, not just singers. Sound of Worship is where heaven listens and earth responds," he stated.

Adding to the experience is an impressive lineup of gospel music ministers who will join Penon Paul in leading the gathering. Among the ministers set to feature is Judikay, one of Nigeria's recognised contemporary gospel music voices, known for songs that have resonated with worshippers across different generations. Her ministry brings a distinctive expression of praise and worship, making her one of the anticipated voices at the gathering.



Also featuring is Shallom Jonathan, whose musical expression combines heartfelt worship and praise, bringing an atmosphere of intimacy and spiritual engagement through his Niger Delta-flavoured ministration.

Bill to feature in the gathering is Minstrel Oyinlola Sanusi, a worship minister whose expression is centred on reverence, devotion, and a passion for God's presence. Her contribution is expected to add another dimension to the collective worship experience.

Fisayo Check, known for his vibrant musical expression and energetic approach to praise, will also be part of the lineup, bringing a distinctive sound and an engaging expression of contemporary gospel music.

Completing the guest minister lineup is Umoru Philemon, whose soulful approach to worship reflects a deep sense of reverence, hunger, and devotion to God. His participation adds another unique expression to the gathering. Together with Penon Paul, these ministers will contribute their individual expressions to an evening designed around one central purpose: the exaltation of God.

LITF Returns To MUSON Centre, Explores *The Masks We Wear*

By Daniel Anazia

THE Lagos International Theatre Festival (LITF) will return for its 2026 edition from November 14 to 15 at the MUSON Centre, Onikan, Lagos, bringing together an exciting programme of theatre from Nigeria and around the world.

The festival, which attracts more than 25,000 attendees across its programme days, has become one of the most anticipated events on Lagos's cultural calendar. This year's festival, themed "The Masks We Wear", will be anchored by the statement "The Stage Is Everywhere."

While inviting audiences to consider how theatre extends beyond the traditional stage, the organisers said the theme explores the different roles and identities people assume in everyday life.

LITF 2026 brings an international dimension to Lagos, featuring artists and productions from Kenya, Canada and Brazil alongside a diverse Nigerian programme. An international highlight is "Grand Theatre's Under The Mango Tree from Canada," directed by Lynette Randall, with productions from Kenya and Brazil adding further cultural and theatrical perspectives.

The Nigerian programme features productions from Lagos, Abuja, Enugu and Abeokuta, including "Monkey Laundry," directed by Olarotimi Fakunle; "tHERapy," directed by Tosin Adeyemi; "Men-Oh-Pause," directed by Elvina Ibru, and "Behind Closed Doors," directed by Bolanle Austen-Peters.

The festival will also spotlight emerging theatre makers through productions from Atlantic Hall, Evergreen College and Children International School, alongside professional and independent productions.

Its experience begins ahead of the main weekend with a series of events across Lagos. On November 9, Theatre Meets Food, hosted by Hilda Baci, will bring together artists, partners, cultural leaders and members of Lagos's creative community for an evening of food, theatre and conversation.



Music, Dance Beyond Nigeria As The Gambia Celebrates DBJ

By Daniel Anazia

THERE is no doubt that 60 years is a significant milestone, particularly for a man whose professional journey has taken him across different jurisdictions. For Hon. Justice Tunde Ademola Bakre Jnr, whose career has taken him from Ogun State to courts across the Commonwealth, the occasion gave family, friends, and associates a chance to celebrate his life and reflect on a judicial career spanning several jurisdictions.

The choice of The Gambia as the venue was significant. Justice Bakre served in the country following his secondment by Nigeria's National Judicial Council (NJC) to support the Gambian judiciary in 2018.

His years there formed an important chapter of his international judicial career, making the country a fitting setting for the birthday celebration. His initial three-year assignment was extended at the request of the Gambian judiciary

Justice Bakre's journey to the Bench began with a different academic path. An alumnus of Olabisi Onabanjo University (formerly Ogun State University), he initially studied English before returning to pursue Law. Called to the Nigerian Bar in 1993, he spent about two decades in legal practice before his appointment as a judge of the Ogun State High Court in 2013.

His judicial career subsequently crossed national boundaries. After his service in The Gambia, he joined the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in 2023, serving at the Criminal Court in Antigua and Barbuda.



The learned silk's assignments included presiding over the country's first judge-alone murder trial. In October 2025, he moved to the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands, where he sits in the Criminal Division in Grand Turk.

Christmas Travel 2: Rovaniemi, Finland, Winter Wonderland City

By **Maria Diamond**

TAVELLING outside the shores of one's country during the Christmas season is a culture explored by Christians who can afford it to see what the favourite festive season looks and feels like elsewhere. What better time to see the world if not the most beautiful season of the year?

Of course the 'Christmas Spirit' radiates in every ambience where it is celebrated, but it is always a delight to see how the best festive season in Christianity is celebrated from other geographical locations.

Take the trip to Rovaniemi in Finland

Rovaniemi is a city in northern Finland and the capital of the Lapland region – a city rich in history, culture and northern magic.

It is known as the 'Official Hometown of Santa Claus' based on a mid-20th-century folklore, a pivotal visit by the United States First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in June 1950. Her visit marked the first visitor attraction on the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi and laid the historical foundation for what eventually grew into the modern Santa Claus village.

Travelers who want Arctic Finland without trekking deep into the wilderness make Rovaniemi their destination.

Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi

Rovaniemi is surrounded by Arctic nature and the seasonal landscapes are striking.

At the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, a traveller's magical journey is guided by the values of authenticity, giving, creativity and a constant sense of wonder.

Rovaniemi packs Santa Claus Village, husky farms, sledding activity, and a beautiful evening at the northern lights into one Arctic city.

Rovaniemi is more practical than Aesthetic

Rovaniemi may not necessarily be defined as aesthetics in modern terms as it was rebuilt after being burnt down during the war in 1944, so the streets are practically structured for modern functions with standard commercial buildings, shopping centers, and restaurants rather than a fairy-tale old town.

However, the wonders of the city such as the forest trails, reindeer farms, husky kennels, and dark skies are what make it a place to behold.

The ease of movement in Rovaniemi

Unlike other cold-weather destinations, at Rovaniemi there is ease of movement without having to struggle with an intense crowd in one place.

Ease of accessibility is what makes the city a perfect destination for travellers at Christmas as Flights connect through Helsinki without much hassle, and the city is small enough that you are never more than a short drive from snow-covered forest.

The 'Christmas Spirit' radiates in every ambience where it is celebrated, but it is always a delight to see how the best festive season in Christianity is celebrated from other geographical locations'.

'At the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, a traveller's magical journey is guided by the values of authenticity, giving, creativity and a constant sense of wonder'.



Tourism Is Intentionally Designed Around Inclusion, Accessibility, Gender Equality

By **Maria Diamond**

DESPITE the deliberate effort to design and structure tourism for all, persons with disabilities, women, rural and indigenous communities, youth from marginalised backgrounds, and populations in conflict-affected areas are traditionally excluded from tourism both as travellers and as beneficiaries of the economic gains it generates.

This was the thrust of discussion at the 7th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held recently in Baku, Azerbaijan under the theme "Dialogue for a shared future: Building bridges in a fractured world". The dialogues showcased diverse initiatives from different parts of the world, focusing on practical, community-led approaches.

Report shows that the global tourism industry serves over 1.5 billion travellers crossing international borders annually. Yet, for hundreds of millions of people, meaningful participation in tourism remains out of reach.



'When tourism is intentionally designed around inclusion, accessibility, gender equality, societies become more resilient, more equitable, and less prone to the exclusion and grievance that actually fuel conflict'.

Evidence increasingly shows that when tourism is intentionally designed around inclusion, accessibility, and gender equality, it does far more than broaden market reach. It becomes a vehicle for social cohesion, community empowerment, economic prosperity, and ultimately, peace.

When women lead tourism enterprises, they reinvest in families and communities. When persons with disabilities can travel without barriers, their full potential is affirmed by society and the income they generate within destinations. When indigenous and rural communities are the protagonists of their own tourism development, their cultures are preserved and their voices amplified.

When all of this happens together, societies become more resilient, more equitable, and less prone to the exclusion and grievance that actually fuel conflict.

On their part, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation UNESCO, at the event showed how intercultural dialogue fosters peace when embedded in government policies.

At a special session, UNESCO's Youth for Peace programme participants shared how they build trust and turn dialogue into community action.

This thematic dialogue across the session of the event showcases transformative projects from different parts of the world where tourism grounded in wider social purpose has contributed measurably to positive peace, inclusion, and community well-being.

The session explored tourism's potential to advance inclusion, social cohesion and peace building, highlighting how tourism can create meaningful opportunities for participation, strengthen communities and contribute to more resilient and equitable societies.

COP31 To Address Role Of Tourism In Practical Climate Solutions

Low-Carbon, Zero Waste And Climate-Resilient Destinations

By **Maria Diamond**

BRINGING together governments, destinations, businesses, international organisations and development partners, the official 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Thematic Days in Antalya, Turkiye billed for November, 18, 2026 will showcase how tourism can advance practical climate solutions for people, economies and ecosystems.

This is as a follow up to the momentum of the Tourism Thematic Days at COP30, and the inclusion of tourism in the COP29 Action Agenda, tourism comes to COP31 with a clear focus: moving from commitments to implementation and scale.

The event which is taking place across the Blue Zone and Green Zone will focus on low-carbon, zero waste and climate-resilient tourism, including clean energy transition, circular hospitality, food waste reduction, resilient destinations, ocean and coastal protection, ecosystem restoration, sustainable mobility, finance, skills and implementation capacity.

Tourism connects climate action with the places where people live, work and travel. Its value chains cut across energy, transport, food systems, buildings, waste, water, nature, oceans, cities and local economies, giving the sector a unique opportunity to support COP31 priorities through action on the ground.

'Tourism connects climate action with the places where people live, work and travel. Its value chains cut across energy, transport, food systems, buildings, waste, water, nature, oceans, cities and local economies, giving the sector a unique opportunity to support COP31 priorities through action on the ground'.

The programme will connect high-level policy dialogue with practical examples, solution showcases and partnership-building, highlighting how tourism climate action can be replicated and scaled.

The Tourism Thematic Day will also mark an important five-year milestone for the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism. At COP31, United Nations Tourism, in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme UNEP, will launch revised operating guidelines, including agility measures designed to strengthen implementation and help signatories respond to evolving climate priorities.

The Day will also contribute to the programme of work of the Interinstitutional Working Group on Tourism and Climate Action of UN Tourism's Executive Council, helping identify practical solutions, partnerships and policy coordination opportunities to be taken forward beyond COP31.

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From The Rector

Ibru International Ecumenical Centre, Agbarha-Otor Delta State. www.ibrucentre.org

Healing For The Wounded:

How God Heals Wounds Of Human Relationships (1)

By **Stephen Wolemonwu**

*"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." - **Psalm 147:3***

Introduction

Everybody Is Wounded Somewhere

Go to any church, any office, and any family, you will not find a person without a wound. Some wounds are on the body, while most wounds are in the heart where no x-ray can see them.

We celebrate St. Luke, the beloved physician (Col. 4:14), for reminding us that the gospel is not only for the strong, butalso for the wounded. Jesus did not come to condemn the broken; He came to bind them.

Before we can be healed, we must be honest about what wounds us. Most of our deepest wounds do not come from demons. They come from people we love and from relationships.

What Are These Wounds? The Wounds Of Relationship

Human beings are made for relationship; with God, with family, with spouse, with friends, with church and society. When those relationships break, we bleed inside.

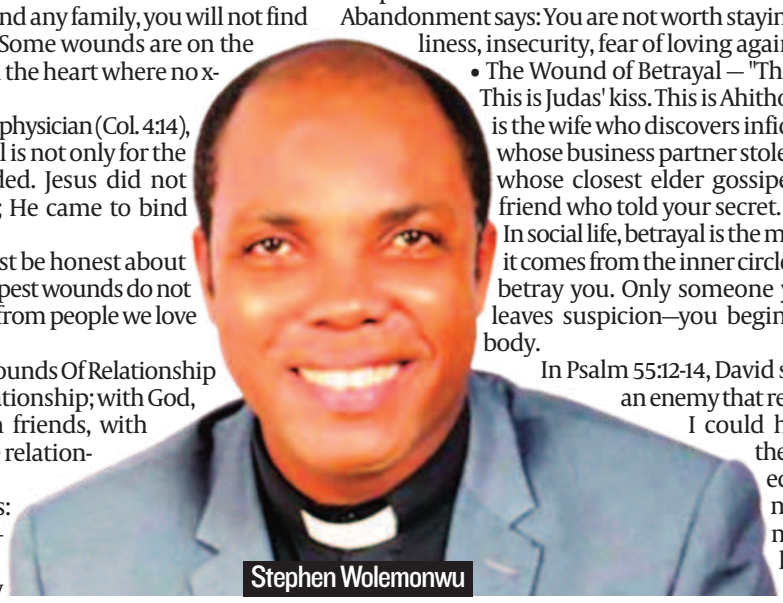
There are five common wounds:

• The Wound of Abandonment—"They Left Me"

This is Paul's wound in 2 Timothy 4:10,16: "Demas hath forsaken me... at my first answer, no man stood with me, but all men forsook me."

In day-to-day life: A father who left the family. A husband who travelled and never returned. A mother who died early. A friend who stopped calling when you lost your job. A church that forgot you when you were transferred. A child who grew up and abandoned the parents who sacrificed for him.

Abandonment says: You are not worth staying for. It leaves loneliness, insecurity, fear of loving again.



Stephen Wolemonwu

• The Wound of Betrayal — "They Broke My Trust"

This is Judas' kiss. This is Ahithophel to David. This is the wife who discovers infidelity, the husband whose business partner stole money, the pastor whose closest elder gossiped about him, the friend who told your secret.

In social life, betrayal is the most painful because it comes from the inner circle. A stranger cannot betray you. Only someone you trusted can. It leaves suspicion—you begin to suspect everybody.

In Psalm 55:12-14, David said: "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

David is not crying about Saul, or Goliath, or the Philistines. Enemies he could handle. Enemies he expected. His cry was about a brother.

Why This Wound Is The Deepest

An enemy's wound is on the outside. A brother's wound is on the inside. If a stranger insults you, you can walk away. If your enemy attacks you, you can fight back. David says, "then I could have borne it... then I would have hid myself."But you cannot hide from someone who knows your house, your password, your prayer points, your weakness. You cannot fight someone you once called my guide, my acquaintance.

That is why betrayal by a close person hurts more than any other wound:

• We took sweet counsel together

This was not a casual friend. This was the person you shared secrets with. You prayed together, you planned togetherand ate together. In today's language: You were in the same choir, same cell group, same ministry, same business, same family. You told him what you never told your wife. You told her what you never told your mother.

• We walked unto the house of God in company.

This was not just a social friend. This was a spiritual friend. You went to church together. You took Holy Communion side by side. You lifted hands together.

• The Venerable Stephen Wolemonwu is the Rector Ibru Ecumenical Centre, Agbarha-Otor, Delta State (08035413812)

When Your Spouse Is A Sympathy Seeker

By **Charles Ighele**

WHENa man got engaged to his lady some years ago, he discovered that she is a sympathy seeker. She so much enjoyed it when people tell her "sorry" even if the tiniest drop of water should drop on her shoe or a corner of her dress that is not easily noticed. But instead of this man calling off the relationship like some other men would have done, he went on to wed her.

He was, however, determined to lovingly and powerfully change her because he saw that apart from this emotional weakness of hers, she will make a very good wife in almost every other area.

Sometime after their wedding, the woman came up with some sympathy seeking tears. She was shocked when her husband told her that he was not going to sympathise with her. He told her that he was not going to tell her "sorry" over an issue, which ordinarily the word "sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry, sorry" was the only medicine that could heal her very fragile emotions. From that day, the man said "sorry" and sympathised when it was actually needed. But he deliberately hardened his heart to tell her "sorry" when he felt that she was up to resurrect one of her sympathy seeking techniques. Thank God she got the message and began to grudgingly adjust. Before she started to adjust, she would go to a corner of their house and cry her eyes red.

She was used to having her way through sympathy and tears. Some people live their lives this way. Sympathy seeking does not help any relationship grow.

When your spouse, beloved children or friend uses his/her tears or sympathy or pity party to want to make you meet his or her demand, lovingly but firmly tell the person that you love him or her, but would never grant such a request.

A woman threatened packing out but her hitherto soft husband whom we have counselled stood his grounds lovingly (but not beggingly) and the woman was surprised and started respecting her husband.

When you notice traits of this sort, do not allow your happiness to depend on that person's happiness. Some people will wear an unhappy look just because their demands were not met. Let them know that you genuinely love them but you will not join them on their sympathy seeking journeys.

The greatest help you can render to yourself is to make a choice to be happy in spite of your problems and not for people to feel sorry for you in order to meet your needs. It is manipulation of people's feelings. It does not make you grow emotionally. Do you have a spouse that acts this way? Show them how much you love them but lovingly teach them to be responsible emotionally.



Ighele

We should not be like an emotionally lazy king Saul who said in first Samuel 22:8, "there is none of you that is sorry for me." ***Love you!***

*• **Bishop Charles Ighele is the General Superintendent of Holy Spirit Mission, Lagos.***

Folu Adeboye, Ezekwesili Task Parents, Stakeholders On Training Children In God's Way

By **Chris Irekamba**

WIFE of the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor (Mrs) Folu Adeboye and former Minister of Education, Dr (Mrs) Oby Ezekwesili have tasked parents and stakeholders in Christian Education to train children to know God experientially and not by the Christian names they bear.

They disclosed this during the Summit on Kingdom Education, themed: "Revisiting Kingdom Education: The Role of Stakeholders," organised by the Redeemed Christian Church of God Christ The Redeemer's School Management (CRSM), held recently at the Youth Centre, Redemption City of God, Mowe, Ogun State.

Theconvener of the Summit, Folu Adeboye, while speaking on: "Why Kingdom Education Matters In This Generation," decried that children who bear Christian names do terrible things and disrespect their teachers.

The Mother-in-Israel, who is also the Vice President of Christ the Redeemer's Management (CRM), stressed that parents should cooperate with teachers and stakeholders in Christian education to do well in their critical assignments.

She frowned at parents who overpamper their children by giving them expensive phones, adding that in the process of hiding the phones the children get distracted while in the classroom.

"Again, they should let the children grow in the way God wants them to grow. We read Jeremiah chapter 1, where God sent his word to Jeremiah, and he was panicking until God gave him the encouragement, not to look at their faces," Folu Adeboye said.

Urging every child to fear God, the Mother-in-Israel reminded them, that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

She said: "Many of these children, they look down on the teachers and say, 'who are you? Are you up to the standard of my parents?' Once a child comes to the school, he/she must honour the parents and teachers. And let the word of the teachers, you know, be absorbed and the word of God we are giving them in the school also. They should meditate on it.



Pastor (Mrs) Folu Adeboye (seated) flanked by Senior Pastors of the church, during the Summit on Kingdom Education held at the Youth Centre, Redemption City of God, Mowe, Ogun State.

The convener recalled that God told Joshua to mediate on the word of God, day and night and by so doing he would prosper.

"Now, if you want to have good success, you must meditate on the word of God, day and night. This is very important," she said.

The cleric reminded the stakeholders that God had set them over the nations and kingdoms to root out, pull-down and destroy things that are not of God.

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God That Does Not Change

Living Waters
By Pastor Lazarus Muoka
Founder/General Overseer
The Lord's Chosen Charismatic
Revival Ministries Worldwide



• For more messages and testimonies visit: www.tlccrm.org 08056889396

Opening Text: Malachi 3:6 (KJV) "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

ONE of the greatest assurances a child of God can have is the knowledge that the God whom we serve does not change. Everything around us is subject to change. The world changes, human beings change, circumstances change, positions change, and even the things we once depended upon may fail us. People who promised to stand with us may turn their backs on us. Those who once loved us may become strangers. Wealth can disappear, health can fail, and opportunities can come and go. But in the midst of all these uncertainties, there is one eternal truth that remains unshaken: God does not change!

The God who created the heavens and the earth is still the same God today. The God who delivered Israel from Egypt is still mighty to deliver. The God who made a way through the Red Sea is still able to make a way where there seems to be no way. The God who answered the prayers of His servants in ancient times is still answering prayers today. His power has not diminished, His promises have not failed, and His faithfulness has not expired. Hebrews 13:8 declares, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." This means that the Jesus who saved sinners in the days of the apostles is still saving sinners today. The Jesus who healed the sick is still able to heal. The Jesus who delivered the oppressed is still mighty to deliver. Time has not weakened Him, circumstances have not defeated Him, and the changing seasons of life have not altered His divine nature.

Beloved, what a wonderful comfort it is to know that our God does not change! When everything else becomes uncertain, we can still depend upon Him. When human strength fails, His strength remains. When human wisdom is confused, His wisdom remains perfect. When earthly promises are broken, His promises remain sure.

The Bible reveals that God's character is unchanging. His holiness does not change. He has never approved of sin, and He will never become comfortable with wickedness. The standards of righteousness, which He established from the beginning remains the same. What God condemned as sin yesterday is still sin today. The fact that the world has changed its attitude towards wickedness does not mean that God has changed His position.

Many people want a God who will adjust His commandments to accommodate their desires. They want the blessings of God without obedience, the promises of God without repentance, and the kingdom of God without holiness. But our God does not change His standard to please mankind. 1st Peter 1:16 says, "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." If God does not change, then His demand for holiness remains unchanged. His hatred for sin remains unchanged. His desire for genuine repentance remains unchanged. No generation can rewrite the commandments of God, and no human opinion can overthrow His eternal truth. We must, therefore, examine our lives and return to the ancient paths of righteousness.

Further, God's love does not change. Human love may fail, but God's love is everlasting. There are times when people may abandon us because of our weaknesses, failures, or circumstances. There are moments when we may feel forgotten and forsaken. But the love of God remains steadfast towards those who belong to Him.

Jeremiah 31:3 declares, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

What a wonderful revelation! God's love is not temporary, neither is it dependent upon the changing opinions of men. His love was demonstrated when He gave His only begotten Son to die for our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

However, we must never mistake God's unchanging love for approval of our sins. His love calls us out of darkness into His marvellous light. His mercy gives us an opportunity to repent, not an excuse to continue in wickedness.

Another wonderful truth is that God's promises do not change. Human beings may make promises they cannot fulfil, but God is faithful to His word. Whatever He has spoken, He is able to perform. Numbers 23:19 declares, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Abraham waited for the fulfilment of God's promise, and God did not disappoint him. Joseph experienced betrayal, imprisonment, and hardship, yet God's purpose for his life remained intact. David faced opposition and numerous challenges, but the word of God concerning his destiny did not fail.

These examples teach us that changing circumstances do not necessarily mean that God has changed His mind. Sometimes, the journey may be difficult, the waiting may be long, and the road may be rough, but God's faithfulness remains certain.

Perhaps you are passing through a difficult season today. Your expectations may appear delayed, your prayers may seem unanswered, and the future may look uncertain. Do not conclude that God has abandoned you. Continue to trust Him, obey His word, and remain faithful. Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

God's power also remains unchanged. He is not growing old, neither is He losing His ability to perform miracles. The God who parted the Red Sea is still the Almighty God. The God who brought Lazarus out of the grave is still the resurrection and the life. The God who sustained His people in the wilderness is still able to sustain His children today.

Jeremiah 32:27 says, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?"

There is no situation beyond His ability. No problem is too complicated for Him, no enemy is too strong for Him, and no circumstance is beyond His control. Therefore, let your confidence rest in God and not in the instability of human arrangements.

But there is one important question we must answer: If God does not change, should our attitude towards Him remain careless and indifferent? If He is still holy, should we continue in sin? If His word remains true, should we continue to neglect it? If His judgment remains certain, should we continue to live as though we shall never give account?

Malachi 3:6 reminds us that God's unchanging nature is also the reason we are not consumed. His mercy has preserved us, His faithfulness has sustained us, and His patience has given us another opportunity to make our ways right with Him.

Let us, therefore, return to God with genuine repentance. Let us abandon every hidden sin, forsake every ungodly lifestyle, and surrender our lives completely to Jesus Christ. Do not build your life upon changing human opinions; build it upon the eternal word of God. The God of yesterday is still the God of today, and He will remain God forever. He does not change! ***Amen.***

Testimony Of The Lord's Doing

'Through Watching Chosen Cable, I Was Healed Of Cancer Of The Womb'

SISTER Gloria Lekwot hails from Kaduna State. Our Sister said she had been watching the ministrations of The Lord's Chosen Charismatic Revival Ministries through its cable since 2012.

She said she would feel dizzy anything she wore earrings or attachment, adding that at a point it became a great concern and that prompted her to stopwearing them.

The concern, she said, made her to go to the hospital and was surprised she was diagnosed of cancer of the womb.

"As I came back from the hospital, I intensified the effort to watch the church's cable," Sister Lekwot said.

So, while she was watching the cable, during the 2026 Mgbidi crusade, suddenly she slept off.

At the time she woke up, she said G.O was praying and said, "you! woman watching me on cable, you have gone to the hospital and they have diagnosed that you have cancer of the womb and have booked you for an operation, after three days from this prayer, go back to the hospital, the cancer has disappeared."

Our sistersaid she shouted and said amen, and to confirm what the man of God said, she said she went to the hospital for test after one week, to God be the glory, she was declared free from cancer of the womb.

She revealed further that the doctor was even surprised when the result came out andhe asked her, "how manage?."

Our sisterreplied that God of Chosen did it for her while watching the cable, emphasising that the doctor encouraged her to continue with God of the Chosen.

Sister Lekwot also testified that God healed her of open heart (hole in the heart). What a great God we serve. ***Praise the Lord!***



Testifiers waiting on the line to share their testimonies after General Overseer of The Lord's Chosen Charismatic Revival Ministries Worldwide, Pastor Lazarus Muoka prayed for them, at the just concluded Akwa Ibom State crusade

Springs Of Wisdom

By Pastor W. F. Kumuyi



Life That Pleases God (1)

THE pursuit of heaven-bound believers is to please the Lord. Apostle Paul emphasised the necessity of pleasing the Lord and not men in our lives, ministry work. Pleasing men instead of God disqualifies us from being the servants of Christ. The evidence that we love God is in pleasing Him with our heart, soul and mind, which is the result of our Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification and Holy Ghost baptism. We need faith to please God. "Without faith it is impossible to please him."

Sinners cannot please the Lord without the foundational experience of salvation obtained by grace. Religion, tradition and holding onto certain doctrines of the Bible do not amount to pleasing the Lord. Conversely, until a believer lays self on the altar, he cannot please the Lord fully. Occupying a particular position in the ministry does not make anyone please the Lord. We begin to please God when we totally submit ourselves to Him in faith. To have a good relationship with the Lord as members of the body of Christ, pleasing Him should be uppermost in our heart.

Faith enables us to please the Lord. It transforms us, brings the grace of God into our lives and hearts, and gives us the mind of Christ. Through saving faith, He grants us the privilege to become children of God. Only then can we have the disposition, decision, devotion and direction to please God alone. Just as Enoch and our Lord Jesus Christ pleased God, if we please Him, God will also testify concerning us. With the mind of Christ and His nature in us, we should live and walk to please God. We should understand that the higher our calling, the greater our faith should be. After salvation, our faith needs to increase so that we would bear whatever persecution and challenge that come our way.

We have clear examples in the Bible of the life of faith that pleases God. This involved both Cain and Abel who offered sacrifices to God. He rejected the offering of Cain and accepted that of Abel because, "By faith [he] offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice." In spite of the corruption, defilement and contradiction of sinners around him, Enoch walked consistently with God in righteousness and according to His will. This was possible because he was in agreement with God. Constant, daily and practical agreement with God makes us to please Him.

Walking with Him demands lively, active and dynamic faith. Faith that is dead, dumb, dormant, devilish, man-centred and self-centred cannot please God. Faith must go with action and practical evidence. By faith, Noah prepared "an ark to the saving of his house ...and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." As we hear about heaven, hell and the Second Coming of Christ, though we have not seen any of these, we should believe the report. Like Noah, our faith in the word of God will make us serve the Lord acceptably "with reverence and godly fear."

When God called Abraham to leave the known for the unknown, he "obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Every believer needs such demonstration, concentration and confirmation of faith. Only faith in God through Christ's atoning sacrifice pleases God. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph all pleased the Lord because they had faith in God. Faith turns us away from sin to the Saviour, from self to the Sanctifier, from the world to the Lord, from the devil to the Conqueror and Captain of our salvation, and from every object or personality to Christ alone. Unlike in the Old Testament period, we have so much encouragement, grace and examples to demonstrate greater faith, today. We can surely walk and live by faith if we focus our attention on God and hold the testimony of our faith "without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)."

• ***Further Reading (KJV): Hebrews 11:6; Galatians 1:10;1 Thessalonians 2:4; Romans 8:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:15; Isaiah 2:6; Judges 14:3; Hebrews 11:5,6; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 8:29;Philippians 2:5; Hebrews 11:4; 9:22; 11:5; Genesis 5:22-24; Amos 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1; James 2:17,19,20,26; Hebrews 11:7; 12:28; 11:8; Isaiah 51:2; Hebrews*** 11:11; 10:23.

Stop Talking And Listen (11)

Biblical Womanhood

By Emeritus Prof. Mercy Olumide



The Holy Spirit speaks to us *(cont)*

THUS, the Spirit of God inspired both the thoughts and language of Scripture. Not a single writer uttered a false word or phrase. God's word was protected from error and falsehood by the Holy Spirit.

• God also speaks to us through the gentle impress of the Spirit–the inner voice

Read Acts 16:6-10

How did God guide Paul?

"Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them." (**Acts 16:6-10**)

16:6 We don't know how the Holy Spirit told Paul that he and his companions should not go into Asia. It may have been through a ***prophet,*** a ***vision***, an ***inner*** conviction, or some other circumstance. To know God's will does not mean we must hear his voice. He leads in different ways. When seeking God's will, (1) make sure your plan is in harmony with God's word; (2) ask mature Christians for their advice; (3) check your own motives–are you seeking to do what you want or you think God wants?–and (4) pray for God to open and close the doors as he desires.

16:7-9 The Holy Spirit had closed the door twice for Paul, so Paul must have wondered which geographical direction to take in spreading the gospel. Then, in a vision (16:9), Paul was given definite direction, and he and his companions obediently traveled into Macedonia. The Holy Spirit guides us to the right places, but he also guides us away from the wrong places. As we seek God's will, it is important to know what God wants us to do and where he wants us to go, but it is equally important to know where God does not want us to go, but it is equally important to know what God does not want us to do and where he does not want us to go.

16:6 *"forbidden by the Holy Spirit."* Every initiative in evangelism and missionary activity, especially in the missionary journeys recorded in Acts, is the result of the leading of the Holy Spirit (1:8; 2:14-41;4:8-12,31;8:26-29,39-40; 10:19-20; 13:2; 16:6-10; 20:22).

•***Email:ymolumide@gmail.com, Facebook: Yetunde Mercy***

RESTORATION HOUR

Text: Proverbs 3:5-6

By Abel Ukachi Amadi

The Future Is Now

Key Verse: Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (NLT)*

GOD is not confused about your life. He is not experimenting with your destiny. He has a divine blueprint meticulously designed for your greatness. But we must understand that the expression "The Future Is Now" is not just a fascinating catchphrase or a trendy slogan. It is a prophetic call to intentional living, a wake-up call to shake off spiritual slumber and recognise that greatness is not only possible, but it is also the absolute will of God for your life. Too many people are paralysed by a massive misunderstanding of what the "future" actually is. We treat the future as a distant, blurry horizon. We tell ourselves, "My future will start when I finally graduate." We say, "My future begins when I get that dream job, get married, or grow older." Hear the truth today: The future is not tomorrow; the future begins right now. Every decision you make, every thought you entertain, and every seed you sow today is the literal construction material for your tomorrow. You do not step into a great future by accident; you build it today.

You must develop a clear, sharp, and intentional picture of the life you desire to live. You must dream the dream of your future now. Nobody can feature in a future they have never imagined. If you cannot see it through the eyes of faith, you cannot possess it in reality. What you eventually become in life is directly connected to your thought patterns, desires and aspirations. As children of the Most High, we must banish small, defeated thinking. It is time to cultivate sanctified thoughts, creative ideas, and godly visions. Let me correct a dangerous religious lie that has kept many bound: Pursuing greatness is not carnality. Our God is not a mediocre God. He is an excellent God! He created the Heavens and the earth with flawless precision and unmatched glory. Because you are a child of an excellent God, you are commanded to pursue excellence. Desiring to rise to the top of your career, your academics, your business, and your ministry is not pride—it is your divine DNA. You must aspire to become a massive blessing to humanity and a supreme source of glory to God. When God blesses you and lifts you high, your life becomes a living testimony of His goodness.



Amadi

The clock is ticking and the runway of tomorrow is being paved today.

• ***Today's Nugget: The future is already here. Prayer: I declare I have a glorious future. Prayer lines: 08033299824. E-mail: amadiabelukachi@gmail.com Rev. (Dr) Abel UkachiAmadi, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God Nigeria.***

Heal The Church Outreach Commissioned To Restore Church's Original Purpose

By Chris Irekamba

HEAL the Church Outreach (HECO), the evangelical arm of Christian Benefits Media Ministry was commissioned recently in Lagos to promote the restoration of the Church to its original purpose through sound doctrine, holiness, accountability, reconciliation and unity among believers.

Held at Mercy Revival Centre, Ikotun, Lagos, during the 26th anniversary celebration of *Christian Benefits Magazine,* alongside the 2026 Benefits Awards for Missionary Excellence (BAME Awards), organised by Christian Benefits Media Ministry.

The Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine, Dr Wole Olarinde, said HECO was conceived in 2021 and that it had undergone five years of incubation before commissioning.

He explained that HECO was established out of a burden to restore the Church to its original purpose, stressing that the initiative was a response to growing concerns over public condemnation of churches and ministers, including doctrinal controversies on social media, divisions arising from partisan politics, failed prophecies and other issues affecting the credibility of the Christian faith.

Olarinde noted that genuine wrongdoing within the Church must be addressed and handled truthfully and responsibly, with particular attention to victims, the protection of vulnerable persons, accountability and genuine repentance. He maintained that the call for Christian unity should not be used as an excuse to conceal wrongdoing or compromise biblical truth.

"Our burden is not merely to criticise what is wrong but to encourage a return to biblical principles and the original purpose for which Christ established His Church," he said.

Olarinde, who was consecrated as Minister-in-Charge alongside his wife, Funmi, said the responsibility required humility, discipline, prayer, accountability and total dependence on God's grace.

He solicited the prayers, counsel and support of Christian leaders, ministers and believers as they undertake what he described as a sacred responsibility.

HECO's commissioning formed part of activities marking the 26th anniversary of Christian Benefits Magazine, an interdenominational Christian publication established in January 2000.

Reflecting on the magazine's journey, Olarinde said the publication was founded following his departure from Media Review, describing its establishment as a divine assignment that had been sustained by God's grace.

He said the magazine had remained committed to its mission of "Spreading the benefits in accepting Jesus Christ and propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of Mankind."

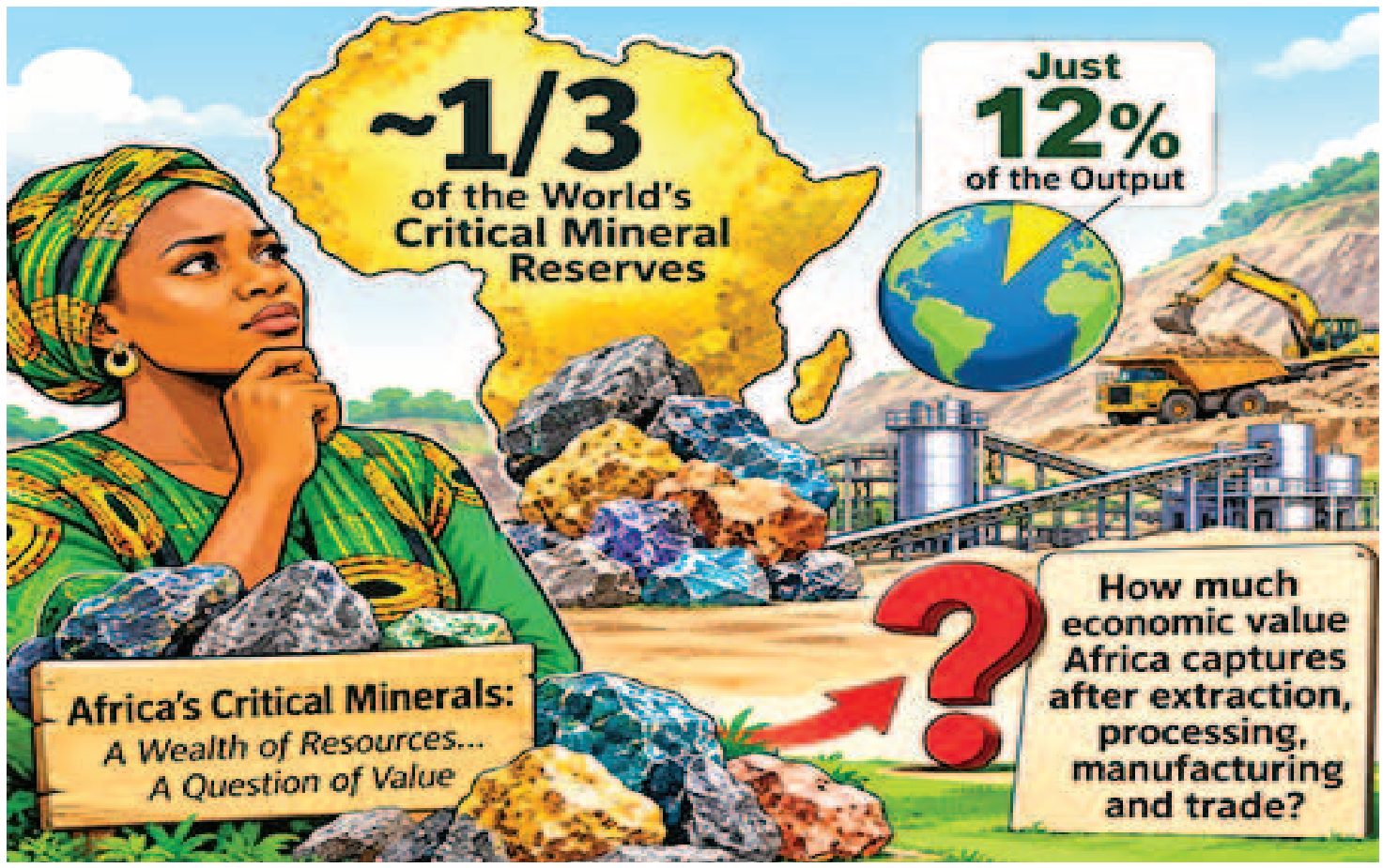
He added that the publication had spent 26 years informing, inspiring and celebrating God's work across denominations despite the challenges associated with sustaining an independent Christian media organisation.



Dr Wole Olarinde (left); and wife, Mrs Funmi Olarinde being prayed for during the commissioning and consecration of husband and wife, as Ministers-in-Charge of Heal the Church Outreach (HECO) Ministry in Lagos...recently

Africa Is Not For Sale: The World's Biggest ATM Has No Password

By Tim Akano



THERE is something tragic about a continent that sits on gold, lithium, cobalt, uranium and copper, yet imports the finished products of its own soil and borrows to educate its children. We are rich beneath our feet and poor above them. The Africa Finance Corporation values Africa's minerals at $29.5 trillion, about a fifth of the world's total, with $8.6 trillion still undeveloped, roughly 2.5 times the continent's annual GDP.

Africa holds almost a third of the world's critical mineral reserves but produces just 12 per cent of the output. These are estimated gross in-situ mineral values, not realised wealth. The real question is how much economic value Africa captures after extraction, processing, manufacturing and trade.

I liken Africa to a giant ATM, stuffed with wealth, with no password, no guard and no lock. Anyone may walk up, insert a card, withdraw and leave. Only one group is denied access: the people whose inheritance it holds.

The Withdrawals Are Real

UNCTAD estimates that $88.6 billion leaves Africa every year as illicit capital flight, nearly as much as aid and FDI combined. Between 2000 and 2015, $836 billion left, making Africa a net creditor to the world. And we call this development.

Nobody Was Rented Into Riches

Foreign capital helps. But the giants did not wait for strangers. Through the 1990s, Chinese-related capital, much of it channelled through Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, accounted for a substantial share of China's foreign investment. China did not merely wait for foreign capital; it mobilised its own business networks and built domestic industrial champions.

South Korea nurtured Samsung, Hyundai and LG through state-guided credit. Sovereignty is not a flag, an anthem or a seat at the United Nations. It is the power of a people to decide their own economic destiny.

America, Britain, Europe, China and India scrutinise foreign investment in strategic sectors. They welcome capital without surrendering the keys. To tell Africa that guarding its interests is hostility to the world is folly.

Africa must recognise that we are entering an era of greater regionalisation and more selective globalisation. Africa needs African capitalists who think and act globally, not commission agents for foreign multinationals. (Africa does not need another hundred investors merely looking for concessions. It needs a hundred African industrial champions like Aliko Dangote. Consider what one such builder looks like. Dangote's Lagos refinery is Africa's largest and the world's largest single-train refinery. His cement operations span 11 African countries.

But there is something even more instructive: he has moved beyond building an African industrial giant to inviting Africans to own a piece of it. His refinery's 10% public offering has closed, attracting investor demand reportedly three times the amount offered. This is what African capital mobilisation should look like: Africans financing, building and owning the industries that will shape their future.

The Myth of the Rescuer

Since the 1960s, Africa has been among the most intensively "helped" continents on earth: aid, loans, advisers, conferences and rescue plans without number. So why, six decades on, does poverty concentrate here more than anywhere? The number of extremely poor people in Sub-Saharan Africa nearly doubled, from 282 million in 1990 to 464 million in 2024.

The answer is uncomfortable. Help designed elsewhere, financed elsewhere and measured elsewhere builds dependence, not KNOW-HOW. Foreign investment is useful, but it is an investment, not a development philosophy. Africa has not lacked helpers. It has lacked CAPACITY. So the question must change, from how many foreign investors we attract to how many globally competitive African companies, powered by made-in-Africa technology, we build and manage.

Who holds the Pin?

Let us be honest. The ATM has no password because too many people, at home and abroad, have memorised the PIN. They include kleptocrats who profit from opaque concessions, regulators who approve what they should reject, and customs officers paid to look away.

The Nigerian Paradox

In eight days, Abuja made two different borrowing proposals to the National Assembly. On 27 October, it sought approval for $20.52 billion and €1.05 billion. On 4 November, it withdrew that proposal and submitted a revised request for approximately $7.7 billion. Public debt stood at 166.79 trillion in June 2026, against 87.38 trillion in June 2023, though part of that rise reflects the naira value of foreign-currency debt.

The 2026 budget sets aside about 15.5 trillion for debt service, roughly 45% of projected revenue, while the IMF puts interest payments alone above half of federal revenue. The revised borrowing request does not erase the country's existing debt burden or the cost of servicing it.

You cannot borrow your way to greatness. And you cannot rise on a borrowed kidney. Every transplant ends in a lifetime of anti-rejection drugs. For a borrowed economy, the drug is called debt service. If Nigeria must transplant, let the donor be Nigerian: our pension money, our diaspora investment, our Dangotes.

The Ten Commandments

To wake the African elephant from her slumber, we need ten commandments:

1. Lock the ATM. Create independent investment-security commissions to scrutinise beneficial owners, sources of funds and strategic risks. Classify mineral assets as restricted, partnership-only or open. Africa must have the courage to say yes, no or not on these terms.

2. Put Pension Money to Work. African pension funds and insurers hold about $775 billion, and AfDB counts over $2.1 trillion once sovereign funds and central banks are included. Yet in some countries, 70 to 80% of institutional portfolios sit in government debt. AfDB says redirecting just 5% would unlock over $100 billion, against an annual transformation financing gap above $400 billion. Pension money is workers' deferred wages, so protect the pensioner first, with independent trustees, diversified investments and strict fiduciary rules. Then let those savings help build the factories that will employ their children.

3. Mobilise the Diaspora. The AU puts the African diaspora at up to 200 million people. In 2025, they sent home $124.2 billion, about 1.8 times Africa's $70 billion in FDI. But remittances are survival capital. We must turn them into ownership capital. Let us create an African Diaspora Industrialisation Fund (ADIF), with a target of $1 trillion in capital mobilisation over a decade, championed by a coalition of African capitalists. Start with bonds, then equity, under independent trustees, strict fiduciary safeguards and dual audits. It should back African-owned enterprises in pharmaceuticals, electric vehicles, batteries, data centres, semiconductors, AI, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing. China shows the destination.

4. Build African Samsungs, Toyotas and Hyundais. Use patient capital, strategic procurement and export finance to nurture companies that compete globally and retain their intellectual property on the continent. Africa must stop being merely a marketplace for other people's inventions. We must become a factory of ideas, technology and globally competitive brands.

5. Establish Natural Resources Forensic Audit Commission. Review land, mineral, forest and other strategic concessions. Investigate illegality, expose beneficial ownership, and renegotiate or revoke agreements that violate Africa's long-term interests, with due process, respect for lawful rights and transparent arbitration. Publish a new list of strategic minerals that must be processed in Africa: lithium, cobalt, uranium, gold and crude oil.

6. Turn Quarries into Factories. AFC calculates that $2.8 trillion of iron ore could become $25.4 trillion of steel, and $874 billion of bauxite $15.4 trillion of aluminium. Those are gross values, not profits, and refining margins can be razor-thin, so the strategy must be selective. But look at cobalt. The DRC mined about 73% of the world's supply in 2025, yet China is the leading refiner. Whoever controls more of the refining and manufacturing value chain captures more of the wealth. The quarry must become a factory, the factory an industry, and the industry a global brand.

7. Establish the Pan-African Commodity Exchange (PACE). What is missing is a continental platform that sets credible African benchmarks for the commodities we produce. Analysts suggest starting with gold and copper. The DRC's move from a cobalt export ban to quotas in 2025 shows that Africa can already shape a market. I propose launching PACE in 2027, with six regional hubs: Lagos, Nairobi, Cairo, Kigali, Johannesburg and Yaoundé. Africa must have a stronger voice in determining the prices, trading standards and market rules governing its own resources.

8. Build One Market. Intra-African trade was only 14.4% of the total in 2024, against 60% or more in Europe and Asia. All 54 African countries have signed the AfCFTA, and 48 had ratified it by August 2025. The roads, railways, ports, payment systems and customs posts must now catch up with the signatures. We cannot build continental prosperity with 54 economic islands.

9. Create Wealth for Generations Yet Unborn. Establish well-governed intergenerational wealth funds that invest in education, science, technology and infrastructure. Stop robbing the cradle of tomorrow to feed the gluttony of today's elites. Our mineral wealth must finance not only today's budgets but also the opportunities of generations yet unborn.

10. Re-Imagine, Re-Invent, Re-Work Our Education. A nation rises or falls on what it teaches. Africa spends about 0.5% of GDP on research, against a world average of 2.2%, and contributes about 1% of global research output despite holding over a tenth of humanity. The World Bank estimates that 89% of ten-year-olds in the region cannot read a simple sentence. Convene an African Universities Commission.

Take a saw to degrees built for a vanished economy, and replace them with programmes that teach graduates to discover, mine, refine and package the minerals beneath our feet with made-in-Africa tools. Our scholars should draw accurate maps of their respective African countries, write the algorithms and set the pace. On true-scale maps, 14 Greenlands fit inside Africa. Yet generations of African students have grown up seeing their continent through a projection that dramatically distorts its size. We must correct not only our maps, but also the mental maps through which we understand our place in the world. An education that cannot solve Africa's problems must urgently reinvent itself.

The Generation That Has No Voice

At almost every investment negotiation, one constituency is missing: the unborn. They cannot object when minerals leave unprocessed, forests vanish or land is committed for decades. We are not the owners of Africa's inheritance. We are its trustees. The measure of a leader is not how many investors arrive. It is how much productive wealth, technology and ownership remain when the leader leaves. Africa does not need to shut its doors to the world. It needs to stop leaving them unlocked. We are not asking the world to stop investing in Africa. We are asking Africa to stop investing in its own irrelevance. We must move from digging wealth out of the ground to building wealth out of knowledge; from exporting raw materials to exporting finished products; from begging for capital to mobilising our own; from being the world's quarry to becoming its factory, laboratory and marketplace. Africa is not poor. Africa is under-owned, under-industrialised and under-organised.

The world's biggest ATM must finally have a password. And that password must be African ownership, African ingenuity and African enterprise. **Let the world come to Africa. Let the world invest in Africa. Let the world trade with Africa. But let no one own Africa's future except Africans. Welcome the world. Keep the keys.**

AKANO, a technopreneur, geopolitical analyst and public intellectual, writes from Lagos. He is founder, New Horizons Africa Group; Out-of-School/Almajiri/Vulnerable Children-to-Tech Foundation; and Tim Akano Foundation. Convener, Semiconductor Africa and One Africa Initiatives. Timakano1@gmail.com
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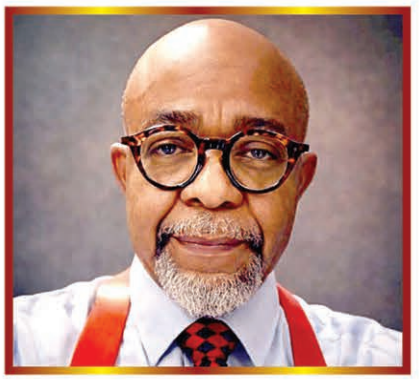
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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

The growing importance of effective healthcare leadership in strengthening medical institutions, improving patient care, advancing medical education and promoting research cannot be overemphasised. As Nigeria continues to confront increasing healthcare demands, rising operational costs and the need for modern medical facilities, the role of Chief Medical Directors (CMDs) in driving institutional growth, improving service delivery and strengthening the nation's healthcare system has become increasingly significant.



Prof. Yusuf Bara Jibrin,
Chief Medical Director,
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi



Prof. Adetokunbo Olusegun Fabamwo,
Chief Medical Director,
Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH)



Prof. Ikpeme Asanye Ikpeme,
Chief Medical Director,
University Of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH)

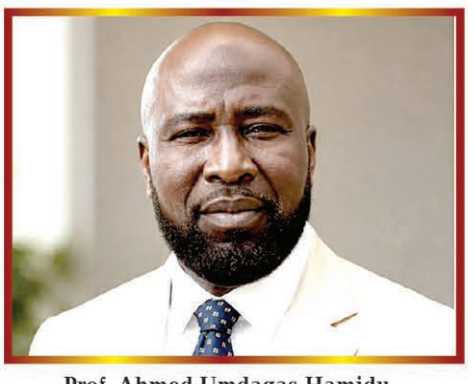
Without doubt, exceptional CMDs are central to the development and performance of tertiary healthcare institutions. From upgrading medical infrastructure and expanding specialist services to embracing modern technology, improving workforce capacity, promoting medical research and ensuring efficient hospital administration, these leaders are making meaningful contributions to the quality and accessibility of healthcare in Nigeria. Their commitment to professionalism, innovation, accountability and patient-centred care continues to raise standards across the health sector.

In recognition of these remarkable contributions, The Guardian is spotlighting exceptional Chief Medical Directors who have distinguished themselves through visionary leadership, professional excellence, institutional reforms and a sustained commitment to transforming healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

Meet the healthcare leaders driving institutional development, strengthening specialist services, advancing medical education and research, and setting higher standards for healthcare management across the country.



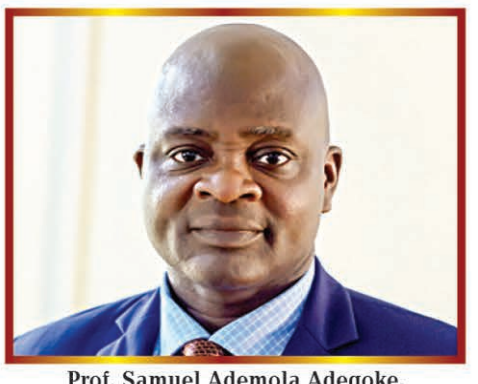
Prof. Wasiu Lanre Adeyemo,
Chief Medical Director,
Lagos University Teaching Hospital, (LUTH)



Prof. Ahmed Umdagas Hamidu,
Chief Medical Director,
Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria



Prof. Chituru Godwill Orluwene (DSSRS,JP)
Chief Medical Director,
University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH)



Prof. Samuel Ademola Adegoke,
Chief Medical Director,
Bowen University Teaching Hospital (BUTH), Ogbomosho

PROF. SAMUEL ADEGOKE: ADVANCING COMPASSIONATE HEALTHCARE, MEDICAL EDUCATION AND INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE AT BUTH

Quality healthcare leadership is measured not only by the services a hospital provides but also by its ability to develop skilled professionals, advance medical research, embrace innovation and deliver compassionate care. At Bowen University Teaching Hospital (BUTH), Professor Samuel Ademola Adegoke is pursuing this vision through reforms aimed at strengthening specialist healthcare, improving staff welfare, modernising infrastructure and positioning the institution as a centre of excellence in medical education and research.

A Consultant Paediatrician and Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, Prof. Adegoke brings considerable clinical, academic and international experience to his position as Chief Medical Director. He obtained his MBBS degree from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, in the 2000/2001 academic session, completed postgraduate fellowship training in Paediatrics under the West African College of Physicians and became a Consultant Paediatrician in 2008. His academic qualifications include a Master of Public Health, a doctorate in Haematology from the Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil, and a Doctor of Medicine degree from the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

His academic career began at OAU in 2010, where he rose to the rank of Professor in 2020. He also served as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Clinical Sciences and Physician-in-Charge of Wesley Guild Hospital, Ilesa. His international engagements include clinical and academic appointments in Brazil and The Gambia, where he served as Consultant Paediatrician, postgraduate medical trainer and Head of the Department of Paediatrics at the University of The Gambia.

These experiences have shaped his vision of positioning BUTH as a leading institution in patient-centred healthcare, medical education, research and innovation. His priorities include expanding specialist services, upgrading infrastructure and equipment, improving staff welfare, embracing digital technology and strengthening power supply.

Under his administration, BUTH has recorded significant developments in clinical services and medical training. The hospital has secured accreditation and reaccreditation of postgraduate residency programmes in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics and Family Medicine. Its National Diploma and Higher National Diploma Nursing programmes have also obtained accreditation from the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and the National Board for Technical Education.

Specialist healthcare delivery has equally received attention through the establishment of a retinal laser unit for managing retinal diseases, including complications associated with diabetes, hypertension and sickle cell disease. A point-of-care laboratory at the General Outpatient Department has also improved access to selected hormonal, biochemical and haematological investigations, supporting more timely clinical decisions.

Infrastructure renewal includes the renovation of the VIP Clinic, hospital wards and resident doctors' quarters. The commissioning of the School of Health Information Management building provides additional capacity for healthcare education and will accommodate the proposed post-basic nursing programme.



Digital transformation is another priority, with the hospital's Electronic Medical Records system now over 90 per cent complete and approaching commissioning. When operational, the system is expected to improve documentation, information retrieval and continuity of patient care.

Recognising the importance of reliable electricity to effective healthcare delivery, the administration has also commenced a phased solar power project. The administrative buildings of the General OPD and Consultant OPD have already been connected, with plans to extend the installations to wards and other essential hospital areas.

Staff welfare remains central to Prof. Adegoke's leadership approach. His administration has implemented salary and allowance adjustments on at least two occasions, maintained regular annual promotion exercises and introduced staff awards and recognition programmes. These measures reflect his belief that motivated healthcare professionals are essential to sustainable service delivery, particularly amid the migration and attrition of skilled personnel.

As a private, mission-based tertiary institution, BUTH also prioritises compassionate and accessible healthcare. Its individual and institutional retainership packages provide convenient payment arrangements for patients and organisations. Home care services extend medical attention to elderly patients in their homes, while medical missions and community outreaches bring healthcare services closer to underserved populations. The hospital also recognises the importance of health insurance and partnerships in supporting patients facing financial difficulties.

Research and professional development remain important components of Prof. Adegoke's broader contributions to medicine. His personal research interests centre on sickle cell disease, particularly its clinical manifestations, biological modifiers, pathophysiology and management. He has published over 100 scientific papers, received several research grants and supervised numerous undergraduate and postgraduate research projects. At BUTH, he seeks to strengthen clinical research through multidisciplinary collaboration, academic partnerships and the development of clinician-researchers.

Despite the institution's progress, challenges persist, including rising healthcare costs, infrastructure requirements, equipment maintenance, reliable power supply and workforce retention. His administration is addressing these concerns through improved staff welfare, prudent resource management, infrastructure renewal, solar installations, digital transformation and strategic partnerships.

For Prof. Adegoke, effective hospital leadership requires integrity, accountability, fairness, compassion, teamwork and responsible management of resources. He believes a teaching hospital must balance patient care with staff welfare, medical education, research and financial sustainability.

His desired legacy is a stronger BUTH with expanded clinical services, accredited training programmes, modern infrastructure, motivated personnel, efficient information systems and reliable power supply. Guided by the institution's faith-based mission, he remains committed to combining clinical excellence with Christian compassion, professional integrity and responsible management, while improving healthcare delivery in Ogbomoso and the wider communities it serves.

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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

PROF. YUSUF BARA: ADVANCING SPECIALIST HEALTHCARE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AT ATBUTH

The transformation of a teaching hospital requires purposeful leadership, strategic investment, professional competence and a sustained commitment to improving patient outcomes. At the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi, these priorities have shaped the administration of its Chief Medical Director, Professor Yusuf Bara Jibrin, whose leadership has focused on expanding specialist healthcare, strengthening institutional capacity and advancing medical research and innovation.

A Professor of Medicine specialising in Infectious Diseases, Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and university lecturer, Prof. Bara brings extensive experience in clinical practice, medical education, research and healthcare administration to his position. His professional journey has provided him with the experience required to understand the complex responsibilities of managing a tertiary healthcare institution.

Before his appointment as substantive Chief Medical Director on September 9, 2020, he served in several strategic positions, including Provost and Dean at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University College of Medical Sciences, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) at ATBUTH and Acting Chief Medical Director. These responsibilities exposed him to the interconnected demands of clinical service delivery, medical training, research coordination, workforce management and institutional administration. Following his reappointment in 2025, he is serving a second tenure.

For Prof. Bara, a teaching hospital must demonstrate clinical competence, academic productivity, administrative accountability and compassion. This philosophy informs his vision of developing ATBUTH into a centre of excellence in specialised healthcare, medical education, research and innovation, serving Bauchi State, the North-East and the wider Nigerian healthcare system.

Under his administration, the hospital has pursued an extensive programme of infrastructure development, specialist service expansion, technological advancement and workforce strengthening. Among the completed projects are the Family Medicine Department, Ear, Nose and Throat Department, Emergency Medicine Department and Infectious Diseases Isolation Centre. Others include the Infertility and Assisted Reproductive Technology Centre, a new classroom block at the College of Nursing, an industrial oxygen plant, a table water production plant, a new laboratory complex and Phase One of the new Surgical Ward.

These investments address important gaps in healthcare delivery while strengthening the institution's capacity to accommodate increasing patient demand. The industrial oxygen plant, particularly, provides an important resource for patients requiring respiratory support and other critical medical interventions.

The administration has also acquired advanced equipment for assisted reproductive technology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, laser surgery and endourology. These investments are expanding the range of specialised procedures available within the hospital and reducing the need for patients to travel elsewhere in search of certain medical interventions.

A major development in this direction is the Infertility and Assisted Reproductive Technology Centre, which was virtually commissioned by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on May 29, 2026. The centre brings specialised reproductive healthcare closer to couples in Bauchi, the North-East and neighbouring states. Its Computer-Assisted Semen Analysis (CASA) technology supports more detailed assessment in male fertility investigations. The commencement of intrauterine insemination (IUI) services and development of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) services further demonstrate the hospital's commitment to improving access to reproductive healthcare.

Digital transformation is another important pillar of Prof. Bara's administration. Recognising the limitations of manual hospital processes, his administration introduced an Electronic Medical Records system, an e-Mobile application and a SmartQueue system. These initiatives are designed to improve appointment access, strengthen records management, streamline patient movement and reduce unnecessary waiting periods.

In June 2026, the hospital launched DHS_Mobile and DHS SmartQueue, further advancing its efforts to improve the patient experience through technology. The systems are intended to make appointment processes more convenient and enhance coordination between patients and healthcare personnel.

For Prof. Bara, technology must produce measurable improvements in service delivery. Its value lies in its ability to support clinical decisions, improve administrative efficiency and enable medical personnel to make better use of available resources.

ATBUTH's commitment to technological advancement received national recognition in 2025 when it emerged as the Best Federal Health Institution for Innovative Use of Technology at the Nigeria GovTech Public Service Awards, organised by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms. Prof. Bara also received the Distinguished GovTech Trailblazer's Award in recognition of his contributions to digital governance and healthcare innovation. The hospital has equally received recognition for its performance in the utilisation of the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2).

Beyond infrastructure and digital reforms, medical research occupies a central position in the hospital's development strategy. Prof. Bara believes that teaching hospitals must contribute to medical knowledge rather than depend exclusively on existing discoveries. Research, therefore, must inform clinical practice, strengthen public health preparedness and generate practical solutions to healthcare challenges.

One of the facilities supporting this ambition is the Molecular Genetics and Infectious Diseases (MOGID) Research Laboratory. The well-equipped facility has strengthened ATBUTH's capacity for molecular diagnostics, infectious disease investigations and research into emerging and re-emerging health threats. Its capabilities have supported the hospital's participation in the national laboratory response to diseases including COVID-19, Lassa fever and monkeypox.

Another important initiative is the ENABLE Bauchi Project, supported by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), with Prof. Bara serving as Principal Investigator. The project promotes research capacity development, infectious disease surveillance, community-based research and preparedness for emerging health threats. It also creates opportunities for healthcare professionals to strengthen their technical expertise and participate in wider scientific collaborations.

The hospital's indigenous medical innovations further demonstrate the practical value of its research activities. One example is GASTROPEX-BH, developed by researchers in the Department of Surgery to manage gastroschisis, a congenital condition in which an infant is born with the intestines protruding through an opening in the abdominal wall. The innovation demonstrates how clinical experience and local research expertise can produce solutions to specific medical challenges.

Another notable development is the locally fabricated reusable rigid aluminium stylet for endotracheal intubation, undertaken in collaboration with Airway Development Incorporated (ADI). Fabricated with assistance from a local artisan, the device provides a durable and more affordable alternative to expensive imported single-use stylets. Initially implemented at ATBUTH, its adoption has reportedly extended to other Nigerian institutions and healthcare facilities in West African and South American countries.

ATBUTH has also developed the Integrated Apnoea-Resuscitation Bili-Incubator System (ARBIS), a biomedical engineering innovation produced by its in-house researchers. The system combines five essential neonatal care functions: incubation, automatic apnoea detection, automated resuscitation stimulation, bilirubin measurement and phototherapy.

Designed for resource-constrained healthcare facilities, ARBIS incorporates battery backup and automated monitoring to support neonatal care, particularly where electricity supply is unreliable and specialised personnel are limited. With projected cost savings of up to 88 per cent compared with conventional imported equipment, the innovation demonstrates the potential of indigenous research to deliver affordable medical technology.



These developments reflect Prof. Bara's determination to make research an integral part of clinical practice and medical education. Through partnerships with universities, public health agencies, research institutions and international organisations, the hospital continues to strengthen its research capacity and contribute to solutions that address Nigeria's healthcare needs.

Equitable access to medical services is another priority of his administration. As a public tertiary institution serving patients from different socioeconomic backgrounds, ATBUTH recognises that financial difficulties can prevent individuals and families from obtaining timely treatment.

The hospital operates within applicable health insurance arrangements, including the National Health Insurance Authority framework. Its Medical Social Welfare services also provide an avenue for assessing patients experiencing financial hardship and considering appropriate assistance.

Beyond financial support, the administration recognises that accessibility depends on the availability of specialist services, reliable diagnostic facilities and timely treatment. Its investments in equipment, laboratory infrastructure and specialist departments are therefore intended to bring more medical services within the reach of the population.

The hospital also participates in government intervention programmes designed to reduce the financial burden of accessing essential medical care. Under the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEMONC) programme, more than 3,000 women have received free Caesarean sections at ATBUTH. Similarly, through the National Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance System (NEMSAS), more than 2,500 beneficiaries have reportedly received free emergency medical care within the first 48 hours, at no cost to the patients. Other interventions include subsidies for dialysis patients with kidney disease and NCDC support for the treatment of Lassa fever patients.

Human resource development has equally received attention. ATBUTH has secured full accreditation for nine clinical departments by the West African College of Surgeons, West African College of Physicians and National Postgraduate Medical College for residency training.

The establishment of the School of Post-Basic Nursing and School of Community Health Officers further strengthens its contribution to healthcare workforce development. The hospital has also received recognition from the Industrial Training Fund for its human resource development efforts.

Despite these achievements, Prof. Bara acknowledges the operational challenges confronting the institution. These include increasing patient demand, pressure on available personnel, the cost of maintaining specialised equipment, infrastructure requirements and the need for reliable electricity, water and oxygen supplies.

ATBUTH receives referrals from Bauchi State, neighbouring states and other parts of Nigeria. This responsibility places considerable demands on its emergency services, specialist clinics, diagnostic facilities, bed spaces and workforce.

To address these challenges, his administration is pursuing additional infrastructure projects and strategic investments. Ongoing developments include the Dental Complex, Ophthalmology Institute, Internal Medicine Complex, maternity complex, internal road network and an ICT and e-Library complex at the College of Nursing Sciences. The hospital is also pursuing the solarisation of essential service areas to improve energy reliability.

Another significant development programme involves the hospital's new site at Gubi, where plans include the construction, furnishing and equipping of highly specialised operating theatres and an Intensive Care Unit. A multipurpose clinical and research laboratory is also planned. These projects are expected to strengthen the hospital's capacity to provide specialised services, support medical research and accommodate future healthcare demands.

Their completion will require sustained funding, technical support and collaboration with relevant government institutions and development partners. Nevertheless, they demonstrate the administration's determination to address existing gaps while preparing the institution for future responsibilities.

Beyond individual projects, Prof. Bara's leadership is guided by integrity, accountability, professionalism, fairness, consultation and teamwork. He maintains that sustainable institutional progress depends on the contributions of all members of staff, whose responsibilities are interconnected in the delivery of quality healthcare.

His approach emphasises evidence-based decision-making, prudent management of public resources and the protection of patient welfare. He also believes in listening to professional colleagues, encouraging collaboration and creating opportunities for staff to contribute meaningfully to institutional development.

For him, the legacy of leadership at ATBUTH should extend beyond completed buildings and acquired equipment. It should reflect stronger specialist services, modern infrastructure, skilled and motivated personnel, efficient administrative systems and a sustainable culture of research and innovation.

The achievements recorded under his administration represent the collective contributions of the hospital's workforce, government support and partnerships with local and international institutions. As Chief Medical Director, his responsibility is to provide direction, mobilise support, strengthen institutional systems and ensure that available resources address the hospital's priorities.

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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

PROF. ADETOKUNBO FABAMWO: EXPANDING SPECIALISED HEALTHCARE AND TRANSFORMING LASUTH

Prof. Adetokunbo Olusegun Fabamwo is a distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Chief Medical Director of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja. He provides strategic leadership for the hospital's clinical, administrative, training and research activities. Since assuming office in January 2019, he has focused on expanding specialised medical services, upgrading infrastructure, strengthening professional training and improving access to quality healthcare.

Under his leadership, LASUTH has expanded its advanced tertiary healthcare services through the introduction of specialised procedures, including open-heart surgeries, kidney transplantation, cochlear implantation, microvascular surgery, in-vitro fertilisation, interventional cardiology and lithotripsy for the treatment of kidney and gallbladder stones.

The hospital has also embraced minimally invasive surgical procedures, popularly known as pinhole surgeries, which allow surgeons to perform complex operations through small incisions using specialised endoscopic equipment. According to him, these procedures are available in the Obstetrics and Gynaecology and General Surgery departments. The hospital also operates a specialised stroke unit, which is currently undergoing an upgrade through the support of a benefactor.

Another significant development is the establishment of an ultra-modern dialysis unit through a public-private partnership. Explaining the arrangement, the CMD noted that the rising cost of maintaining dialysis machines and procuring consumables had become increasingly difficult for the hospital to sustain. Consequently, a private entrepreneur provides and manages the equipment, while the hospital provides the facility and shares in the proceeds. He described the arrangement as beneficial because it reduces the hospital's maintenance responsibilities while ensuring continued access to dialysis services.

On the hospital's digital transformation, Prof. Fabamwo acknowledged that LASUTH started its automation process later than some other institutions in Lagos. However, he disclosed that four departments had already been automated on a pilot basis, with plans to extend the process to additional departments from early 2027.

Commenting on measures introduced to improve healthcare quality and accessibility, the CMD explained that his administration is strengthening the hospital's referral system to ensure that patients receive treatment at the appropriate levels of healthcare delivery.

He observed that many patients visit LASUTH directly from their homes without referrals, even when their conditions could be managed at secondary healthcare facilities such as Gbagada General Hospital and Orile-Agege General Hospital. According to him, this practice places unnecessary pressure on the hospital's limited bed capacity and sometimes prevents patients requiring specialised attention from accessing timely treatment.

On affordability, Prof. Fabamwo identified health insurance as a major instrument for expanding access to quality healthcare. He disclosed that LASUTH is actively supporting the Lagos State Health Management Authority (LASHMA) in promoting health insurance enrolment among residents.

He welcomed the Lagos State Government's decision to enforce mandatory health insurance from January 1, 2027, expressing optimism that the policy would improve enrolment, which has remained relatively low despite public awareness campaigns.

The CMD noted that LASUTH received an award from LASHMA last year in recognition of its contribution to promoting health insurance. He added that the hospital had maintained relatively affordable charges despite rising inflation and operational costs."As a government hospital, we do not charge consultation fees. Our accommodation fees are also very minimal," he explained, adding that the hospital had not increased its charges in the preceding three years, relying instead on government subvention to subsidise essential services.

To illustrate its affordability, he disclosed that patients seeking admission into the intensive care unit are required to make a deposit of N600,000, compared with deposits running into several millions of naira in some private hospitals.

On the role of medical research in the hospital's development strategy, Prof. Fabamwo explained that LASUTH's academic relationship with the Lagos State University College of Medicine provides a strong foundation for research, teaching and clinical practice.

He noted that the hospital has two categories of consultants: those directly employed by LASUTH and academic staff of the College of Medicine who also provide clinical services as honorary consultants. This arrangement has encouraged collaboration between the two institutions, leading to the establishment of a joint research committee comprising representatives from both sides.According to him, the committee has supported consultants in attracting research grants worth millions of dollars from funding agencies across the world.

The hospital's residency training programme also contributes significantly to its research activities. With approximately 300 resident doctors undergoing specialist training across different departments, research remains an essential requirement for professional development and fellowship examinations. Their research projects examine clinical challenges and operational gaps within the hospital, providing findings that can inform improvements in medical practice and institutional operations.

Prof. Fabamwo explained that service delivery comes first at the hospital, followed by teaching and research, while teaching takes precedence at the College of Medicine, followed by research and service.

Despite the progress recorded, the CMD acknowledged that LASUTH continues to face significant operational challenges, particularly limited bed capacity, inadequate land space, energy costs, manpower requirements and staff attitudes.

He identified the hospital's approximately 800-bed capacity as a major concern, considering that it serves a population of about 30 million people. He maintained that Lagos State could accommodate five or six additional teaching hospitals to meet the growing demand for specialised healthcare services.

According to him, the hospital's growing reputation has attracted increasing numbers of patients, but limited bed capacity sometimes makes it difficult to accommodate everyone requiring treatment. To address this challenge, his administration has incorporated additional bed spaces into ongoing infrastructural projects.

Energy supply is another major concern. He recalled that LASUTH previously enjoyed uninterrupted electricity through the Independent Power Project initiated during the administration of former Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola. However, following the termination of the arrangement, the hospital has had to depend more heavily on the electricity distribution company and generators, resulting in substantial expenditure on electricity and diesel.

He disclosed that although some essential service areas already have solar installations, the administration intends to expand solar power provision across the hospital. Comprehensive solarisation has therefore been identified as one of the projects being considered in its 2027 budget, with the objective of reducing dependence on conventional electricity.

On manpower, the CMD acknowledged the impact of the Japa syndrome, which previously resulted in the departure of several doctors, nurses and other experienced healthcare professionals. However, he observed that the trend had reduced, partly because of increasing difficulties associated with professional migration to countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States.

He commended the Lagos State Government for introducing an exit replacement programme that allows the hospital to replace personnel who leave without repeatedly seeking individual approval from the Governor. He also identified staff attitude as an area requiring continuous attention, explaining that his administration has organised training programmes to promote empathy, compassion and professionalism among healthcare workers.

On the specific reforms and projects demonstrating the impact of his leadership, Prof. Fabamwo highlighted the expansion of specialised medical services, infrastructural development and the strengthening of middle-level healthcare manpower.

The hospital currently operates approximately eight training schools and specialised programmes designed to produce skilled healthcare professionals. Among these is the Caregiver Academy, where trainees receive professional instruction alongside a four-month online training programme in collaboration with a United Kingdom-based training arrangement. Successful participants obtain certificates from both programmes.

LASUTH also runs a Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital Management and Administration in collaboration with Lagos State University. According to the CMD, the programme has received government recognition and provides hospital administrators with professional development opportunities.

Other specialised institutions include the School of Echocardiography, which trains technicians to support cardiologists in conducting echocardiographic examinations, and the School of Anaesthetic Technology, which develops personnel to assist anaesthetists in managing anaesthesia equipment.

The hospital equally operates a School of Orthopaedic Cast Technology, which trains personnel responsible for applying plaster of Paris casts to patients with fractures and other orthopaedic conditions.

A particularly significant initiative is the School of Paramedics, making LASUTH the second teaching hospital in Nigeria to commence such training after the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

Prof. Fabamwo explained that paramedics are trained first responders who provide professional emergency care at accident and disaster scenes before victims are transported to hospitals. The programme is designed to strengthen the personnel component of the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS).

The National Diploma programme admits students through the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board. Although the programme has commenced, the institution is yet to graduate its first set.

Other initiatives include the Centre for Advanced Neonatal Studies, which trains doctors and nurses in managing critically ill newborns, and a proposed postgraduate diploma in ultrasound in collaboration with the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria.

Through these programmes, Prof. Fabamwo believes LASUTH can contribute significantly to addressing the shortage of specialised middle-level healthcare personnel while strengthening the country's healthcare delivery system.

On the leadership principles guiding his administration, the CMD identified leading by example, listening to colleagues and ensuring that members of staff share the institution's vision as essential requirements for effective management.

He disclosed that his administration instituted weekly top management committee meetings involving heads of critical departments and units. The meetings provide opportunities to discuss institutional challenges, exchange ideas and develop practical solutions.

According to him, the regular engagements have strengthened the administrative capabilities of departmental heads, preparing them for greater responsibilities and promoting continuity in institutional management.

Delegation and accountability are equally important aspects of his management philosophy. He explained that responsibilities are distributed among relevant officers, allowing them to perform their duties while remaining accountable to the overall leadership of the hospital.

Prof. Fabamwo further disclosed that his administration has developed a hospital policy handbook containing guidelines for addressing operational and professional challenges. Among the policies is a zero-tolerance approach to assault against healthcare workers, with established channels for patients and relatives to report grievances.

The hospital has also developed guidelines for handling cases involving deaths requiring autopsy, particularly where relatives decline the procedure and request immediate release of the body. The policy provides a formal process for documenting such decisions and addressing the administrative challenges that may arise.

Reflecting on the legacy he hopes to leave, Prof. Fabamwo expressed his desire to be remembered as a leader who raised the standard of advanced tertiary healthcare services, upgraded hospital infrastructure, expanded professional training and established sound administrative policies.

Ultimately, he hopes to leave behind a motivated workforce that takes pride in working at LASUTH and understands the responsibilities associated with delivering specialised tertiary healthcare. For him, institutional progress must be reflected in the quality of services, the competence of personnel and the administrative structures that continue to guide the hospital beyond his tenure.



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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

PROF. IKPEME: REPOSITIONING UCTH THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL, INNOVATION AND QUALITY HEALTHCARE

The transformation of a tertiary healthcare institution requires more than medical expertise. It demands strategic leadership, administrative discipline, institutional vision and an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of care available to patients. At the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH), Calabar, Cross River State, these responsibilities have shaped the administration of its Chief Medical Director, Professor Ikpeme A. Ikpeme, whose leadership agenda centres on infrastructure renewal, human capital development, technological advancement, research and expanded specialist healthcare services.

For Prof. Ikpeme, the responsibility of managing a teaching hospital extends beyond overseeing clinical operations. It involves building an institution capable of delivering highly specialised medical services, supporting medical education, advancing research and responding effectively to the changing healthcare needs of society. His vision is to position UCTH as a specialist-led quaternary healthcare provider offering highly skilled medical and ancillary services, research and training within the West African sub-region and beyond.

This ambition reflects a professional journey shaped by years of clinical practice, academic development, institutional administration and professional leadership. An alumnus of the University of Benin, where he obtained his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree in 1991, Prof. Ikpeme subsequently pursued specialist training in orthopaedic surgery, becoming a Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons in 2003 and the International College of Surgeons in 2008.

His professional development also reflects an appreciation of the administrative and managerial competencies required to lead complex healthcare institutions. He obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Management from the University of Calabar in 2011 and a Master of Business Administration from the same university in 2013. In 2016, he further strengthened his leadership credentials with a Certificate in Leadership and Management in Health from the University of Washington.

His specialist exposure includes the Assiut University/ SICOT Young Surgeons Training Fellowship in Egypt in 2008 and a Fellowship in Arthroplasty at St. George University Teaching Hospital, Hungary, in 2017. These experiences provided opportunities to acquire specialised knowledge and appreciate contemporary approaches to orthopaedic practice and healthcare delivery.

Beyond clinical expertise, Prof. Ikpeme developed considerable experience in professional and institutional administration. He served as Head of the Department of Accident and Emergency, now Department of Emergency Medicine, at UCTH from 2009 to 2018. He subsequently headed the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Calabar and UCTH between 2018 and 2019.

His leadership experience also extends to the wider medical profession. He served as the 20th President of the Nigeria Association of Resident Doctors between 1999 and 2000 and later became Chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association in Cross River State from 2006 to 2008. These responsibilities exposed him to professional advocacy, institutional coordination, healthcare workforce concerns and the importance of constructive engagement in advancing medical practice.

Armed with this experience, his administration at UCTH has adopted five major priorities: human resources development, infrastructure development and renewal, quality service delivery and expansion of services, security and workplace safety, and the deployment of technology to improve efficiency.A significant part of this agenda is reflected in the extensive infrastructural improvements undertaken across the hospital. The Central Medical Library has undergone complete remodelling and upgrading into an advanced digital e-library, providing a more contemporary learning and research environment for medical professionals, students and other users.

The outpatient clinics complex has also received comprehensive renovation and remodelling, covering Dental Services, Antenatal and Gynaecology Clinics, Family Medicine, Ophthalmology, Internal Medicine, Accident and Emergency Services, as well as the Granite Reception Hall. Similarly, several inpatient facilities, including male and female orthopaedic wards, medical wards, the labour ward, paediatric medical, oncology and surgical wards, have undergone extensive renovation.

Recognising the importance of specialised care, the administration has constructed and equipped dedicated centres and clinics, including a Neurosurgical and Stroke Centre, an Isolation Treatment Centre, a Urology Clinic and an Oncology Day Care Bay. The hospital has also introduced new specialist service lines such as arthroscopy and sports medicine, joint replacement, minimal access surgery, dedicated oncology services, stroke care and open-heart surgery.

The introduction of minimal access surgery has been supported by the procurement of appropriate laparoscopic and arthroscopic equipment, alongside personnel training. These investments are intended to strengthen the hospital's capacity to provide specialised interventions and expand the range of procedures available to patients.

Another major intervention is the improvement of diagnostic services. The Department of Radiology has received comprehensive renovation and furnishing, alongside the provision of modern diagnostic equipment, including direct digital radiography, mammography, CT scan and MRI scan facilities. Laboratory services have equally benefited from automation, structural remodelling and renovation across Pathologic Anatomy, Medical Microbiology, Haematology and Chemical Pathology.

Critical care and emergency response infrastructure have also received attention. The hospital is constructing a new ultra-modern Department of Emergency Medicine Complex, while the Main Theatre Complex has been constructed and equipped with an integrated modern Post-Anaesthesia Care Unit. A high-tier Level 3 Intensive Care Unit has also been constructed and equipped to strengthen the institution's capacity for managing critically ill patients.

Beyond clinical buildings, the administration has recognised that reliable utilities and a functional working environment are indispensable to quality healthcare. Through a 7MW captive power plant supported by associated minigrid solar systems, UCTH has achieved significant improvements in electricity supply, with 24-hour power availability. A comprehensive water treatment and reticulation project has also been executed to ensure consistent access to clean water across clinical points.

Other infrastructure interventions include a hospital-wide reroofing project to address water infiltration and restore the structural integrity of older clinical blocks, construction of an integrated internal drainage system, development of internal access roads linking the laboratories, Works Department, Radiology Car Park and House Officers' Quarters, and extensive renovation of doctors' accommodation. The House Officers' Quarters has also been completed, while the hospital's Okoyong outreach facility has received comprehensive infrastructural renovation.

The administration has further strengthened primary healthcare and community services through the procurement of specialised vacuum refrigeration units for the Community Medicine Department and multiple life-saving ambulances. The Laundry and Central Surgical Sterilisation Units have also received new equipment, while the Physiotherapy Department has undergone renovation and expansion, including the introduction of preventive exercise programmes for healthy individuals.

Human capital development remains another important component of the transformation agenda. The institutional status of the School of Nursing has been upgraded to a full diploma-awarding College of Nursing, while previously unaccredited training programmes have received full accreditation to strengthen specialist manpower development. These initiatives reflect the understanding that modern infrastructure must be supported by adequately trained professionals.

Technology has equally become central to the administration's approach to institutional efficiency and accountability. The deployment of Electronic Medical Records and a Health Information and Management System is intended to improve patient information management and clinical coordination. Electronic work-hour regulation has also been introduced to strengthen staff accountability and institutional discipline.

In addition, management has strengthened health insurance access, improved transparency in billing and payment systems, and continued working towards hospital-wide cashless transactions. These reforms are complemented by efforts to reduce waste, address staff attitude and knowledge gaps, and ensure the prudent deployment of available resources.

Acknowledging that public funding alone may not adequately support the extensive requirements of tertiary healthcare institutions, Prof. Ikpeme's administration has actively pursued partnerships with development organisations, corporate bodies and energy sector stakeholders. Through these collaborations, the hospital has benefited from a new medical oxygen gas plant donated by the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), alongside the construction of a dedicated facility to house the infrastructure. UNICEF has also supplied and installed a new bulk liquid oxygen gas plant, strengthening the hospital's capacity for medical oxygen self-sufficiency.

Other notable partnerships include the construction and diagnostic furnishing of an advanced Child and Maternal Referral Centre Complex, sponsored entirely by TotalEnergies, and the establishment of a specialised Neurosurgical and Stroke Centre through the joint sponsorship of NNPC and TotalEnergies. Northwest Petroleum and Gas Company Limited has also supported the comprehensive renovation and remodelling of the Female Orthopaedic Ward.

The administration has equally facilitated 24-hour pharmacy services through private-sector partnership, while continuing to strengthen clinical services and institutional research capacity through collaborative arrangements.

Research and innovation occupy an important place in Prof. Ikpeme's institutional development strategy. His administration has revived and strengthened the Calabar Institute of Tropical Diseases Research and Prevention, repositioning it as an autonomous institute without bureaucratic controls that could impede its operations.

The hospital has also developed partnerships with the Federal Ministry of Health and other reputable organisations to promote research into malaria, maternal and child health, prostate cancer and other critical health concerns. UCTH is one of two national sites participating in the Gates Foundation-supported CHAMPS project. It is also involved in the PRISMA, MAD CAP and HEROES-1 projects. These collaborations provide opportunities to strengthen clinical research, institutional learning and contributions to public health interventions.

Meanwhile, the administration has demonstrated an interest in exploring the hospital's business potential as another means of supporting institutional sustainability. This led to the creation and registration of UCTH Consult Services, which is currently involved in the in-house production of hospital lotions, antiseptics and spirits. The activation of the institution's alumni network has also been pursued to support the expansion of specialised services.

For Prof. Ikpeme, improving healthcare delivery must also involve making essential and specialist services accessible to people across different socioeconomic backgrounds. His administration encourages patients to register with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) to improve access to healthcare financing. It also operates a waiver system for deserving individuals who face financial difficulties. Importantly, patients presenting with emergencies are stabilised before payment for services is requested. This policy reflects the hospital's responsibility to prioritise immediate medical attention and ensure that financial constraints do not prevent emergency stabilisation.

Despite the progress recorded, the CMD acknowledges that funding constraints and ageing infrastructure remain significant operational challenges. His administration is addressing these concerns through improved internally generated revenue, technology-driven efficiency, better staff management and prudent allocation of available resources to priority projects. Continuous renovation, remodelling and refitting also remain necessary to maintain existing facilities and improve the hospital's physical environment.

The leadership philosophy guiding these interventions combines transformational, democratic and coaching principles, supported by considerable hands-on involvement. Rather than relying exclusively on administrative directives, Prof. Ikpemeemphasises participation, institutional responsibility and practical engagement in achieving organisational objectives.



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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

PROF. WASIU LANRE ADEYEMO: ADVANCING LUTH TOWARDS QUATERNARY HEALTHCARE THROUGH INNOVATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXCELLENCE

With an illustrious career in oral and maxillofacial surgery, genetics, medical research and academic leadership, Prof. Wasiu Lanre Adeyemo has established himself as one of Nigeria's distinguished medical professionals. As the Chief Medical Director, Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), he is leading efforts to strengthen specialist healthcare delivery, expand medical research, improve institutional infrastructure and position the hospital for a new phase of medical excellence. His administration is driven by an ambitious vision to elevate LUTH beyond conventional tertiary healthcare into a quaternary medical institution capable of delivering highly specialised and advanced treatments.



Established in 1962 by the Federal Government, LUTH has evolved into one of Nigeria's foremost tertiary healthcare institutions and the principal teaching hospital of the University of Lagos. Over its 64 years of existence, the institution has played significant roles in medical education, specialist training, research and clinical services. Today, it continues to serve thousands of patients while producing skilled healthcare professionals for Nigeria and beyond.

Reflecting on his vision for the institution, Prof. Adeyemo explained that his administration is determined to take LUTH beyond its traditional tertiary healthcare mandate. Having spent almost two decades at the institution, he understands its historical challenges, achievements and enormous potential. His objective is to position the hospital as a quaternary healthcare centre through advanced medical procedures, specialised treatment facilities, research and strategic partnerships.

A significant demonstration of this ambition is LUTH's pioneering bone marrow transplantation programme for patients with sickle cell disease. Since the commencement of the initiative, the hospital has successfully conducted six procedures, with preparations underway to accommodate more patients. The programme, undertaken in collaboration with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Nigeria, receives additional support through partnerships involving Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, United States, and collaborators in the United Kingdom. The Lagos State Government has also supported the development of the hospital's bone marrow transplantation centre.

According to the CMD, LUTH is currently the only public hospital in Nigeria offering this specialised treatment, which provides eligible patients with an opportunity to pursue a potential cure for sickle cell disease. The development represents a significant advancement in the country's capacity to manage complex medical conditions locally.

Another major pillar of the administration's achievements is the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority-LUTH Cancer Centre, established on February 19, 2019, and commissioned by former President Muhammadu Buhari. Designed as a public-private partnership and initially conceived as a proof-of-concept project, the centre has become a major referral destination for cancer treatment in Nigeria and the West African subregion.

At inception, the country faced severe limitations in functional cancer treatment equipment. However, the centre has demonstrated the feasibility of establishing and sustaining advanced cancer treatment facilities through strategic government investment and institutional partnerships. It is equipped with three linear accelerators, a brachytherapy machine, CT simulators and other specialised equipment, supported by experienced medical professionals.

The centre has attended to thousands of patients, with the CMD reporting nearly 15,000 patients served. Its operational efficiency is equally noteworthy, with equipment downtime reportedly maintained below five per cent. The success of the facility has informed the Federal Government's decision to replicate similar cancer treatment centres across the six geopolitical zones, an initiative aimed at improving access to cancer care nationwide.

LUTH has also strengthened its specialist services through the establishment of a purpose-built Centre of Excellence in Dermatology at its Harvey Road Annex, Yaba. The three-storey facility provides specialised medical, surgical and cosmetic dermatology services, alongside rheumatology and teledermatology. Beyond clinical services, it supports specialist training and research, expanding the institution's capacity to address various skin-related conditions.

In another significant development, the hospital commissioned a modern three-storey Directly Observed Therapy Centre for tuberculosis treatment in August 2025. Named after a former CMD, Professor Christopher Bode, the facility is designed to strengthen tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment, patient management and infection control.

Similarly, LUTH's blood banking services have received considerable attention through the introduction of advanced apheresis technology and the acquisition of the IH-500 Immunohaematology System in June 2026. The hospital became the first healthcare provider in Nigeria and West Africa to acquire the specialised equipment. Its automated capabilities support blood grouping, crossmatching, and antigen and antibody identification, improving transfusion safety for patients, donors and newborns.

Infrastructure renewal has remained another central priority of the Prof. Adeyemo administration. Recognising the need to modernise the hospital's ageing facilities, the Federal Government has provided funding for the renovation and construction of critical infrastructure. Among the landmark projects is the newly completed outpatient complex, featuring 256 consulting rooms across various medical specialties. The state-of-the-art facility, one of the largest of its kind in Nigeria, is designed to accommodate consultations across medicine, surgery, dentistry, pharmacy and other specialties. Its completion marks a significant milestone in LUTH's infrastructure development, providing expanded capacity for patient consultations, improving access to specialist services and enhancing the overall efficiency of healthcare delivery.

To ensure seamless connectivity between the new complex and other sections of the hospital, a skywalk is also being constructed across the major road separating the facilities. The project received support through the Federal Government, with the intervention of the Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila.

Beyond the outpatient complex, the hospital has a 60-bed cancer ward designed to complement its outpatient cancer centre and accommodate patients requiring admission. It also operates a 30-bed intensive care unit provided by the Federal Government. A specialised 60-bedoncology ward, donated by Mama Iyabo Attah in memory of her daughter, further strengthens its capacity to provide cancer care for children and adults.

The hospital has equally benefited from private-sector and individual contributions. One notable intervention is its state-of-the-art physiotherapy centre, donated by the family of Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Wole Olanipekun. The facility provides modern rehabilitation services and strengthens LUTH's capacity to manage patients requiring specialised physical therapy.

Power supply, which remains essential to the uninterrupted operation of a major teaching hospital, has also received significant attention. According to Prof. Adeyemo, his administration recognised early that the Federal Government alone could not meet all the institution's infrastructure needs. Consequently, management intensified engagement with individuals, corporate organisations, religious institutions and other development partners.

Through these interventions, LUTH has installed approximately 600 kilowatts of solar capacity across different sections of the hospital. The installations provide alternative electricity for essential clinical and administrative operations. The Federal Government is also supporting the provision of an additional two-megawatt solar power system.

He explained that the hospital has made it a policy to incorporate solar inverter systems into every new building before commissioning. The objective is to reduce dependence on the national grid and ensure uninterrupted power for critical medical services.

In improving operational efficiency, the administration has also prioritised digital transformation through the expansion of its electronic medical records system. Recognising the limitations of manual record-keeping in a 1,050-bed institution, management has deployed fibre-optic infrastructure and electronic medical record facilities across several departments.

Patient accessibility has also informed improvements to the hospital's physical environment. LUTH currently operates 14 functional elevators, while new facilities incorporate ramps to accommodate patients with mobility challenges. The administration is particularly mindful of the institution's electricity challenges and the need to ensure that patients can access different sections of the hospital even when power supply is interrupted.

On the question of affordability and equitable access to healthcare, Prof. Adeyemo acknowledged that medical treatment requires substantial financial resources. Although the Federal Government provides significant support for infrastructure, patients still have financial responsibilities for many services. However, he stressed that LUTH does not reject patients requiring emergency medical attention, in accordance with government policy.

The hospital continues to explore ways of supporting vulnerable patients through assistance from individuals, organisations and other benefactors. He also encouraged wider participation in the National Health Insurance Scheme, noting that health insurance remains an important mechanism for improving access to healthcare and reducing the financial burden on patients.

Despite its achievements, LUTH continues to contend with challenges, particularly electricity costs and the migration of healthcare professionals. Prof. Adeyemo expressed concern over the declining number of applicants for residency training compared with previous years, attributing the trend partly to the attraction of better remuneration and working conditions abroad.

He maintained that improving the welfare of healthcare professionals requires competitive salaries that reflect their training, responsibilities and prevailing economic realities. According to him, retaining skilled medical personnel is essential because Nigeria invests considerable resources in training doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical laboratory scientists and other healthcare professionals.

Beyond clinical service delivery, LUTH continues to distinguish itself through medical education and research. As the principal teaching hospital of the University of Lagos, it provides clinical training for medical, dental, physiotherapy, radiology, nursing and medical laboratory science students.

The institution also operates approximately eight specialised schools, including the College of Nursing Sciences, School of Midwifery, School of Post-Basic Nursing, School of Health Information Management, School of Community Health, School of Psychiatry and Social Work, Anaesthetic Technicians' School and Federal School of Biomedical Engineering. Collectively, these institutions graduate an average of 500 healthcare professionals annually.

Research remains equally important to its institutional mandate. Prof. Adeyemo disclosed that researchers associated with LUTH and the University of Lagos have conducted more than 3,000 research studies within the last four years, with over 4,000 research publications produced. The administration continues to encourage scientific investigation, specialist training, academic conferences and research opportunities for resident doctors.

For him, effective leadership requires accessibility, accountability and direct engagement with the people responsible for delivering healthcare. He operates an open-door policy and embraces the management philosophy of 'management by wandering around', which involves regularly visiting hospital wards, clinics, theatres and other operational departments to understand challenges and address them directly.

He believes that the real measure of a hospital's effectiveness lies in the quality of services delivered to patients rather than the activities within the administrative offices. His administration also places emphasis on transparency, prudent resource management and anti-corruption practices, particularly given the institution's enormous financial and operational responsibilities.

Looking ahead, Prof. Adeyemo is determined to consolidate LUTH's progress through sustainable specialist programmes. Among his priorities are establishing sustainable renal transplantation and open-heart surgery services, while extending the electronic medical records system across the entire hospital. These initiatives are expected to strengthen the institution's capacity to manage increasingly complex medical conditions.

Ultimately, Prof. WasiuLanre Adeyemo hopes to be remembered as the Chief Medical Director who transformed LUTH from a conventional tertiary institution into a leading quaternary healthcare centre. His administration's investments in advanced medical procedures, specialist facilities, research, digital technology and infrastructure reflect an ambitious commitment to improving healthcare delivery.



One of the 3-Linear Accelerator at Medserve-LUTH Cancer Centre



New Look LUTH



A 256-Consulting Rooms Outpatient Clinic



CT-Simulator at Medserve-LUTH Cancer Centre

The Guardian
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OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

ABUTH RECORDS MAJOR STRIDES IN SPECIALISED HEALTHCARE, INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND MEDICAL ADVANCEMENT UNDER PROF. AHMED UMDAGAS HAMIDU

At a time when Nigeria's tertiary healthcare institutions are confronted with increasing patient demands, ageing infrastructure and the need for advanced medical services, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria, is pursuing a comprehensive institutional transformation under the leadership of Professor Ahmed UmdagasHamidu. Since assuming office as Chief Medical Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer on May 12, 2019, Prof. Hamidu has focused on strengthening the hospital's clinical capacity, modernising its facilities, expanding specialised services and developing a workforce capable of meeting the country's growing healthcare needs.

With a vision to position ABUTH as a centre of excellence and a leading tertiary healthcare institution in Nigeria, comparable to international standards, his administration has embarked on several initiatives aimed at delivering quality, specialised, prompt, affordable and accessible healthcare. For him, the essence of hospital administration goes beyond providing medical treatment. It involves creating an environment where patients receive care with dignity, irrespective of their social or economic circumstances, while ensuring that the institution remains strong in medical education, research and professional development.

A Professor of Radiology, Consultant Neuroradiologist and Women Imaging Specialist, Prof.Hamidu brings extensive clinical, academic and international experience to his administrative responsibilities. He obtained his MBBS degree from the University of Maiduguri in 1991 and completed his housemanship at Borno State Specialist Hospital, Maiduguri, followed by the mandatory National Youth Service. Between 1994 and 1995, he worked at Nursing Home, Maiduguri, before commencing residency training in Radiology at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital. He completed the programme in April 2001 and obtained the Fellowship of the West African College of Surgeons.

His quest for wider professional exposure subsequently took him to KrankenhausLainz, Vienna, Austria, where he undertook a six-month clinical attachment. He later worked as a Specialist Consultant Radiologist at London Hospital, Kuwait, between 2002 and 2003, before joining Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in November 2003.

At ABU, he built a distinguished career in clinical practice, teaching and research, while contributing significantly to the development of the university's Radiology Department and residency training programme. Under his contributions, the programme attained five-year accreditation by the relevant postgraduate colleges and produced more than 25 consultants now practising in Nigeria and abroad. This experience in developing specialist medical capacity has remained a defining influence on his leadership philosophy at ABUTH.

One of the most significant areas of attention under his administration has been the modernisation of the hospital's infrastructure and the expansion of its capacity to provide specialised medical services. Explaining the scale of these interventions, Prof. Hamidu noted that his priorities have included the renovation and development of critical facilities, procurement of modern equipment and improvement of clinical services across different departments.

Among the major projects is the renovation of the old Accident and Emergency Block and the development of a new Accident and Emergency facility from the former Administrative Block. The hospital also expanded its emergency-care capacity from 70 to 100 patients and developed a Trauma Centre to strengthen its ability to respond to emergencies and life-threatening conditions. Its bed capacity has equally increased from approximately 750 to more than 1,000, providing additional capacity to accommodate the growing number of patients.

The hospital's diagnostic capabilities have also received a considerable boost through the construction of an MRI suite, complete with offices and ultrasound rooms, as well as the modification of its CT room and installation of a 128-slice CT scanner supported by a 120KVA uninterruptible power supply (UPS). These investments have strengthened its ability to investigate and manage complex medical conditions.

Another important development is the establishment of an Oncology Treatment Centre, complemented by the procurement of molecular laboratory equipment to improve specialised investigations and cancer-related services. The hospital has also established a Pharmacy Quality Control Laboratory, described in its achievement records as one of the best in sub-Saharan Africa, alongside a product production and sales unit.

Prof.Hamidu further highlighted the expansion of specialised services through the procurement and installation of equipment for the Ophthalmology and Urology departments. The introduction of laser treatment services at the Urology Centre has broadened the hospital's treatment options, while the development of urology, cancer and IVF-related services has strengthened its range of specialist care.

Maternal and paediatric healthcare have equally benefited from targeted investments. The labour unit was rehabilitated and equipped, while the paediatric ward was furnished and equipped to improve the quality of care provided to children. In addition, the construction of 48 apartments for staff on call has addressed an important aspect of staff welfare, particularly for medical personnel whose responsibilities require them to remain available for emergencies.

To improve accessibility within the hospital, lifts were repaired and ramps constructed to facilitate patient movement, including transfers to the theatres. These projects form part of the administration's wider commitment to improving the hospital environment and making healthcare services more accessible.

Beyond infrastructure, the CMD has placed considerable emphasis on reducing the financial barriers associated with specialised treatment, particularly cancer care. In February 2026, ABUTH inaugurated the Oncology Patient Navigation Programme in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) and Roche. The programme is designed to support patients as they navigate cancer diagnosis and treatment, helping them access appropriate healthcare services.

The hospital also participates in the National Cancer Health Fund (NCHF) Programme, which provides free cancer-care support to eligible indigent patients who meet the programme's requirements. Another important intervention is the Niraparib clinical trial for ovarian cancer patients, under which eligible participants receive the study treatment free of charge in accordance with the approved research protocol. These initiatives complement the development of the Oncology Treatment Centre and reflect the hospital's commitment to improving access to specialised cancer care.

For Prof. Hamidu, however, the development of a teaching hospital cannot be measured exclusively by its buildings, equipment and clinical services. Its ability to train competent health professionals and contribute to medical research is equally important. This explains his administration's emphasis on workforce development, professional advancement and research capacity.

The hospital's stewardship records indicate that 336 personnel benefited from in-service training between 2019 and 2022. The breakdown shows that 74 staff members received training in 2019, 40 in 2020, 155 in 2021 and 67 in 2022. The broader achievement profile also records more than 460 staff trained locally and internationally, 536 personnel promoted and 518 professionals recruited in 2025.

These investments are particularly important at a time when tertiary hospitals must contend with increasing patient volumes and shortages of skilled healthcare professionals. By strengthening the capacity of its workforce, ABUTH is better positioned to sustain its expanding clinical services and fulfil its responsibilities in medical education.

Research has also remained an important component of the administration's agenda. Collaboration with the African Centre of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), alongside the strengthening of the Health Research Ethics Committee (HREC), supports efforts to promote ethical research and evidence-informed healthcare. The hospital's investments in advanced imaging equipment, molecular laboratory facilities and specialised treatment services also provide a stronger foundation for clinical research and advanced medical practice.

In another significant institutional development, the hospital has embraced digital transformation through the introduction of hospital-wide Electronic Medical Record (EMR) digitisation. The initiative is intended to improve patient documentation, continuity of care, access to medical information and administrative efficiency. The adoption of Electronic Health Records (EHR) has also helped address revenue leakages and improve internally generated revenue.

According to the hospital's stewardship records, internally generated revenue across the listed departments amounted to N1,083,044,799.55 between 2019 and 2022. The administration has continued to pursue digitalisation across various units as part of efforts to strengthen financial accountability and improve operational efficiency.

Patient satisfaction and institutional accountability have also received attention. Complaint booths were established at different locations within the hospital, while the Hospital SERVICOM Charter was updated to strengthen service-delivery standards. SERVICOM awareness workshops were organised, identification materials were provided for SERVICOM stakeholders and hotlines in the Emergency Units were reactivated to improve communication with patients.

Customer surveys were introduced to identify patients' complaints, needs and expectations, enabling management to obtain feedback and address areas requiring improvement. Regular activities of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) have equally reinforced the administration's emphasis on integrity, transparency and accountability.

On the challenges confronting the hospital, Prof. Hamidu identified ageing infrastructure and medical equipment as major concerns. He explained that prolonged usage has contributed to the deterioration of facilities, adversely affecting service delivery, training and research. The situation is compounded by inadequate budgetary provisions from the Federal Government for equipment procurement and infrastructure development.

He also identified insufficient funding for manpower training, the high cost of rehabilitating existing facilities and the rising prices of medical consumables as significant constraints. Increasing electricity and water tariffs have further added to the financial pressure on the institution.

The shortage of personnel presents another major challenge. According to him, the hospital's staff strength has declined considerably due to retirement, transfers and deaths. The Federal Government's recruitment embargo, despite the growth in population and the increasing number of patients seeking medical attention, has made it difficult to replace departing personnel.

Responding to these challenges, he explained that his administration has continued to pursue infrastructure renewal, equipment procurement and expansion of clinical services despite the substantial costs involved. Given the daily influx of patients from within and outside the country, the hospital has also explored Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements to improve its capacity to meet healthcare demands. The administration has additionally sought and obtained approval to recruit essential personnel to complement the existing workforce.

On financial sustainability, Prof.Hamiduemphasised the importance of electronic health records in reducing revenue leakages and improving internally generated revenue. This approach has helped strengthen the hospital's financial management and support its operational requirements.

Environmental sustainability has also featured in the administration's development plans. The provision of sewage reticulation and a sewage treatment plant represents an important improvement in the hospital's utility infrastructure. The proposed upgrade of the treatment system to support biogas generation is expected to further strengthen waste management and explore alternative energy recovery.

Beyond the projects and institutional reforms, Prof. Hamidu's leadership philosophy is anchored on service, accountability, transparency, teamwork, consultation, innovation and a commitment to patient and staff welfare. He recognises that the progress of a teaching hospital depends on the collective contributions of management, healthcare professionals, government, development partners, professional bodies and the host community.

Acknowledging the support of these stakeholders, he maintains that institutional development is a continuous process and that the achievements recorded under his administration reflect the dedication of hospital personnel and the contributions of government and partners. His role, he explains, has been to provide direction and work collaboratively towards strengthening the hospital's infrastructure, clinical services, workforce, research environment and governance systems.

Looking ahead, his aspiration is to leave behind an institution with stronger infrastructure, improved diagnostic and treatment capabilities, a more skilled workforce, a strengthened research environment and responsive administrative systems. He remains committed to developing ABUTH into a leading tertiary healthcare institution that delivers accessible, affordable and specialised medical services, trains competent health professionals and contributes meaningfully to medical research.



Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Nigeria

Zulum Pledges Robust Security To Boost Trade, Livelihoods In Borno

From **Njadvara Musa**, Maiduguri

BORNO State Governor, Babagana Zulum, has pledged support to strengthen security along the 135-kilometre Maiduguri–Mafa–Dikwa–Ngala road to ensure safe movement and revive trade in communities recovering from 17 years of insurgency.

Zulum gave the assurance on Friday during a visit to the headquarters of the 24 Task Force Brigade in Dikwa Local Council, where he met the Brigade Commander, Brig.- Gen. Aminu Gumel.

"My visit is primarily aimed at exploring measures to strengthen security along the strategic economic corridor, which connects Maiduguri to several communities in eastern Borno and serves as a vital route for trade, transportation and cross-border commercial activities," he said.

He said the road links several communities to markets and facilitates the movement of agricultural produce, essential commodities and other goods.

The governor said improved security along the route would enable residents to travel safely, engage in trade and rebuild their livelihoods.

Sustain Investments In Youth Empowerment, Erhumwunse Urges Lagos Govt

By **Silver Nwokoro**

LAGOS State Government and other stakeholders have been charged to sustain investments in youth empowerment initiatives to address unemployment, poverty and economic exclusion among young people.

The National Director of SOS Children's Villages Nigeria, Eghosa Erhumwunse, made the call at the close-out ceremony of the Empowering Lagos Youth (ELY) Project.

Erhumwunse said the project, which commenced in January 2025, was designed to equip young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with vocational and entrepreneurial skills to enable them to secure sustainable livelihoods.

He described young people as the foundation of Lagos State and Nigeria, noting that the project had helped change perceptions about youths by demonstrating their capacity to become responsible leaders and contributors to society.

He expressed appreciation to the Lagos State government, particularly the ministries involved, as well as development partners and other stakeholders, for supporting the initiative.

\Erhumwunse said that collaboration between government institutions, organisations and communities remained essential to achieving sustainable development.

He commended the collaboration between men and women in advancing women's empowerment, while highlighting the role of the Ministry of Women Affairs in promoting inclusive development.

He urged the government and other stakeholders to ensure that the gains recorded through the project were sustained, adding that effective project management and continued investment in young people were necessary to reduce poverty.

Representing the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, the Head of Service of the ministry, Mr. Tunji Akeusola, said the ceremony was organised to celebrate the achievements of the project and recognise the commitment of its beneficiaries.

Mayweather-Floyd Fight: $5,000 Prize Awaits Nigerian Fans Ahead Of Thailand Bout

NIGERIAN boxing fans have a chance to win $5,000 in a cash prize draw as promoters of the December 19 exhibition bout between boxing legend Floyd "Money" Mayweather and Australian light heavyweight fighter Matt "The Jedi" Floyd intensify preparations for the showdown in Bangkok, Thailand.

The promotional campaign, spearheaded by Front Row Fight Series, TMT Africa and Floyd Mayweather Promotions, has brought the organisers to Nigeria to engage boxing enthusiasts and expand the bout's global reach.

Front Row Fight Series Chief Executive Officer, Keane Anis, is leading the promotional team.

Under the initiative, fans who purchase Pay-Per-View (PPV) access to the event through the designated promotional portal will be eligible to participate in the $5,000 prize draw, subject to the official terms and eligibility conditions.

The organisers fixed November 16, 2026, as the deadline for participation.

Speaking during an interview in Abuja, Mayweather said his visit to Nigeria and Africa was driven by a desire to inspire the continent's youth and give back to the people, noting that the love and support he had received from African fans remained invaluable to his career.

"If Floyd Mayweather can do it, you guys can do it too," he said.

The former world champion, who is widely regarded as one of boxing's greatest defensive fighters, said Africa possessed enormous talent and resources, adding that the continent's music, people and culture made it a special destination.

He expressed his desire to return, connect with his roots and identify emerging boxing talents capable of making their mark on the global stage.

On his investment plans in Africa, particularly in the mining sector, Mayweather said his interest was not solely driven by profit but also by the need to empower communities and ensure that the people benefited from their natural resources.

He stressed that giving back to the people remained an important part of his engagement with the continent.

The undefeated boxing icon also urged African youths to remain focused, believe in their abilities and pursue their dreams, while calling on fans to tune in to the December 19 exhibition in Thailand.

Mayweather said his opponent was in top shape ahead of the contest, while expressing appreciation to his supporters worldwide, especially those across Africa, for their unwavering loyalty.

PLEROMA WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

Notice is hereby given that the above-named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Abuja, for registration under Part F of CAMA 2020.

Trustees:

1. **Olusegun Olulana** - Chairman
2. **Olaide Olulana** - Secretary

Aims and Objectives:

1. To empower women through vocational training, entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, mentorship, and access to micro-credit resources.

2. To promote emotional wellness, mental health awareness, and psychological well-being through counseling, support groups, self-care workshops, and therapeutic resources.

3. To provide support for women facing trauma, abuse, or economic hardship, helping them rebuild self-esteem, confidence, and resilience.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED:
OLAIDE OLULANA
Secretary

TheGuardian
Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP: SPECIAL FOCUS ON EXCEPTIONAL CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTORS TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY IN NIGERIA

PROF. CHITURU ORLUWENE: REDEFINING LEADERSHIP AND RESTORING UPTH'S PRIDE OF PLACE

For Prof. Chituru Godwill Orluwene, leading the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Rivers State, represents more than occupying an executive position. It is an opportunity to give back to an institution that shaped his professional journey and to strengthen its capacity to deliver quality healthcare, medical education and research. Since his appointment as Chief Medical Director (CMD) in December 2025, Prof. Orluwene has embarked on an institutional repositioning agenda anchored on improved infrastructure, patient-centred care, staff development and administrative efficiency.

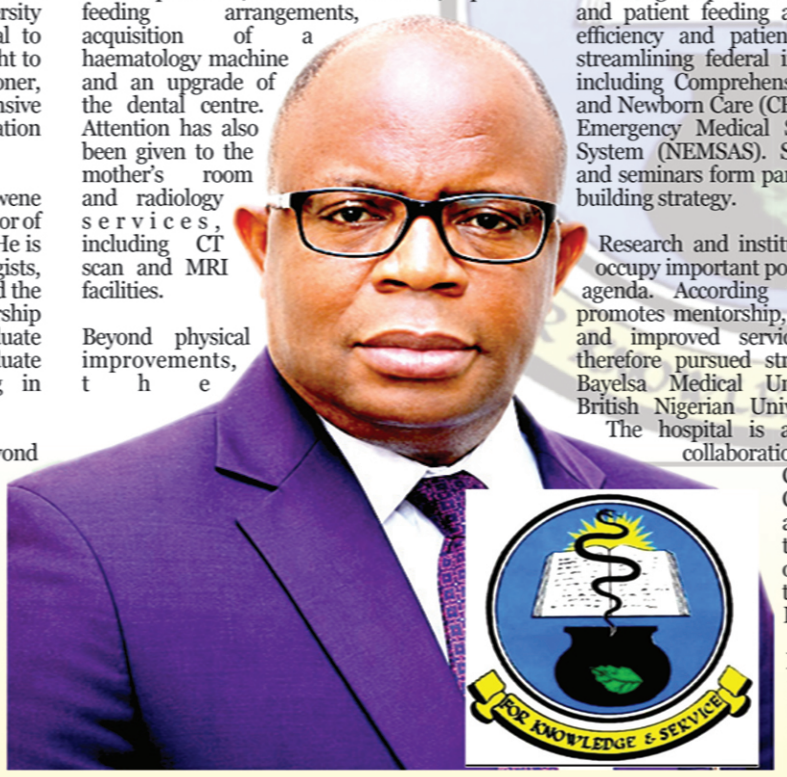
Appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, he became the eighth Chief Medical Director of UPTH and the first alumnus of both the University of Port Harcourt and its teaching hospital to occupy the position. His appointment brought to the institution a seasoned medical practitioner, academic and administrator with extensive experience in clinical practice, medical education and public-sector leadership.

A Professor of Chemical Pathology, Prof. Orluwene holds Bachelor of Medical Science and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees. He is a Fellow of the Medical College of Pathologists, the Institute of Corporate Administration and the Institute of Public Management and Leadership Development. He also completed postgraduate medical training at the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, specialising in Chemical Pathology.

His leadership experience extends beyond UPTH. As Provost of the College of Medical Sciences at Rivers State University, he played a significant role in establishing the medical college. He subsequently served as Chairman of the Committee of Provosts of Colleges of Medicine in Nigeria and Senior Special Adviser on Health to the Rivers State administration during the period of emergency rule.

With this background, his vision for UPTH is to restore the institution to its rightful position as a leading tertiary healthcare centre, fully delivering on its three fundamental responsibilities of healthcare delivery, medical training and research. His administration has consequently prioritised staff welfare, patient-centred service delivery, capacity building, institutional partnerships, stakeholder engagement and infrastructural development.

One of the most visible areas of intervention has been infrastructure. The hospital has recorded improvements in electricity supply, with 24-hour power provision, resurfacing of access roads and the modernisation of its Accident and Emergency (A&E) unit and boardroom. Clinical improvements include a facelift for the A&E department, ambulance services, inpatient feeding arrangements, acquisition of a haematology machine and an upgrade of the dental centre. Attention has also been given to the mother's room and radiology services, including CT scan and MRI facilities.



Beyond physical improvements, the administration has pursued institutional reforms aimed at strengthening operations. Two schools have undergone restructuring, while a special ambulance unit has been established. Environmental sanitation has received attention through regular fumigation, improved sewage disposal, repairs to waste plants and general environmental maintenance. The administrative block has also been repainted, alongside other aesthetic improvements.

Recognising that quality healthcare requires effective systems, Prof. Orluwene has strengthened accountability and daily service-performance monitoring. His administration is reviewing hospital charges, treatment processes and patient feeding arrangements to improve efficiency and patient experience. It is also streamlining federal intervention programmes, including Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEMONC) and the National Emergency Medical Services and Ambulance System (NEMSAS). Staff training, workshops and seminars form part of the broader capacity-building strategy.

Research and institutional collaboration also occupy important positions in his development agenda. According to the CMD, research promotes mentorship, innovation, collaboration and improved service delivery. UPTH has therefore pursued strategic partnerships with Bayelsa Medical University, Yenagoa, and British Nigerian University, Asa, Abia State. The hospital is also developing research collaboration with the Peter Odili Cancer and Cardiovascular Centre, while a linkage arrangement has facilitated the affiliation of its College of Nursing Sciences with the University of Port Harcourt.

For patients who struggle to meet medical expenses, the hospital provides support through an indigent patient fund and management intervention on outstanding bills. The administration is also strengthening the implementation of federal intervention programmes, particularly CEMONC, to improve access to essential healthcare services.

However, the CMD acknowledges that significant challenges remain. These include obsolete equipment, inadequate office space, shortages of specialist personnel, outstanding contractor debts and insufficient funding. Administrative constraints such as skills gaps, bureaucratic bottlenecks and systemic weaknesses also require attention. In response, the hospital organised a strategic management retreat in June 2026, is exploring public-private partnership arrangements and has expanded staff development and motivation initiatives, including recognition awards and end-of-year celebrations.

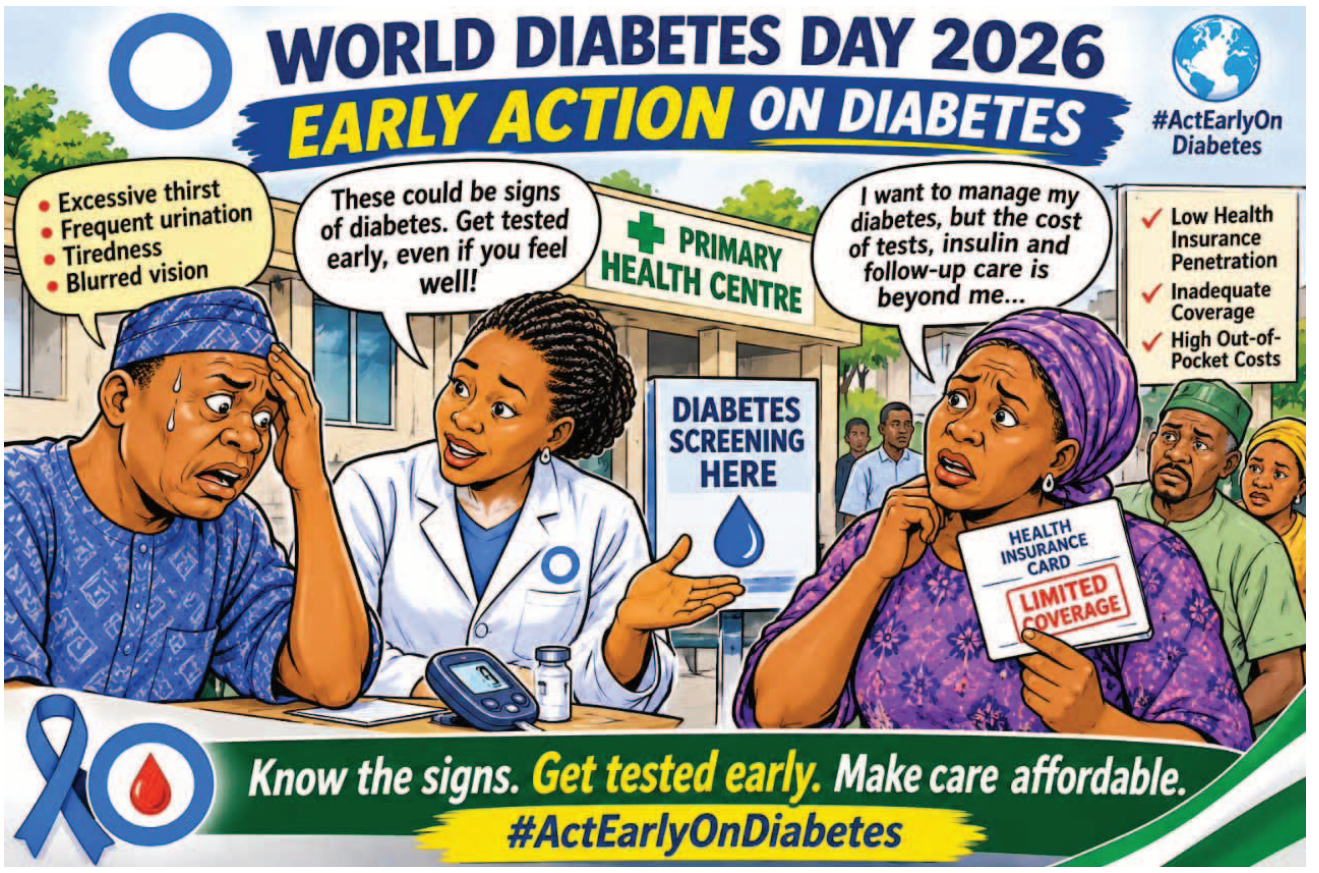
Other notable interventions include the introduction of computer-based testing for internship examinations and placement, the restructuring of the College of Nursing Sciences and the Institute of Health Science and Technology into distinct institutions, and strategic engagements with development partners. These include the University of Port Harcourt Energising Schools solar-power initiative, the Peter Odili Cancer and Cardiovascular Hospital training collaboration, the NDDC Oil and Gas building project, an OANDO backup-power project and Cinfores' involvement in securing internally generated revenue collections.

Prof. Orluwene's leadership philosophy rests on fairness, equity, humaneness, Christian faith, professionalism, sincerity, honesty and due process. He believes institutional leadership must be guided by integrity and a commitment to the welfare of both patients and staff.

His desired legacy isto leave UPTH significantly better than he met it in service delivery, fulfilment of its core mandate and public standing. He also points to improving public perception of the hospital, supported by renewed communication efforts and the launch of UPTH Health Post, its official newsletter.

World Diabetes Day: Insurance Gaps Fuel Late

As the world celebrates Diabetes Day on November 14, Nigerians living with the condition are confronting a painful reality. For many, staying alive has become an expensive daily struggle. With treatment bills running into hundreds of thousands of naira monthly, inadequate health insurance, medication shortages and rising living costs, patients are being forced to choose between their health and their families' survival, ***GBENGA SALAU*** *reports.*



IN Nigeria, the ability to receive medical treatment is often closely tied to the ability to pay for it. For a worker earning a modest salary, a trader struggling to sustain a business or a farmer dependent on seasonal income, an unexpected illness can upset the entire household's financial calculations.

The problem is compounded by the low penetration of health insurance, which leaves many Nigerians without a dependable financial safety net when illness strikes.

Consequently, families frequently resort to personal savings, assistance from relatives, loans and the sale of assets to meet medical expenses.

For those living with diabetes, the burden is particularly relentless. Every month brings another round of expenses for medication, insulin, laboratory tests and consultations, with no guarantee that the next prescription will be affordable.

When financial resources run out, some patients reduce their medication doses, skip investigations or compromise their nutrition, increasing their vulnerability to complications.

This is the difficult reality confronting Nigerians as the 2026 World Diabetes Day is celebrated.

Themed, 'Early Action on Diabetes', the campaign encapsulates how early diagnosis and timely intervention can improve health outcomes and reduce the long-term cost of care.

But in a country where healthcare financing remains heavily dependent on out-of-pocket payments, the experiences of affected Nigerians offer a sobering reminder that the country's struggle with diabetes is not merely a medical challenge; it is also a question of poverty, inequality and the failure of financial protection to keep pace with healthcare needs.

Speaking on the country's low health insurance contributing to late detection, diagnosis and effective management of diabetes, especially among the low income and vulnerable population in Nigeria, a Public Health Expert, Dr Jerome Mafeni, said there is low health insurance penetration, aside, there is insufficient coverage, which is the bigger challenge.

"Right now, the way the insurance coverage is designed, particularly the public health insurance, you will know that the coverage is not targeted at specific conditions. Rather, it's more for curative purpose, focusing more on primary and basic healthcare than on specific medical conditions. And that, for me, in itself, is the shortcoming of the health insurance scheme.

"But I guess that it is easier for the actuarial agents to more easily calculate, you know, what should be, the relevant amount that should be charged for providing care when it's focused on specific medical conditions.

"So, that's the bigger challenge. Therefore, what happens is that even those who are enjoying some form of health insurance coverage, which is very little compared to the entire population, do not get, maximum benefit for that coverage because of the way that the National Health Insurance Scheme is designed. As a consequence, they are still having to support with out-of-pocket expenses whatever little that their existing coverage provides," Mafeni stated.

For the second Vice President Diabetes Association of Nigeria and National Coordinator Network of persons living with Diabetes in Nigeria, Bernard Enyia, living with diabetes is not just a medical challenge, it is a relentless financial battle that follows him into every aspect of his family life.

Monthly, he spends about N150,000 for medication, another N15,000 for consultations and about N20,000 for laboratory tests and blood sugar monitoring.

Transportation takes another N15,000. In total, his routine monthly expenditure is about 200,000, excluding the additional costs of hospital admissions. So, when hospitalisation becomes necessary, the financial demands increase considerably.

But Enyia does not earn a regular salary. He relies on proceeds from his cocoa and small poultry farms, family support and honoraria received from diabetes medical outreaches to finance his treatment. Sometimes, he has to choose between purchasing his medication and meeting his children's school fees. At other times, he sells any of his personal items or borrows money at high interest to keep his treatment going.

Perhaps, the most troubling aspect of his experience is his admission that he sometimes skips or rations medication when money becomes unavailable.

"I sometimes sacrifice my children's school fees for treatment because I need to stay alive to take care of the family," he explained.

Enyia's experience is not an isolated account of individual hardship. It reflects a wider challenge confronting people living with diabetes in Nigeria, where the cost of managing a chronic condition can consume household resources, exhaust savings and push families into debt.

Diabetes is a chronic condition that occurs when the body cannot produce enough insulin or effectively use the insulin it produces.

Without proper management, persistently elevated blood glucose can damage vital organs and lead to serious complications, including kidney failure, blindness, cardiovascular disease, stroke and lower-limb amputation. The scale of the challenge is considerable. According to the International Diabetes Federation's 11th edition of the *Diabetes Atlas*, published in 2025, approximately 589 million adults aged 20–79 were living with diabetes worldwide in 2024. The figure is projected to rise to 853 million by 2050.

Nigeria is also facing a substantial burden. The IDF estimates that approximately 2.99 million Nigerian adults aged 20–79 were living with diabetes in 2024, representing an age-adjusted prevalence of about 3 per cent. More concerningly, an estimated 78.7 per cent of cases in Nigeria are undiagnosed, according to the Atlas.

This means that millions of people may be living with the condition without knowing it, potentially missing opportunities for early intervention and treatment.

The global picture is equally disturbing. The IDF estimates that diabetes was responsible for approximately 3.4 million deaths worldwide in 2024.

However, in Nigeria, the challenge does not end with diagnosis. For those who already know their status, the struggle to sustain treatment is increasingly becoming a test of financial endurance. For a consultant endocrinologist, Professor Femi Fasanmade, the financial difficulties confronting Nigerians living with diabetes are widespread, particularly among those without health insurance.

Although he acknowledged there are no specific estimates of the number of patients unable to afford consistent treatment, he described the situation as very common.

According to him, the average monthly cost of medication alone is approximately 100,000.

This is particularly worrying in a country where many households are already struggling with the rising cost of food, transportation, accommodation, education and other basic necessities.

The financial burden becomes even more complicated when patients require insulin, oral medications, regular laboratory investigations, specialist consultations and screening for complications.

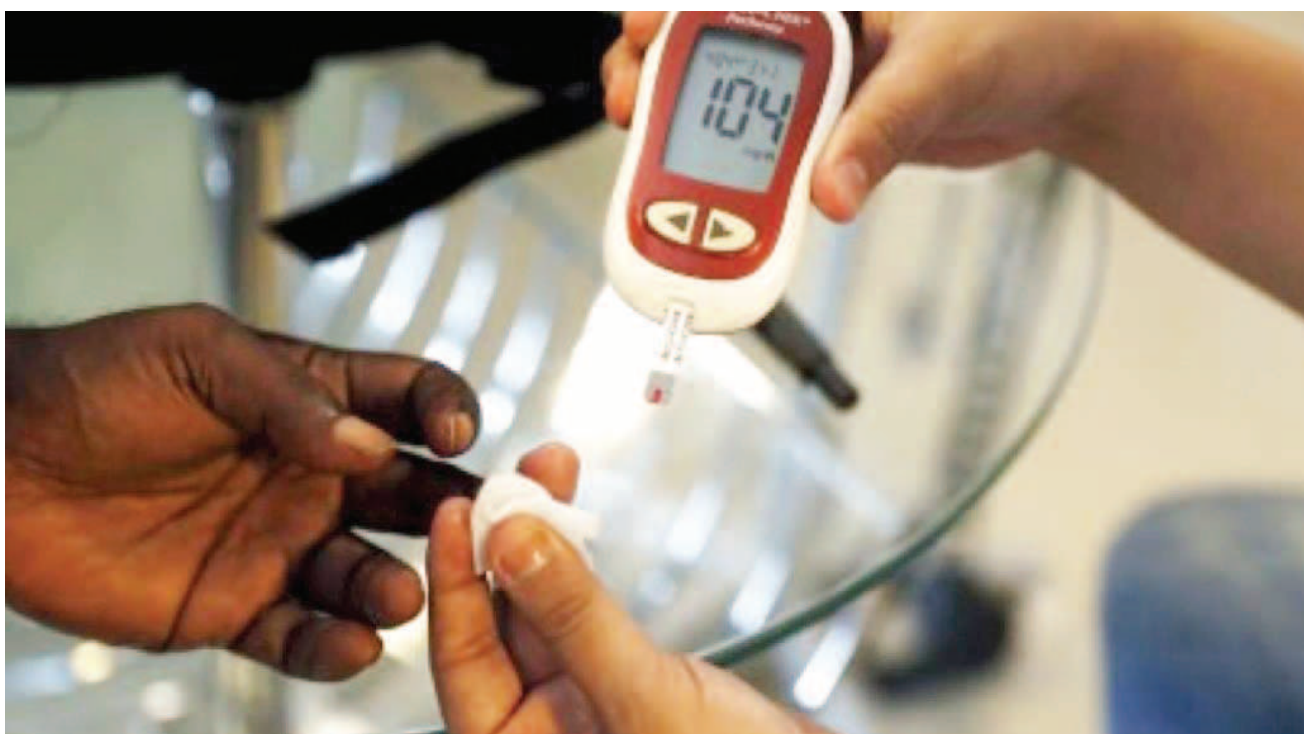
Fasanmade observed that many patients cannot afford the recommended laboratory investigations and therefore limit their monitoring to blood sugar tests.

This creates a dangerous gap in diabetes management because controlling blood glucose is only one component of comprehensive care.

Patients also require appropriate monitoring of kidney function, cholesterol levels, blood pressure, eye health and other indicators, depending on their clinical needs.

When financial limitations prevent these investigations, complications may go undetected until they become serious. This is why Mafeni said there are huge negative implications for paying out of pocket.

In his words: "When people are having to rely significantly on out-of-pocket expenses to pay for their medical care, the consequences are that, one, the care may not be optimal because the amount of resources available to spend out-of-pocket, to take care of one's, long-term medical needs, may be grossly insufficient. And so you



Diabetes Care, Deepen Financial Hardship

will find individuals looking for shortcuts. They may either buy the drugs in insufficient quantities. They may take them not according to doctor's prescription. They may look for alternative medical therapies that are said to work. So, they may go to a herbalist, a native doctor, and get roots and herbs as an alternative so as to be able to keep down their costs. And so the conditions themselves are not well-managed.

"Number two, because the conditions are not well-managed, the individuals will report plenty of sick time, going off work. They won't work optimally at whatever work or trade that they are engaged in because of the fact that they are not optimally healthy. And so that affects individual productivity and national productivity. And then, because they are also having to take monies out-of-pocket, monies that would otherwise have been used for family growth, such as paying for school fees, paying for home development, even feeding the family may be diverted because some of that resource is being used by individuals to try to stay alive.

"That has consequences on the children, on the larger family, and for the country because there is less that is saved in the system to use for development purposes. So individuals have very, very little savings and no cushion for when they are faced with the sudden shocks that require resources," Mafeni stated.

Speaking on the consequences on paying out of pocket on public health, Mafeni said: "For public health, primarily, the major consequence is that we will have the health facilities being overwhelmed with providing advanced care that could easily have been avoided. There will be the extra cost on the public sector for providing care, particularly when people have entered into complications and require either major surgery or major interventions to keep patients alive.

"There will be extra burden on the workforce, which is already very short and very constrained because they're doing so much more work than they should otherwise have been doing, and so it makes the system more inefficient. And so from a public perspective, the country will be burdened with spending so much more resource that could otherwise have been reprogrammed for other purposes."

Fasanmade said doctors encounter patients interrupting treatment or abandoning medical appointments because of financial difficulties almost daily. He identified poor treatment adherence as a major contributor to hospital admissions, warning that inadequate management can lead to stroke, kidney failure and foot gangrene.

For some patients, the financial demands of diabetes management have become so overwhelming that treatment competes directly with household survival.

Offum Matthew Akung spends between 35,000 and 40,000 monthly on diabetes medication alone. Although he is a beneficiary of the National Health Insurance Scheme, he said the arrangement has not provided the relief he expected because several of the medicines he requires are not covered.

As a result, he must find additional money to purchase them. He described his experience as terrible, explaining that he sometimes has to divert money meant for family upkeep towards medication. The financial pressure has also forced him to skip medication when he cannot afford it.

Also, Scholastica Onot Effiong faces a similar predicament. She spends approximately N135,000 or more every month on medication, laboratory investigations and insulin injections. The cost of monitoring her blood glucose has become particularly challenging. Effiong disclosed that she sometimes reduces the frequency of her fasting blood sugar tests, which she ordinarily needs to conduct three times weekly, because of the cost of test strips.

While admitting to reducing her insulin doses when she cannot afford the required treatment, Effiong said she has no savings. and sometimes, has to eat whatever food is available, rather than the food she would prefer for managing her condition.

Her experience illustrates how the cost of diabetes extends beyond medication to encompass nutrition, monitoring equipment, transportation and other essential aspects of daily living.

Fasanmade explained that the cost of care increases as patients develop more comorbidities.

This is understandable because someone managing diabetes alongside hypertension, cardiovascular disease or kidney complications will generally require more consultations, medications, investigations and specialised interventions.

Reason a professor of medicine, Obi Okoro, argued that a good healthcare system should ensure that most uncomplicated diabetes cases can be managed by general practitioners, with specialist care available when clinically necessary.

He also warned that inability to pay for necessary interventions can produce negative health outcomes, including premature deaths.

Okoro questioned whether all the expenses patients are required to bear in Nigeria are justified.

Nigeria's National Health Insurance Authority has a benefit package and an official drug list that includes several diabetes medicines, including different insulin preparations and oral medications such as metformin.

However, the existence of medicines on an official list does not automatically guarantee that every patient can obtain the specific medicine prescribed, in the required quantity, at the time it is needed.

Actual access depends on the applicable insurance package, provider arrangements, medicine availability and the implementation of the scheme.

Enyia's experience in Cross River State illustrates this implementation challenge. Enyia said he has little confidence in the effectiveness of the health insurance arrangement available to him because medicines are sometimes declared unavailable, leaving patients to purchase them from private outlets.

According to him, there is little incentive to enrol in an insurance programme that cannot reliably provide the medicines needed for treatment.

He also lamented that existing coverage does not adequately accommodate insulin and some other oral medications, forcing him to finance much of his treatment independently.

The concerns expressed by Enyia are supported by published research. A 2023 study published in the West African Journal of Medicine, examining healthcare utilisation among people with type 2 diabetes in Nigeria, provides an important insight into the limitations of existing financial protection.

The study involved 304 patients and found that only 34.2 per cent of the patients had health insurance. Approximately 46.8 per cent made additional payments for medicines outside their insurance coverage.

About 70.1 per cent had diabetes-related complications, nearly 19.7 per cent had been hospitalised because of diabetes-related complications within the preceding 12 months.

The researchers concluded that low insurance coverage and high out-of-pocket payments were major barriers to effective diabetes management in Nigeria.

These findings are particularly significant when considered alongside the experiences of Enyia, Akung and Effiong.

Also, an earlier Nigerian study published in 2016 also found that the average monthly expenditure on diabetes treatment among its study participants was approximately N56,245.

It reported that patients relied heavily on household savings and financial assistance from relatives, while some resorted to borrowing, skipping appointments and even interrupting their children's education to finance treatment.

According to Fasanmade, poor treatment adherence is a major reason patients are admitted to hospitals with complications that could potentially have been prevented or delayed through consistent management.

The World Health Organisation identifies diabetes as a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke and lower-limb amputation.

It also stresses that timely diagnosis, medication, lifestyle interventions and screening for complications can help prevent or delay many of these outcomes.

An important dimension of diabetes management that is often overlooked is nutrition. People living with diabetes are frequently advised to adopt healthier eating patterns, control carbohydrate intake, reduce excessive consumption of sugary foods and drinks, and maintain a balanced diet.

Effiong's admission that she sometimes eats whatever food is available because she cannot afford the food she needs highlights the contradiction between medical advice and economic reality. While financial access and health system deficiencies dominate the experiences of the patients interviewed, Okoro also emphasised the importance of individual responsibility in diabetes prevention and management.

He noted that diabetes has a genetic component, particularly in some populations, and argued that the condition can often be delayed or prevented in the case of type 2 diabetes through appropriate lifestyle interventions. He challenged people to take greater responsibility for their health through discipline, healthy living and adherence to medical advice.

Referring to former President Olusegun Obasanjo as an example of someone who has remained active and taken charge of his health, Okoro recalled the former president's controversial remark that only stupid people die of diabetes. However, this position raises an important question about the balance between personal responsibility and structural barriers.

While healthy eating, physical activity, weight management and adherence to prescribed treatment are important, they cannot replace access to affordable healthcare.

Fasanmade believed mandatory health insurance would make a significant difference. He argued that compulsory health insurance could protect families from the financial burden of raising money to treat complications that may arise when diabetes is poorly managed.

His position is consistent with the broader objective of universal health coverage, which seeks to ensure that people receive the healthcare they need without suffering financial hardship. However, mandatory enrolment alone will not solve the problem if the benefits are inadequate or medicines are unavailable.

Okoro's recommendation that basic diabetes care should be included in health insurance packages reinforces the need to prioritise essential services and ensure that patients receive appropriate treatment before complications become advanced.

Enyia believes government should explore alternative funding sources to support diabetes care.

One proposal he strongly supports is the passage and implementation of legislation increasing taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, with proceeds channelled into diabetes prevention and intervention programmes.

He argued that revenue generated from such taxation could provide government with additional resources to support patients and reduce the cost of treatment.

Enyia also called for diabetes intervention programmes to be properly captured in federal and state government budgets.

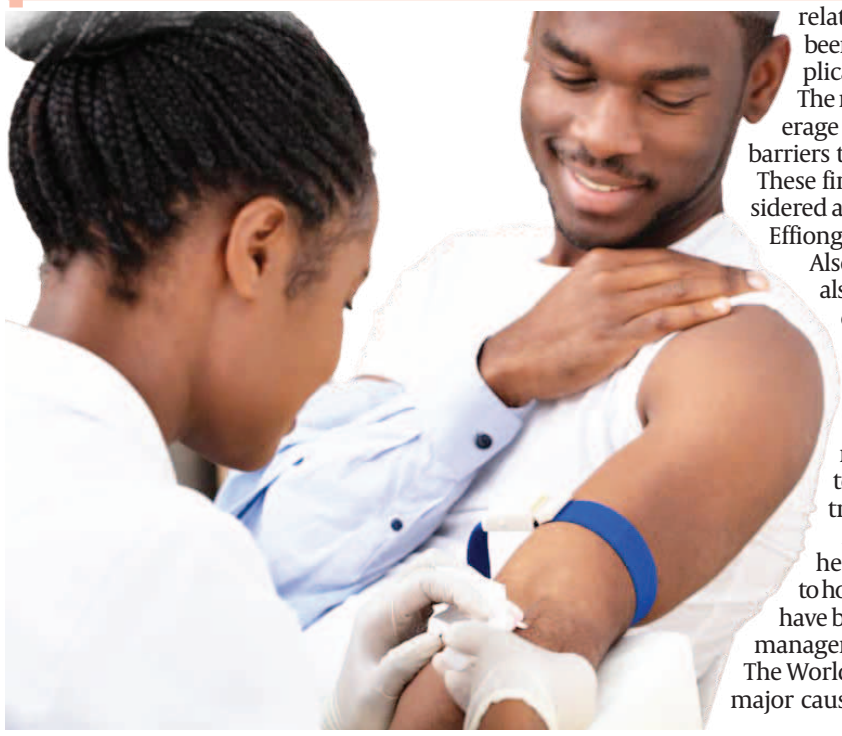
His argument is that diabetes should no longer be treated as a peripheral health issue that depends largely on individual charity, occasional medical outreaches or the goodwill of families. Instead, it should receive sustained public funding.

On interventions government should prioritise to ensure that people living with diabetes, especially those in the informal sector, can access affordable and uninterrupted healthcare regardless of their income or insurance status, Mafeni noted that though there is no care that is free anywhere in the world, government should subsidise treatment and management programmes for non-communicable diseases in general with a special focus on diabetes.

"If a government provides some of those subsidies, then individuals who are visiting facilities, because they know that the programmes are subsidized, they can visit a facility and receive, for example, free screening or screening at very subsidised prices.

They may either buy the drugs in insufficient quantities. They may take them not according to doctor's prescription. They may look for alternative medical therapies that are said to work. So, they may go to an herbalist, a native doctor, and get roots and herbs as an alternative so as to be able to keep down their costs. And so the conditions themselves are not well-managed.

When people rely significantly on out-of-pocket expenses to pay for their medical care, the consequences are that, one, the care may not be optimal because the amount of resources available to spend out-of-pocket, to take care of one's medical needs, may be grossly insufficient. And so you will find individuals looking for shortcuts.



Nigerian Firm, Delta Air In Row Over Alleged Breach Of Contract, Losses On Commodity

By **Sulaimon Salau**

AN indigenous agricultural exports firm, Jon TudyInterbiz Ltd, has challenged the management of Delta Air Lines Cargo Nigeria for alleged breach of contract and failed delivery of perishable cargo within a stipulated time.

The company said it has lost its consignment over the airline's failure to transport its perishable grounded Ogbono from Lagos, Nigeria, to Newark, United States of America, under Air Waybill No. 006-31303370 valued at N2,598,904.

The company noted that the consignment was taken to the company in good condition and the airline assured of safe delivery to the US.

The Chief Executive Officer, Jon TudyInterbiz Ltd and a former Chairman, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Small and Medium Scales Enterprise Group (SMEG), Mr. Jon TudyKachikwu, said the company has since sought a refund but alleged Delta Air Lines Cargo Nigeria failed to refund its payment.

He said the company wrote officially to the airline but failed to respond to the demands, seven months after.

Interswitch Showcases Innovation Driving Africa's Digital Economy At Summit

By **Sulaimon Salau**

INTERSWITCH has spotlighted its role in driving the evolution of Africa's payments ecosystem and strengthening the foundational infrastructure of the continent's digital economy.

Showcasing these innovations at Moonshot by TechCabal 2026, where the company served as a Platinum Sponsor and hosted the Big Tech & Enterprise Stage for the second consecutive year, Interswitch demonstrated how its ongoing technological advancements continue to power seamless commerce and economic growth across the region.

Central to this showcase was the unveiling of Interswitch's all-new Tap-to-Pay technology, developed in strategic collaboration with global payment and technology leaders Mastercard and Google.

Launched on Day 1 of the conference, it stated that the contactless payment solution is designed to expand consumer access to faster, more convenient digital transactions while setting a new benchmark for modern payment experiences across Africa.

Boardrooms Must Evolve To Drive Inclusive, Sustainable National Prosperity – Udo Udoma

By **Sulaimon Salau**

THE Chairman, Seplat Energy Plc, Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, has called on corporate boards across Nigeria to reposition themselves for the rapidly evolving global economy, stressing that the quality of decisions taken in boardrooms will have far-reaching implications for economic growth, job creation, innovation and national prosperity.

Delivering a keynote address titled "Reimagining the Boardroom for Inclusive and Sustainable National Prosperity in the New Economy" at a Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) 2026 Annual Directors Conference in Lagos, Udoma said companies, although private institutions, play a critical role in shaping the wider economy through their investment, employment, innovation and governance decisions.

According to him, Nigeria's future will be shaped not only by decisions taken in government ministries, legislative chambers and policy forums, but also by decisions made in boardrooms across the country.

"Every time a board approves a major investment, it contributes to economic growth. Every time a board invests in people, it influences future leadership. Every time a board supports innovation, it strengthens competitiveness. Every time a board insists on integrity and accountability, it strengthens trust in the wider economy," Udoma said.

He stressed that while technological change, artificial intelligence (AI), the energy transition, climate change, geopolitical developments and changing stakeholder expectations are transforming the business environment, the fundamental responsibilities of directors remain unchanged.

Udoma, therefore, urged directors to maintain a firm grasp of their fiduciary responsibilities and continually refresh their knowledge of corporate governance requirements, particularly as investors and regulators increasingly demand accountability from boards and individual directors.

Udoma also underscored the continuing relevance of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles, arguing that despite changing international sentiment around ESG, sustainability considerations remain important to corporate resilience, competitiveness and long-term value creation.

He also highlighted diversity and inclusion as essential components of an effective modern boardroom, noting that diversity in gender, expertise, experience, generation and perspective



Group Chief Executive Officer, Arridex Group, Kayode Adeleke; Senate President, Godswill Akpabio; Minister of State for Defence, Dr Bello Matawalle; and the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, at the unveiling of ADX-Barra 200 platform at the Africa International Defence Exhibition in Lagos.

Bakers Grapple With Rising Costs As Bread Production Plummets Amid Economic Hardship

By **Gbenga Salau**

NIGERIA'S baking industry is facing mounting pressure from rising production costs, declining consumer purchasing power and weak regulatory enforcement, with industry leaders warning that many bakeries are struggling to remain operational.

The concerns emerged during the fourth edition of the Premium Breadmakers Association of Nigeria (PBAN) Day Out, an annual gathering of bakery owners and industry stakeholders designed to network, share knowledge and discuss challenges confronting the sector.

Speaking at the event, PBAN President, Emmanuel Onuorah, described the industry's situation as precarious, explaining that the theme, "Baking Through the Storm: Innovation, Efficiency and Growth for the Sustainability of the Economy and Bakery Industry," reflected the difficult realities facing operators.

Onuorah said the industry was experiencing a significant decline in production due to rising energy and raw material costs, alongside consumers' inability to afford bread at previous levels.

He illustrated the situation with the example of a bakery that previously processed 120 bags of flour daily but now produces only 40 bags, representing a decline of approximately 67 per cent.

According to him, the downturn affects not only bakery owners but the entire wheat-flour value chain, including flour millers and other suppliers.

He argued that declining household incomes were a major contributor to the crisis, noting that consumers who previously purchased two loaves could now afford only one, while others had stopped buying altogether.

The PBAN president advocated a shift towards alternative energy sources, particularly solar power and compressed natural gas (CNG), to reduce dependence on expensive diesel.

Nigeria Customs Pilots Joint Digital System To Boost West African Trade

By **Sulaimon Salau**

THE Comptroller-General of Customs, AdewaleAdeniyi, has disclosed plans by Nigeria to pilot a joint digital customs system with Benin and Cameroon which will allow traders declare goods once instead of repeating the process on both sides of a border.

Adeniyi disclosed this during an engagement with a delegation led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) commissioner for Economic Affairs and Agriculture, Dehpue Y. Zuo, who oversees the presidential mandate on ECOWAS free movement and trade integration.

He said the system is built in such a way that a declaration cleared by Nigeria Customs automatically becomes the receiving country's manifest. The receiving administration can then apply its own controls without repeating the process. "Submission once, declaration once, processing once," he added.

The Customs boss explained that AI-based translation converts declarations between English and French, so Nigerian and francophone customs officers each work in their own language. The pilot began after Adeniyi led a high delegation from Benin and Cameroon for a benchmarking mission to Beitbridge Border between South Africa and Zimbabwe. He said the facilities he saw had world-class logistics but were "one-stop only on paper." Technology, he said, was the missing link, and the main lesson was that "borders do not make economies grow."

He said he often visits border posts himself, sometimes in civilian clothes, to see conditions first-hand. According to him, about 60 per cent of trade within the sub-region passes through one key corridor, so getting that post right would show the model works across West Africa.

Commissioner Zuo said the ECOWAS Commission leadership had agreed to support priority areas for free movement. These include a joint border post at Seme-Krake on the Nigeria-Benin border, where he proposed a meeting of both countries' customs and border agencies. He said a baseline survey of checkpoints in member states is also planned. Security-driven checkpoints can stay, he argued.

Arridex Positions Nigerian-built Autonomous Vessels As Force Multiplier For Maritime Security

By **Sulaimon Salau**

ARRIDEX Group, an industrial technology group, has positioned its newly launched ADX-Barra Series of autonomous surface vessels, comprising the ADX-Barra 200 and the ADX-Barra 100, as a force multiplier for maritime security.

The two vessels, built by Arridex engineers and delivered through Helagon, the Group's joint venture with the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), anchored Arridex's presence at the Africa International Defence Exhibition (AFRIDEX 2026).

The ADX-Barra 200 was officially unveiled at the exhibition on behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, by the President of the Senate, Distinguished Senator Godswill Akpabio. Dignitaries that joined the unveiling included the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat; the Minister of State for Defence, Dr Bello Matawalle; the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Defence, Babajimi Benson; and the Director-General of DICON, Babatunde Ibrahim Alaya, together with the Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and visiting defence chiefs and delegation leaders from across Africa.

IFMA Nigeria Seeks Technology-driven Facility Management Practice

By **Suliamon Salau**

THE International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Nigeria Chapter has inaugurated its Abuja Branch as part of efforts to expand the association's national presence, strengthen professional engagement, and advance facility management practice in Nigeria.

The inauguration, held at the platinum LEED-certified AFREXIM African Trade Center,alongside the 2026 IFMA Advocacy Day, featured discussions on the theme, "Beyond Maintenance: Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Facility Management Practice in Nigeria," highlighting the need for facility management professionals to embrace innovation, digital solutions, and sustainable practices to improve the performance and long-term value of buildings and infrastructure.

Speaking on the inauguration, President of IFMA Nigeria Chapter, Engr. Sheriff Daramola, explained that the branch would serve as a platform for professional training and certification, industry collaboration.

Accountability, Institutional Responsibility Vital To Success Of Govt Agencies – NDDC

By **Gbenga Akinfenwa**

GREATER accountability, integrity and institutional responsibility are essential to the success of government agencies, as sustainable development depends on public institutions being responsive to citizens' needs and accountable for the resources entrusted to them.

This was the position of stakeholders at the 2026 Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)'s MasterClass, organised in Lagos by the Office of the Executive Director, Corporate Services (EDCS), with the theme, 'Beyond Service Delivery: Institutional Accountability, Stakeholders Satisfaction and Sustainable Development Outcomes in NDDC.'

The Executive Director, Corporate Services, Ifedayo Abegunde, reaffirmed the commission's commitment to institutional accountability, stakeholder satisfaction, staff welfare and sustainable development outcomes.

Lagos SWAGA Targets 3.5m Votes For Tinubu, Hamzat

By **Gbenga Salau**

FORMER Minister of State for Defence, Musiliu Obanikoro, has said the South-West Agenda for Asiwaju (SWAGA) is confident of delivering 3.5 million votes for President Bola Tinubu and the Lagos State governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, in the 2027 general election.

Obanikoro gave the assurance while addressing supporters at the launch of SWAGA 2.0 in Ikeja, where he said the large turnout at the event demonstrated the group's capacity to mobilise support for APC candidates.

He described the crowd as evidence that SWAGA's target was achievable, insisting that the group was not merely dreaming but had the organisational strength to deliver the projected votes.

The former minister also expressed confidence that the APC would retain Lagos in 2027, saying the party would not allow the opposition to take control of the state again, in an apparent reference to the 2023 governorship election.

Obanikoro, who said he was part of the political leadership that took over Lagos in 1999, attributed the state's revenue growth to Tinubu's leadership, planning and the continuity of successive administrations.

He recalled that Lagos generated about N440 million internally when the APC-led administration began in 1999, adding that the figure rose to more than N1 billion within six months of Tinubu's emergence as governor.

Two Weeks After Attack On Sowore, Police Yet To Arrest Named Suspects

By **Eniola Daniel**

• Activist Accuses Authorities Of Cover-up

TWO weeks after armed men attacked human rights activist and African Action Congress (AAC) presidential candidate, Omoyele Sowore, and members of his team in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, the police have yet to announce the arrest of the principal suspects identified by the activist.

The attack occurred on October 30, 2026, at Tawakalitu Restaurant, Dalimore, shortly after Sowore and his team attended a radio interview at MIDAS 90.5 FM. Several people, including security personnel, were injured, while personal belongings were reportedly stolen.

Sowore described the incident as a coordinated assassination attempt, alleging that it was organised by individuals linked to the state government and other political interests.

Although the police announced the arrest and arraignment of 11 suspects, the activist maintained that those arrested were not the principal attackers captured in a video footage of the incident.

He has called for an investigation into the alleged roles of 12 people, including Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, whose government has denied involvement in the attack.

Others named by Sowore include CSP Ayodele Akinlua, the governor's Chief Security Officer, whom he accused of making a warning call before the attack; Commissioner of Police Falade Adegoroye Michael, whom he accused of mishandling the case; and the Ekiti State Director of the Department of State Services (DSS), whom he accused of monitoring and intimidating members of his team.

He also named Oyetunde Oladimeji Ojo, Managing Director of the Federal Housing Authority; Makinde Araoye, whom he described as the proprietor of Ikogosi Marathon; and Sunday Adedayo Asefon, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Student Engagement, alleging that they were linked to the mobilisation and coordination of those involved.

Other names mentioned were Sola Adenijo, also known as Solar, whom Sowore identified as an alleged principal attacker and treasurer of the City Boy Movement; Ijarotimi Ayodeji Akintade Ifeoluwa, known as AK, whom he accused of wielding a machete during the attack; and Asiwaju Kasali Oluwafemi, also known as Kasali, whom he identified as the Ekiti State leader of the movement and accused of issuing threats.

He also accused retired CSP Marcus Olaosebikan Ogundola, a former commander of the Rapid Response Squad, of being present during the incident and handling CCTV footage, while alleging that Lere Olayinka, Senior Special Assistant to the FCT Minister, was involved in organising or enabling the attack.

The allegations against the individuals have not been independently established.



Manager, Media Relations, Julius Berger Plc (JB), OsedebamenIsibor (left); Registrar, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), UzomaOnyegbadue; Chairman, Editorial Board Thisday, OlusegunAdeniyi; Chairman, FCT Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Grace Ike; and Regional Manager, Administration, JB, Ismaila Mohammed during the 2026 JB Media Parley in Abuja... on Friday. PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

Twins Born At 24 Weeks Survive After Intensive Medicare At BMMC

By **David Emokpae**

BABIES Matter Medical Centre (BMMC) has successfully discharged twin babies born at 24 weeks of gestation, weighing 550 grammes and 740 grammes respectively.

The Co-founder and Clinical Lead of the hospital, Dr. Zainab Mudasiru, described the babies' survival as a significant achievement, considering the challenges associated with caring for extremely premature infants.

Mudasiru said babies born at 24 weeks were considered to be at the threshold of viability and survival, even in developed countries.

"Being born at 24 weeks gestation, even in developed western countries, is considered to be at the threshold of viability and survival. Meaning these babies can potentially survive outside the womb only with intensive medical intervention and depending on hospital capabilities.

"Even in the UK, for instance, the maximum survival rate is 70 per cent of all babies born at 24 weeks gestation," she said.

She explained that babies born at this stage faced several medical complications, including severely underdeveloped lungs, fragile brains vulnerable to bleeding, immature gastrointestinal systems and high susceptibility to infections.

"We are not in the UK; we are in Lagos, Nigeria. This is a limited resource environment where there are still many challenges in trying to deliver expert neonatal care," she said.

Mudasiru said the hospital successfully managed the twins until they were ready to go home, with the babies spending 87 and 85 days respectively at the facility.

"We took delivery of these 24-week twins and have successfully managed them to the point of going home. I am so proud of our facility and our staff who together worked so hard as a team, and have given their parents such joy.

"We thank God for this success and as I speak, we actually have another set of 24 weeks twins currently in our unit, both doing well," she said.

Germany, SMEDAN Task Nigerian Entrepreneurs On Innovation, Market Access

By **Onyedika Agbedo**

THE German Government and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) have urged Nigerian entrepreneurs to innovate, become more competitive, access larger markets and contribute meaningfully to the nation's economic growth.

Thankfully, the German Government has declared that it remains committed to working with Nigeria and all its partners to ensure that entrepreneurship contributes to inclusive economic growth, productive employment and shared prosperity.

Speaking at the three-day National MSME Conference 2026, which was held in Lagos with the theme 'The Next Frontier for Innovation, Policy and Market Access,' Deputy Consul General, German Consulate Lagos, Katharina Ziegler, said the theme of the conference speaks to opportunities Germany and Nigeria want to advance together: "the growth of Nigerian enterprises, stronger commercial ties between our countries and increased investment in Nigeria."

The conference was delivered by the SMEDAN in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, commissioned by the German Government, alongside co-funding from the Governments of Denmark and Switzerland, and the European Union.

It brought together entrepreneurs, policymakers, financial institutions and development partners to explore opportunities for business growth. It also featured the Nigeria First Fair, exhibitions, masterclasses and the Zero to 100 pitch competition, with 230 businesses showcasing their products and services.

Ziegler said GIZ, on behalf of the German Government and in cooperation with the European Union, Switzerland and Denmark, has supported the conference since 2023, noting that its continued growth reflects the shared commitment of Nigeria.

2027 Elections: NYSC Seeks Army's Support To Protect Corps Members

From **Ernest Nzor**, Abuja

THE Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brig.Gen. Olakunle Nafiu, has sought the Nigerian Army's support to ensure the safety of corps members who will serve as ad hoc personnel during the 2027 general election.

Nafiu said corps members would be deployed to assist the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in conducting the elections, stressing the need to protect them before, during and after the exercise.

He made the appeal during a visit to the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 81 Division, Nigerian Army, Maj. Gen. Adebayo Babalola, whom he congratulated on his appointment.

The NYSC chief commended the GOC for his concern for the welfare of corps members serving within the division and his commitment to training and mentoring young officers.

He also appreciated the division for providing a secure environment for the scheme's operations in Lagos and Ogun states, attributing the security situation in the two states to the diligence, professionalism and experience of the military and other security agencies.

Nafiu disclosed that Lagos accommodates about 20 per cent of the corps population nationwide, with between 45,000 and 48,000 members deployed to the state yearly.

FRCN Confirms Adenike Adegoke As Director, Lagos Operations

By **Suliyat Tella**

THE Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) has confirmed Princess Adenike Wuraola Adegoke as the substantive Director of Radio Nigeria Lagos Operations.

The confirmation, contained in a letter dated October 14, 2026, by the Head, Secretary/Legal Adviser, Olubukola Shonibare, on behalf of the Director-General, Dr. Mohammed Bulama, takes immediate effect.

According to the letter, the management expects Adegoke to deploy her potentials and wealth of experience towards the growth and development of the Corporation.

In her new capacity, she will take charge of the administration and operations of Radio Nigeria's three Lagos-based FM stations: Bond 92.9 FM, Metro 97.7 FM and Radio One 103.5 FM.

Speaking at a brief meeting of the Committee of Management of Radio Nigeria Lagos Operations in Ikoyi.

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ONLINE: 08058717159, 08126307209

CHANGE OF NAME

www.guardian.ng Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria Guardiannigeria Guardian Nigeria - C00264288

ABIGAEL: I, formerly known as Adeyemo Eniola Abigael now wish to be addressed as Adeyemo Eniola Sikemiz. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Osazemide Happy now wish to be addressed as Osaseminde Happy Ofure. My DOB is 23-12-1983 not 20-05-1982. All former documents remains valid, public note.

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Uwem Happinesss now wish to be addressed as Uwem Happinesss dara. My DOB is 20-08-2004 not 20-08-2003. former documents remains valid. Public note.

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Ebuade Sophia now wish to be addressed as Ebuade Sophia Ehinomen. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Anih Emeka now wish to be addressed as Anih Emeka George . All former documents remain valid. Public take note

ADDITION OF NAME: That BVN wrongly captured my name as Ude Chiamaka, instead of Udeh Chiamaka Francisca as in NIN. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public note.

ADEGBOLA: I, formerly known as Jide-Aina Eunice Mololuwa now wish to be addressed as Adegbola Eunice Mololuwa . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADELEYE: I,Formerly known as Adeyemi Adebisi Oluwatobi now wish to be addressed as Adeleye Adebisi Oluwatobi . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADEPOJU: I, formerly Adepoju Benjamen Blessing, Adepoju Benjamen Adesoji, Benjamen Olumide Adepoju now wish to be addressed as Adepoju Benjamin Blessing . Former documents remain valid . Public note

AJAYI: I formerly known as Abejide Debora now wish to be addressed as Ajayi Bosede Deborah. My DOB is 21/03/1970 not 01/10/1972 all former documents remain valid general public take note

ANOLIEFO : I formerly known as Anoliefo Ifechukwu Success now wish to be addressed as Ifechukwu Success Samuel . All former documents remain valid . Public note

ARINGBERE: I, formerly known as Miss Aringbere Bolanle Folashade now wishes to be addressed Mrs. Jegede Folashade Hannah Solphia . All former documents remain valid. Public take note

CONFAMETON OF NAME: That I, known as Chinedu Uzozie is same person as known as Chinedu Nwanne Uzozie. . All former documents remain valid. Geanral public take note

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH: I, Olamiti Wilson Oyewole hereby state that my date of birth was wrongly stated as September 3rd, 1998 instead of September 3rd, 1997. Former documents valid. Public take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Convenant Onwuka now wish to be addressed as Covenant Onwuka . All former documents remain valid general public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Patrick Judith Itunu now wish to be addressed as Ogunloye Judith Itunu . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Abdulfatai Abdulsalam Folorunsho now wish to be addressed as Abdulfatai Abdulsalam Folohunsho. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME I, formerly known as Paul Divine-Favour Emmanuella now wish to be addressed as Paul Divine-Favour Wuraola . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name is Oyeranmi Tiri Adekunle and my DOB is 23rd April, 1965 and not Oyeranmi Tirimisiyu Adekunle, 3rd March, 1960 as captured in my BVN. General public take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name was wrongly written as Edet Okon Akpan instead of Okon Edet Akpan. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME: My name was wrongly written as Nwadiolor Moses instead of Nwadiolu Moses Ikechukwu. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

CORRECTION OF NAMES: Formerly Olaoye, Omobusola-Angele Iranwo-Olu now wish to be addressed as Olaoye, Omobusola Angele. All former documents remains valid. Nigerian Immigration, General public take note.

DIKE: : I, formerly known as Esther Blessing Malachy now wish to be addressed as Esther Blessing Dike . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ELIJAH: I, formerly known as Udom Chioma Elijah now wish to known as Udom, Chioma Trophy. All former documents remain valid. Public take note

EHIOFOR: I, formerly known as Ejiofor Obiageli Ogechukwu now wish to be addressed as Ifeanyi-Umenze Obiageliogechukwu. All former documents remain valid. Geanral public take note

EJIOFOR: I, formerly known as Ejiofor Obiageli Ogechukwu now wish to be addressed as Ifeanyi-Umenze Obiage Ogechukwu. All former documents remain valid. Geanral public take note

EMMANUEL: I formally known as Simeon Emmanuel now wish to be addressed as Eagleschild Simeon Yeri Udoumoh. All former documents remain valid general public take note

ENEBONG : I, formerly known as Roseline Ikana Enebong, henceforth wish to be known as Roseline Ikana Utti . All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ENOMENA : I, formerly known as Enomena Odine now wish to be addressed as Jonathan Odion Faith. My DOB is 08-09-1997. All former documents remain valid .General public take note.

INIBONG: I, formerly known as Akpan Inibong Michael now wish to be known as Akpan Godstime Michael. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ISIKALU: I formerly known as Kehinde Isikalu Esther now wish to be addressed as Isikalu Kehinde Esther.My DOB is 2/7/1966 not 7/7/1966 . All former documents remain valid general public take note

JANET: I, formerly known as Queen Janet Suleiman now wish to be addressed as Queenjanet Ahuoyiza Godwin . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

KAREEM: I, formerly Miss Kareem Iyabo Damilola now wish to be known as Mrs Daramola Iyabo Damilola. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

NWANKWO : 1, formerly known as Nwankwo Lucky Nchekwube, now wish to be addressed as Enukaora Lucky Chukwudi. All former documents remain valid. Public note.

OBASANYA: I, formerly known as Miss. Adeola Obasanya now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Adeola Omoraka . All former documents remain valid . General public take note,

ODOGWU: I, formerly known as Miss Elizabeth Nkem Odogwu now wish to be addressed as Mrs Elizabeth Nkem Apokwu . All former documents remain valid . General public take note.

OGUNBIYI : I, formerly known as Esther Bushi Ogunbiyi now wishes to be addressed Esther Bushi Ottoinyang. All former documents remain valid. Geanral public take note

OGUNNIYI: I, formerly Miss Ogunniyi Janet Gbemisola & Janet G. Oguniyi, now to be addressed as Mrs Oladele Janet Gbemisola. Former documents remain valid. Public note.

OKE: I, formerly known as Mariam oluwaseun jeje Now wish to be addressed as Mariam oluwaseun oke all former documents remain valid general public take note

OKETUNDE: I, formerly known as Oketunde Oluwatomi Judith now wish to be known as Adeniyi Oluwatomi Judith. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OKPALA: I , formerly known as Okpo Precious Onyejieke now wish to be addressed as Okpala Precious Onyejieke. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OMORAGBON: I, formerly Miss Adesuwa Praise Omoragbon now wish to be known as Mrs Adesuwa Praise Olosunde. Former documents remain valid. Public take note.

ONUWA : I, formerly known as Biose Onuwa David Sunday and Biose Onuwa Sunday now wish to be addressed as Biose Sunday Thomas. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OZURU: I, formerly known as Miss Ozuru Wakwnu Benedicta now wishes to be addressed as Mrs. Azubuike, Wakwnu Benedicta. All documents remain valid..General public please take notice.

PEACE: I, Formerly known as Peace Chibuokem Nebechukwu Now wish to be addressed as Peace Chibuokem Ihansekhien all former documents remain valid general public take note

RANITA: I, formerly known as Ranita Tamunosaki Wengipreye Goodhead , now wish to be addressed as Ranita Tamunosaki Goodhead . All former documents remain valid. General public take note

RE-ARRANGEMENT /ADDITION OF NAME: My name was captured in some documents as Mr, Pascal NOEL instead of Pascal Michel Jean-Baptiste NOEL. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

RECONCILIATION OF NAME : My name was wrongly written as Salleras Alain Jacques on my BVN instead of Salleras Alain Henri Jacques. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

UBA: I, formerly known as Uba Lilian Chiamaka now wish to be known as Ibeneme Lilian Chiamaka. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

UDOH: I, formerly Mrs Dorathy Bassey Udoh, now wish to be addressed as Mrs Dorathy Paulinus Umoren. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

WILLIAMS: I, formerly known as Iganya Mercy Achimugu now wish to be addressed as Iganya Mercy Achimugu Williams . All former documents remain valid. General public take note

News Extra

ECOWAS Court To Review Judicial Procedures Amid Legal, Digital Reforms

By **Oludare Richards**

THE Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is set to review its judicial procedures and introduce new standards for handling cases as it prepares to implement a harmonised legal framework and expand the use of digital technology in its operations.

The review will form part of the Court's 2026 Judicial Retreat, scheduled to hold from November 16 to 20 at Zuma Rock Resort, Niger State, where judges and judicial support staff are expected to consider measures aimed at improving the quality of judgments and speeding up the administration of justice.

The exercise comes as the Court begins work under a new College of Judges, which assumed office on October 13, 2026, and moves towards operationalising the harmonised legal framework established by Supplementary Act SA.1/12/25. It is also expected to support the deployment of the Court's Electronic Case Management System (ECMS).

Among the proposals to be considered are a standardised judgment template, a style guide for writing judgments and procedures for quality assurance. The retreat is also expected to produce guidelines on case management, court sittings and the use of technology, including virtual

NBA Legend, Hakeem Olajuwon, To Feature On African Voices Changemakers

BASKETBALL legend, Hakeem Olajuwon, will feature this week on CNN's African Voices Changemakers, a 30-minute magazine programme sponsored by telecommunications company, Globacom.

The 12-time NBA All-Star and two-time NBA champion will share his inspiring journey from Nigeria to the United States in an interview with CNN's Larry Madowo, recounting how his extraordinary talent earned him the nickname, "The Dream".

Olajuwon, who discovered basketball in 1978 at the Muslim Teachers' College, Lagos, was born in Lagos on January 21, 1963. He relocated to the United States in the early 1980s to play college basketball for the University of Houston Cougars.

His professional career began in 1984 when the Houston Rockets selected him as the first overall pick in the NBA Draft, alongside other basketball greats, including Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley and John Stockton.

Beyond his achievements at club level, Olajuwon won an Olympic gold medal with the United States national team in 1996 and was named among the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History.

His outstanding career earned him induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008.

Rotary Club Of Lagos Royale Empowers Traditional Birth Attendants

By **Debo Oladimeji**

TO mark the Maternal and Child Health's month of Rotary International, the Rotary Club of Lagos Royale, District 9111 has organised an intensive training for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) in Agege, Ikeja and Ifako- Ijaiye areas of Lagos.

The programe was aimed at educating and empowering the TBAs on how to ensure safe delivery of pregnant mothers in their custody.

Speaking during the programme, held with the with the theme, 'Safe Management: Knowing your Limits, Recognising Danger Signs and Referring Early,' the chartered President of Rotary Club of Lagos Royale, Rotarian Bountiful Olubusayomi Taiwo-Adelanwa, said that the club is made up of young professionals who are already serving humanity in their private spaces and are willing to take their services to the next level through Rotary International.

"Every month Rotary has its area of focus of intervention. This programme was supposed to have been done in the month of July, but we had to change it to today to embrace our target audience.

"Rotary International mandated all clubs to organise programmes that address maternal and child health, and reduce maternal and child mortality all over the world. This also speaks to the Sustainable Development Goals and aligns with the core area of focus of Rotary international."

She said that the club's local communities are Agege, Ikeja, Ifako-Ijaiye and Orile Agege, adding that statistic shows that a lot of people from those communities patronise traditional birth attendant.

Students Benefit From Private School's Scholarship Programme

By **Isaac Taiwo**

Abraham Seed Private School International has invited no fewer than 2000 students from different parts of Lagos for the 2026/27 scholarship programme of the school.

According to the Director of the School, Dr. Abraham Oladidupo Olaluwoye, a lot of students had benefitted from free West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examinations Council (NECO) examinations, describing the gesture as the school's Corporate Social Responsibility programme that has been going on for the past 10 years.

The participating students were tested on Mathematics, English and General subjects out of which 200 students would be finally selected.

Olaluwoye said the scholarship was a way of giving back to the society by assisting parents who are financially handicapped as well as ensuring that children don't take to vices as a result of idleness.

Olaluwoye said: "We carry the burden to help as many students as possible. Last year, we were not able to do much as we localised the gesture to where our school operates, but this year, we decided to extend it to different parts of Lagos.

"We even want to do more but we are limited to what we are doing today as a result of financial constraints. However, as we get more assistance, we would do more.

"Apart from WAEC and NECO scholarship, we have embarked on full scholarship for averagely 40 students per year for the past 10 years and make bold to say that about 400 students have benefitted from our full scholarship programme.

Sports

Small Steps, Big Lessons



IN the Nigerian sports ecosystem football is everything. It is that important. The game is one of Nigeria's biggest diplomatic and international relations tools.

The rest of the world may not consider the Under-17 FIFA World Cup competitions a big deal, but for us in this part of the world, it is, indeed.

More than ever before, we need these small victories to whet our appetites for the bigger pies in the global football marketplace.

I am happy that the Federal Government lavishly rewarded the victorious new Under-17 women's world champions. Their success came at a time when the spirit of the Nigerian people, dampened by political tensions that hang like a noose around the neck of a condemned prisoner, needed to be lifted!

The manner of their well-earned victory in the final match against Japan lifted the spirit of the people as well as the image of the country. Government's reaction now serves as a great incentive and motivation for women and the girl-child in Nigeria. It also confirms that women can bring as much as the men in all fields to the table of development in Nigeria.

As I told Aisha Falode, the veteran female sports journalist and outstanding football administrator, in my congratulatory message to her for her work in women's football and contributions to Nigeria's success, the women's senior team, the Falcons, may be the biggest beneficiary of this 'small' step by the Flamingos.

They will be challenged by this victory. They will adopt some of the outstanding players from this team and groom them for the immediate future. They will also take useful lessons from the technical and tactical strategies deployed to succeed at Under-17 to prepare adequately to become FIFA World Cup Champions in the next few years.

I predict that the Nigerian girls will win the FIFA World Cup before their male counterparts, the Super Eagles, do inside the next 8 years! I can clearly see the pathway to achieve such a goal.

Nigeria must conduct a study of this recent victory. Within it, I see aspects, once disregarded, that make the difference between winning and losing big competitions.

Nigeria must tweak the architecture of her domestic football. The various parts of her football development are not moving in sync.

Super Eagles Reassemble - No Great Expectations!

As I congratulate Nigeria and the Flamingos, my gaze shifts to the Super Eagles. They assemble this weekend for two matches against Tanzania.

By the time you are reading this the home-match in Uyo, Nigeria, would have been played. The result is likely to be the same old story - Nigeria struggling to win in a match that ordinarily should be a walk-over. But the times have changed and Nigeria is not the powerhouse that she once was, or should be, in Africa.

I have looked at Eric Chelle's latest invitees to the national team. It is largely the same old set of 'soldiers' with a sprinkling of new ones that will feature. To expect a massive shift from the disappointments of the recent past is to be foolish.

So, I have reduced my expectations, hope for success because I am a patriot, and look forward to a future of fresh ideas and new developments on how to re-set the buttons of leadership, establish a new path to genuine development, and set new goals that will eventually and realistically lead Nigeria to winning the World Cup within the next eight years!

CAF Awards - Hosts Without Winners!

The reality of the current state of Nigerian football has been brought to our doorsteps and stares us in the face.

Read the remaining story onlinewww.guardian.ng

Egbe: Why Home-based Players Must Become Central To Super Eagles Strategy

WHEN will Nigeria have a consistently competitive home based Eagles capable of competing in African qualifiers?

It is a question that deserves serious consideration from the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), our football administrators, coaches and other stakeholders.

Truth be told, Nigeria does not necessarily need an entire starting 11 of elite foreign based professional footballers to compete successfully in African qualifiers. What we need is a team built around the realities of African football, without compromising the technical quality and international experience required at the highest level.

One of the biggest challenges facing African football is the difference in playing conditions. Many Europe-based Nigerian professionals regularly play on well-maintained, high quality pitches, with consistent playing surfaces and modern stadium infrastructure. Unfortunately, that is not always the reality when they travel across Africa for international competitions.

African football presents different challenges: uneven playing surfaces, extreme heat, humidity, waterlogged pitches, physical encounters and unpredictable match conditions. These factors can influence the rhythm, speed and technical demands of a game.

This is where our home based players can offer an important competitive advantage.

Why Home Based Players Matter

1. Familiarity with African playing conditions

Home based players regularly compete on different categories of playing surfaces, including pitches that may not meet international standards. They are often more accustomed to adjusting their movement.

Business

With Tinubu's Unprecedented Investment, Nigeria's Next Major Export Will Be Intellectual Asset, Not Oil – Echono

FOR decades, Nigeria's economic identity has been inextricably tied to crude oil. Millions of barrels shipped abroad, revenues dictated by volatile foreign markets and an economy exposed to every international price shock. Yet, beneath the surface of this commodity-dependent nation lies an untapped reservoir far more valuable and endless – the intellectual energy of its youth.

That narration is beginning to change. Through strategic interventions by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), driven by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda, Nigeria is quietly building a new economic engine.

The nation's tertiary education system is undergoing its most far-reaching transformation in decades. The TETFund is moving decisively beyond brick-and-mortar infrastructure into digital education, innovation hubs, research commercialisation, entrepreneurship, staff welfare and advanced medical training.

The goal, according to TETFund Executive Secretary, Arc. Sonny S.T. Echono, is to reposition universities, polytechnics and colleges of education from knowledge-consuming institutions into engines of job creation, wealth generation and national development.

Speaking at an interactive session with Eniola Olakunri, public sector analyst and CEO of Write Affairs, in Abuja recently, Echono was emphatic about where this leads:

"With President Tinubu's unprecedented investment in education, our major export going forward will no longer be oil, but intellectual assets," he declared.

This shift is not merely rhetoric; it represents a fundamental overhaul of how Nigeria approaches tertiary education.

Historically, Nigerian universities, polytechnics and colleges of education were structured as consumer-oriented ivory towers. Students entered to memorise lectures, passed examinations, and stepped into a market that lacked jobs to absorb them.

Today, TETFund is rewriting that script. The goal is to convert these institutions into active engines of wealth generation, job creation and global competitiveness.

How TETFund Is Shifting Tertiary Education From Classrooms To Innovation Hubs

The transformation is visible across several key fronts:

Opening The Door To The Global Knowledge Economy

One of the most visible signs of this shift is the Renewed Hope-TETFund ICT Experience Centre. Four centres in Lagos, Calabar, Anambra and Kwara were recently commissioned by First Lady Oluremi Tinubu to expand digital access for students who lack devices or whose institutions lack adequate facilities.

Echono described it as a convergence of two visions: TETFund's drive for digital technology and hybrid learning, and the First Lady's focus on vulnerable groups.

Through the centres, TETFund provides computers, broadband, data and digitisation tools free of charge, linked to its TERAS platform for learning resources, assignments and research.

But the ambition goes beyond learning. "The jobs of the future are not necessarily going to be in traditional fields," Echono said. Students can use the centres for outsourcing jobs and direct participation in the global knowledge economy.

Six centres – one per geopolitical zone – have been completed. Four have been commissioned, with Kaduna and Jalingo due before month end. Another 15 are at advanced stages.

The centres are also gateways to employment through the 'Learn to Earn' initiative, where students acquire specialised skills alongside their studies to service global clients while still in school. With alternative power and 24-hour broadband, a student can work at 2 a.m. and synchronise with clients in Thailand, the U.S., Brazil or Japan.

From Job Seekers To Job Creators: The same philosophy drives the plan to establish 68 innovation hubs across tertiary institutions in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme.

The objective is to shift from memorisation to practical, problem-solving, analytical and critical-thinking skills; the premium skills of the modern economy.

TETFund is adopting a mixed partnership model involving UNDP, Innov8 Hub; an Israeli-Nigerian partnership leveraging Israel's start-up ecosystem; and a group working with the European Union, particularly Sweden.

"We do not want graduates looking for jobs; we want graduates creating jobs and wealth," Echono said.

Examples are already emerging. One polytechnic innovator developed specialised packaging for Nigerian export produce – addressing an estimated 35 per cent value loss due to poor packaging. Others are working on post-harvest losses, quelea birds, veterinary challenges, chemical preservation linked to cancer, and organic foods.

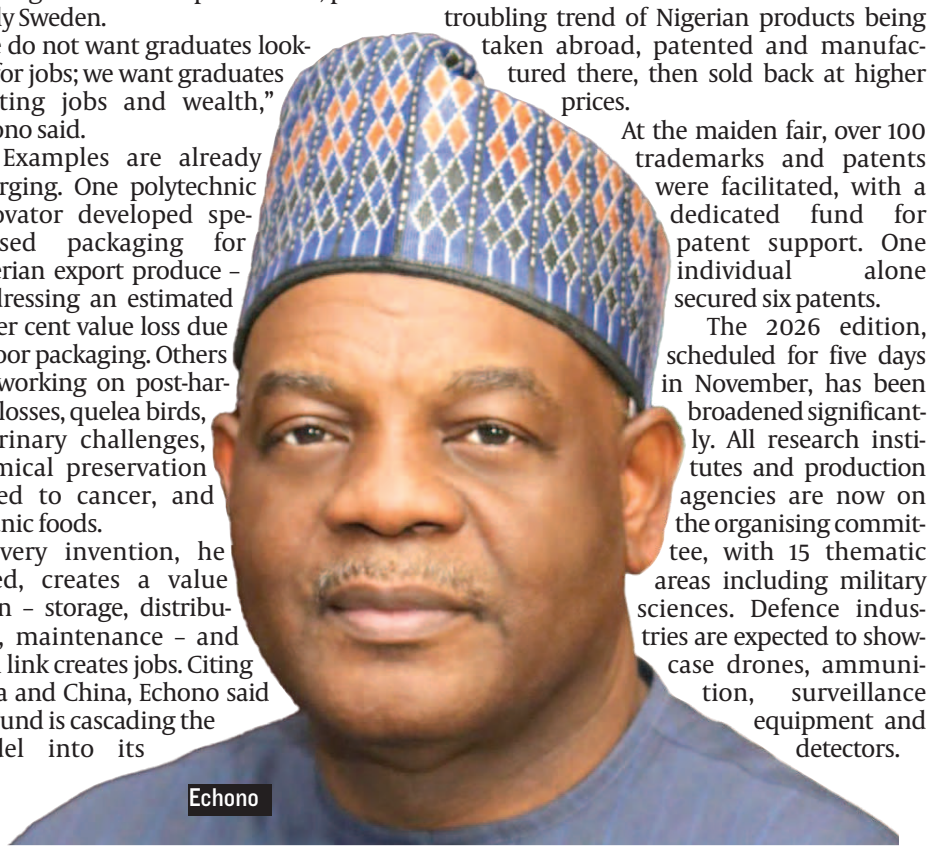
Every invention, he noted, creates a value chain – storage, distribution, maintenance – and each link creates jobs. Citing India and China, Echono said TETFund is cascading the model into its Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme so technicians, machinists and fabricators can support industrial growth.

Closing The 'Valley Of Death'

For innovation to drive the economy, ideas must move from lab to market. That is the purpose of the National Research Fair. The maiden edition brought together tertiary institutions, research institutes, manufacturers and fabricators and produced a robust, categorised national database of innovators. It also exposed what Echono called the "valley of death" – where promising inventions die for lack of investment – and the troubling trend of Nigerian products being taken abroad, patented and manufactured there, then sold back at higher prices.

At the maiden fair, over 100 trademarks and patents were facilitated, with a dedicated fund for patent support. One individual alone secured six patents.

The 2026 edition, scheduled for five days in November, has been broadened significantly. All research institutes and production agencies are now on the organising committee, with 15 thematic areas including military sciences. Defence industries are expected to showcase drones, ammunition, surveillance equipment and detectors.


Echono

TheGuardianSports

www.guardian.ng

Super Eagles Soar In Uyo, Olympics Eagles Stumble In DR Congo

By Gowon Akpodonor

Tolu Arokodare's second-half brace sealed victory for the Super Eagles was their third match of the 2027 AFCON qualifiers against Tanzania on Friday in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Alhassan Yusuf opened the scoring after two minutes before Alphonce Mabula Msanga equalised in the 32nd. Arokodare came off the bench at half-time to strike in the 52nd and 60th minutes.

Nigeria sit second with six points from three games, one point behind Group L leaders Guinea-Bissau.

But it was a different ball game for the Olympic Eagles, as Nigeria face an uphill battle to keep their LA 2028 Olympic Games qualification hopes alive after suffering a 2-0 defeat to DR Congo in Friday's first leg of their CAF U23 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying tie in Lubumbashi.

The hosts scored twice in the first half through Filozofe Mambete, with both goals coming amid contentious decisions that left the Nigerian camp with plenty to question.

The Olympic Eagles started brightly, creating early opportunities but failing to convert their chances. DR Congo capitalised on Nigeria's wastefulness to take the lead in the 15th minute.

The opening goal was disputed after assistant referee Brianson Musisi reportedly indicated that the ball had not crossed the goal line. Centre referee Duula Joshua, however, overruled the decision and awarded the goal to the hosts, with Mambete credited as the scorer.

Mambete struck again in the 36th minute following a goalmouth scramble involving physical challenges and another disputed incident, leaving Nigeria with a two-goal deficit at half-time.

Nigeria's problems were compounded by an injury to Zadok Yohanna, who was forced off in the 25th minute and replaced by Umar Abdullahi.

The Olympic Eagles made further changes in the second half, bringing on Victor Samuel for John Otomewo, Chibuzor Nwoko for Wilfred George and Emmanuel Ochobi for Emmanuel Godwin.

Godwin and midfielder Daniel Daga were booked in the 53rd and 70th minutes respectively, but Nigeria could not find a way past the Congolese defence.

DR Congo held on to their advantage until the final whistle, leaving the Nigerian side needing a major response in Tuesday's return leg at Remo Stars Stadium in Ikenne-Remo.

The Olympic Eagles must win by at least three clear goals to overturn the 2-0 deficit and advance to the third round of the qualifiers.



Arokodare and Iwobi celebrate Super Eagles goal against Tanzania in Uyo on Friday

Eunisell Backs Abia Warriors For Continental Ticket

By Christian Okpara

• Canvasses Support For NPFL

AS Abia Warriors head to Lagos this Sunday for an NPFL Matchday 13 fixture against Inter Lagos, their sponsor, Eunisell, says the club is looking well beyond the scoreline.

Abia Warriors are not currently in their best form on the league after 12 games, a far cry from their position at the end of last season, when they narrowly missed qualifying for the continent. But followers of the club are not bothered by the current ranking, not the least Eunisell.

The firm assures fans of the club that the club would take its position among the top sides of the league when the championship gets to the business end.

The oil and gas firm says its partnership with the Umuahia-based side is about more than putting a brand on a jersey. It is about helping to build the Nigerian game, at a time when football still struggles with funding gaps, poor infrastructure and weak institutional support.

"We believe that meaningful corporate participation goes beyond supporting an activity or associating with an institution. It is about recognising the potential that exists within our communities and contributing to an environment where that potential can flourish.

"Football has an extraordinary ability to bring people together, create opportunities and inspire ambition. Our partnership with Abia Warriors reflects our belief that businesses have a role to play in supporting that progress," said Eunisell founder, Chika Ikenga.

Eunisell argues that clubs are social institutions that provide for young people a route to sustainable careers, give supporters a sense of belonging, and bring economic activity and pride to host communities. They also promote discipline, teamwork, leadership and resilience.

The company says Nigeria has no shortage of talent, adding, however, that lasting excellence needs investment, professional structures and effective administration. A stronger NPFL, it adds, will take shared commitment from football authorities, clubs, sponsors and supporters, with sponsors taking a long-term view.



Eunisell GMD, Chika Ikenga (seventh left) and Abia Warriors Chairman, John Obuh (seventh right) with players and officials of the club when the firm hosted the NPFL club recently.

My Mother Didn't Want Me To Play Football —Flamingos Captain

By Gowon Akpodonor

CAPTAIN of the Nigeria's U17 women's team Flamingos, Harmony Chidi, has revealed that her mother initially opposed her ambition to become a footballer and wanted her to get married following the early death of her father.

Chidi, who led Nigeria to a historic FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup triumph in Morocco, said her late grandmother was instrumental in keeping her football dream alive before her foster father, Prince Chidi, took over the responsibility of supporting her career.

"My father died early, so, my mother wanted me to get married. It was my grandmother who stood by me and pushed me to play football. Unfortunately, my grandmother is late,' Chidi told BBC Pidgin.

The Bayelsa Queens striker said her meeting with Prince Chidi, owner of her grassroots team, Imo Strikers, proved another turning point.

"It wasn't easy until I met my foster father, Prince Chidi. He is the owner of my grassroots team, Imo Strikers, and he encouraged me, making sure that I achieve my dream," she said.

Chidi also opened up about the career-threatening injury that forced her to miss the previous edition of the U-17 Women's World Cup, describing it as the most difficult period of her football journey.

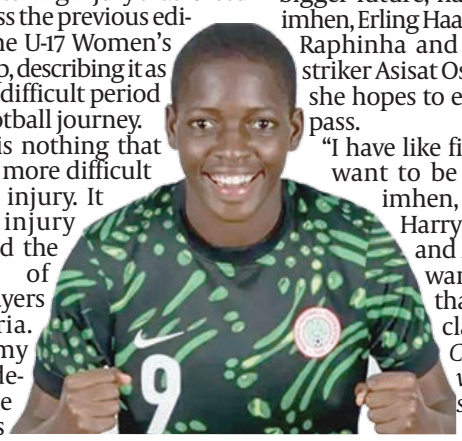
"There is nothing that has been more difficult than my injury. It was an injury that killed the dream of many players in Nigeria. All my friends deserted me and it was tough. I even thought of an alternative plan," she recalled.

However, she recovered to captain Nigeria to its first-ever U-17 Women's World Cup title, with the Flamingos defeating Japan 2-1 in the final in Morocco.

The ambitious teenager has already set her sights on an even bigger future, naming Victor Osimhen, Erling Haaland, Harry Kane, Raphinha and former Nigeria striker Asisat Oshoala as players she hopes to emulate and surpass.

"I have like five players that I want to be like: Victor Osimhen, Erling Haaland, Harry Kane, Raphinha and Asisat Oshoala. I want to be greater than them," she declared.

Culled from www.sportsNow.nr.coom



BAL Drives Conversations On Basketball's Future At CANEX WKND 2026

By Christian Okpara

IT was an educative experience for many basketball enthusiasts last weekend when the Basketball Africa League (BAL) joined other stakeholders to discuss the future of the game at Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX) WKND 2026 in Lagos.

The event which held in Lagos from November 5 to 8 November, part of BAL's collaboration with Afreximbank, highlighted basketball's role in developing African sporting talent, advancing women's empowerment and creating opportunities across the continent.

Throughout CANEX WKND, the BAL and its partners, Visit Rwanda and Rwanda Air, also hosted a merchandise display showcasing the league and its partners to attendees.

As part of the event, BAL Ambassador and ESPN analyst, Chiney Ogwumike, led a masterclass, titled, "Crowning Our Future Champions," drawing on the work of her foundation, Queens of the Continent. The session explored how basketball can create greater opportunities for young women and girls through access to facilities, community support and confidence-building.

Speaking at the masterclass, Ogwumike said: "If talent has no gender, opportunity shouldn't either. When girls have a court to play on, a community behind them and the confidence to believe in themselves, they can go as far as their talent takes them."

On November 6, the BAL and Queens of the Continent hosted the BAL4HER Showcase, a one-day 3x3 tournament featuring the top 20 participants from the BAL4HER Elevate Camp held in Lagos earlier this year. The showcase provided participants with an opportunity to demonstrate their talent and connect with the wider creative and sports industries at CANEX.

Earlier that day, BAL President Amadou Gallo Fall participated in a high-level panel discussion titled "Creating Sustainable Pathways to Success for Global African Sporting Talent," where industry stakeholders discussed the investment, collaboration and structures needed to support athletes from grassroots development through to professional opportunities.

"Talent has never been Africa's problem. The challenge is building the infrastructure, competition and structures around that talent, so that leaving the continent is a choice rather than the only route to the highest levels," Fall said. "Investment in a court should connect to programming, and programming to coaching and competition. That is how a court becomes a pathway and not just a facility."

Building on these conversations, the BAL continues to invest in initiatives that strengthen the basketball ecosystem across the continent, including the development and renovation of courts that provide professional and recreational players with spaces to play and develop their skills.

As part of these efforts, the BAL will unveil its second BAL4HER community court in Ogwumike parents homeland, Owerri, Nigeria, next month in collaboration with Qatar Foundation and Queens of the Continent. The initiative will combine access to basketball facilities with community programming and local partnerships designed to create more opportunities for women and girls to participate in and develop through the game.

In Memoriam

"My Lord! Bestow on them Thy mercy as they cherished me in my childhood-Q17:24
It is 54 years today when our beloved father HRH OBA ABDULSALAMI ADEWUNMI AJIBOLA, Gbadella II, the Olowu of Owu, Abeokuta (21 May 1948 1949-15 November 1972) joined his royal ancestors in the great beyond.
We remember your noble words, deeds and actions which motivated us to be good ambassadors of our Royal family.
May your noble soul and the souls of all progenies who have since departed, continue to dwell in the mercies of Almighty Allah, Amen.



HRH OBA ABDULSALAMI ADEWUNMI AJIBOLA
Gbadella II, the Olowu of Owu, Abeokuta

May 1949 to November 1972

By the Family of Late Prince Abdul-Jabar Bolasodun Adesunbo Ajibola SAN, KBE, CFR

TheGuardian
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Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria
November 14 -15, 2026



PAGE 46

Super Eagles Soar In Uyo, Olympics Eagles Stumble In DR Congo

INSIDE STUFF WITH MARTINS OLOJA



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Who Will Protect Uni-Abuja From Untouchable Wike (2)?

AS I was saying in my January 10, 2026 intervention here: "Wike has deftly assisted the President to consolidate welfare of judicial officers the same president earlier approved 300% increase in wages for." He has been building retirement estates for judicial officers. He has impressed the President as 'Mr. Project'. He has become the President's 'Man Friday' in Abuja.

And in my August 2026 piece on Abuja @ 50, I also noted: "The man constitutionally tasked to govern the FCT as its de-facto Governor – President Bola Ahmed Tinubu – said nothing of national weight on February 3, 2026, when Abuja turned 50. The man physically administering the FCT, Minister Wike was not in Abuja. He was in Rivers State, touring Local Government Councils in what was clearly a political show of force. If the President cannot celebrate Abuja@50, if the Minister can abandon Abuja@50 to campaign in Rivers, then who is governing Abuja? Who is protecting Abuja's institutions"?

The President is Visitor to Uni-Abuja. He has never visited Uni-Abuja as Visitor for a convocation in a meaningful way, as I noted: "What is worse, since 1988, even the university hasn't welcomed many Visitors to the university during convocations." A university whose Visitor never visits is an orphan. An orphan whose land is being taken is an orphan being robbed in broad daylight while its father is in the next room, watching football.

Where is the National Assembly – the Parliament of Abuja?

The 1999 Constitution makes the National Assembly the legislature for Abuja. There is no Abuja House of Assembly. The Senate and House are the Assembly. As I wrote in January 2026: "The 1999 Constitution as amended makes the National Assembly the legislature for Abuja. But they have never invited and cannot invite the genius for questioning even when there were reports that the International Conference Centre built in 1990 with N240 million was renovated with N39 billion in 2025. Who are they in National Assembly to invite the genius of all times to even defend allegations that he has allocated many plots of land to himself and family members in Abuja?"

That is the indictment.

The National Assembly has Committees on FCT. It has Committee on Education. It has Committee on Land. It has oversight powers. It can summon Wike. It can summon the Education Minister. It can summon the FCTA Director of Lands. It can demand the list of allottees of the 7,000 hectares. It can demand the court order compliance report. It has done none of these.

So, why the silence? Many National Assembly members are beneficiaries of Abuja land allocation. Many have plots in Guzape, in Maitama Extension, in Katampe, in Giri - allocated by the same Minister they are supposed to oversight. How do you oversight your allocator?

I also once noted this on the FCT representation crisis: "Since there is no elected governor, the highest elected officer in the capital of the federation is the Senator representing the Territory of only one senatorial district. Since 1999 when democracy was restored, no senator representing the FCT has led any of the two committees of the bi-cameral National Assembly to assess the infrastructure needs of the Federation University." One Senator for six (6) Area Councils. Two House members for the whole FCT. No Governor. No Assembly. Abuja is the most underrepresented territory in Nigeria. Its indigenous population - Gbagyi, Gwandara, Koro, Gade, Bassa, etc – have no state to call their own. They were told in 1976 that they would be compensated, resettled, integrated. Fifty years later, they are still 'waiting for Godot'. And now the university that was meant to educate their children is being carved.

Where are the Abuja stakeholders? Where are the traditional rulers of Gwagwalada, Kuje, Bwari, Kwali, Abaji, AMAC? Where are the FCT indigenous associations? Where are the 36 state governors who are stakeholders of the federation university? Where are the alumni? Where are the 55,000 students? Silence.

Thecivil service abandoned –The head of service symbol



Wike

Let's ask a pointed question: Why is the civil service too abandoned, where even the Head of Service has been acting since September 9, 2025?

The facts confirm it. After the death of Mrs. Grace Adayilo, the first female and first indigenous Head of Service of the FCTA, on September 1, 2025, Mrs. Nancy Sabanti Nathan was appointed Acting Head of Service on September 9, 2025, "pending the appointment of a substantive Head of Service." More than one year later, she is still acting. The FCTA civil service - the bureaucracy that should protect the Master Plan, that should keep land records, that should resist illegal allocations, that should process the university's title - is headed by an acting officer who serves at the pleasure of the Minister. An acting Head of Service cannot say no to a Minister who can remove her tomorrow. An acting Permanent Secretary cannot protect a file. An acting Director of Lands cannot refuse to "carve out" 7,000 hectares.

This is not a coincidence. This is how capture works. You keep the civil service in acting capacity, in fear, in temporary status, so that no one has the security to say: "Sir, this allocation violates the court order."

I noted in my portrait of the minister: "Your industrious genius who hasn't addressed welfare and housing deficit of FCT civil servants has been building retirement estates for judicial officers. The impetuous minister who hasn't visited the University of Abuja on behalf of the President, the Visitor, to assess the housing needs of Staff and Students has taken 70% of their land. But the same Minister has promised to build many hostels for Law School Students in Abuja." He builds for judges, not for civil servants. He builds for Law School, not for Uni-Abuja. He builds roads, not institutions. Roads are visible. Institutions are invisible - until they collapse.

And the mainstream media? Minister Wike deserves much more than he is getting from mainstream media - not criticism, but understanding of his genius. The media in Abuja depends on FCTA adverts, on road commissioning coverage, on access to the Minister's press briefings. Who will bite the hand that gives advert money? So the media that amplified "Uni-Abuja land grabber" in July 2025 has gone quiet in November 2026, even when ASUU says court order was violated.

The indigenous question: who benefits?



Tejuoso

The indigenous population of Abuja did not benefit from the UniAbuja land grab. They will not benefit from the malls. When Abuja was created in 1976, the *Gbagyi* and other indigenous peoples were promised that the new capital would bring them development, schools, hospitals, jobs. Instead, they watched their farmlands become Maitama, Asokoro, Wuse, Garki. They watched their villages become estates for the rich. They watched their children become tenants in their own land.

Uni-Abuja was supposed to be different. It was supposed to be a federal institution in their land, but for all Nigerians, with admission for their children, employment for their youths, research for their agriculture. Now, if 7,000 hectares are given to private investors - many of them not from Abuja, many of them not even from Nigeria - what do the indigenous people get? Shopping malls they cannot afford to shop in? Estates they cannot afford to rent? Roads they cannot afford to drive on?

This is the final betrayal of the Master Plan. The Master Plan was not just about roads. It was about justice. It was about creating a capital that belongs to all, not to a few land barons.

Who Will Protect Uni-Abuja? A 7-Point Demand

If no one will protect Uni-Abuja, then we must name who should and demand it publicly.

1. The President, as Visitor and Governor of Abuja: He must immediately suspend all allocations on the disputed 7,000 hectares, pending determination of the suit, and set up a Presidential Visitation Panel to investigate the land issue. He must visit Uni-Abuja in person - not to commission a road, but to walk the campus.

2. The Minister of Education: He must file a formal protest to the President and to the National Assembly, and instruct the NUC and the University Council to defend the university's title in court. Silence is complicity.

3. The National Assembly: The Senate Committee on FCT and Committee on Tertiary Education must summon Wike, the Education Minister, and the FCTA Director of Lands, and publish the full list of allottees of the 7,000 hectares. They must also amend the FCT Act to protect university lands from ministerial revocation without presidential approval and National Assembly ratification.

4. The Judiciary: The Maitama High Court order of August 18 must be enforced. Contempt proceedings must follow if allocations were made on September 26 in defiance. A court order that a minister can ignore is not a court order – it is a suggestion.

5. ASUU, NANS, Alumni, and Civil Society: ASUU Uni-Abuja has already drawn the battle line. It must be joined by national ASUU, by NANS, by Uni-Abuja alumni in all 36 states, by the Nigerian Bar Association, by the 36 state governors who are stakeholders of the federation university. This is not a Uni-Abuja problem. It is a federation problem.

6. The Abuja Indigenous Stakeholders and Traditional Rulers: The Etsu of Gwagwalada, the Aguma of Gwagwalada, the chiefs of Giri, the Gbagyi associations – they must speak. The land was taken from their ancestral area for a university. If the university loses it to private investors, their sacrifice is wasted.

7. The Media: The media must stop amplifying "land grabber" without context. It must investigate: Who got the 7,000 hectares? How much did they pay? Was there public tender? Where is the money? That is journalism.

Final Word: A university isn't a plot. I ended my July 2025 commentary with a plea: That the President should lead, yes lead, Minister Wike to look beyond the land of the University of Abuja. I wrote then that it would have been more remarkable if Wike had led the President to commission a world-class digital Abuja National Library where we can access documents on national development. Instead, we got roads to EFCC Academy on university land, and now malls on university land. Yes, a university is not a plot. A university is a future. When you take 7,000 hectares from a university, you are not taking land. You are taking hostels that will never be built. You are taking research farms that will never grow food. You are taking a medical school that will never train doctors for Abuja. You are taking a Cancer Research Centre that, as Pro-Chancellor Tejuoso revealed, had approached the university to build a world-class facility - and may now go elsewhere.

Who will protect UniAbuja from the untouchable Wike?

The answer must be: All of us. Reason: if a minister can take 70% of a federation university's land in broad daylight, in defiance of a court order, and no one - not the President, not the Education Minister, not the National Assembly, not the media, not the civil service - says anything, then no institution in Nigeria is safe. Today it is UniAbuja. Tomorrow it will be the National Hospital land. Next tomorrow it will be the Law School land. Next week, it will be your own plot. The federation must protect its university, or admit that the federation itself has been captured. **'For Unity and Scholarship'** – The motto of Uni-Abuja must not die on Giri Road.

Published by The Guardian Group, Rutam House, Isolo, Lagos Tel: 01-4489600
Abuja Office: Plot 415 Olu Awotesu Street, Off Idris Ibrahim Crescent, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Jabi District, Abuja. Tel: 08065290744
Advert Hotlines: 01-4489619, 08023015115 08031930899, advert@guardian.ng; Circulation Hotline: 07038746449
All correspondence to Guardian Newspapers Limited, P.M.B. 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria.
E-mail:Letters@guardian.ng; www.guardian.ng
Editor:
KABIR ALABI GARBA
ABC (ISSN NO 0189-5125)

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