



**Dangers  
ahead of 2023,  
by Primate  
Olabayo**

→ 14

## CHANGE OF NAME

**DO CHANGE OF NAME, ADDITION  
TO NAME, CONFIRMATION OF  
NAME FOR BVN, EMPLOYMENT,  
VISA AND OTHER PURPOSES IN  
THE TRUMPET**

## EDITORIAL

**The Legislature  
in Nigeria since  
1999**

→ 12



www.thetrumpet.ng

# The Trumpet

## PATRIOTIC VOICE

@TheTrumpetNig  
@thetrumpetng  
@thetrumpetngr

JUNE 11-12, 2022  
VOL. 1 NO. 056

N250 **Weekend**

# EFCC, Wike, Amaechi, Rivers guber candidate, others in ding dong war

■ Gov moves to prosecute predecessor, Tonye Cole

■ Submit yourself to EFCC, NGO tells Fubara

→ 2



Bawa



Wike



Amaechi



Fubara

**Murderers of Fasoranti's daughter to die by hanging → 4**



# EFCC, Wike, Amaechi, Rivers guber candidate, others in ding dong war

By **CHRIS EZEONOH**,  
Port Harcourt

**G**overnor Nyesom Wike has directed Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Prof. Zachaeus Adangor, to commence "diligent prosecution" of alleged illegal financial dealings of former Rivers Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Mr. Tonye Cole, Sahara Energy and others over the sale of state assets.

But a non-governmental organization (NGO) is urging Wike to come to equity with clean hands.

The governor who gave the directive shortly after swearing in the Attorney General and two other commissioners insisted that Rivers people must know how the sum of 50 million dollars "disappeared" from the treasury of the state government during Amaechi's tenure.

Wike said: "Attorney General, you're at a critical period where people want to know what the State is going to do with the Judiciary Panel of Inquiry after the Supreme Court judgement on it. Luckily, you came at the right time when we have preferred criminal charges against the former governor (Amaechi), Sahara Energy, Tonye Cole and the rest of them."

Wike said there was no proof of business where the cash was deployed: "So, you are coming at the right time to take over the matter and to make sure it is prosecuted diligently. I don't want to hear excuses. Let the people see what happened to our money. The world will see how \$50 million Dollar from our account was moved to a company without nothing to show whether there was a business."

He also directed the Commissioner for Justice, to write a strongly-worded protest letter to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over "harassment" of the state's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate, Siminalaye Fubara.

This, Wike said, is predicated on the fact that, recently, EFCC officers attempted to harass and intimidate Fubara, who before his emergence as the PDP governorship candidate, had served as the Accountant General of Rivers State. Wike said EFCC needed to know that the era of impunity and flagrant disobedience to the rule of law is gone and his administration will not accept such behaviour.

He maintained that the attempt to harass the PDP candidate will not be accepted as the state government will not hesitate to charge the EFCC for contempt.

Wike explained that before now, the Rivers government had obtained a subsisting court judgment against the EFCC that it cannot investigate the state's finances or its officers. According to him, there is also another judgment against EFCC by Fubara to enforce his fundamental rights, which has not been set aside.

"Rivers State government had judgment against EFCC since 2007. The court said you (EFCC) has no business in the financial transactions of the (Rivers) State. EFCC has been struggling to set aside that judgement until now. They have not even appealed it."

Wike warned that nobody will accept the use of EFCC at such political period to intimidate persons in order to achieve their "skewed" goals: "We are in a political



Bawa

period. People should not think that they will use EFCC to intimidate or manipulate him (Fubara). Nobody will accept that. So you (Attorney General) have to attach the judgment of the candidate against EFCC and send the right signal to them that we are not people that can be cowed."

The two other commissioners sworn in were, Hon. Isaac Kamalu as Commissioner of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning and Dr. George-Kelly, Dakorinama Alabo as Commissioner for Works and Special Projects.

They were among the commissioners who had resigned to contest in the governorship primaries of the PDP.

"The news making the rounds that Fubara, on Tuesday night escaped an attempt by officials of the EFCC to arrest him" has been described by HURIWA as "disgusting and shameful."

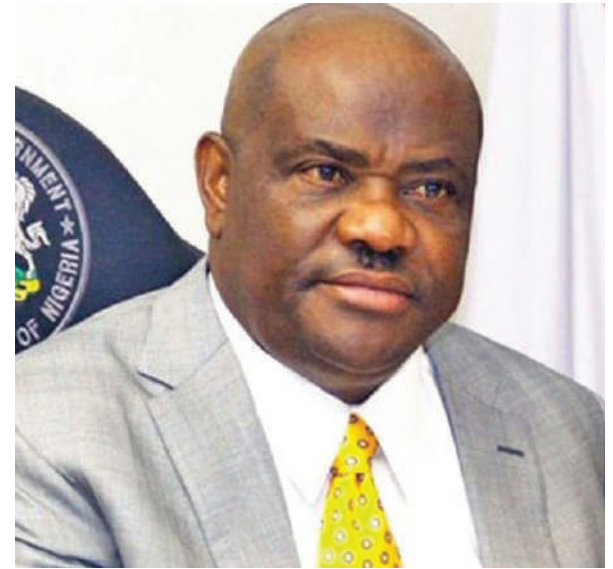
The prominent advocacy group reminded the politician that "under the constitutional Norm, he is innocent and therefore should respect a properly constituted law enforcement agency and surrender himself for questioning."

HURIWA said it was a bad precedence that the politician is setting if he continues to evade

arrest of the EFCC which is a body set up by law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria just as their task is supported by the constitutional provision in Section 15(5) which states that eradication of corruption and combating abuse of office is the duty of government.

HURIWA quoting news media said the drama unfolded at the Port Harcourt International Airport as the plane ferrying Fubara and other PDP chieftains who had accompanied him to Abuja to receive his Certificate of Return touched down at the airport just as the Rights group said it is inexplicable why the top Rivers politician is evading the invitation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission when he would be accorded all his basic and fundamental human rights as a citizen since the anti-graft agency can't afford to be lawless and unethical in its activities of waging a war against corruption.

HURIWA also stated that unlike the previous acting Chairman of the EFCC in which someone allegedly died in EFCC detention, the new dispensation is not associated with draconian detention facilities for now. The Rights group encourages the Rivers



Wike

politician not to be afraid if he is not guilty since only the guilty are afraid moreover when he can afford to engage the services of reputable lawyers to prove his innocence.

HURIWA condemned the reported physical confrontation against the operatives of the EFCC going by the news report that as the operatives move to effect the arrest of the Rivers PDP governorship candidate for questioning over allegations of graft related offences, some youths believed to be his supporters allegedly resisted the officials and attacked them. Though details of the alleged attack were still sketchy as of the time of filing the report by the media but sources said some of the EFCC operatives sustained injuries.

HURIWA recalled that the EFCC had declared Fubara, the immediate past Accountant General of Rivers state, and three other top state government officials wanted over alleged N117 billion fraud.

After the drama at the airport, Fubara who won the state PDP governorship primary on May 25 proceeded to the state party secretariat where he addressed party supporters and stakeholders.

HURIWA said the

unbecoming tendencies of politicians to totally disregard invitations of lawfully constituted law enforcement agencies is unconstitutional just as the Rights group charged the police to investigate the allegations of physical attack of the operatives of the EFCC by some unidentified youths allegedly said to be supporters of the embattled Rivers State Governorship Candidate of the PDP.

HURIWA said it was unimaginable that invitation by EFCC is dishonoured and those invited are hiding from being arrested which is a highly disgraceful Conduct especially going by the fact that the person involved is seeking to be elected as a governor of one of Nigeria's richest States.

The rights group in a media statement by Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko the National Coordinator is therefore charging the Rivers State governor Mr Nyesom Wike to ask his aides wanted by the EFCC to surrender and defend themselves since there is nothing to be afraid of if they are not guilty of the allegations moreover when the EFCC is expected to treat them as being innocent in the eye of the law until otherwise determined by a competent court of law in an open trial.





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

Restaurant & Rooftop Bar,  
Conference Room, Banquet Hall,  
Cybercafé, Gym, Car Hire,  
Laundry, WIFI



## Elomaz Hotels

Address: 3/5 Emmanuel St, Maryland Lagos

Tel: 0802 318 2295, 07053339183, 08141161113





# Murderers of Fasoranti's daughter to die by hanging

By **FRIDAY OMOSOLA**,  
Akure

An Ondo State High Court has sentenced three to death by hanging for killing 58-year-old Mrs Funke Olakunri, daughter of the leader of Afenifere, the pan-Yoruba socio-political organization, Pa Reuben Fasoranti.

The convicts, Adamu Adamu, Muhammed Shehu Usman and Lawal Mazaje, were similarly accused of assassinating a hunter in the forest. However, the court discharged the fourth suspect, Auwalu Abubakar, arraigned for aiding and abetting.

In his verdict, Justice Williams Rotimi

Olamide convicted the three suspects to death on charges bothering on conspiracy to kill, murder, kidnapping, and armed robbery. The judge commiserated with the victim's family and advised the government to find a lasting solution to the thriving insecurity in the country.

On July 12, 2019, the 58-year-old Olakunri, who was heading to Akure, Ondo State, from Lagos, was attacked and shot by the armed herdsmen on the Benin-Sagamu Expressway.

After months, the killers were arrested on April 6, 2020, following tracking and investigation by men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Nigeria Police Force.



The late Mrs Funke Olakunri

## Israeli PM makes surprise visit to UAE

By **OROWO VICTORIA OJIEH** with agency report

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has made a surprise visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A statement from Bennett's office said the Israeli leader will meet UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and that the two will discuss "various regional issues," with Iran likely to top the agenda.

Bennett also met Foreign Minister

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Bennett's visit on Thursday was his second public trip to Abu Dhabi since Israel and the UAE formally normalised ties in 2020 after years of quiet cooperation.

Sheikh Mohammed succeeded his late half-brother Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan last month.

"Today, together, we will take to the special bond that has been woven between our countries to the next level for the growth and security of both our peoples,"

Bennett said before his departure.

In 2020, the UAE and Bahrain became the first Gulf states to sign an agreement to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

It was primarily directed against Shiite Iran, which the UAE saw as an arch-enemy, though economic interests also played a role.

Only two Arab states, Egypt and Jordan, maintained diplomatic relations with Israel.

In a video statement recorded before departing, Bennett

commended countries at an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna on Wednesday who voted to censure Iran over its transparency about nuclear activities at three undeclared sites in the country.

"We see here a firm stance by the countries of the world regarding the distinction between good and evil, as they clearly state that Iran is concealing things. We will not let up on this issue," he said before boarding a plane to the UAE.

## PDP NWC to assist Atiku in finding acceptable running mate

By **TUNDE JOSHUA**,  
Abuja

The leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party, particularly, the National Working Committee (NWC) are going to be deeply involved in finding an acceptable running mate for its presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar.

The party chairman, Dr Iyorchia Ayu and the presidential candidate met with governors of the party on Wednesday evening at the PDP Presidential Campaign Office, Legacy House, Abuja.

The meeting was the first major convergence of the governors with the party leadership after the May 29 conclusion of its special national convention in which Atiku emerged.

Ayu said the meeting continues this weekend until the party pick "someone with large acceptability" that will go into the 2023 presidential contest with Atiku Abubakar.

The national chairman said "the issue of finding a running mate is as important as that of electing the candidate and our party is not leaving no stone unturned.

"There are a lot of consideration that goes into this process and we have to critically look into each consideration.

"The main focus of the PDP is to rescue power from the ruling APC that has bastardized governance and traumatized Nigerians.

And to achieve our aim, we need to choose right and choosing right entails wide consultation.

"But I want to assure our teaming members and Nigerian at large that our choice will reflect their aspirations".

In a very brief address after the meeting, the chairman of PDP Governors' Forum and governor of Sokoto State, Aminu Tambuwal said the meeting dissected the outcome of the presidential primary.

When asked if the meeting discussed the issue of vice presidential candidate, he accepted that it was one issue on

the front burner.

Tambuwal simply said, "it is part of the consultation, it's ongoing and governors are also being consulted on that."

There has been anxiety on who will be Atiku's running mate, a decision which could not be left to the candidate alone to decide.

Top on the list of possible vice presidential candidate are; Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta, Nyeson Wike of Rivers, and Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu.

The name of the former governor of Imo State, Emeka Ihedioha came up immediately after the convention but it was learnt that the name was dropped for being a feeble consideration. The name of the former Governor of Delta State, Dr Emmanule Eweta Uduaghan is also top on the list.

Another twist to the contest is the mentioning of the name of the former Finance minister, Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala.

But, this is doubtful as there is little possibility that Iweala may leave her international appointment at the World Trade Center (WTO) for the vice president job.

The governors are likely to meet again on Friday to fine tune the nomination of one of them as Atiku's running mate.

Tambuwal further said stakeholders at the meeting expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the convention and commended the leadership and members for the success.

"The national chairman along with the candidate came to thank the governors for their roles at the convention.

"We talked about cooperation and collaboration in prosecuting a very successful electioneering campaign that will result in victories for the PDP at various elections from the state house of assembly, national election, governorship and the presidential election come February 2023.

"It is more of a consultative meeting on matters concerning the way forward."

## Ugwuanyi imposes dusk-to-dawn curfew in Enugu

By **CHARLES ONYEKWERE**, South-East Correspondent

Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu has imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Igbo-Eze North and Igbo-Eze South Local Government Areas of the state to last between the hours of 6 pm to 6

am.

According to a statement by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Prof. Simon Uchenna Ortuanya, the dusk-to-dawn curfew takes effect from Friday, June 10, 2022.

The statement disclosed that the curfew was "Pursuant

to Executive Order No. 3, 2022 and consequent upon security challenges in Igbo-Eze North and Igbo-Eze South Local Government Areas of Enugu State."

Ortuanya added that Ugwuanyi imposed the curfew in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 215 (4) of the 1999 Constitution of

the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

The statement directed the Chairmen of Igbo-Eze North and Igbo-Eze South LGAs as well as Forest Guard and Neighbourhood Watch Officers of the affected two council areas to ensure strict compliance with the Executive Order.



# Tinubu visits Umahi

By **CHARLES ONYEKWERE**,  
South-East Correspondent

In what looked like practical moves towards reconciling all members, especially aspirants in the just concluded Presidential primary election of the All Progressives Congress, APC, the candidate of the party, Ahmed Bola Tinubu, paid an unscheduled visit to Governor of Ebonyi State, Engr. David Umahi.

The meeting, which was held behind closed doors in the early hours of today at Governor Umahi's Abuja residence, was part of the moves

by the APC flagbearer towards reconciling all the aspirants who contested with him for the party ticket, aimed at seeking support and addressing salient issues arising from the just concluded Presidential convention.

Tinubu described Umahi as a dogged fighter who threw in everything during the contest and a man with proven track records and capacity who will do well in any position, citing his achievements in Ebonyi State as Governor.

He said Umahi has become a rallying point for Igbo integration in mainstream national politics

and assured him that his administration when elected would carry all parts of the country along irrespective of gender, tribe and religion and address the issue of marginalisation and all forms of injustices.

Governor Umahi who doubles as chairman of South East Governors' Forum while receiving the APC flagbearer assured him of his support and that of all members of the All Progressives Congress, APC in the entire South East zone.

Umahi, who had earlier congratulated Tinubu on his emergence as the Presidential candidate of APC, said the country

needs to unite under the party to consolidate on the already achieved success of President Muhammadu Buhari and expressed absolute confidence that the country will take a leap under the leadership of Tinubu.

Tinubu was accompanied by the Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Umar Ganduje while Umahi's team was made up of the Governorship candidate of APC in Ebonyi State who is also the Speaker of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Francis Nwifuru and Senatorial candidate of APC for Ebonyi South Senatorial zone, Chief Austin Umahi among others.



Tinubu

## Akpabio, Umahi win APC senatorial ticket

By **ISAAC JOB, UYO**,  
**CHARLES ONYEKWERE**

The immediate past Minister of Niger Delta Affairs and presidential aspirant, Senator Godswill Akpabio, and Governor David Umahi of Ebonyi State have emerged as the Senatorial flag bearers for Akwa Ibom North West and Ebonyi South Senatorial district on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC) for the 2023 general elections respectively.

At the Senatorial primary held Thursday night in Ikot Ekpene Local Council in Akwa Ibom State, the Returning Officer, Bunmi Moleye, announced that out of the 512 accredited delegates, Akpabio polled 478 votes while DIG Ekpo Udom (Rtd) and Sir Joseph Akpan scored 3 and 1 votes respectively. A similar exercise was held on May 28, which saw DIG Ekpo Udom (Rtd) as the party's candidate but was later nullified following petitions of alleged security infractions.

The state chairman of the party, Sir Stephen Ntukekpo, who addressed the people before the nomination, said the National Working Committee of the party mandated him as the chairman to conduct a rerun of the election yesterday adding that he duly informed the aspirants concerned of the exercise. He said, "almost a week ago, a similar ex-

ercise was conducted here and as a state chairman, I received a letter from the National Working Committee, indicating with strong words that there are some sufficient and profound infractions in the Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial district.

"They mandated us to conduct the rerun exercise today, on that note permit me to introduce the committee members carefully selected by the National Working Committee. The five-man committee is led by Sir Sylvester Okonkwo as the chairman. We have about three aspirants in this exercise and they have been informed about the exercise of today and they are: Joseph Akpan, DIG Ekpo Udom, Obongemem Ekperikpe Ekpo, Godswill Obot Akpabio."

One of the aspirants,

Ekperikpe Ekpo, however withdrew his aspirations and drummed support for Godswill Akpabio even as he urged his delegates to vote Akpabio whom he described as his father. Today, my father (Akpabio) has joined the race. I plead with all my delegates to identify with him as I return all the delegates to vote for Senator Godswill Akpabio. With that, I have withdrawn my aspiration to the Senatorial seat," he said.

Meanwhile, DIG Ekpo Udom (rtd) as well as Sir Joseph Akpan boycotted the primary and have not yet made public the reasons for their action.

Senator Akpabio while making a remark after his victory said, "I thank all the delegates across the Senatorial District for finding me worthy

to represent you in the Nigerian Senate. I was the only senator ever to do the kind of empowerment I did from market to water projects, electrification, even road construction, I did all as a senator, and I promise to do more. I pray that you all shall live long to enjoy the fruits of your labour."

It was gathered that Observers from INEC and representatives of NWC as well as the Chairman, APC Primaries Appeal Committee, Sunday Ewoleye, were present at the primary rerun. But stakeholders in the Senatorial District have kicked against the emergence of Akpabio in the 2023 senatorial elections.

A youth leader, Mr Udoma Idiong, said it is the turn of former "Abak five" comprising five local

government areas in the senatorial district to take their turn for the senate seat. He said Akpabio must wait for their turn for equity and justice to other local government areas in the senatorial district.

Similarly, Umahi contested the presidential primary of the APC but lost to Bola Tinubu at the party's convention in Abuja.

Umahi's younger brother, Chief Austin Umahi, had emerged as the winner of the election two weeks ago.

The party cancelled the senatorial primary election for Ebonyi South and rescheduled it for Thursday night.

The rescheduled Ebonyi South APC Senatorial primary election was held at Afikpo North Local Government Council, with Governor Umahi clinching the party's ticket.

Wike re-appoints  
ex-Chief of  
Staff, three ex-  
commissioners

By **CHRIS EZEONOH**, Port  
Harcourt

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, has reappointed three former commissioners into the State Executive Council.

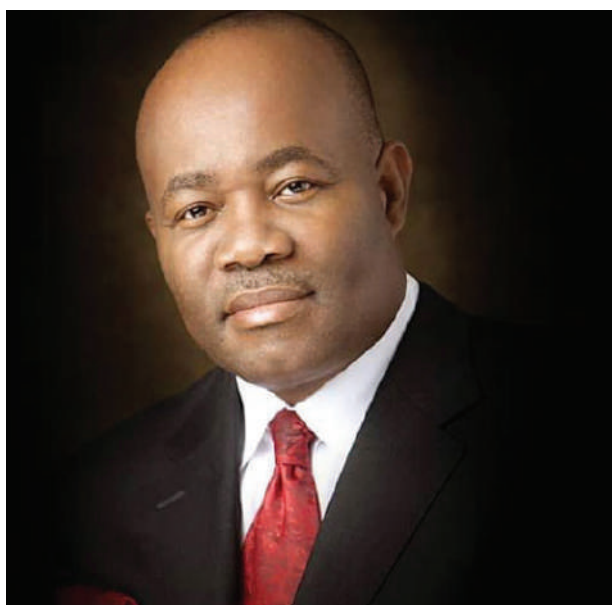
They are: Prof. Zachaeus Adangor, SAN, Hon Isaac Kamalu and Dr George-Kelly Dakorinama Alabo

Recall that the governor had in the build-up to the PDP Governorship and Presidential primaries sacked all commissioners including all other aides.

Isaac Kamalu and George Kelly had resigned to participate in the governorship primaries which was eventually won by Hon Sim Fubara.

A statement issued by Mr Kelvin Ebiri, Special Assistant, Media to the Governor on Thursday said the commissioner designates would be sworn in on Friday, 10th June 2022 at the Executive Council Chamber of Government House, Port Harcourt by 12 pm.

The statement added that the governor has also reappointed the immediate past Chief of Staff, Chief Emeka Woke. The appointments take immediate effect.



Akpabio,



Umahi



## Lesson teacher bags life jail for impregnating 14 year-old pupil

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE, METRO EDITOR/LAGOS BUREAU CHIEF

A domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Court sitting in Ikeja has sentenced a 'lesson teacher,' Joseph Ibanga, to life imprisonment for defiling and impregnating a 14 year-old girl.

While delivering judgment, Justice Abiola Soladoye, said the prosecution proved the charge of defilement beyond reasonable doubt against the lesson teacher.

"The survivor was a minor and her consent is immaterial. The evidence before the court showed that the defendant had sex with her in her home and his own matrimonial home. She subsequently became pregnant and had a baby.

"The medical report corroborated the evidence of the victim. The defendant is responsible for the act and there is evidence before the court to prove same. The survivor identified the defendant as her lesson teacher and the person

who had forced sexual intercourse with her.

"The defendant is very ungrateful and wicked. He ravished the student with impunity and taught her nonsense. He has brought ridicule to the teaching profession and this punishment will serve as a lesson to him.

"The defendant is hereby found guilty as charged, based on the avalanche of evidence against him, and he is sentenced to life imprisonment."

The judge ordered that

the name of the convict be entered into the register of sexual offenders of Lagos State. The prosecution presented three witnesses at the trial, while the defendant has no witness, he gave his sole defence.

According to the prosecution team, Mr Olusola Soneye, Mrs Olufunke Adegoke and Ms Abimbola Abolade, the defendant committed the offence between January and March 2019 at No.12, Iresi Street, Orile-Agege, in Lagos.

They submitted that the defendant was a lesson teacher, who taught the survivor at home, because she was not in school for a long time, due to slow learning. They said that the defendant had sex with her in her home, where she lived with her aunt, and whenever he came to teach her and subsequently became pregnant and had a baby, contrary to section 137 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015, which stipulates life imprisonment for offenders.



## Police arrest one for illegal possession of firearm

By ALEX OLISE

Operatives of the Lagos Police Command have arrested a suspect for alleged possession of firearms.

In a press statement signed and released to The Trumpet by the Command's Spokesperson, SP Benjamin Hundeyin stated, "Officers of Ikorodu division of the Lagos State Police Command have arrested one Kabiru Garba along Igbogbo Ikorodu road.

"The suspect was arrested at about 2300hrs on Friday, June 4, 2022, after he took to his heels upon sighting policemen on routine patrol.

"After a thorough search of the suspect, a Beretta pistol

was found in his possession. Preliminary investigation has begun to unravel more details about the suspect, his activities and source of the firearm. Suspect would be arraigned in court at the conclusion of the investigation."

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Abiodun Alabi, has assured residents of Lagos State that efforts are being redoubled toward eradicating all forms of criminality in the state.



## UNIABUJA sacks two professors over sex-for-marks

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

The University of Abuja, UNAB, has dismissed two lectures over allegations of sex for marks.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na-Allah, who made the revelation did not disclose the names of those affected but said the lecturers were dismissed as part of tough measures to discourage such ugly incidents in the institution.

Na'Allah told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in New York that the university had introduced a policy on sex abuse on

campus, which had been published.

Na-Allah, who was on a two-day visit to the U.S. to meet with the University of Abuja Alumni Association, USA chapter, to solicit support for the institution, said, "female students needed to be protected."

According to him, the institution is committed to high moral standards and will not tolerate any act of misconduct perpetrated by its staff against students.

"I have dismissed two professors since I became the Vice-Chancellor. It tells you how we are serious about the issue of sexual harassment.

"We are collaborating with some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), to make sure that it is not only us that are addressing this issue, but we have a strong partnership.

"We cannot allow the lives of our students to be destroyed because most of the abuses destroy the lives of their victims."

The V.C said: "it was sad to see some lecturers, who are supposed to be protecting the female students, becoming one of their problems. This is a problem of universities in Nigeria, not only the University of Abuja alone.

## Nollywood star seeks custody of son, step-daughter as marriage collapses

By BENJAMIN OMOIKE

These are not the best of times for Nollywood superstar, Kalu Ikeagwu. The marriage of this star, who has featured dozens of films has fallen apart and he is currently doing everything possible to secure custody of his son and the step-daughter he is accused of enticing for sex.

Kalu Ikeagwu informed a High Court, sitting in Ikeja, how his wife, Ijeoma, deserted their matrimonial home and prevented him from gaining access to their two children.

Consequently, Ikeagwu in a suit marked LD/8939HD/2021, is seeking a dissolution of his six-year-old marriage to Ijeoma and full custody of his three years-old son and 10 years-old step-daughter.

Under cross-examination by the respondent's counsel, Mrs S.I. Amedu Ikeagwu revealed that his wife packed out of his matrimonial home and sent him a mail that she was on her way to her father's house in Enugu. He told the court that he was shocked when he found her at the Murtala

Mohammed International Airport with the children a few days later.

"I got back home from a trip on August 4, 2021, to find out that my wife had left our matrimonial home with the children to an undisclosed location. I tried to contact her when I got to the house and found it empty. I sent her an email on that same day and she replied that she had gone to her father's house in Enugu.

"She told me she was at her father's place in Enugu and four days later, I saw her at the airport in Lagos, heading to God knows where. In the mail she sent, she said she was in Enugu. Ikeagwu also debunked the claim that he sent his wife and kids out of the house and failed to provide materially for them.

"I did not send her out of the house. Someone has to tell me why it takes four days to get to Enugu from Lagos. If you say 'you are on your way' it means it is a continuous sentence. It was a stated fact that she was on her way," he said.

The Nollywood star further told the court that his wife denied him sex and also poured water on him while he was asleep and that he was not aware that his wife lost a pregnancy due to a Sexually Transmitted Infection, STI, while they were together.

"After the birth of our son, she refused to have sex with me. I was not aware she lost another pregnancy due to an infection, as I did not give her any infection. Till date, I have not seen any report attached to a document that she lost a baby through STD. Though I did not ask her why she lost the baby," he said.

Ikeagwu said he stopped sending money to the children for upkeep and maintenance because his wife denied him access to his stepdaughter. He added that this was after she accused him of attempting to sleep with the child and she failed to acknowledge the money he sent to her.

"The last time I sent money to them was in November 2021. I stopped sending money because my wife denied me as a father to my step-daughter

and she also accused me of wanting to sleep with her," the actor said.

On why he was seeking custody of his step-daughter, whom he had earlier sought for revocation of guardianship, the actor said he had information that his wife wanted to relocate from Nigeria with the children.

"I want custody of the two children. The reason I sought for revocation was because my wife had turned my step-daughter against me and at that point, I got a hint that she wanted to fly the children abroad. I have never been married to any woman before I got married to my wife. I married her after she had her daughter.

"I earlier said the issue of revocation was because I felt she wanted to use me. My Lord, look at the precedence of how I have treated the girl from the very beginning. I am an actor by profession and I travel to locations within and outside Nigeria where I can spend five days to one month.

"At the moment it may be difficult but I am think-

ing about the future when I remarry and get a stable wife," Ikeagwu said. Justice Christopher Balogun had earlier ordered the children to play with their father in court and ordered the respondent to present the receipts of the tuition fees of the children in court.

Balogun said: "According to the Child's Right Act, you cannot deny the children the best education even if you're quarrelling with your wife. If I should as a judgment grant you a divorce, and if your wife is in Enugu and you stay in Lagos, why should I give the custody of a 10 year-old girl to you while her mother is alive?"

"The Supreme Court ruled that it is not the wealth of a father that the children of that age need, they need the care and attention of their biological mother. The only reason the girl-child should not be in the custody of the mother is if the mother is mentally derailed or the issue of infidelity is involved.

"Assuming the girl starts her monthly period, you as a father do not know what to do. You will be scared of the blood. A female girl is delicate. Your own case is worse because an accusation has been levelled against you," he said. The judge adjourned the case until June 23 for continuation of hearing.





## FOR THE RECORD

# Jonathan to Atiku, Tinubu, Obi, others: Let your campaign be devoid of acrimony, treachery

●Says no ambition worth life of Nigerians



Jonathan



Atiku



Tinubu



Obi

By TUNDE JOSHUA, POLITICS EDITOR, ABUJA

Former president of Nigeria, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has congratulated all presidential candidates who have emerged through their respective party primaries stressing that the successes recorded are positive indicators for the general elections.

He specifically cautioned them to rein in their supporters during campaign activities to be decorous, to avoid acrimony and above all, to be oblivious of the fact that their ambitions put together do not worth the life of a single Nigeria.

Below is the full text of Dr Jonathan's statement:

"I congratulate the winners of the various primaries across the political spectrum, particularly Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu who has won the presidential primary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the flag bearers of other parties that have also concluded their primaries.

"They include Senator Rabiu Kwankwaso, New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Malik Ado-Ibrahim, Young Progressives Party (YPP), Chief Dan Nwanyanwu, Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Dumebi Kachikwu, African Democratic Congress (ADC) as well as Adewole Adebayo of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

"Your emergence as the flagbearers of your parties after submitting yourselves to rigorous selection and election processes demonstrates your belief and interest in the progress of our nation.

"I consider you are all aspiring to be elected as the leader of the country because you are democrats who believe, like the rest of us, that Nigeria is our common heritage which we should all strive to protect, prosper and preserve for the future generation.

"As you progress towards the electioneering campaigns, it is important that the issues confronting the country and credible solutions take centre stage.

"I urge you to conduct your campaigns in a manner devoid of acrimony, divisiveness and treachery so that at the end of the

day Nigeria will win, democracy will triumph and humanity will be better for it.

"As I have always said, no ambition is worth the life of another. As candidates, you must eschew violence and acts that will encourage any form of bloodletting or exacerbate the national fault lines. We live in a season of unprecedented violence and all political leaders have a responsibility to de-escalate the tension in the country.

"The candidates by conduct and language must prioritise non-violence and peaceful coexistence.

"I also salute the sportsmanship displayed by other aspirants who have continued to lend their weight to the democratic process, despite the fact that they did not emerge victorious in their various party primaries.

"I urge all stakeholders to place national interest above personal interest. We must commit to upholding virtues that will sustain our democracy and advance the cause of good governance, peace and sustainable development.

"Nigeria is at a critical junction in its march to nationhood as

it grapples with security and economic challenges. The 2023 elections present an opportunity to renew our union, rebuild the dreams of our founding fathers and revitalise our economy.

"The importance of this election imposes on the election managers and security agencies a historic burden to continue deepening the reforms of our electoral system. A transparent election will go a long way to increase the confidence of Nigerians in our democracy and restore trust in our public institutions.

"We can attain our national aspirations of unity, peace, and progress through the instrumentality of a functional and effective democracy.

"I urge all leaders, especially politicians, to prioritize the peace and stability of our nation as we commence the activities of the 2023 elections.

"To the good citizens of our beloved country, particularly the youth, I charge you all to make honest and patriotic choices that will guarantee us the hope that we desire for ourselves and our nation."



# Best Western Plus Elomaz Hotel, Asaba.

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

Tel: +2348038193264





## 'Yoruba nation can't be overrun' - Ooni of Ife

By GABRIEL OMONHINMIN

The Ooni of Ife, His Imperial Majesty Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, has called on the Nigerian government to do all within its powers to overhaul the country's security architecture, stressing that the security agencies will be in a position to nip all crimes in the bud before they happen, as "Prevention is better than cure."

The Ooni lamented that "Exactly a year now, the Irgan massacre took place in Oyo State. As if it is a plan to remind the Yoruba race about this ugly incident, another barbaric attack had again been carried out by alleged bandits. These particular attacks in Owo, Ondo State, have left a number of innocent worshippers dead in St. Francis Catholic Church, in Owa-Iluwa, Owo, Ondo State, as we grieved this ugly incident, let it be known, that the Yoruba people are no longer finding these types of killings funny. The Paramount ruler added, "These attacks by bandits have further polarized the country and put the Nigerian nation on edge."

"This gruesome massacre and dastardly acts are gradually becoming very clear to all that the Yoruba nation is a target, as they deliberately want to plug our region into crises and make it a war zone."

The Ooni said, "Let it be very clear to all and sundry that the Yoruba people have the capacity to defend themselves in all ways possible if the push comes to the show, even though the Yoruba people are generally peace loving people."

These were contained in a press statement issued by the Director of Media and Public Affairs, Otunba Moses Olafare. The Ooni warned against the plans by any bloodsucking groups within and outside the country, to create disharmony and further polarize Nigeria.

The Ooni said, "Although some of these groups, who are the enemies of Nigeria and Nigerians have vowed to destabilize the South West region of Nigeria and heightened the vulnerability of Nigerians especially the poor, who are often the victims of these violent attacks, the Yoruba people as a race as co- stakeholders in the Nigerian enterprise, will continue to preach peace and peaceful co-existence, no matter the provocation."

"We should all be reminded that Sunday 6th June 2022, made it exactly a year when an invading gang of killer herdsmen killed at least over 20 people in Irgan, Ibarapa North Local Government Area of Oyo State. In that particular incident, several houses, which included the Palace of the Asigangan and a popular petroleum station were burnt in the attacks at midnight when people were in their beds sleeping in their respective homes."

Ooni Ogunwusi, who is the co-Chairman of the National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria (NCTRN), explained that there have been reports that some criminals are currently working to invade and wreak havoc on the entire Yoruba land, such as the one that just happened in Owo town in Ondo State.

He continued, "When calamities like this befall us without a single trace, the interpretation is that the intelligence unit of our country's security architecture is probably faulty or completely missing. However, we the descendants of Oduduwa cannot be overrun in our own homes as we are prepared and ready to defend ourselves against external aggression of invaders."

"Rather than discouraging us, this will rather strengthen us, especially in our resolve to deploy manpower, resources and technology towards the protection of lives and properties in our various



His Imperial Majesty Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II

kingdoms.

"The six governors across the South West region and their brothers nationwide as well as President Muhammadu Buhari-led Federal Government, are expected to live up to their oaths of securing Nigerians and ensuring safety for the citizens."

The Ooni commiserated with the Olowo of Owo, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III, the entire Owo Kingdom, Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, the Ondo State Government, the Priest and parishioners of St. Francis Catholic Church, Owa-Iluwa, Owo, and the entire people of Ondo State over the tragic and senseless killings.

Speaking in the same breath, an Islamic Cleric, Abu Jabir Abdullah Penabdul, said

that Islam is a peaceful religion and pro-life, and should not be associated with bloodthirstiness.

He said that sadly, because of the activities of very negligible few, who claimed to be Muslims, even when their actions and deeds do not portray them as Muslim, the Muslim Uma, are being inundated with the information linking Islam to bloodshed and terrorism such that some have equated Islam to terrorism.

He continued, "I know it is impossible to convince the entire world on one thing, not even on the issue of the Oneness of Allah that created us and the entire universe, but if we don't defend Islam and present it to the world in its pristine form, the world will define it for us. Islam

doesn't encourage and will never encourage violence in any way in particular.

"The terrorists that kill innocent people across board, are often not on the social media, they hardly get to read or hear what people say about them. All they do is to strike and run into their hiding places. If and when a reprisal attack is carried out by the people injured, or relatives of the people killed, they oftentimes never get to know about these acts of reprisal. Even when they hear or get to know about what is happening to innocent people because of their actions they do not care. In situations like this, head or tail, it is the innocent people who go about their daily lives that suffer in the process. This is why we must be careful."

He regretted, that "Well-organized sophisticated media propaganda has been unleashed globally on Islam and its practitioners and Islam has suddenly become the black-sheep of religion worldwide. Most people with discerning minds, still know, that the true essence of the word Islam preaches and teaches peace."

"We find in the Glorious Qur'an verses prohibiting, warning and discouraging Muslims from killing innocent souls. But somehow, those verses are not trending in the media landscape because nobody wants to hear good news about Islam once it has been painted to be evil."

Allah says in Qur'an Chapter 5:32: "If anyone killed a person, not in retaliation of murder, or (and) spread mischief in the land - it's as if, such a person has killed all mankind, and if anyone save a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind."

"What does retaliation of murder mean? Retaliation of murder as in the case of a soul for a soul and not mob action against innocent souls. A case of apostasy, a case of Zina, a case of highway robbery or their likes."

"In one verse, the Muslims have been warned from any thought of killing an innocent soul and at the same time introduced to the nobility of saving a life in the most encouraging way. When we save one life as Muslims, we have saved the entire humanity. The reward for such actions is usually immense."

"I want the thread to be short, otherwise, we have many verses and Hadith of the Prophet, peace be upon him, on the dangers of bloodshed and the greatness of refraining from that." He added.







## ADVERT RATES

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

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

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

### COLOR RATE

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	6,135.10	6,595.23
1 x 2	12,448.80	13,382.46
2 x 2	24,941.96	26,812.61
3 x 2	37,413.09	40,219.07
4 x 2	49,884.02	53,625.42
5 x 2	62,355.15	67,031.71
6 x 2	76,142.50	81,853.18
7 x 2	87,297.21	93,844.50
7 x 3	166,172.00	179,229.37
7 x 4	197,125.00	211,909.37
8 x 2	99,768.24	107,250.85
9 x 2	112,183.69	120,597.47
9 x 3	168,358.90	180,985.39
10 x 3	187,065.45	201,095.35
14.5 x 2	260,395.00	279,924.62
8 x 4	199,536.48	214,501.71
9 x 4	224,478.54	241,314.43
10 x 4	299,302.72	321,752.57
14.5 x 4	520,790.19	559,849.45
7 x 5	218,243.02	234,629.74
8 x 5	299,304.72	321,752.57
8 x 6	359,165.65	386,103.08
9 x 5	404,061.37	434,365.97
10 x 5	448,957.08	482,628.86
11 x 5	493,852.78	530,891.74
9 x 6	484,873.39	521,239.16
10 x 6	538,748.49	579,154.53
11 x 6	592,622.16	637,068.82
HP 7.25 x 6	317,178.40	340,337.5
FP 14.5 x 6	560,500.00	602,537.50

### PUBLIC NOTICE

*Obituary, Goodwill Message, Annual Reports & AGMS, Financial Statements*

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	5,664.59	6,089.43
1 x 2	11,294.45	12,141.54
2 x 2	22,588.91	24,283.09
3 x 2	33,987.48	36,622.04
4 x 2	45,177.83	48,566.17
5 x 2	56,472.29	60,707.71
6 x 2	67,975.12	73,073.25
6 x 3	101,962.78	109,609.99
6.5 x 3	110,459.64	118,744.11
7 x 2	79,304.29	85,252.11
7 x 3	128,456.43	138,090.67
7 x 4	158,608.73	170,504.38
7 x 5	198,260.25	213,129.77
8 x 2	90,633.42	97,430.92
8 x 3	135,950.22	146,146.48
8 x 4	181,266.93	194,841.95
8 x 5	226,238.74	254,477.52
8 x 6	271,900.48	292,008.02
9 x 2	101,962.78	109,609.99
9 x 3	152,944.01	164,414.81
9 x 4	203,925.29	219,219.69
9 x 5	305,373.04	328,276.02
9 x 6	367,065.92	394,595.86
10 x 3	169,651.36	182,375.21
10 x 4	226,258.00	243,176.28
10 x 5	354,037.54	380,590.16
10 x 6	424,845.04	456,708.42
11 x 5	389,441.887	418,650.01
11 x 6	447,303.49	480,851.24
14.5 X 2	197,128.09	211,912.70
14.5 X 4	394,256.19	423,825.40
14.5 X 5	472,286.06	507,707.52
HP7.25 X 6	269,191.05	289,380.38
FP 14.5 X 6	460,275.00	594,225.62

### CORPORATE NOTICE

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	4,587.47	4,931.53
1 x 2	9,174.94	9,863.07
2 x 2	18,349.89	19,716.64
3 x 2	27,524.84	29,589.20
4 x 2	36,700.09	39,452.60
5 x 2	45,866.19	49,315.34
6 x 2	55,049.68	59,178.41
6 x 3	54,074.55	61,200.90
6.5 x 3	89,455.78	96,164.94
7 x 2	64,224.63	69,041.48
7 x 3	96,336.94	103,562.21
7 x 4	145,965.10	156,912.48
7 x 5	182,500.19	196,187.71
8 x 2	73,399.58	78,904.54
8 x 3	125,871.78	134,674.05
8 x 4	167,043.40	179,022.80
8 x 5	208,805.79	224,469.23
8 x 6	250,284.32	26,911.09
9 x 2	93,773.60	100,872.44
9 x 3	141,108.54	151,691.68
9 x 4	187,921.52	202,015.71
9 x 5	281,288.07	303,022.10
9 x 6	337,805.68	363,141.11
10 x 3	156,602.81	168,348.02
10 x 4	208,808.58	224,469.23
10 x 5	325,815.11	349,966.25
10 x 6	390,978.13	420,320.48
11 x 5	358,396.62	385,276.37
11 x 6	412,916.45	443,885.19
14.5 x 2	151,178.45	162,516.84
14.5 x 4	362,827.71	390,039.79
HP7.25 X 6	246,131.63	264,591.50
14.5 X 5	431,525.39	463,889.79
FP14.5 X 5	423,373.39	455,126.39
Double Spread Half Page	832,371.68	894,805.68
Double Spread Full Page	1,334,669.15	1,434,769.344

### PRODUCT, COMPULIFE AND PROPERTY

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
1 x 1	3,786.98	4,071.00
1 x 2	7,573.97	8,142.02
2 x 2	15,147.94	16,284.03
3 x 2	22,721.91	24,426.05
4 x 2	30,295.53	32,657.70
5 x 2	37,863.00	40,710.09
6 x 2	45,443.82	48,852.10
7 x 2	53,017.79	56,993.61
8 x 2	60,591.76	65,136.14
9 x 2	80,454.83	86,488.95
10 x 2	86,147.92	92,609.02
14.5 x 2	124,915.92	134,284.61
5 x 3	56,804.77	61,065.13
6 x 3	68,170.86	73,283.67
7 x 3	79,526.68	85,491.18
8 x 3	103,375.58	111,130.80
6 x 4	100,634.10	110,944.41
7 x 4	120,404.56	129,434.90
8 x 4	137,692.17	148,019.082
10 x 4	172,301.37	185,224.22
14.5 x 3	187,057.43	201,086.73
14.5 x 4	249,838.03	268,575.88
7 x 5	141,001.98	161,793.93
8 x 5	172,116.65	185,025.40
9 x 6	278,649.91	299,548.66
11 x 5	295,636.20	317,808.91
11 x 6	340,573.10	340,466.08
HP7.25 X 6	218,226.87	234,593.89
FP14.5 X 6	379,943.00	408,438.72

### SPECIAL POSITIONS

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
Earpiece Front Page 1x2	201,875.00	217,015.62
Earpiece Front Page 2x2	403,750.00	434,031.25
Earpiece Front Page 3x2	593,750.00	638,281.25
Earpiece Back Page 2x2	409,687.50	440,414.06
Earpiece Back Page 3x2	628,187.50	675,301.56
Inside Earpiece 2x2	199,500.00	214,462.50
Inside Earpiece 3x2	285,000.00	307,325.00
Centre Spread	1,795,500.00	1,930,162.50
Double Spread	1,558,000.00	1,674,850.00
Centre Spread (HP)	1,017,063.80	1,093,343.59
Double Spread (HP)	741,000.00	796,575.00
Page 2 (Full Page)	1,420,250.00	1,526,768.75
Page 3 (Full Page)	1,311,000.00	1,409,325.00
Page 4 (Full Page)	1,187,500.00	1,276,562.50
Page 5 (Full Page)	1,064,000.00	1,143,800.00
Page 6 (Full Page)	940,500.00	993,937.50
Page 7 (Full Page)	817,000.00	878,275.00

SIZE IN INCHES	AMOUNT (N)	TOTAL INCLUSIVE 7.5% VAT
Page 8 (Full Page)	750,000.00	806,787.50
Page 9 (Full Page)	674,500.00	725,087.00
Wrap around 1 Front Strip 1 Back Strip 4 Full Page Pull Out	25,650,000.00	27,573,750.00
4x6 Front Page	5,187,000.00	5,576,025.00
6x6 Front Page	6,982,500.00	7,506,187.50
7x6 Front Page	9,975,000.00	10,723,220.00
10x6 Front Page	14,250,000.00	15,318,750.00
FP (Strip) 2x6	641,891.25	690,033.09
BP (Strip) 2x6	625,452.64	670,319.08
Back Page 10x6	5,320,000.00	8,782,750.00
ROP 2x12	771,400.00	829,255.00
ROP (Strip) 2x6 Colour	266,000.00	285,950.00
ROP (Strip) 2.6 (B/W)	717,000.00	183,825.00
3x6 Front Page	1,140,000.00	1,225,500.00
2x6 Under Mast Head	3,990,000.00	4,289,250.00
12x2 Front Page	4,788,000.00	5,147,100.00

### LOOSE INSERT ADVERTS

Handling Charge	95,000.00
RATE PER 1,000 COPIES	
SINGLE	19,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	38,000.00

### NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Technical Data	
Number of Columns	- Six (06)
Full Page Depth	- 14.5 inches
Full Page Width	- 10 3/8 inches
Print Process	- Web Offset Litho
OPTIONS FOR ADVERT MATERIAL	
COPY DATE	
WITHIN ABUJA	- 5 Days prior to publication
OUTSIDE ABUJA	- 7 Days prior to publication
CANCELLATION	
Cancellation will only be accepted stated in writing at least five working days before publication.	

**Note: Late Cancellation of Advert will Attract 40% Penalty**

For more information, contact: The Advertisement Department, THE TRUMPET Head Office: 506 Oladipo Diya Street, Abuja, FCT. www.thetrumpet.ng, Email: info@elomazmedia.com Tel: 08025823524, 08060102368



# FG says ISWAP behind Owo Church attack

Stories By **PAUL MICHAEL**,  
Defence Editor, Abuja

## ■ As Police demises speculation of attack on Hausa community

The federal government on Thursday said the attack on St. Francis Catholic Church, Owo, Ondo state, was orchestrated by members of the terrorist group, Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP).

Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, made this known while briefing State House correspondents at the end of the National Security Council (NSC) meeting presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari.

Aregbesola, who briefed the newsmen alongside the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba, said the police has been ordered to go after the perpetrators of the act and bring them to justice.

He said the imprint of ISWAP has been found on the scene of the attack, adding that they will be brought to justice.

The Minister further added that ISWAP's aim is to use the attack to divide Nigerians and create an impression of an ethno-religious war.

Gunmen attacked the church on Sunday, June 5, killing many worshippers and injuring several people.

The gunmen were said to have detonated explosives in the church after which they proceeded to fire several shots



**Aregbesola**

at the congregation.

The minister said ISWAP's aim is to use the attack to divide Nigerians and create an impression of an ethno-religious war.

Gunmen attacked the church on Sunday, June 5, killing no fewer than 40 worshippers and injuring several people.

The gunmen were said to have detonated explosives in the church after which they proceeded to fire several shots at the congregation.

The Ondo State Governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, had described the attack as an "attempt to test the will of the people of the state and indeed,

the south-west."

He added, "At Owo, the anger was palpable. The tension was at an abrasive level just as the urge for reprisals was high."

"Without doubt too, the ripple impact of this heinous act, as well as the understandably angry reaction across the state, could not have been different. To me, this is an attempt to test the will of the people of the state and indeed, the south-west."

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) on Thursday cautioned against Nigerians relying on Social Media as a source of serious

information needs. Stating that the rumoured attack on Hausa community in Sabo is false.

A section of the media had reported that six northerners were killed at midnight of Wednesday, June 8, 2022, as gunmen allegedly invaded the Hausa community of Sabo in Ondo, Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Funmilayo Odunlami, a Superintendent of Police, who is the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), made this dismissal in a statement she signed on behalf of the Commissioner of Police. He described the report as an unhealthy rumour to stir still waters.

Odunlami said, "The attention of the Ondo State Police Command has been drawn to a piece of fake news being peddled by some mischief makers to cause panic, tension and strife in the State."

"The Command wishes to state clearly that there was no reprisal attack on the Hausa Community at Sabo area in Ondo town or any part of the state as purported by these warmongers."

"On Tuesday, 7th of June, 2022, there was an attempted robbery on a J5 vehicle with

plate no MKA - 469 YJ carrying Onions and Potatoes coming from Zaria enroute Ore, had a stopover at Ondo town and was attacked by men of the underworld around 0110 hrs. In the cause of this attempt, the robbers shot the driver, while the motor-boy escaped with bullet injury, a motorcyclist alongside the pillion and a passerby were also hit by stray bullets.

"It is however disheartening that these peddlers, who are out to achieve no good, did not confirm the story before spreading this falsehood as the victims involved in this failed robbery are from Yoruba, Igbo and Northern extraction."

"Investigation has since commenced and effort is ongoing to arrest the assailants."

"On this note, the Commissioner of Police, Ondo State Command, CP Oyeyemi Adesoye Oyediran, psc, fsi, urged the people of the state to remain calm and disregard the fake news, as the rumour mongers are out to stir unnecessary chaos and disrupt the peace of the State."

"This is also to warn the peddlers of this fake news to desist as the Command will not fold its arms and let them shatter the peace being enjoyed in the State."

# Kaduna govt confirmed 32 locals killed by terrorists

## ■ Kaduna Govt denies reports of aerial attack by terrorists ■ Says NAF helicopter deployed to engage bandits

About 32 people have been reportedly killed by terrorists popularly referred to as bandits during an attack in some villages in Kaduna State on Sunday.

The State's Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, confirmed this while giving a security update on Thursday and added that the government mourns the gruesome killing and burning of houses in the attacked locations.

Aruwan named the villages attacked by the bandits as Dogon Noma, Ungwan Sarki, and Ungwan Maikori in Kajuru Local Government Area of the State. Adding that security agencies and traditional leaders in the locations have been updating the government on the development since the incident on Sunday.

According to the reports, the bandits stormed the area in large numbers on motorcycles and proceeded to raze several houses, as they attacked and killed locals.

Aruwan identified those killed at Dogon Noma Ahmadu Musa, Audu Dandaura, Akilu Laya, David Wasika, Hajatu Buhari, Nashon Buhari, Iliya Yaki, Javan Mairabo, Jackson Adamu, Nasco Victor, Dutse

Gwamna, Joshua Amadi, Gona Isah, Douglas Yakubu, Phineas Joel, Tanimu Umaru, Abody Iliya, Wanzami Halidu, and Dogo Awah.

Others include Sunday Shittu, Rejoice Audu, Jedidiah Ayawa, Jinkai Pius, Rebecca Ayafa, Ishaya John, Audu Danladi, Jibo Sule, Yakubu Garba, and Williams Danbaba.

The Ungwan Sarki village, Maikasa Kufana, and Augustine Bahago were confirmed killed while Mamiya Maikori was killed at Ungwan Maikori village.

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State government has debunked a report published in some dailies suggesting that the victims of the attack were killed by terrorists using a helicopter.

According to Aruwan, "The Kaduna State Government wishes to make a clarification based on reports received since Sunday. The bandits attacked the first two locations and killed 31 citizens. They then headed into Ungwan Maikori, where they killed one person and burnt some houses."

"An Air Force helicopter (under Operation Whirl Punch) dispatched to the area, had earlier scanned the first two locations and sighted burnt houses and properties on fire.

"The helicopter intercepted the bandits at the last location (Ungwan Maikori) and engaged them as they retreated, before the arrival of ground troops to the general area."

He further disclosed that it was the arrival of the air asset that deterred the bandits from further attacks on the citizens in the village after the bandits had already killed one local and burnt several houses.

"The story that a helicopter provided air support to the bandits against the locals, is therefore an untrue account."

"The Government of Kaduna State having gone through all the facts finds it

regrettable that a section of media would circulate an unverified report, insensitive to its implications on national security, law, and order."

"Eyewitnesses to the peddled report of a helicopter aiding bandits in the killing of innocent citizens are invited to present their accounts to the Government-backed by incontrovertible facts," he added.

Aruwan said the military, police, and other security agencies working in the general area deserve commendation and motivation, rather than demoralizing allegations.

"In the last 72 hours,

security forces have conducted vigorous operations in the same general area, and are on the trail of a wounded notable terrorist."

"Similarly, several kidnapped victims, including an expatriate kidnapped at a mining site, were rescued after a fierce engagement with bandits," he said.

He said Governor of the State, Nasir El-Rufa'i, on receiving reports of the attack, expressed deep sadness and prayed for the repose of the victims' souls. The Governor also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

## Terrorists invade Borno community, kill 25

About 25 scavengers also known as 'Yan Ajakuta', in Dikwa LGA of Borno State have been reportedly killed by members of the terrorist group, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP).

The victims were said to have been shot by terrorists who rode on six motorcycles at Mukdala village, located about 10 kilometres north of Dikwa town on Wednesday.

A member of a Civilian Joint Task Force in the State, Takno

Ibrahim, said the victims were shot multiple times. He added that some of the victims escaped with bullet wounds and were taken to the General Hospital in Dikwa town by officers of the military and task force.

An eyewitness, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said he was on the farm when he heard the sounds of motorcycles from a distance. The witness said he quickly hid in the bush before he started hearing sounds of gunshots from a distance.

## Niger police gift families of fallen officers over N60m

### ■ As CP decorates 460 promoted senior officers

The Niger State Police Command has presented a cash gift of N64,715,630.84 to the families of fallen police officers, who died during active service in the Command, The Trumpet reports.

The Commissioner of Police, Niger State Command, CP Monday Bala Kuryas presented the cash gift to about 30 different families of police personnel who died between the years 2020 and 2021.

A statement by the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Wasiu A. Abiodun, said the welfare gesture is an initiative of the Inspector General of Police, IGP Usman Alkali Baba, tagged 'Group Life Assurance', which is geared towards improving the lives and capacity of the families left behind by heroic officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

"While presenting the cheques to the next of kins in the presence of family members, the Commissioner of Police appreciates the Inspector General of Police for such laudable initiative to provide succour to the families of the deceased personnel and encouraged the beneficiaries to effectively manage and judiciously use the resources for better welfare of the families."

"The families expressed satisfaction, happiness and full of appreciation amid the emotional situation to the Inspector General of Police, the Government and the Commissioner of Police for their efforts in ensuring better care for the bereaved families while assuring that the resources will be well managed towards an improved standard of living of the families," Abiodun stated.

Meanwhile, 460 senior officers of the Command, who were recently promoted have been decorated by the State's Commissioner of Police. The promoted senior officers are part of about 14,307 recommended for promotion by the IGP and approved by the Police Service Commission (PSC).

Abiodun in a statement said the promotion is part of the IGP's commitment to further improve the welfare of police personnel.

According to Abiodun, CP Kuryas congratulated the promoted officers and charged them to justify their elevation to the next rank with good performance and professionalism.

"The CP was assisted in decorating the promoted officers by DC DFA DCP Shawulu E. Dan-Mamman fsi, DC OPS DCP Ali Hayatu Kaigama, DC SCID DCP Aboki Danjuma and other officers of the Command, as one (1) CSP was promoted to the rank of ACP, 61 ASPs were promoted to the rank of DSP, 62 ASPII were equally confirmed to ASPI and 336 Inspectors promoted to the rank of ASP



# The Legislature in Nigeria since 1999

Owing to the historical fact that the legislative arm of government in Nigeria has always suffered a hiccup each time military mis-adventurers sacked any government, this vital organ in democracy has remained diffident and subservient to the whims and caprices of the Executive branch. Sadly, since 1999, the Executive branch as represented by the President and State governors, has seen itself as senior and the most powerful of the three arms of government. This is antithetical to the letter and spirit of democracy. Nowhere is this subservience and dithering found as in the Houses of Assembly in the country.

In December 2021, the Delta State House of Assembly (DSHA) approved a loan request by Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for an N20 billion facility from Fidelity Bank Plc. The Speaker of the DSHA, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori, read the letter of the governor to the legislators requesting for a loan to finance the state government's five percent equity in the UTM offshore Limited Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) Project.

With less than 13 months in office, and only 5 months after the approval of 20 billion was granted, DSHA has approved a "bridging finance facility" of a N150 billion loan for the government that has barely one year to the end of its tenure. Its purpose, government explained, is to settle the arrears of 'unpaid certificates earned by contractors with respect to the completion of some critical ongoing legacy projects awarded by past and present administrations in the state. Part of the loan would be used to pay outstanding pension commitments to the State and Local Government Areas, amounting to N20 billion and N10 billion respectively.

What happened in Delta State is common in all the legislative houses in the country. The National Assembly is equally guilty. The legislature under the Executive system of government is a major arm of the three arms or organs of government. It is not a junior partner. It is one of the defining features of democracy. Being the law-making body, it serves as the guard and guide of the Executive arm.

The principle of representation is mostly reflected in the legislature since every constituency is represented

in the various legislative houses. The power of the legislature is enamoured by its ability to issue or withdraw funds to the Executive arm through appropriation bills. It could query, rightly impeach, or out rightly sack the executive from office. In the absence of a strong opposition party, the legislature is expected to be the critical arm of governance. It is therefore sad that the legislature in our democracy has reduced themselves to mere rubber stamps of the Executive arm.

Various reasons have been averred for this timid and robotic attitude of legislators. Some of them are contractors to the government, full-time politicians whose survival depends on fat hand-outs from the Executive, a hangover of the long years of military dictatorship that never had a legislature as well as naivety of those parading themselves as legislators.

What we have today is a far cry from democracy. It is executive dictatorship!

Committees of the National Assembly with oversight functions failed to detect huge fraud in the national treasury. Why the silence of this arm of government in the face of open thieving? In saner climes, the National Assembly would have summoned the relevant government agencies to give explanations. Insecurity in Nigeria, the prevalence of unknown gunmen, bandits, terrorists, kidnap cases, the collapse of our public health and education sectors, mass unemployment, collapsed industries, a failed economy, and food crisis are enough matters for a conscientious National Assembly.

We strongly believe that the Nigerian legislature has failed in the assignment entrusted to her by the people. They are merely self-seeking egoistic people. For a few, the legislative houses are nothing but protective bunkers where politicians hide from being probed as former governors, ministers, drug barons, etc. A nation's national assembly is a place for serious-minded persons who are highly knowledgeable in state affairs. We have not been so blessed with such an assembly of people here in Nigeria. Hence the call for a unicameral assembly at the national or at the extreme a return to a much cheaper system of governance at the State and or National levels that the Parliamentary system offers.

It must be pointed out that history will not exonerate the legislature from the sorry state of the country. Members of the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly should brace up and begin to make laws that would guarantee the purpose of government. Nigerians expect a government that promotes the common good, protect lives and property, secure the economy as well as promotes justice and fairness across its citizenry.

The time has come for Nigerians to organize and mobilize themselves through non-Governmental organizations, trade unions, and the civil society to activate the processes of recall as entrenched in the Constitution to put so-called 'representatives' on their toes. The level of political participation must be stepped up by citizens. There cannot be effective democracy without informed public opinion and political participation by all. Currently, Nigeria cannot afford a docile and timid legislative assembly.



## THE TRUMPET

PUBLISHER/CHAIRMAN: JOEL-ONOWAKPO THOMAS

GMD/VICE CHAIRMAN: GLORIA JOEL-ONOWAKPO

EDITOR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: OMOKIOJA JJK ETO

WEEKEND EDITOR/DEIC: OBAH SYLVA

## ELOMAZ COMMUNICATIONS LTD

DIRECTOR: NDUBISI FRANCES

MANAGING DIRECTOR: ENDURANCE EDAFEWOTU

## EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: CHIEF JOHN ARAKA

ASSOCIATE CHAIRMAN: PROF. HOPE EGHAGHA

MALLAM LAWAL MOHAMMED HAMIDU

DR. PROMISE ADIELE

DR. KAYODE EESUOLA

ASSOC. PROF. SAMSON ALHAJI SHAIBU

DR. RALIA MAIJAMA'A ABDULLAHI

PROF. OGHENEKARO OGBINAKA

EMAIL US @: [trumpetng@gmail.com](mailto:trumpetng@gmail.com)

NONE SHALL PASS...





## Welcome father, son and holy spirit

Since the early days of the church, the doctrine of the Trinity has never been without contentious argumentations. The early Church excommunicated heretics and burnt books on account of this doctrine. The doctrine of Trinity can be explained in an analogy from geometrical model. What we see in an object is three angles. But we call it a triangle. Equally, wherever and whenever we encounter the divine in word, thought and deed, we encounter Him manifest Himself as FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. This is called TRINITY, or simply TRIUNE God.

God walked with Adam in the Garden of Eden. But Adam fell because he was unholy and disobedient. God therefore separated Himself from man. However, because of His Divine love, God sent His son whom He gave total power to restore man to Himself, the Godhead (John 3: 16). Whereas the Scripture is replete with the "visibility" of God the Father, and Jesus Christ His incarnate Son, the Holy Spirit, the third person in the Godhead is hidden. Indeed, theologians often call it the "shy partner". At creation, and to redemption and ultimately to the time of rapture the eternity of the Trinity is acknowledged by the Church. This is called the 'Eternal Trinity.'

By 'eternal' we mean that which transcends time and space. An eternal being is not bound by time. It is not subject to space. In the Bible, eternity is often expressed in terms such as 'for ever and ever,' 'as it was in beginning ...,' 'world without end,' 'the same, yesterday, today and forever.' Paul expressed it thus: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world. In love, he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3-5). And in verse 13 Paul writes further, "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy

Spirit."

The living Church of God is what it is today because it is powered by the Divine, holy and eternal triune God. The theologian and scholar, Daniel N. Schowalter, stated that because the Trinity is such an important part of later Christian doctrine, it is striking that the term does not appear in the New Testament. [But] while the New Testament writers say a great deal about God, Jesus, and the Spirit, of each, no New Testament writer expands on the relationship among the three in the details that later Christians do. The earliest New Testament evidence for the tripartite formulae comes in 2 Corinthians 13:13, where Paul wishes that "the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit" be with the people of Corinth. This 'prayer' of Apostle Paul - called the Grace - is the most popular and common Christian prayer and benediction. Each time we proclaim it we are as well acknowledging the completeness and eternality of the Triune Godhead.

The biblical basis of Trinity can be inferred in the following ways. (i) At creation there was Trinity: "And the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2); God says, "... Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Genesis 1: 26). Also, "Come, let us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another speech" (Gen. 11: 7). So even in creation, the fact of God having other Beings with Him can be confirmed Biblically. The sure way is to know who they - the other Beings - are in the Scriptures. Clearly, the appearance of the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ Himself are the ways God has interfaced His creation. Hence, Trinity is established. David, as a Prophet and Patriarch of old, even before the incarnation of Jesus, called Jesus Christ LORD (Psalm 110:1). (ii) At man's fall God released His Holy Spirit to keep His select, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God speaks,



Dr. Karo Ogbinaka

as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1: 21); (iii) God made the incarnation of Jesus Christ possible by the power of the Holy Spirit: "And the angel answered and said unto her the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall over shadow thee..." (Luke 1:35); and (iv) God manifested His approval of Jesus at Baptism through the incoming upon Jesus by His Spirit (John 1:32); and Jesus Christ was empowered by God for His ministry with/in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14). God made Jesus to endure the cross (Heb. 9: 14) and resurrect by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Pet. 3:18). "For Christ also hath suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring it to God; being put to death in flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."

Today, Christ Jesus has poured upon His Church the Holy Spirit that is still actively doing the work of the Father and Son in the Church of God. So, Jesus Christ still speaks to us, "And I pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16, 17). Christ did not give his Church a dated or one stance Holy Spirit. The Spirit is given eternally

to the Church for ever. "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin; and of righteousness, and of judgement" (John 16: 8).

What lessons can we take away? Do we see the unity, harmony and cooperation among the Persons of the Divine Godhead? Don't we humans have the attitude of "I can do it alone"? God worked the work of redemption and salvation with His Son and the Holy Spirit. He gave them power to function. The Apostles' question: "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed" (Acts 19: 2) can be reinterpreted, as "where you connected to God's power through Jesus Christ when you believed? Hence in Acts 10:44, "When Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God."

As Jude (19-20) notes, "It is these who cause division, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, but you, building yourselves up on your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life." As we commence the last and longest season in the Church's calendar, I pray with you in this wonderful words of the Collect for Trinity. "Almighty and eternal God, You have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love. Hold us firm in this faith, that we may know You in all Your ways and evermore rejoice in Your eternal glory, who are Three Persons in One God, now and for ever." Amen

Be blessed and Shalom!

•The Rev'd Dr Karo Ogbinaka, an Anglican priest of the Diocese of Lagos West, lectures at the Department of Philosophy, University of Lagos. He is a member of the editorial board of The Trumpet

## Do you really love God?

This question is very important in this generation because without loving God, we cannot worship Him in truth and in spirit. The scriptures stated in the book of Deuteronomy 6 verse 5 thus: And thou shall love God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. So, to love God is a total submission of our wills to His Will because we trust and have faith in Him that He is our Father and creator and means well for us at all times.

Let us now examine what true love is all about using contemporary terms.

To understand what is actually true love, we have to first and foremost understand the true definition of love.

The Collins dictionary summarised that when you love someone, there is an intense feeling of desire and appreciation from the inside towards that person. In essence, when you truly love someone, you will not want to hurt the person in anyway because you want the person to be happy all the time.

In the same way, if we say we love God, then we should do everything possible to please Him always.

God lamented in Genesis 6:5-6 that He regretted creating man on earth. Why did He lament? Answer: Because man failed Him in not living a holy and righteous life as He expected him to live.

Genesis 6:5-6 says: And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of



Dr. Agbodo

the thoughts if his heart was only evil continually. And verse 6 says: And it repented the LORD that He had made man on earth, and it grieved Him in His Heart.

So God has a heart and has emotions and if you say you love God, you have to ensure that God is happy all the time with your conduct.

From the verses quoted, God regretted creating man because man continued in sin. So, if you say you love God and don't want God to be hurt in His emotions, depart from sin and commit yourself to living a holy life always.

If somebody for instance hates the

smell of cigarette and you always smoke around the person to offend the person, it shows that you don't really care for the feelings of that person and of course you don't love that person even though you may claim to love the person from your words.

Love is total and if you truly love God, you should submit totally to doing His will to make Him happy.

God has a plan for creating humans and the plan is for humans to live a holy life continuously so that there can be a continuous fellowship with Him.

Love is not by compulsion but by choice. If love is forced, then it is no more love but fear and this is the reason God gave all of us the freewill to chose to love Him or not.

If a wife feigns loyalty to the husband out of fear, that is not love. Love is when the wife appreciates the husband so much that she wants to make him happy all the time. In the same way, if the husband loves his wife, he will do all things to make the wife happy.

So, if you love God and you know that God hates sin, depart from sin because every sin you commit hurts the emotions of God.

God wants us to love by choice and not by force and that is why Jesus Christ came and opened the gate for those who are willing to change from their sins and embrace holiness.

God so love humanity that He released

His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to come down to the earth to save us from sin and all powers of darkness. So, Love is sacrifice. That means, you have to sacrifice your desires at times to please the person you love. For instance, we have read from Genesis 6 that God regretted creating man because man continued in sin and if we say we truly love God, we have to sacrifice sin and follow holiness and righteousness.

Jesus Christ has come to earth and gone back to Heaven and He said that if we say we love Him, we should keep His commandments. Jesus said in the book of John chapter 14 verse 15 thus: If you love me, keep my commandments.

Are you keeping the commandments of Christ or you just claim you love Christ but do the opposite of His will.

God will not force anyone to love Him but loving God and keeping His commandments is in our own interest. God wants us to be happy and when we are happy, He is happy. Do you really love God? Then keep His commandments of holiness, righteousness and loving your neighbour the way you love yourself, and your life will keep on blossoming to higher heights. God bless us in Jesus Name.

•Pastor Esanerovo Trinity Agbodo is a Contributing Editor with The Trumpet Newspaper and can be reached on eagbodo@gmail.com



# Dangers ahead of 2023, by Primate Olabayo

By GABRIEL OMONHINMIN, Culture and Religion Editor

Prophet and 76 years old Primate Theophilus Oluwasaanu Olabayo is the founder of Evangelical Church of Yahweh Worldwide, located in the heart of Arowojobe Estate, Mende Village in Maryland, Lagos State.

Olabayo is not a stranger to controversies. It was the Prophet, who boldly told the then Social Democratic Party (SDP) Presidential torch bearer, Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola, "Why waste your precious time and enormous resources campaigning for an office you will never occupy as Nigerian President. You'll no doubt win the election but sadly, you will never be sworn into office as Nigeria's President." Olabayo was then dismissed as an unserious person and was called a fake Prophet, but true to his words as a true vessel of God, the entire prediction came to pass. Abiola won the election but was never sworn in as Nigeria's President.

Olabayo made other prophecies that unsettled some among the military brass in Nigeria, especially during the late General Sani Abacha regime. Immediately after the General assumed office as Nigeria's Military Head of State, his security apparatus thereafter went after and eventually drove him into exile in the United States of America.

On the invitation of the primate, *The Trumpet* newspaper traced the expansive Church building, built at the serene end of Mende Village, Maryland, Lagos. The time was 12.56 p.m, Olabayo had just finished observing his afternoon prayers which has been his routine for years.

The Trumpet Culture and Religion Editor met him sitting quietly under a tree in his Church premises, wearing a sad and gloomy look. After a while still in his deep meditations, his sober and depressing look did not change as he stared vacantly into the thin air. Quietly soliloquizing and murmuring, some words of prayers to himself.

It took quite some time before he suddenly realized that the Trumpet reporter was standing by his side waiting for him to finish with his prayers.

Breathing heavily, the Primate waved the reporter to take the only seat beside him. He said hesitantly, "I had wished that God open the eyes of crops of political leaders in our nation to see the catastrophic danger that lies ahead for them and this country if they refused to stop the killing of innocent lives and the daily sacrifices to boost their political powers. These innocent blood are crying for vengeance. I pray that God have mercy on our leaders and our land."

"I had wished it was possible for the whole country to observe a week-long prayer in unity, Muslim, Christians and Pagans alike to jointly pray for God's mercy over our people and land."

It was after this opening statement and without much ado, we delved into this no-holds-barred interview.

**Trumpet: Primate, what could be the reason for this gloomy and deep-seated grief you are expressing?**

Primate: I am extremely sad, because all these people, who call themselves politicians with no exception whatsoever, don't know about the heavy wrath of God that awaits them. If you tell them, and they get to know, some of them will immediately shake it off as a huge joke. But sadly, if some of them get to know the great tribulations that await

them, some of them might drop their political ambition and look for something else to do.

Nigeria has bled enough, due to the recklessness and inhuman activities of most of our political leaders. God is about to punish them now and their collaborators. Sadly, they will be made to pay with so much pain, with some members of their immediate and extended families. God's punishment is coming now, because of all the crimes they have been committing against the people and the land. None of them will be exempted.

The two dominant parties, the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP), and the All Progressive Congress, (APC) alongside other political parties in the country that are pretending to have concluded their party's primaries. As they now get ready to run for the office of the President, the highest office in the land, they will all be disappointed. There will not be elections at the end of the day as the political tension would be so tense, that it will not be conducive to conduct a free and fair general election in the country. Also, there will be massive political related assassinations and so many other evils across the land.

Then, that will be the beginning of the catastrophic consequences that await our politicians, during and before the conclusion of this political process. Mark my words, there are going to be massive political assassinations across the nooks and crannies of this country called Nigeria. There is going to be massive bloodshed, like never before in the recent political history of this country.

God has said, in the ashes of all these deaths and political dramas, he will, eventually, raise a good leader that will take Nigeria to the promised land. But before the emergence of this leader, there will be suffering, famine and hunger in the land. People need to be very careful before they incur the wrath of God. As soon as Muhammadu Buhari took over power from ex-president Goodluck Jonathan, I made it very clear to whosoever cares to listen, saying that "President Buhari was going to create more problems for Nigeria, during and after his tenure as Nigeria's President. And this is exactly what has happened."

I stopped talking because corruption had pervaded all the facets of Nigerian society. Never a time did I ever say that Muhammadu Buhari was the Messiah Nigeria was waiting for? Never! If I had mentioned what God showed to me then, people would say that I needed money from the APC government. That was why I tried to rattle the President and his government. Your guess would have been as good as mine. And the government gadflies would have again been let loose on me. Unlike in the past, I am now old and frail, I can no longer run abroad as I did during the military regime of General Abacha.

When Buhari assumed power as Nigeria's 15th President it was immediately revealed to me that he was not going to do well as Nigerian President. As at then, he had been elected and sworn in as Nigeria's President. I couldn't do anything about the situation then. At some points, it became very clear that he was going to deliberately divide the already troubled and fragmented country, Nigeria, along ethnic and religious lines. But then, I refused to speak publicly because of the general impression most people had about some Prophets, Pastors and General Overseers in Nigeria. These



Primate Theophilus Oluwasaanu Olabayo

same problems of hunger and insincerity were also very prevalent among some Islamic clerics, some of whom were hitherto known in the past to speak the truth to power. It was then darkness fell on this land.

Then the entire country was in a mess. Now, and almost eight years after, Nigeria is in a more terrible mess and it is now a huge joke. Poverty, hunger and corruption have further pervaded the land. True to these claims, the conduct and behaviour of some people, who call themselves men of God, did not help matters then and it's still not helping matters now. As politicians and their associates daily exhibited greed and avarices, in all that they do. If I had spoken then, I would have been shouted down and called names. I was not afraid of such a thing if that was only what they were going to do to me, for speaking out the truth. I asked God then, should I speak? He said; Let Buhari run his tenure as Nigeria's President and let Nigerians experience their own Pharaoh! For once I then decided to keep quiet and observe development. But my close associates will attest to these claims, several times, I told them, "It will take the grace of God for Nigeria to survive as one united and indivisible country after President Buhari's APC government misrule. The deep shit we are in today is clear for every Nigerian to see both young and old."

The blood of all the innocent lives that have been cut down at their prime are now crying out for vengeance and justice. The way things will turn, later on, will be unimaginable. The EndSars riots will be a child's play. There will be a massive uprising that will shake the country to its foundation. People who served in governments, who aided and abetted in all these evils, who now think they will be able to escape with their loots, will invariably suffer for their sins. Without anyone going near them, they will begin to die mysteriously with some members of their immediate families.

God wants to show them that he is truly God, not man. So many of these people will be brought back by the masses to

face judgment.

Some of them in government today, who now have the means to relocate to other lands with members of their immediate families, should begin to do so immediately. They don't need to wait until the expiration of their tenure in government. They will soon realize that they do not have more time in their hands.

But one thing is certain wherever they go in this world, they will never know peace because of the injuries they have deliberately inflicted on this country and its people due to selfishness.

Go and mark my words today. The atrocities of the Islamic fundamentalists across the country will further intensify as soon as President Buhari vacates office on May 29, 2023, as they will try to take over Nigeria, and declare it an Islamic State. They are determined at fragmenting the country. We, therefore, need to pray very well, for us to still have a country called Nigeria.

The recent Massacre at the St Francis Catholic Church in Owo town will be a child's play, compared to so many similar incidents that will happen across Nigeria in the foreseeable future. It will be so intense that the Nigerian Security system and agencies will be overwhelmed and look helpless. But God will intervene at the end of the day. Most of the people presently parading themselves as Nigerian leaders will end up in prisons. And they will be made to pay heavily for the havoc they committed against the land and the reckless manner they raped our country and its resources.

For all these heartless evils against the land, the spirit of the people that have been killed over the years will begin to fight, very soon, you'll begin to see very important people across the land dying without knowing how or what killed them.

If you must know, I never for once thought in life that I would live up to my present age of 76 years. But God in his mercy is preserving me because he wants me to witness the surgical operations he is about to carry out across the length and breadth of this country Nigeria. I, therefore, owe it a duty to speak out, whether people in government like it or not.

Let me repeat, between now and December this year, people should learn to stockpile foodstuffs in their homes because the kind of famine that will soon fall on this country will be intense, and parents will begin to sell their children unashamedly.

Let me sound this note of warning, the Lagos state government needs to be more serious about its internal security.

**Trumpet: How do we stop extremism among the Christians and Islamic followers?**

Primate: Extremism is flourishing because Nigeria never had a good leader. It became more intense during this dispensation just because of the body language of our present President.

As all these ugly incidents happen, Nigeria will continue to manage to remain one country. But after some years if the people bent on destroying this country continue unchecked, Nigeria will eventually break up. And become severed countries, just like the old Soviet Union.

But for now, let us continue to pray, and hope that people with the fear of God, take over the affairs of this country, and be firm in their decision making processes. Only then will we see a New Nigeria.





## NLC president canvases universal protection for workers

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has canvassed for a universal protection cover that would address the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and other future occurrences that require such an intervention.

President of the NLC, Ayuba Wabba, said this while speaking

with newsmen on the sideline of the ongoing 110th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

"We are working assiduously on the issue of universal social protection, one of the issues that have come up very clearly with the COVID-19 pandemic is the fact that we do not have any means of social protection.

"Unlike other climes, everybody benefits from social protection whether you are in small or medium-scale enterprises or unemployed. They have a database and they use the database to transfer money directly into the account of everybody. A fraction of the taxes being paid is actually paid as a social security cover

for workers to actually address issues of COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

Wabba also noted that when the COVID-19 pandemic started there was threat of mass sack in which the NLC reached an agreement with employers of labour, adding that Nigerians were the first among unions and employers in Africa to actually have an accord so that they should also protect the sustainability of the production lines.

The agreement was signed to say that we would not support any company or any establishment that would just use the COVID-19 scourge excuse to sack workers just like we had with Access Bank that want to actually sack workers en masse," he said.

He explained that the agreement was still subsisting and thank labour had kept watch to ensure that the agreement would be respected by all employees, stressing: "I can say that Nigerian employers are organised

labour are on the same page, as the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic should not be used to sack workers en masse," he stressed.

On occupational safety, Wabba said most workers were affected as there are no provisions for them to receive social protection cover.

"This time around, labour centres around the world including the working class have put on the table to make occupational health and safety fundamental human right. It is the first instrument that the 110th session has already passed and it will be adopted during plenary.

"Part of the instruments to drive that particular decision is convention 155 and convention 187 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which are fundamental conventions of the occupation health and safety. I think with that we would be able to go back home to domesticate these two important conventions," he stressed.



Bayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri (middle) flanked by European Union (EU) envoy to Nigeria and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Ms. Samuela Isopi (second left) and other officials during the governor's visit to the EU embassy in Abuja.

## First Bank, ELOY Foundation partner on sustainability of female small businesses

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

In furtherance of the need to empower Nigerian female business owners, the ELOY Foundation and First Bank have partnered to present the ELOY Foundation Business Shower, created to support female entrepreneurs to enable them to build sustainable businesses in the country. The support from First Bank will be carried out through the FirstGem loan scheme designed for female-owned or partnered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and its SME Connect initiative.

The partnership focuses on key sectors of the economy and is designed to have female entrepreneurs exposed to essential business skills like training, networking and the ELOY Foundation Business Toolkit, a compilation of business survival skills nuggets. The business shower will avail businesses the platform to pitch their ideas to win seed grants and join the ELOY Foundation Sustainable Empowerment Programme 2022. Participants will also access the FirstGem single digit loan, where eligible

The ELOY Foundation Business Shower will hold in five locations across the country beginning in Lagos on June 23,

2022, the train will then move to Port Harcourt, Rivers State on June 25, 2022 and Abuja on 30 June 2022. It will move to Kano and Abia on July 2, 2022 and July 7, 2022, respectively.

The ELOY Awards Foundation Business Showers will offer an avenue to sustain women empowerment by providing entrepreneurial training and mentorship from experienced businessmen and women, arming participants with tools and information to help them grow their businesses.

Founder of the ELOY Awards Foundation, Tewa Onasanya, said: "It is not just enough to talk about empowering business owners, it is important to sustain empowerment by providing guidance towards their business progress and giving them access to different resources to help them continue to thrive.

"MSMEs are the backbone of any nation and there is a great need to sustain this chain of the economy. It is on this common ground that First Bank has partnered with the ELOY Team to contribute meaningfully in empowering women to fulfil their chosen business endeavours."

Also speaking on the partnership, Group Head, Marketing & Corporate Communications of First Bank, Folake An-Mumuney,

said: "We commend ELOY Foundation for its efforts on this initiative, as the continued strengthening and inclusiveness of female-driven business endeavours remain crucial to the growth of the economy.

"We are happy to partner with ELOY Foundation on its Business Shower. Together, we will drive the entrepreneurial viability of participants and expose them to business nuggets that will take their business to the next level.

"Woven into the fabric of society for over 128 years, First Bank plays a leading role in supporting women through strategic empowerment, capacity building and mentorship programs for women in MSME, leveraging its FirstGem and SMEConnect propositions to women across diverse sectors of the economy as well as strategic partnerships with women empowerment organisations like ELOY.

Organisers of the initiative said registration is currently ongoing for the ELOY Business Shower and that

female business owners are encouraged to send in their business pitch video and business plans for a spot on the ELOY Foundation Sustainable Empowerment Programme and a chance to win a grant for their businesses.

## ONICCIMA can compete with other chambers globally, says German envoy

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Consul-General of Embassy of German in Nigeria, Dr Bernd Von Munchow-Pohl, yesterday, said the Onitsha Chamber of Commerce, Mines, Industry and Agriculture (ONICCIMA) has great potential to compete with other chambers in the global business world.

Munchow-Pohl, who stated this during a visit to the chamber in Onitsha, Anambra State, with members of his team, however, expressed reservation that diplomatic bottlenecks and other social and political vices act as impediments to the progress recorded by the chamber.

The diplomat, who arrived the Government Reserved Area (GRA) Secretariat of ONICCIMA in Onitsha with members of his team were received by the President of the chamber, Sir Kelvin Obieri and other officials of the chamber.

While detailing the visiting team on the achievements recorded by ONICCIMA so far and areas of cooperation with the German Embassy, Obieri said as a developed economy with the largest economic in Europe that members of the chamber stand the opportunity of exporting their goods and services to Germany through the cooperation of the embassy.

Responding, the Consul-General and Head of Germany in Nigeria, Munchow-Pohl affirmed the challenges faced by some Nigerians while attempting to initiate contact on how to improve and advance their

businesses.

He said the embassy will study the challenges faced by ONICCIMA and its members, adding that the embassy will find ways to assist the ONICCIMA's members to surmount some of the business challenges.

While commending the diligence and competence of members of ONICCIMA, he said they have shown great determination in their various businesses, adding that the embassy was looking inwards to find areas of cooperation between his country and Nigeria.

The Consul-General and his entourage later joined the ONICCIMA officials for a working visit to three factories of members of ONICCIMA namely: Tiger Foods Limited, Rexton Industries Limited and Kates Associate Limited.



Munchow-Pohl



# Maritime agencies commit to national single window

## •We're on the verge of concluding automation processes, NIMASA DG

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

Federal Government Agencies under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Transportation (FMOT) have reached an agreement to digitalise their internal processes, while also maintaining focus on actualising the National Single Window regime in the nation's transportation sector.

This agreement was reached at the fourth Heads of Maritime Agencies meeting in Lagos.

Addressing the press after the meeting, the Registrar of Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN), Sam Nwakohu, disclosed that full automation of the internal processes of the various Agencies represented, is a pre-requisite to achieving the much anticipated National Single Window regime in the sector.

Nwakohu, who was the Chairman of the meeting, said the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the various agencies have agreed on timelines

to achieve full automation of internal processes. "We have agreed that all agencies under the Ministry of Transportation should, as a matter of priority, attain full automation. This process will be well coordinated and we also gave ourselves timelines to achieve this," he said.

On his part, the Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Bashir Jamoh, said NIMASA's automation processes have reached over 80 per cent completion and assured that NIMASA's commitment to automation will reduce human interface while plugging revenue leakages in the system.

"In line with the Federal Government's Executive Order on Ease of Doing Business, we are committed to full automation to attain reduction of human interface in majority of our transactions with our stakeholders and this is in our bid to ensure transparency and professionalism, which the sector requires to grow. The goal is to align with the National Single

Window initiative when all the internal processes of the various Agencies have been concluded," he stated.

Commenting on the high freight rate occasioned by the War Risk Insurance placed on Nigerian bound vessels Jamoh stated that the Agency would focus on creating the awareness, while also canvassing the International Community for a review. This move is in relation to the removal of Nigeria from the global piracy list.

"It may interest you to know that by the end of this quarter, which is the end of June, we would have recorded another milestone as we are yet to record a single attack or incident of maritime insecurity on our waters. Therefore, we will keep advocating for the total removal of War Risk Insurance by the international community, so that Nigerians can benefit from that," Jamoh stated.

It would be recalled that the maiden edition of the meeting was in 2020, with the aim of enhancing

the synergy and cooperation of agencies under the supervision of the FMOT, which is intended for a more effective and efficient maritime sector.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mohammed Bello Koko; Executive Secretary, Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Emmanuel Jime and Managing Director of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), George Moghalu.

Others are Managing Director, Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Fidiet Okhiria; Rector, Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN) Oron, Emmanuel Duja Effedua and Director General, Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), Zaria, Bayero Salih-Farah Zaria.



Sam Nwakohu

## Experts to brainstorm on financial inclusion initiative at Oriental News summit

By **EDU ABADE**, Business Editor

Major stakeholders in Nigeria's financial sector will brainstorm in a robust roundtable on government's key policy, which centres on inclusive financial system and will cover all segments of the society.

The experts, who are drawn from key private sector organisations and regulatory agencies, would meet at the inaugural conference on Financial Inclusion being hosted by STANMEG Communications, publishers of Oriental News Nigeria.

Commissioner for Insurance, Sunday Thomas, who had earlier confirmed participation of the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), also endorsed the theme of the conference, an initiative he described as a major policy drive NAICOM is passionate about.

Having endorsed the conference, NAICOM confirmed that it will join other key stakeholders from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the National Communications Commission (NCC) and First Bank Plc as part of discussants during the discussion.

A statement issued by the organisers revealed that the conference is being organised given that over the last couple of years, the Federal Government and stakeholders in the financial sector have had to deal with expanding financial services to a large community of underserved populations and dealing with resilience challenges engendered by the confluence of events that have taken place.

"They have had to cope with spiralling financial services prices, restricted coverage and dwindling capacity and limits in key lines such as low internet knowledge of certain segments of the society like market men and women, artisans and some physically challenged persons.

"Financial services now going digital, dearth of knowledge and rising levels of data and associated costs of telecom services have brought about questions on the effectiveness of the initiative

and interruption coverage when combined with the supply chain crunch.

"Most underserved groups are demanding cost reductions and our challenging environment peculiarity is part of why the conference is being organised to allow stakeholders take a collective view on how to create a suitable path to advance the initiative," the statement reads.

STANMEG Communications noted that using rigorous research tools will bridge the huge gap in the financial services system with the exclusion of some members of other social strata.

Since 2005, the Nigerian financial services sector has witnessed increasing activities by the government and regulatory authorities aimed at deliberately promoting policies geared towards expanding financial inclusion.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has been championing the encouragement and supporting products specifically targeted at the low income and financially excluded, while the government has focused more on interventionist financing arrangements, as well as building institutions and frameworks that promote financial inclusion.

"Financial exclusion has significant outcomes for the real sector as lack of access to credit can be a disincentive to entrepreneurship, investment and economic growth. It also has assumed greater level of importance in recent times due to its perceived importance as a major driver of economic growth.

"Giving access to the hundreds of millions of people who are presently excluded from financial services will provide the possibilities for the creation of a large depository of savings, investable funds, investment and therefore global wealth generation," the statement added.

The organisers of the conference pointed out that access to financial services that are well suited for low-income earners would promote enormous capital accumulation, creation of credit and boom in investments.

## Expert tasks government agencies to support oil palm research

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Managing Director of Presco Plc, Felix Nwabuko, has urged government agencies to support oil palm research to boost export and economic development.

Nwabuko made the call while addressing oil palm stakeholders at Presco Plantation site at Ologbo, near Benin City, Edo State, on the sidelines of the Seed Evidence Day.

He said research was the only way to go to sustain investments and development of oil palm production in the country, adding that smallholder and out-grower farmers were crucial to the development of the sector.

He, however, commended the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for its efforts to sustain growth in the sector, maintaining that challenges posed by inadequate land for large scale expansion had made collaboration with smallholder farmers imperative.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Stephen Idehenre, said the Edo State government was working hard to boost oil palm production in the state.



Felix Nwabuko

Idehenre said the state government was collaborating with Presco and other stakeholders to produce quality seedlings for Nigeria and the international markets.

On his part, President of the Nigeria Agricultural Business Group (NABG), Emmanuel Ijewere, described oil palm as "the future of Nigeria and Africa's economy."

In his presentation, representative of Siat Group, Rein Dan, who spoke on the outcome of the research conducted with partners of the group, said the development would boost growth and sustain profitability.

He said Siat Group started a 20-year collaboration with CLRAD, PALME and other organisations to the project implemented at Presco to pioneer the establishment of trials covering some 500 hectares of land.

"This project, developed in Africa and one of the largest of its kind in the world, engages over 120 full time workers to monitor the growth, production and oil extraction rate. Results indicate that oil yield in Nigeria has reached over five times more than the global average.

These efforts by ensuring perpetual and regional adaptation, not only provide the Siat Group with guaranties regarding materials used. It also safeguards the sustainable growth of the African Oil palm industry in general, primarily by increasing yield and thus reducing the need for land conversion or deforestation," he said.

## Manufacturer decries worsening power supply in Nigeria

By **JOHNMARK UKOKO**

Managing Director of Liberty Industries Limited, Kamal Abuh, has lamented the lingering power outages in the country, saying that he does not understand why despite President Muhammadu Buhari's financial interventions in the sector in the last seven years, power supply has not improved.

Abuh, who spoke with The Trumpet in a telephone interview, disclosed that due to the worsening public power supply, the cost of running his small factory continues to rise every month.

He lamented that instead of power to increase from month

to month, the reverse is the case, adding: "I am tired of complaining about the erratic power supply in the country. The more investments the government makes in the sector, the worse power supply becomes.

"The cost of powering my small factory has continued to rise month by month. A few years ago, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) commissioned a research to find out how much its members used to power their factories.

"The result said that manufacturers spent an average of 30 per cent of their cost of production on power generation. Currently, power generation gulp as much as 50 per

cent of my costs due to the poor power supply and the high cost of diesel and gas, has astronomically shut up the cost of my production. I know I am speaking the views of most other manufacturers."

He berated the power generating and distribution companies, stressing that they kept on giving one excuse or the other on why power supply keeps degenerating without showing efforts to change the situation.

Abuh said the past three weeks have been quite challenging due to the poor power supply, adding his firms can't be buying diesel at about N500 per litre, adding that the government has not done well in the area of power supply.





## Tenancy Agreement in Nigeria

A Tenancy Agreement is a contract between a Landlord and the Tenant which sets out the rights and obligations of both the Landlord and the Tenant when renting property in Nigeria.

A Tenancy Agreement is not compulsory, and the fact that a tenancy agreement does not exist in a tenancy relationship does not mean that the Landlord and Tenant have no rights in the tenancy. Both Landlord and Tenant have something called implied rights in all Tenancy relationships whether or not a Tenancy Agreement exists. However, a Tenancy Agreement is important because it provides further protection for both the Landlord and Tenant, and it expands on the implied rights.

If you are a Landlord about to rent out your property, or if you are Tenant about to rent a property, it is advisable that you insist that there is a Tenancy Agreement.

### Who Originates it?

In Nigeria, the Tenancy Agreement is in most cases created by the Landlord or their lawyer. As the Landlord is the owner of the property, they set the terms on which they want to rent their property and present this to the Tenant. Nigeria Property Centre has developed a service for Landlords where they can create their own Tenancy Agreement with the use of the NPC Document Service.

### Tenant's rights

As the Tenancy Agreement is a contract between two parties – the Landlord and the Tenant, the Tenant has the right to review the terms of the Tenancy Agreement to determine whether or not the Agreement protects his/her interests. Most Tenancy Agreements are straightforward and easy to understand; however, it is advisable where possible to get a lawyer to review the terms and advise on how they affect the Tenant's current and future rights.

### Content of a good Tenancy Agreement

As a Landlord or a Tenant, you need to ensure that your Tenancy Agreement includes the following terms and information at a minimum:

- . The names and addresses of the Landlord and the Tenant
- . The address of the property
- . The start date and end date of the tenancy
- . How much the rent will be
- . Other applicable amounts including – legal fees, agency fees, security deposits, service charges/fees etc as applicable
- . The obligations of both the Landlord and the Tenant
- . An outline of bills the Tenant is responsible for

The above list is not exhaustive and in fact, there are more terms that are frequently included in well-drafted Tenancy Agreements. Before renting a property, it is important that a well-drafted Tenancy Agreement is signed by both parties as it is the most important document in the tenancy relationship.

## LASG caution Magodo residents against building adjustment

By **BLESSING OZIWO**

The Lagos State Government has attributed the persistent corruption of the original plan for Magodo Residential Scheme II to the activities of residents of the scheme and not just outsiders.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr Idris Salako, said this during a courtesy visit by Magodo Residents Association.

Salako condemned the motives of residents who are fond of indiscriminately changing the approved uses of their property, as well as engaging in other planning infractions in the scheme, including unapproved change of height and density, as well as building in variance with the approved planning permit.

The Commissioner urged members of the estate to rise

against perpetrators of such unfavourable acts, who sacrifice the common good of the area for their parochial pecuniary interests and carry on in a way that is inimical to the wellbeing of residents and sustainability of the scheme.

According to him, measures put in place by the government to control development in the estate and elsewhere in the state include the imposition of penal fees to discourage illegal and non-conforming developments, regular monitoring and enforcement as well as outright removal of the contravention where possible.

On the Onikosi land tussle, he assured that the solution was just an inch away as the committee set up to resolve the matter was making progress, which might result in the creation of a new scheme to accommodate the

Onikosi Village excision and prevent the emergence of a slum around Magodo Scheme II.

The Special Adviser, E-GIS, Dr Olajide Babatunde, asked the residents association to foster regular stakeholders engagements and come to terms with the myriad problems facing the scheme.

On her part, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Abiola Kosegbe, urged members of the estate to support the enforcement drive and other initiatives of the Ministry.

The Chairman of, Magodo Residents Association, Bajo Osinubi, sought the assistance of the ministry to restore the scheme to its original plan and also waded in for an amicable solution to the ongoing land tussle in the area.



Dr Idris Salako

## FG's housing projects expensive

Housing prices introduced by the Federal Government under the National Housing Programme (NHP), have been causing outrage across the country as private developers have picked shortfalls in the housing scheme.

They believe that the programme is not affordable, justifiable as it is beyond the low-income earners who are the original target of the scheme and may breed corruption among civil servants. They said the government should concentrate on making policy than engaging in housing construction.

The Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola had unveiled a portal for the housing scheme recently and urged Nigerians to apply for allocation of available 5,000 plus housing units, ranging from one, two to three-bedroom bungalows and blocks of flats in any location of their choice across 34 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

The stakeholders insinuated that prices may undermine the genuine intentions of private developers and may give rise to an increase in housing prices, as some developers are selling

one-bedroom flats between N1.5 million and N4.5 million in Abuja and major cities. The buildings come with variations in prices as a result of the cost of building and topography.

The one-bedroom house type costs between N7, 222,404 and N9, 268,751. A two-bedroom bungalow sells for N9, 148,378 and N12, 398,460, while that of a three-bedroom ranges between N13,241,074 and 16,491,155.

The Chairman, Board of Trustees, Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria (REDAN), Oluseyi Lufadeju, told newsmen that the pricing is not reasonable and justifiable. "If you want to build for the low-income, it's not workable. It is not the type of houses the low and medium-income earners are looking for," he said.

Continuing he said, "they're looking for houses between N2.5 million and N3 million. That's why people are saying, the government has no business to build houses. It is the responsibility of private developers. Government should provide land and infrastructure as in all housing developments; infrastructure is 30 per cent of the cost of construction."

He said the government should continue to provide enabling environment in terms of low-cost financing and use of local building materials as well as facilitate the private sector because they rely on research and their research efforts have been bringing solutions. For the Professor of Estate Management, University of Lagos, Timothy Nubi, the houses are not affordable.

He said that he is not surprised by the turn of events, as the government believes that there cannot be affordable homes if the prices of cement and iron rods are high.

Nubi, who is also a member of REDAN, urged the Muhammadu Buhari administration to study the blueprint of the late

Lateef Jakande that enabled him to provide low-income houses in the country.

He lamented that what is supposed to be for low-income earners are now out of their reach. "It is better for the government not to go into housing and come up with such ridiculous prices," he said.

Nubi said that it is the wealthy that will buy up the houses as no civil servant or lecturer can afford such houses. He added: "They're telling the civil servants to go and steal, which will fuel corruption in the society."

The REDAN Vice President, and Chairman, South-West zone, Debo Adejuna, said with the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN)'s National Housing Fund (NHF) loan scheme more middle-income earners in the formal sector should be able to secure these properties if they can find any that meets their needs.

"For the low-income earners, I am sorry to say that I cannot see how they will be able to afford any of the properties, except there is a highly subsidised or social housing component to the offering which I have not heard of.

On the impact of the prices on real estate, Adejuna said: "Private developers do not need the government hosting prices to move their prices. Prices have already moved and keep moving based on the performance of building material prices.

A situation where most construction inputs have more than doubled in price in the last year does not need government housing prices before private developers adjust their prices. It is simply market dynamics of demand and supply at play." Clarifying the decision to adopt online sale of forms, Fashola said, "It is just to make the system more accountable and people seeing credibility if they win, and if they are not successful they will equally know that the

system has at least given them a fair chance."

He explained that the government did not just set out to build houses, adding that the project has served many purposes, the first of which was to test what sort of houses Nigerians would like to live in so as to make policies to guide its agencies and parastatals, as well as other stakeholders, to build what could be acceptable in the markets.

"We are the policy head of those parastatals like the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) and so on.

We are saying that the NHP had not succeeded in the past and some of the houses built then still remain empty. So, we conducted a national survey across the zones just to find out what is acceptable," the Minister said.

The findings, he said, were that while in the Northern part of the country there was a preference for bungalows and a large expanse of land which encouraged building horizontally, in the Southern part, there seemed to be acceptable for blocks of flats and lack of space which made building vertically necessary.

According to the minister, the scheme is a pilot or demonstration scheme meant, among others, to galvanise private sector participation.

He continued thus; "We applied for land from the states and we set out to do a demonstration or a pilot programme because we then wanted to validate what we saw and build a pilot scheme." He added, "It was also a way to implement our Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) because at the time we conceived this programme, the country was in recession", expressing delight that it has fulfilled that objective because over 1,000 contractors were engaged on the building sites; "businesses owned by Nigerians and Nigerian contractors."



Oluseyi Lufadeju



# Dangote Cement, SON push for standard in block making

In an attempt to curb the menace of building collapse across the country, the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has called on block makers and artisans have been enjoined to adhere strictly to quality production and shun acts that could compromise standards in the sector.

The Assistant State Director

SON, Lillian Gua, gave the charge in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, during a sensitisation workshop organised by Dangote Cement Plc, in collaboration with the regulatory organisation for the block makers and other artisans from Bayelsa and Rivers States.

According to Gua, block makers occupy a strategic position in the building industry, hence,

the need to make quality their watchword.

Gua said there is a need for the building artisans to know the right mixtures in the production of blocks to achieve the expected quality.

While citing Dangote Cement as an example of a certified product, whose quality has been

tested and found to be accurate, she enjoined participants to acquaint themselves with the steps and processes involved in getting a product certified so that they would not be deceived into buying fake products.

She disclosed that every certified product is issued a certificate of standard as proof of having gone through the quality test conducted by the SON.

Gua lauded Dangote Cement for organising the workshop, adding that such a forum will keep the manufacturers abreast of developments, especially, as it affects the quality and standard of products.

The Technical Director, Dangote Cement Plc, Mr Adeiza Aniki, said the workshop was designed to update and refresh block makers, and artisans on the standard and quality of blocks.

He explained that Dangote Cement sees the participants as a critical force in the cement value chain and has, therefore, made the workshop a periodic exercise to get feedback from the market and help in meeting

the demands of customers at all times.

Aniki urged participants to contribute to the efforts at mitigating the collapse of structures in the country. According to him, one of the ways they can do that is through adherence to quality and exposing bad eggs in the business.

He assured them that they could rely on Dangote Cement in the block making process.

"Check for excess amounts of dust in cement, which is called a float test. To do this, put a small quantity of cement in a bucket of water. If the cement floats on the water for some time before it sinks, the cement is of good quality. If the cement sinks immediately it touches the water, the cement is bad quality cement," he said.

The technical director added: "Rub the cement between the fingers and if it gives a smooth feeling, the cement is of good quality; but if it feels gritty or rough, it means other substances have been added. This is a sign of bad quality cement."

## Property Promoters woo investors with enormous benefits

Signature Global Real Estate, in collaboration with Sobha Realty of Dubai, UAE, last week unveiled their iconic project, 'Buy a Part of Dubai' in Lagos as a golden opportunity for prospective investors in Dubai properties to key into the project.

The one-day event which had in attendance stakeholders from real estate sub-sector of the nation's economy as well as prospective investors was put together by the Nigerian Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Signature Global is into residential and commercial property sales and handles the business from day one to the end. The company does property business with developers like Sobha and equally helps with documentation of property transactions. It is also involved in searching the status of properties through its system for interested investors.

Speaking on the sideline of the event described as 'Road show', Chairman of the Dubai-Signature, Prof Ahmed Olaniyi Salawudeen said "We have partnership with financially secured developers such as Sobha. They are one of the iconic developers as of today in United Arab Emirate UAE. Our partnership with them has been very remarkable. For Signature, we have made a number of sales in 2021. We have managed many units of property for both local and international investors. And we want to make sure that we add Nigeria to the schedule".

On why he is encouraging investors in Nigeria to invest in Dubai properties, Signature's boss noted that there are benefits doing business in Dubai.

According to him, "Ownership of houses in Dubai is freehold, tax free purchases, infrastructure is superb. Yield is high, that is return on investment. The money you will make from a one-bedroom flat is far in excess of what you make from a four/ five-bedroom flat in Nigeria. I tell people when you go to



Ahmed Olaniyi Salawudeen

Dubai, do not think about the Naira conversion rate. If you do, you won't eat".

Corroborating Prof Salawudeen, Chief Executive Officer of Sobha Realty, Dubai, said other benefits include guarantee of safety for Dubai properties, Dubai has the fastest system of documenting properties in the world, as within a week, a property deal can be completed, and there are laws guiding property investment in Dubai.

Explaining further about investment into Dubai properties, Signature's Chairman said as a property broker, "Your rent never comes to us as a broker. In Dubai the broker does not touch money. It is a rule in Dubai. All we do is to get our brokerage commission.

Also explaining the workability of mortgage system in Dubai to make property investment in Dubai flexible, the 'Road show' organiser said "What is happening is this, if you live in UAE, particularly Dubai, the regulation is very simple. It provides security for the buyer and the seller. It is a win-win situation.

"There are lots of advantages. As an international buyer, they have a system. It is not like in Nigeria when you want to buy a property, you make one lump payment. They have mortgage banks. You can make payment in installments. This is very key.

"In Dubai, mortgage is available to each and everybody. For those who are indigenes, the government has to look after them.

That is how it should be. Many years ago in Nigeria there was a popular slogan which said 'There will be housing for all in the year 2000'. Where are the houses today?

"You want to give a mortgage, you are asking for 11 per cent, you are asking for 15 per cent. How do you manage it? It is not possible. In Dubai for instance, you want to give mortgage, the highest is about 2 per cent maximum. Everything is flexible.

"The idea is to make the middle class enjoy. In Nigeria, are we enjoying anything? I don't know whether you are enjoying anything. As for me, I am not enjoying anything.

## Firm launches multi-billion naira estates in Lagos

Lagos-based private developer, Harmony Gardens and Estate Development Limited has launched a multi-billion-naira estate in Lekki area.

The estates consist of hectares of land across Ibeju-Lekki, available for sale at affordable prices for all cadres of people in the country.

The company's Chief Executive Officer, Saheed Mosadoluwa, made this known during the launching of Harmonyville Estate, beside Amen Estate at Eleko-road.

According to him, "the estate is not under government acquisition, free from land grabbers, no insecurity or family (omo-onile) threats, no buying of lands twice from people, no illegal encroachment among several other challenges."

He said the estate has government consent, Certificate of Occupancy (C of O), deed of ownership, survey, government-approved/title and other documents to show claims of rightful ownership.

"In harmonyville estate, we don't engage in illegal dealings of lands and properties. We perfect our documents before we advertise our estates/properties for sales.

"Our clients are safe to transact with us and we are available to assist our clients from buying stage to the building level.

"The satisfaction of our customers/clients is our watchword. We give our clients the value for money spent on investment on our landed properties," he said.

Other projects by the firm include Harmony ville, Harmony garden, Harmony prestige, Har-

mony Casa, Harmony Royale, Crest view estates.

The Human Resources Coach and Manager, Harmony Gardens and Estate Development Limited, Mr Tayo Ladega, said that the location of the harmony Ville estate has comparative economic benefits for the residents.

He added that the location is on Eleko Beach expressway, it is also close to Dangote fertilizer and refineries, over 50 companies are situated in the neighbourhood and more are still coming.

"The future of the environment is looking brighter. The wise ones and future anticipated being will key into these investment opportunities in this areas to buy property for future purposes," he said.

The Business Developing Manager, Harmony Gardens and Estate Developer, Briggs Brooks, appealed to teeming clients to key into the investment plans to own a property in the estate.

He mentioned different locations where Harmony Gardens and Estate Development Limited landed properties are situated; Harmonyville at Eleko, Harmony Casa at Elerangbe, Harmony prestigious at Epe- Lekki Expressway, Crestview at Onigbedu among several others.

Brooks said that the prices of those lands vary and it is sold based on the location," If you buy land from us, you are safe and you will have value for your money.

"There are adequate security, good drainage system, good road network, electricity supply and other basic facilities and infrastructure in our estates," he said.



## N544m Fraud: I was framed – Babachir Lawal

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Babachir Lawal, has said he was framed in an alleged N544 million corruption scandal against him.

Lawal spoke on Thursday during an interview with Channels Television.

Recall that in December 2016, a senate ad hoc committee on “mounting humanitarian crisis in the north-east” indicted the former SGF of fraud in a contract awarded for the clearing of “invasive plant species” in Yobe state, through the Presidential Initiative on North East (PINE).

PINE, which was under Lawal, was at the time unable to account for N2.5 billion allocated for poverty alleviation for IDPs. The Senate ad hoc committee accused the former SGF of using N544 million to cut grasses.

Subsequently, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned Lawal and others over alleged fraud.

President Muhammadu Buhari in October 2017 sacked Lawal and according to the presidency, the decision was in line with the recommendation of the probe panel.

When asked during the interview on Thursday if he felt the allegation affected his public image, Lawal said the scandal has “enlarged” his profile.

He said, “On the contrary, it has enlarged my profile. The thing is in court and I have pleaded not guilty and I believe I’m not guilty. A lot of Nigerians, everywhere I go, know it was a set-up. It was very clear.”

“I know some people set me up. I won’t tell you. I know and they know that I know some of them have confessed.”

Asked if it is right for someone who is in government to influence a contract to a company in which he is a beneficiary,

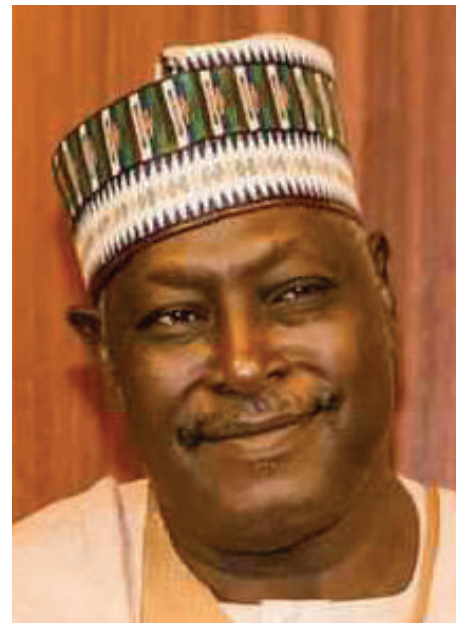
the former SGF said he had resigned from the company before his appointment into public office.

“I was a member of the board for 16 companies at that time (2015). I was managing director for one. I wrote letters of resignation to those companies.

“I instructed my lawyers to disengage me from the Corporate Affairs Commission, documented, written, and even the fee paid for.

“We had the board resolution sent to the banks delisting me as a signatory to all the accounts. All these are documented for everyone to see.

“In politics, nobody was interested in all these things. What happened, therefore, was that the company of which I was a managing director, unknown to me, got a contract as a consultant to supervise a project which was called grass cutting. It wasn’t grass cutting.”



Babachir Lawal

## Alleged N3b Fraud: Court acquits Ochuko Momoh, five others

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

Justice Taiwo Taiwo of a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has discharged and acquitted Ochuko Momoh, the wife of a former Managing Director of Pipelines and Products Marketing Company, Haruna Momoh, of a case of alleged fraud.

Ochuko and five others have been standing trial for an alleged N3 billion fraud by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

However, in a judgment delivered on Thursday, Justice Taiwo acquitted Ochuko and the other five accused on money laundering related charges.

Justice Taiwo, who held that the prosecution failed to discharge the burden of proving its case against the defendants beyond all reasonable doubt, also ordered the discharge of an earlier interim forfeiture order made against Ochuko Momoh and her two firms – Blaid Construction and Blaid Farms.

The Judge noted that the case of the prosecutors was based on mere speculation and conjecture.

The ICPC had brought Ochuko Momoh alongside Blessing Azuka-Agozi, Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, Energopol Nigeria Limited, Blaid Construction Limited, and Blaid Farms Limited before a Federal High Court in Abuja to be tried on a 22-count charge.

The ICPC, in the charge, marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/278/2019, accused Ochuko of laundering funds estimated at N3 billion through her companies – Blaid Construction and Blaid Farms.

Azuka Agozi was alleged to have reneged on her promise to provide ICPC’s investigators with documents relating to the contracts Energopol Nigeria Limited allegedly executed for the PPMC, for which it was allegedly paid huge sums.

The ICPC accused Stanbic IBTC of failing to report suspicious transactions in the accounts of Blaid Construction and Blaid Farms to the relevant authorities as required by law.

In May 2019, a Federal High Court, Abuja, presided over by Justice Binta Nyako, faulted the decision of ICPC to freeze Blaid Construction Limited and its director, Mrs Ochuko Momoh’s bank accounts.



Ochuko Momoh

## EFCC trains officers on crypto currency, forensic auditing

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has trained some of its officials on Cryptocurrency, Forensic Auditing, and Investigation.

A statement by the EFCC spokesperson, Wilson Uwujaren, on Friday said that the training which is a four-day training, commenced on Monday, June 6, 2022, through Thursday, June 9, 2022, at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja.

Uwujaren added that the training was designed by the Commission in a bid to tackle emerging crimes and build stronger capacities for future challenges.

He said, “In a bid to tackle some emerging crimes and build stronger capacities for future challenges, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has held a 4-Day training on Crypto-Currency, Forensic Auditing, and Investigation for its operatives.

“The training, which commenced on Monday, June 6, 2022, and ended on Thursday, June 9, 2022, was held at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja, and drew participants from different cadres of operatives of the Commission.”

According to him, Acting Deputy Commandant, Administration, EFCC Academy, Assistant Commander of EFCC, ACE Joseph Ogwiji, explained that “cryptocurrency is an emerging trend, so we looked at the investigation aspect of it in order to expand the horizon of the officers.”

Ogwiji further said that the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, in his determination to ensure that the Commission remains proactive in the face of some emerging crimes, re-equipped the Academy with everything needed for sustained capacity development of all officers of the Commission.

The Officers were trained on the following topics “Introduction to Crypto Currency, History of Crypto Currency, Block Chain Technology, How to open a Wallet Address, Investigating Crypto Currency Cases, Use of Crypto Currency in the Dark Web, Forensic Auditing and Investigation, Mutual Legal Assistance, among others,” Uwujaren added.

He said Ogwiji assured that a lot was impacted on the participants, adding that the Commission is sure of turning out operatives that are well-grounded in investigation by utilizing forensic auditing approach.

## Interpol, ICPC, others sign MoU on Database access

●As Owasanoye vows to profile PEPs, money laundering suspects

By PAUL MICHAEL, ABUJA

The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Nigeria’s anti-graft agencies, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and other security agencies to grant them access to the global database of the organisation. The Chairman of the ICPC, Prof Bolaji Owasanoye, who made this known at the end of a meeting by Heads of Nigerian Law Enforcement Agencies with top officials of Interpol in Lyon, France, said the Commission will utilise the database in profiling Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), money laundering, and illicit financial flows suspects.

It was gathered that the Nigerian delegation to Interpol was made up of top officials of the National Central Bureau Abuja (NCBA), Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), National

Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP) and the ICPC.

The high point of the meeting between the Nigerian delegation and Interpol was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Police and ICPC, NFIU, NAPTIP, NDLEA, and EFCC, which granted the law enforcement agencies access to the organisation’s databases.

At the meeting, the ICPC boss discussed how the anti-corruption agency and the country could take advantage of the Interpol database in profiling suspects.

“The Commission will develop the habit of issuing notices, especially on high profile suspects. Such notices will be seen globally on PEPs in particular,” Prof Owasanoye said.

The ICPC Chairman also disclosed that the Commission would join the Global Focal Point Network coordinated by Interpol as part of measures to tighten the noose around corrupt and criminal persons.

Interpol is expected to support the law enforcement agencies in Nigeria through the strengthening of information sharing,

utilisation of the organisation’s database of global suspects, and prevention of incursion and influx of migrant terrorist fighters into Nigeria.

The Interpol briefed the Nigerian delegation on Operation Gemini, a special project focusing on trans-border organised crime involving migration, human trafficking, drug trafficking corruption, and financial crimes.

The International Police also held special sessions with the delegation which were devoted to international and regional co-operation in law enforcement, operational methods of Interpol and strategies for data and informational sharing, Interpol policing capabilities, role of the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Nigeria, and Nigeria Border Management strategies, integration of Nigeria Law Enforcement Databases with Interpol NCB.

Under the MoU signed with Interpol, the Nigerian law enforcement agencies will have unrestricted access to global criminal databases. It is expected that this fresh collaboration will boost the capacity of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria to fulfil their mandates.



# Why I'm scandal free-Veteran actor, Akin Lewis

*Veteran actor, Akin Lewis sure knows his onion in the creative industry having begun acting in 1973, the same year he joined a drama group led by Bode Sowande, a Nigerian professor, writer and dramatist. It is pertinent to note that Akin Lewis graduated with a First Class in Dramatic Arts and also bagged a Master's degree in the same course. In this chat with OMONIYI ALLI, he spoke about his booming career, playing the rich man role amongst others*

**Why is it that you don't take up any other roles except the rich man?**

Well, I might have accepted such role a long time ago. But now I look rich and I am rich. So I guess that is the reason I cannot be given any other role to play. Professionally, I can act any role, but also from the professional point of view, it is hard for me to be seen or cast as a poor man. Usually, I get millionaire and billionaire roles.

**Don't you feel you are being stereotyped?**

No, it is not been stereotyped for me to have money or not to have money. You can have money and be a bad person. There are several other ways, that I can be rich, but in different character.

Having witnessed over four generations of the Nigerian film industry what would you consider to be the biggest difference?

Well, essentially, the biggest thing that has changed is money and it has blindfolded many young talented people. Today, you have to give me the script first, I read it, and I like it. Conversely, we have a lot of instruments these days and a lot of money, though it is too heavy and I wish it is well spent and evenly.

**What do you mean by saying you wish it was well spent?**

It is because it is only a few people (actors) that have access to those funds and only a few are well paid in the industry. This is an industry that has a lot of young talented people. I have been in the industry for over 40 years. I have been on the mountain top and it has been awesome. I have also been in the valley. I have been happy and I have been sad. I know the secret of plenty and I know the secret of small. That's just the way life is.

**What is the secret of your enduring career?**

I'm very diligent, I'm first on set. I'll come, sit quietly in my space; I do my job then leave. But I guess I have a lot of grace because there are several



superstars out there.

**Most time you refer to yourself as a premium actor, why so?**

Why I say that is because I am informed, and sought after in this profession that I have been doing for more than four decades now: 46 years to be precise. And everybody knows where I stand, and I am one of the well-trained actors in this profession. So

people look for and they pay the price.

**Talking about price, is your fee that high that scares people away from working with you?**

No, I have done some jobs, where they just fuel my car and my hospitality. It is not that my fee is high, it is because I am the one they need and I have been able to establish that relationship with everyone that needs me. Even if they don't have money, but the production is a good one, there are ways that it can be done.

**How have you been able to manage fame till now?**

Well, I think it has to do with experience. You know when you start, you won't know how to manage it, but as time goes on, you just want to think of the people around you and how it will affect them. I do solid interviews; I don't run after interviews for interview's sake. Yes, we have been through a lot, but we have been able to manage it.

**Is it because you have been in the corporate world in the past, that you have been able to avoid bad press?**

Well, I don't have any scandals or

anything to hide. So I guess that is the reason some people stay away from me. And that is the way I want to live my life; scandal-free, and neat. But for actors that live on scandals, I believe it is because they are still young. By the time they get it right, they will know that it does not pay.

**So why did you leave acting for the corporate world?**

No, I never left. I go to the office during the day and then go for movie shoots at night. And I did well on the job; I never used my employer's office time for acting. I would shoot movies on weekends, when on holiday and during my annual leave. Apart from the talent, you need to be disciplined as an actor.

Having gone into the business world and sat in the boardroom as a director, I can tell you this for sure.

**Don't you consider yourself lucky as you are one of the very few active veterans; while we only get to see others when they are in dire need of assistance from the general public?**

To be honest I can only say am grateful for life and family; to this end, in this acting job have gotten married on this job, I have children, I live in my house, I have my car and all of that. I'm saying this with all due respect and not because I am trying to bring people down. Now, actors from my set got trained just for the job alone and unfortunately, most directors just use you and dump you. I realized this early enough and that enabled me to see the future ahead fast. That made me go into the corporate world, I diversified earlier in my career and I have very good results to show for this.

**Are you saying that actors need to foresee the future early?**

Yes, you have to think. This job is not as spectacular as other jobs. If you get paid N2 million today as an actor, unfortunately, some people will squander the money the next day. Veteran, and in fact, every actor must learn to save and set some money aside for the future. Yes, you can buy those choice cars you fancy but don't forget to take care of your children and your family. I have tried to do all of these responsible things and I'm still on this job. Not all actors are irresponsible and yes acting is a serious job.

**As a thespian, what do you look out for in a script?**

There are good and bad scripts, and I am well trained, remember I said that. And I recognize a good script; which must have a beginning, middle and an end. It must be well defined and must have a very challenging role for me. When all those are there, it will be acceptable to me. This comes with my training and should apply to all actors.





## Mixed grill



## Animated Short film, 'Ami,' shuns political thuggery

To address concerns about the dangers of young people getting involved in political thuggery, a 3d animated short film titled *Ami*, has been released. Produced and co-directed by Tunde Oluwa, the 16-minutes film is inspired by the October 2020 Endsars crisis in Nigeria.

According to Oluwa who doubles as Creative director, Blackice animation studios, this is reiterating the implications of getting involved in political thuggery especially as we are in the season.

"I decided to use 3d animation as a medium of passing this message because the target audience is young adults who mostly spend part of their leisure time playing video games.

"The style and details in the film are about 85 percent close to the graphics one will get in a new generation game console. I believe young people will appreciate this and find it easy to relate with. Also, my background in architecture made animation a part of me, effortlessly."

The animation film, which featured voices of actors, Segun Dada, Olalekan Fehintola, Omowunmi Dada and Oriyomi Joseph, is Nigeria's first most detailed, most relatable

3d animation short film.

For artistic and co-director in the short film, Joseph Duke, said, "accountability is key in any democratic system; as such, we hope that the youth and necessary government monitoring agencies will focus on holding political office holders accountable for their promises and responsibilities.

"We hope to use this film to start discussions and design workable programmes and implementation plans for transparent accountability in our country. Also, we hope to educate the youths and make them realize that they must stand their ground to protect their lives, the lives of their loved ones and our collective peace and unity as a nation, by saying No to Violence."

Duke who also runs Elects Network and Synergy limited said it partnered with Blackice Animation studios to design strategic programmes that will scale up its audio-visual artwork into measurable impact based social campaign through its #100tags4change Initiative.

"We have plans to train 50 -100 youths in animation so they too can create social and economic impact based advocacy film, by



this we can all together gradually become ambassador for a new and better Nigeria and influence policy and procedure in the country."

## Bubble House Biz hosts first house party

The first of its kind Bubble House Biz house party will finally take place in June with the first edition taking place in Lagos.

BHB, which is a trademark of Godfather Group LLC with the headquarter in the US, was engineered with kin interest in providing bespoke products and services worthy of celebration. The company is totally into hospitality, showbiz support and also solution to various issues.

Apart from the above, BHB is also into human resources and training, facility management and remodelling, marketing services, supplies and trade chain, social research and data capture among other things.

Speaking with our correspondent, the CEO of Godfather Group, Adebawale Adetunji, said the Bubble House Party is an event to host selected members of the society who are mature in age, mind and body.

"It is a private house party that will lose all ends and present fun beyond imagination," he said.

"Between 30 to 50 men and 50 to 70 ladies are expected at the party with varieties of African and Continental cuisine, sorts of drinks from reputable origins, games of various intensities on offer at the party.

"The plan is to have the party in various states of Nigeria and other parts of the world like USA, Canada, London, South Africa, and Dubai among others.

"It is not just an ordinary party because our guests are coming from the corporate world, private business owners, executives and CEOs of companies and that will afford them opportunities to interact and probably seal deals in a more informal environment."

## With 'Adeyanju,' Adetoun seeks redress in children

In the light of celebrating Nigerian children, Nigerian activist and artiste, Adetoun Onajobi has released a single titled, 'Adeyanju' to commemorate the day.

According to her, "the song was inspired by the state of dereliction of parental responsibility that has become the order of the day because of the astronomical rate of poverty and heightened economic pressure, which have unfortunately led to increment in societal vice.

She further noted that the key message in the song is that the most viable asset a parent can harness is the investment in children. "It is part of our nongovernmental initiatives to instil societal consciousness of the invaluable necessities and utmost promotion of the welfare of emerging generations."

The philanthropist who is passionate about change added, "every other investment is subject to economic indices but relentless support and empowerment of children transcend generations. So parents should keep investing regardless

of the difficulties and the government should enact accountability mechanisms, punitive sanctions and overall reward system in our legislations to help children lead productive lives."

Popularly known as the voice of the voiceless, Adetoun has championed countless causes in Nigeria both in politics and social welfare. She was one of the forefront activists who spoke and

championed the movement during the EndSARS movement in 2020 in Nigeria. She has also called out the Nigerian government and police at every turn mainly using her social media platforms to enact positive change.

Also, through her charity organization, Feed A Child, she goes to remote areas to aid and bring succour to malnourished children and their families.



## Davido speak on next album project

Afrobeats singer, Davido, has stated his incoming album will serve several purposes as he believes it will bring restoration of his original self as well as the regeneration of Afrobeat music.

Davido explained songs on his anticipated album will exude positive vibes that will make people smile, dance, and also provoke sober reflection.

Speaking in an interview with Apple Music's "The Dotty Show," the DMW boss: "We are bringing back original AfroBeat music. We had fun making it.

"I am here to make people smile, dance, and sometimes, reflect. I feel the album has a bit of everything. It is more of bringing back the original Davido. Of course, there will be a couple of features, but (it's mainly about me)."







## Kwibuka T20: Nigeria beat Germany after Brazil's

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

Nigeria have defeated Germany in their second match to maintain their pristine start at the eighth edition of the Kwibuka T20 tournament at IPRC OVAL in Kigali, Rwanda.

Nigeria's bowlers have been impressive and ensured they limited Germany to just 78 in their 20 overs.

Despite the setback to see the Nigeria female cricket team losing two quick wickets upfront, Salome Sunday's 32 knocks off 40 ensured Nigeria won against Germany.

Accordingly, Nigeria chased down the target in 13.4 overs and were helped in their cause by German bowlers who were highly floppy and gave away 25 extras.

Preseeding this fixture, Female Yellow Green of Nigeria defeated the South American side, Brazil, with 8 wickets in their opening game.

The Nigeria women's cricket team, who won the toss against new timers Brazil, elected to send them to bat.

Resultantly, Brazil, who alongside Germany are the featuring in the memorial



event for the first time and also the only team from outside the African continent, amassed a total of 53 runs all out in 15.2 overs.

According to Musa Ehizojie Bodie, Public Relations Officer, Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), Evelynde Souza scored 12 runs off 22 balls to register her name as the best batting figure for Brazil, ranked 29 in the ICC chart.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's Rukayat Abdulrazaq, who debut for the world-ranked 38 women's cricket team, stole the spotlight in a scintillating display to bowl 4 wickets, conceding 9 runs in 3.2 overs.

Following, Esiegbe Favour also performed brilliantly

having attained 3 wickets, conceding 12 runs, 1 maiden over in 4 overs.

In the second innings, Female Yellow Green made light work of the run chase by scoring the required total in 10.5 overs, losing just 2 wickets.

Salome Sunday led the run chase with 22 runs of 17 balls not out, supported by Agatha Obulor with 12 runs off 17 balls.

Nigeria finished with 56 runs for the loss of 2 wickets in 10.2 overs with debutant Rukayat Abdulrazaq named player of the match.

However, the coach of the Nigeria women's cricket team Leke Oyede has said the team will continue to improve and stick to their

game plans.

Oyede stressed that the squad is under the tutelage of an experienced coach who is determined to achieve the desired results both in the tournament and ICC world ranking.

"We came to this event with our match plan and experience has taught us to take the matches as they come. We are very happy about this victory, but we are more focused on the next match," Oyede stated.

"There is no gainsaying that the victory was well deserved, but we still have some work to do, we were a bit careless in some areas and we need to plug all the leakages as we perfect our game plans," he said.

## Harriet Dart reaches first WTA quarter-finals

Harriet Dart has defeated Italian Camila Giorgi at the Nottingham Open to reach her first-ever quarter-final in a WTA event.

Giorgi, ranked 26 in the world, won the first set in the three sets' thriller but lost the other two; although, she tied the third before the British walloped her to earn a 5-7 6-4 7-6 (7-3) win.

Dart, who defeated Croatian Donna Vekic that has won three WTA singles in the round of 32, to qualify to feature against Giorgi in round 16, expressed in disbelief to have recorded key match points.

He said, "I can't quite believe it, especially saving those match points."

"It's my first quarter-final so to be able to do it on home soil is pretty special."

"Thank you to the crowd. You really helped me get through that," Dart appreciated.

According to BBC Sports, Dart arduously found her opportunity to dominate the tie-break after she slipped down 0-40 on her serve with the Italian leading 5-4.

The report underlined that Dart, ranked 114 in the world, remains the only British in the tourney after fellow compatriot Katie Boulter lost 6-3 6-4 to Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic late on Thursday evening.

Dart, 25, will challenge world-ranked 40 and American Alison Riske in the quarter-final at Center Court to continue her surge towards the final of the Nottingham Open.



## Golf: Oboh set for first LPGA tourney in US

Georgia Iziemgbe Oboh will on June 12 partake in her first LPGA tournament in the United States called 'Shoprite LPGA Classic' and hosted by Acer.

Oboh, who is the biggest golfer from Nigeria on the international scene, plies the tourney at Seaview Hotel and Golf Club, Bay Course, Atlantic County, New Jersey.

The Nigerian debuts in the event after she qualified for one of the final two spots in

the ShopRite LPGA Classic field on Monday.

During the qualifying process for the tourney that 144 players will compete in the 54-hole on Sunday, Oboh shot a 73.

According to the organisers of the event, the England-born professional is the first Nigerian golfer to earn membership on the Ladies European Tour.

Oboh as of last week finished second in the "The

JOHN SHIPPEN National Golf Invitational for Black female golfers".

The tournament presents several opportunities to Oboh, with a host of champions like the defending champion of the tourney, Celine Boutier, and the world's top-ranked players, including Jin Young Ko (No. 1), Lydia Ko (No. 4), Nasa Haaoka (No. 7), Inbee Park (No. 9) and Brooke Henderson (No. 11).



## Gattuso chastises accusers over racist comments, others

Valencia coach Gennaro Gattuso said he is startled over the recent accusations of sexism, racism and homophobia meted on his person by some of the club fans.

Gattuso, who recently joined the club on a two-year deal, described the incident as surreal, adding that he has to clarify himself from these unfounded accusations.

According to a report by Gazzetta, Valencia fans were against the idea of hiring the Italian as their tactician due to his close relationship with agent Jorge Mendes, and also cited some of his past comments considered offensive.

In a maiden press conference yesterday at Mestalla Stadium, the former AC Milan legend chastised his accusers with former Milan director Barbara Berlusconi, the daughter of President Silvio, inclusive.

"I'll tell you what this is about. First, the issue of women in football was referring to something said 15 years ago and there is no video or anything to corroborate it," Gattuso said in the press conference.

"Adriano Galliani, after 25

years of hard work, had been replaced by a 28-year-old woman with no experience in the sport, so that didn't seem like a great decision to me," Valencia's boss explained.

He continued: "As for being racist, they asked me something about Boateng when I was coach of Sion and I said he shouldn't worry about what four idiots in the crowd think. I come from a small village in Calabria, so for years and years, I got all sorts of insults in Italy."

"I worked with many black players, it really irritates me to have to sit here and explain certain things to you."

"There were even suggestions I couldn't work because of my illness. I have ocular myasthenia and I have done it for 12 years. I heard people say I can't work, can't live a normal life, can't afford to raise my stress levels," Gattuso recounted.

Gattuso, who recently signed two years contract with the Spanish club, Valencia, flew into the country last night and was welcomed by enthusiastic and elated fans amid the controversies and accusations from certain quarters of the club supporters.

## Rivers United reach AITEO Cup Final

Rivers United narrowly edged Khana FC 1-0 in the semi-finals of the Rivers State AITEO tournament yesterday, at the Sharks Stadium, Port Harcourt,

Rivers State.

The Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) topflight team, arduously fought to secure the victory against a

relentless side.

Following an impressive outing in a cracker against Plateau United before falling to an unfortunate loss to Wikki

Tourists of Bauchi, Rivers United got the win against Khana FC through Nyima Nwagwa's goal.

According to NPFL table leaders, the dominance exerted by them in the early stage of the game paid off which resulted in the 24-minute goal from a perfect cross by Ebube Duru.

Although, the losing side launched a reprisal attack to tally the scoreline, coach Stanley Eguma-led side allayed all intending threats and shoved them to their own box.

Consequently, Rivers United having qualified for the final will play against Police Crime Bursters FC on Wednesday, 15th June 2022, at Sharks Stadium, Port Harcourt.





# City, Madrid to swoop on Reece James

Premier League champions Manchester City and Spanish League champions Madrid are eyeing a move to swoop in for Chelsea defender, Reece James.

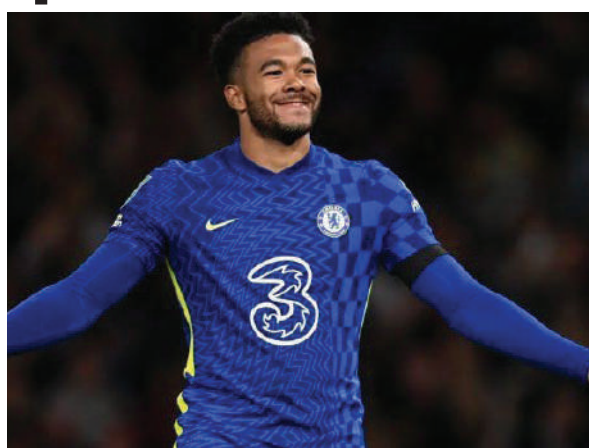
James, who has established himself in the Blues' starting lineup, displacing captain César Azpilicueta in the defensive right-back position, is yet to meet with Chelsea's board for a new contract.

Probably, the delay could be because Chelsea is under new management after Roman Abramovich sold the club to a Todd Boely-led consortium following the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

However, during the period the Russian billionaire was sanctioned by the UK government, including Chelsea, all contract talks with the club's players were stalled resulting in Antonio Rudiger making a switch to Real Madrid.

James, 22, is a key figure in Thomas Tuchel's plans for next season and has a contract with the club until 2025 but the failure on the part of Chelsea to renew the fleet-footed defender's contract may likely trigger a move to the Spanish capital.

Following this development, the Mirror reported that Real Madrid boss, Carlo Ancelotti, is eager to bring the player to Madrid having been



impressed with the player's performance on nine occasions he has watched him in action.

Furthermore, the Mirror added that the Spanish giants' interest in James is

spurred by the emerging uncertainties in their defensive lineup with ageing Dani Carvajal, who is experiencing lapses possibly created by his degenerated form.

# Chelsea sign Kadeisha Buchanan from Lyon

Chelsea FC have confirmed the signing of Kadeisha Buchanan from French side Olympique Lyonnais on a three-year deal.

Buchanan, a centre-defender, having spent over 5 years winning major trophies with Lyon, brings a wealth of experience to the women's squad of Chelsea.

According to Chelsea on their official website where the announcement was made, the 26-year-old Canadian will be given the iconic jersey number 26 worn by the club's great, John Terry.

The European star, who won five Champions League trophies with Lyon including the fifth against Barcelona, complemented her blistering 130 appearances for the club where she registered 6 goals.

Buchanan also won eighth domestic trophies with Lyon comprising three Coupe



de France and five French topflight division league trophies.

Chelsea's statement reads in part: "Prior to moving to France, Buchanan spent four years playing college football in the States with West Virginia Mountaineers where she made 98 appearances and established herself as one of the top players in the NCAA.

"Buchanan also brings a

wealth of experience having started her international career at just 14 years old when recruited into the Canadian youth programme in 2010.

"Her first silverware came in the form of a silver medal at the 2012 CONCACAF Women's Under-17 Championship in Guatemala and she then went on to win the Young Player award at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup.

"The centre-back made her senior debut for her country in 2013 against China, becoming one of the youngest international players at the time.

"Since then, she has gone on to make 118 appearances and receive a host of individual honours, being named Canadian Player of the Year three times, nominated for the prestigious FIFA Ballon d'Or and featuring in the FIFPro Women's World XI. Last year, Buchanan also took home gold at the 2020 Olympics," the

statement said.

After signing the contract with the Blues, Buchanan on her part added that she comes to add value to Chelsea's squad and help the team win more trophies while soaring among world greats.

"I am coming to Chelsea with the same ambition I always had, win trophies and become the best in the world. The club has everything in order for us to compete in every competition and it's time to bring a Champions League trophy to London.

"I'm hoping to bring my experience to the team and continue on the successful pathway that the club has been on for the past seasons. I can't wait to join my new teammates and the coaching staff on this journey," Buchanan added.

Chelsea noted that Buchanan in the summer will join up with the squad before heading to the States for the WICC tour in August.

# CL final: Paris police apologise to tear-gassed fans

Paris police have tendered an unreserved apology to fans that were teargassed when trying to enter Stade de France to watch the UEFA Champions League final between Real Madrid and Liverpool on May 28, 2022.

Didier Lallement, who is the Paris police chief, regretted issuing such an order that caused chaos and ridiculed the image of the country.

According to Lallement on Thursday at the Senate, the decision became the last resort under such hectic circumstances.

"It is obviously a failure. It was a failure because people were pushed around and attacked. It was a failure because the image of the country was undermined," he said.

To assert his claim, the Police chief stressed that about 40,000 fans had no ticket which is the only authorised means for anyone to be allowed into the arena to watch the prestige final.

He added that some of the fans smartly came with

fake tickets to beat security checks to gain entrance into the stadium but were rightly spotted.

Although, Lallement was unable to substantiate his claim according to reports by the British media.

Lallement said, "The figure has no scientific virtue but it came from feedback from police and public transport officials.

"Maybe I was wrong, but it was constructed from all the information harvested.

"Whether there are 30,000 or 40,000 people, it doesn't change anything. What matters is that there were people, in large numbers, likely to disrupt the proper organization of the filtering. But that we count them precisely to within 5000, it doesn't change much," he added.

The report revealed that Lallement's apology comes after officials of Liverpool are set to meet with the Chairman Review of the UEFA Champions League final to satisfy themselves that the process is unbiased.



# Mané to Bayern, Liverpool turn to Nunez

Liverpool summer target and Uruguay international, Darwin Nunez, wants to move to the Merseyside club which will bring his spell at the Portuguese topflight club, Benfica, to an end.

With a convincing performance for Benfica that saw the sensational forward score 34 times in all competitions, Liverpool, whose player Sadio Mane is on the brink of switching to Bayern Munich, would ratify a deal for the Uruguayan.

Although reports revealed that the Reds are yet to bid for the player, they are on the watch not to contend with any club for the signature of Nunez.

While it has been alleged that United Boss, Erik ten Hag, practically rejigging the club squad, could swoop for the player to galvanise the Red Devils, Nunez, who scored against Liverpool in both legs of the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals, is valued at €100m by Benfica.

Liverpool are shopping for possible replacements for Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah, who have refused to agree to extend their contract despite having one year left to run in their present contracts.

Reds' boss Jurgen Klopp would not want a situation

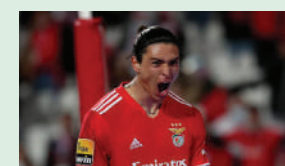
where the club will be starved of necessary firepower to process next season's campaign in uncertainty and would look to welcome Nunez to Anfield.

Bayern Munich have tendered a second bid for Sadio Mane who said his decision is based on what the Senegalese want for him.

According to a transfer gossip by British media, Mane, 30, has one year left on his contract and joked that majority of people in Senegal want him to leave Anfield.

Meanwhile, Eurosport last month reported that Ten Hag was interested to bring the player to Old Trafford and has a line £80million to snap the player away from Liverpool's radar.

According to the report, United boss has two targets and two priority signings. He wants to sign defender Jurrien Timber from Ajax for around £35 million, and will also pursue a bid for 22-year-old Uruguayan striker Darwin Nunez, who will cost £80m from Benfica.



# Salah named PFA Player of the Year

Liverpool forward and Egyptian prodigy Mohamed Salah has been named the 2022 PFA Players' Player of the Year, beating fellow contender and Manchester City Kevin De Bruyne to clinch it.

Salah wins it for the second time having carted home the 2018's edition.

The 29-year-old, who also won the FWA Footballer of the Year award, has only one season left in Liverpool until he agrees to sign a new one.

Salah finished the 2021-22 season remarkably, emerging as the league's joint-top goalscorer with Tottenham Son Heung-Min.

The Liverpool ace forward, who plays from the right flank also beat Cristiano Ronaldo, Harry Kane and team-mates Virgil van Dijk and Sadio Mane to win the honour.

The former Roma player voted part of the 2022 PFA Premier

League team of the year, joined Liverpool five years ago and has established himself as a key figure for Jurgen Klopp's side.

Although, Tottenham's Son Heung-Min shared the Golden Boot with the Egyptian, the South Korean did not make the shortlist or the best XI of English Premier League team for 2021-22 season.

For the record, Salah scored 23 goals in the EPL and clocked 14 assists during the 2021/22 season, comprising a hat-trick and assist at Old Trafford as Liverpool plummeted rivals Manchester United 5-0.

Liverpool forward led the season's campaign for a club quadruple that resulted in an FA Cup and Carabao Cup double having lost the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) final against Senegal in Cameroon.

"It's a great honour to win a trophy, individual or collective and this one is big so, very happy



and very proud of that," said Salah.

"This one is a really good one to win, especially because it's voted by players. It shows you that you've worked really hard and you get what you worked for.

"I have my room with trophies in a cabinet and I made sure that I had another space for one more. I always keep space and just try

to imagine that the trophies are going to come.

"When you get older, you feel like you're more stable and you know exactly what you want from football so I'm just trying to really chill and help the team.

"That's why I think I also won the playmaker because it's like you're more aware of the game, so you just try to make the people next to you better and try to make yourself better as well," he added.

PFA members vote for the winners of each award, choosing the players they feel have put in the best performances all year. Salah is now one of only nine players in history to have won two PFA Players' Player trophies, joining Mark Hughes, Alan Shearer, Thierry Henry, Gareth Bale, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lucy Bronze, Kevin De Bruyne and Fran Kirby; according to a report by Sky Sports.





# Juventus await Di Maria's decision

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

Angel Di Maria's proposed move to Juventus must have taken a new twist after the Argentine's agent Jorge Mendes was spotted to have arrived in Spain to discuss the player's future with Barcelona.

Di Maria's contract at Les Parisien has ended and his next move will be justified by a free transfer to a club of his choice.

Juventus are keen on bringing the forward to Turin on a two-year contract to bolster the squad ahead of next season.

But with the recent news emerging from a series of Italian media about Mendes' arrival in Spain, Juventus have asked the player to give his

decision on a possible switch to Italy. According to Sportitalia, Di Maria is tilted towards honouring a move to Camp Nou and this would mean Juventus would have been edge out to secure the player on a free transfer.

Meanwhile, reports from Spain have alleged that Barcelona are ready to offer €5m for Di Maria with an additional €2m on add-ons.

The reports further revealed that the ball is in the Blaugrana's court to decide which means Di Maria, who is expected to fill up the void that would be created if Ousmane Dembele decides to move away from Camp Nou, has accepted to switch to Spain.

The 34 years old having scored 93 goals and 119 assists in 295 appearances in the last seven years, has captured the attention of several high profile clubs in Europe,



including Barcelona.

Barcelona, seeking to return to dominance of Spain and Europe have also made Raphinha a priority

target but Leeds United's price tag could restrict them from launching the offensive for the Brazilian international.

## 'Header against Chelsea my best career goal'

Napoli forward Victor Osimhen said the header he scored against Chelsea in the Champions League fixture is the best goal of his career.

Osimhen scored the said goal when he was still at his former club, Lille in their 2018/2019 UEFA Champions League match against Chelsea when Frank Lampard was the manager.

The Super Eagle headed into the net a beautiful header to cancel out Tammy Abraham's opener but a 77-minute goal by Williams soured the moment of French club Lille who sustained a 2-1 loss.

Osimhen, who won the U17 World Cup, disclosed in an interview with NFF TV, where he explained that the goal against Chelsea is his most cherished goal because his friends wanted him to score against Chelsea regardless of the result.

"My most cherished goal is the one I scored against Chelsea.

"A lot of my friends who were Chelsea fans sent me messages before the game saying they did not care if Chelsea beat us Lille or not, they just wanted me to score.

"They really wanted me to actualize my dream, and that was one of the best moments in my career."

Osimhen scored in the 2-1 win by Nigeria against the Leone Stars of Sierra Leone on Thursday at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.



# Ten Hag could succeed after Woodward's exit'

Netherlands boss Louis Van Gaal said Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag could succeed in Old Trafford following the change of leadership with Richard Arnold stepping in to replace Ed Woodward.

Van Gaal had in the build-up to Manchester United's interest for former Ajax boss, advised that he should turn down the offer from the Red Devils who he posited were more of a commercial club than a football club.

However, Erik ten Hag still accepted the offer and Van Gaal who managed the United squad for two seasons, 2014-2016, added that the exit of Woodward, vice-chairman of Manchester United, could be the difference for the former Ajax boss.

"There is now a new leadership," Van Gaal told Sky Sports ahead of Netherlands clash with Wales at the Cardiff City Stadium.

"It was Woodward and now it is Richard Arnold and that can make

the difference. So we have to wait and see.

"He [Ten Hag] has a lot of confidence. So who am I to say something about that," he added.

Furthermore, Holland's boss charged Ajax defender Jurrien Timber to step up his game if he is to feature for the Dutch national team at the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Timber, who steps in to replace Virgil Van Dijk after the Liverpool defender was given a break after undergoing a hectic season at Liverpool, is strongly needed by Ten Hag at Manchester United.

Van Gaal, who won the FA Cup for Manchester United in 2016 before his sack, stressed that the 20-year-old centre-back must play in the first team to be guaranteed a place to represent the country in Qatar.

"I think a player of his quality can play in the Premier League. That is not a problem," Van Gaal admitted.

"If he has to make this big step

now, that's the question.

"(If he does not play) then he is not so wise, I think. He has to play," he added.

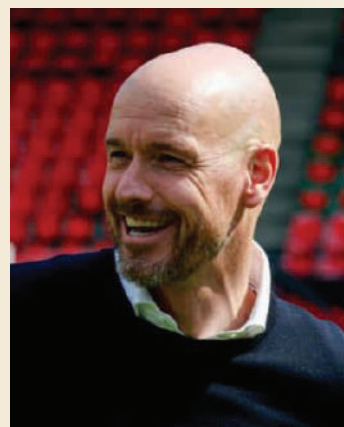
Meanwhile, former Ajax midfielder Marciano Vink has said that Timber's move to Manchester United would mean a lot for the Red Devils keen on rebuilding a solid first team ahead of next season.

Vink added that the versatile defender, who won Ajax's young player of the year award this season, would form a perfect defensive pair with Harry Maguire in United's defence.

"Maybe he can play alongside Harry Maguire, this guy is ice cold," Vink told ESPN FC.

"What this guy has shown in the Champions League against Haaland, what he has shown in the national team already at this age, he doesn't blink.

"This guy is so comfortable on the ball, he anticipates like the best and a defender needs to anticipate,



you can be a strong defender, tall but if you don't know how to anticipate where the ball is going or attacker then you're not a good attacker but this guy anticipates like the best.

"For me, it's somebody who could play in the Premier League but also could help Man United from the back football-wise," he exemplified.

# 'I snubbed Real Madrid's advances to join Barcelona'

Ferran Torres has said he rejected the advances of Spanish football giant Real Madrid on several occasions to finally join Xavi Hernandez in Barcelona.

The former Manchester City forward, who moved to Camp Nou in this year's winter transfer window, is overwhelmed by the proposed move by Barcelona for Bayern Munich top-nine, Robert Lewandowski.

Ferran, satisfied with the club's activities to bolster the squad ahead of next season's campaign, admitted Lewandowski will be a great addition to the squad.

"The fact that Robert Lewandowski is motivated to come to Barcelona is a source of pride. I hope he reaches an agreement and can come", Ferran Torres said to Cadena COPE's El Partidazo.

"Joining Barcelona is already a huge thing, but to be called by Xavi Hernandez, with what a great player he has been, was decisive.

"He told me his ideas, his desire and I did everything I could to come to Barcelona," Ferran revealed Xavi's influence lured him to Catalans.

However, Ferran admitted his season has been hampered by injury after leaving Etihad Stadium for Camp

Nou.

"It has been a difficult year because I had to leave [Manchester City], I had a serious injury and I arrived at Barcelona with a lot of hope," Ferran said.

"We turned things around a bit and qualified for the Champions League and the Supercopa de Espana, but we didn't finish [the season] in the best way".