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WEEKEND®



Victims.





Suspended Niger State NSCDC commandant, Siyaka Aniviye.

37 Miners Die in Detention: FG constitutes probe panel, suspends officials as families mourn

- **FG suspends Niger NSCDC commandant, 20 officers**
- **FG constitutes independent committee to identify deceased, probe arrests and deaths**

By Abdullahi Haruna

Following the tragic and mysterious deaths of 37 suspected illegal miners in the custody of the Corps in Niger State, the federal government has released the names of 20 officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) suspended in connection with the incident.

The officers, who include personnel involved in the arrest, investigation, legal and custodial duties, were suspended alongside the Niger State Commandant of the Corps pending the outcome of an independent investigation into the incident.

Constitution of an Independent Investigation Committee

The Minister of Interior, Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, in a statement on Saturday, September 19, 2026, announced the constitution of a 10-member independent committee to investigate the deaths and directed all officers involved to cooperate fully with the panel.

He said the development follows a directive by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for a comprehensive, transparent and unhindered investigation into the incident, which occurred on Thursday, September 17, 2026.

The minister described the deaths as deeply disturbing, saying the government owes the families of the deceased and the Nigerian public a transparent account of the events leading to the incident.

According to him, the independent

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INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC PHYSICAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT FOR THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA (7

El-Zakzaky urges Muslims to seek truth through revelation, reason and the Qur'an

By Tawheed Yakub

The annual Maulid organised by the Resource Forum of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria has brought together Muslim faithful in Garki, Abuja, with prominent Islamic scholar Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky delivering a lecture centred on divine justice, the search for truth, revelation and the timeless relevance of the Qur'an.

The programme commenced with salawat upon Prophet Muhammad (SAW), followed by a Hausa praise poem, as the hall gradually filled with attendees. Malam Muhammad Ibrahim later took the stage and opened the lecture session with a prayer that lasted nearly three minutes. He subsequently recited a Hausa praise poem in honour of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Sayyidina Ali ibn Abi Talib, Fatimah, the daughter of the Prophet, and Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky.

Shortly while Sheikh Ibrahim El Zakzaky entered the hall, the gathering welcomed him with the prophet's salawat. Upon sitting down, he quickly started with an opening prayer then proceeded with his lecture.

In his address, El-Zakzaky focused on the relationship between human reasoning, divine revelation and the ultimately accountability of mankind before Allah. He argued that Allah's actions are founded upon wisdom and justice, stressing that

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



Ponzi scheme investor.

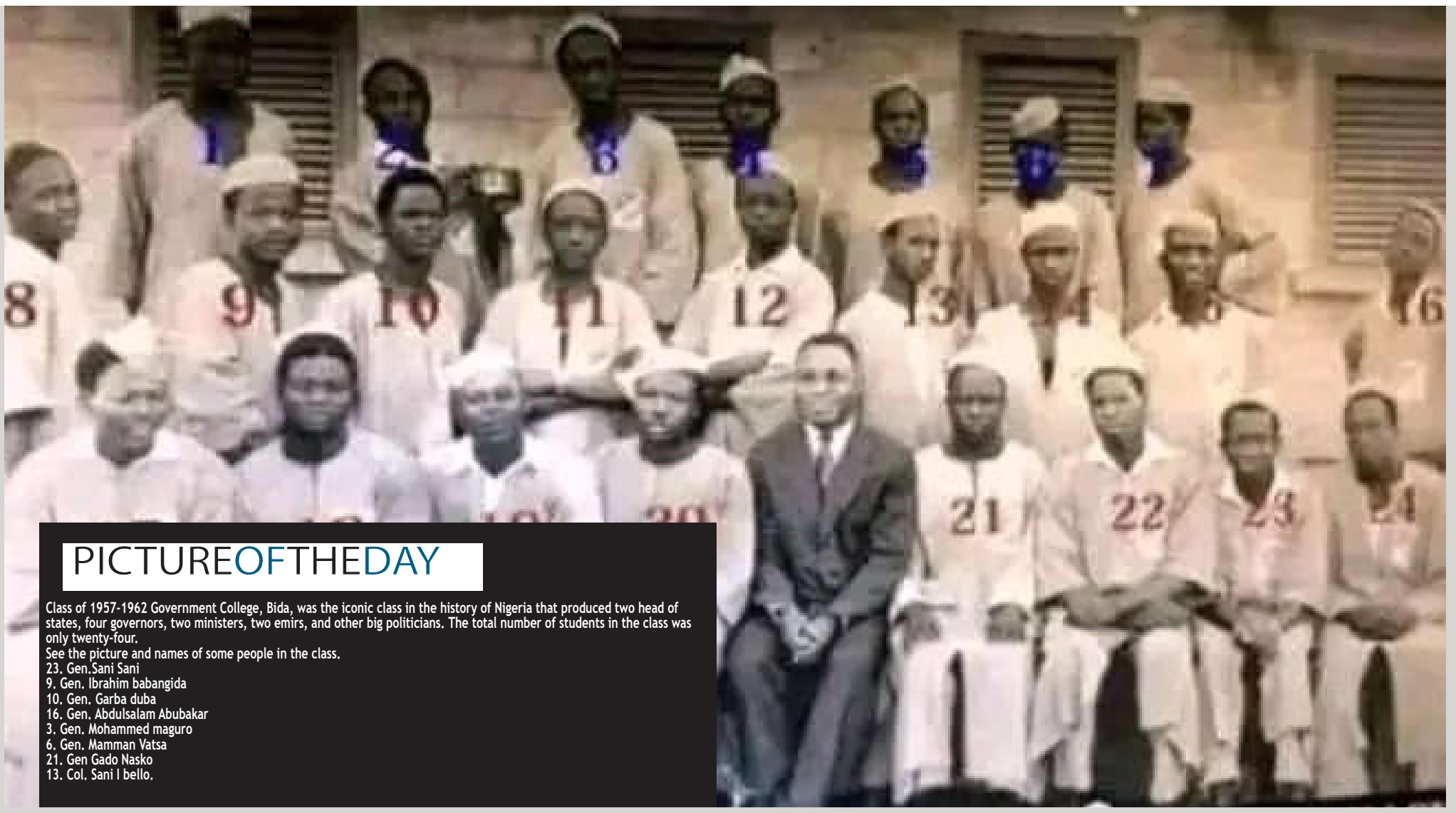
Neptune World

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit

ARISTOTLE

Silence is the accomplice of wisdom

MATSHONA DHLIWAYO



PICTUREOFTHEDAY

Class of 1957-1962 Government College, Bida, was the iconic class in the history of Nigeria that produced two head of states, four governors, two ministers, two emirs, and other big politicians. The total number of students in the class was only twenty-four.
See the picture and names of some people in the class.
23. Gen.Sani Sani
9. Gen. Ibrahim babangida
10. Gen. Garba duba
16. Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar
3. Gen. Mohammed maguro
6. Gen. Mamman Vatsa
21. Gen Gado Nasko
13. Col. Sani I bello.

RANDOM FACTS

FUEL PRICE VS MINIMUM WAGE IN SELECTED OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES — 2026

1 Iran
Petrol price —N15/litre
Minimum wage — N165,000/month
Minimum wage can buy — 11,000 litres
2 Libya
Petrol price — N31/litre
Minimum wage — N210,000/month
Minimum wage can buy — 6,774 litres
3 Saudi Arabia
Petrol price — N823/litre
Minimum wage — N1.4 million/month
Minimum wage can buy — 1,701 litres
4 Niger
Petrol price — N1,171/litre
Minimum wage — N81,500/month
Minimum wage can buy — 70 litres
5 Nigeria
Petrol price —N1,290/litre
Minimum wage — N70,000/month
Minimum wage can buy — 54 litres

NB:
Petrol prices shown are national/reference prices for each country and may vary by location, fuel tier, exchange rate and individual filling station.
Nigeria's N1,290 figure is a national/reference price rather than a fixed pump price applicable to every station.
Source: Statisense (OPEC, Globalpetrolprice, CBN)

COUNTRIES LEADING THE ROBOTICS READINESS RACE — 2026

Country — Readiness Score
1 China — 82.9
2 Japan — 69.6
3 United States — 69.0
4 South Korea — 66.9
5 Germany — 66.1
6 Taiwan — 55.4
7 France — 51.8
8 Switzerland — 51.3
9 Sweden — 50.6
10 Italy — 50.5
11 Netherlands — 49.6
12 Singapore — 48.2
China led global robotics readiness with a score of 82.9, driven largely by its dominance in manufacturing and materials (scoring 95 vs the US's 48.5). Japan and the US followed at 69.6 and 69.0, though the US trails badly on hardware supply chains despite leading in AI compute and human capital.
Source: Statisense (Forbes)

Compiled by Abubakar M. Kareto.



Court sentences father to 16 years in prison after pit bull mauls baby to death



Victim.

A one-week-old baby was killed by the family dog in Indiana, United States, after the animal attacked him more than 180 times, with the child's father later sentenced to 16 years in prison, the New York Post reports.
The baby, Jason Anthony Weaver, died on September 4, 2025, after being attacked by Chomp, a five-year-old husky and pit bull mix, at the family's home in Markle, Indiana. According to the report, the infant suffered more than 180 bite wounds and severe internal injuries, including brain haemorrhages, fractured ribs and tears to his lungs.
Jason's father, Austin Kinsey, told police he had been playing video games in the same room as the baby before briefly leaving to speak with other family members, according to a police report obtained by WPTA.
The baby's grandfather, Timothy Kinsey, later heard noises and found Chomp dragging the infant around the room. Police officers who arrived at the home attempted CPR on Jason, but he could not be revived.
Investigators also documented poor conditions at the property, which court documents described as containing trash, dirty dishes, dirty clothes and insects. Bugs were reportedly found on the baby's car seat, while an officer said there was so much trash and debris that it was difficult to move around the house. The family had reportedly described Chomp as gentle with the baby. However, court documents stated that the dog had previously shown aggression towards other animals and had bitten people.
The dog was later euthanised. Kinsey initially faced two counts of neglect and a charge related to keeping a non-immunised dog that caused an injury. The highest-level neglect charge was later dropped as part of a plea agreement, after which Kinsey was sentenced to 16 years in prison on Monday.
Jason's mother, Violet Weaver, is scheduled for a change-of-plea hearing later this month. Cases involving the baby's grandparents, Timothy Kinsey, Rita Wickey and Michael Wickey, as well as his uncle, Tony Kinsey, remain pending.
Authorities later ordered the family to leave the property after it was deemed unfit for habitation.

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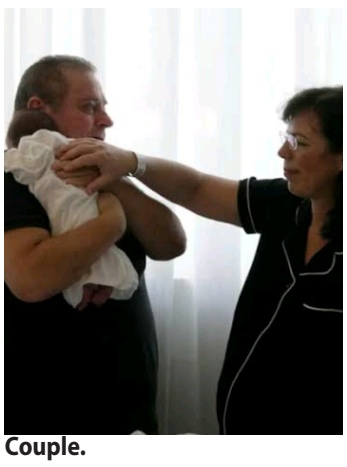


Couple.

Greek woman gives birth using embryo frozen for 22 years

A Greek woman has given birth using an embryo frozen over 22 years ago after losing her son born from the same treatment.
"For Christina Rapti-Tzelepi, today's birth carries special emotional significance," gynaecologist Konstantinos Pantos said in a Facebook post.
"In 2004, after an embryo transfer, she had a healthy baby boy on the first attempt. In October 2025, the family experienced the tragic loss of their son in a road traffic accident at the age of 21," Pantos said.
Rapti-Tzelepi is 54, the maximum allowed age in Greece for in vitro fertilisation.
She gave birth to a baby girl on Wednesday following the transfer in December of an embryo from the same initial batch, Pantos said.
"There was mourning and joy involved, but everything disappeared this morning when we held our baby in our arms," Rapti-Tzelepi told state TV ERT. Rapti-Tzelepi's husband Konstantinos Raptis said the family were in a "race against time" to see the pregnancy through.
"My wife reached, quite literally, the very limits of the age restrictions imposed by the existing legislation," Raptis said in a statement.
He called for the national IVF age limit to be lifted.
"Older women have an immeasurable capacity to offer mature, conscious and unconditional love, as well as a stability that no statistic can ever fully measure," Raptis said.

NEWS

37 Miners Die in Detention: FG constitutes probe panel, suspends officials as families mourn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

committee will establish the identities of the deceased and investigate their arrests, detention, as well as the cause and circumstances of their deaths.

Tunji-Ojo added that the committee has also been mandated to determine responsibility, complicity, negligence and misconduct, and recommend appropriate action, compensation where applicable, and measures to prevent a recurrence.

The minister directed the NSCDC leadership and all relevant officers to preserve and make available all records and material evidence connected to the incident.

Committee Members

The 10-member committee, according to the statement, is chaired by a retired deputy director-general of the Department of State Services, Mr Jonathan Kure.

While the former director-general of the Nigeria Law School, Prof. Isa Hayatu Chiroma (SAN), will serve as Secretary.

Other members include AIG Hosea Hassan Karma (retired); Prof. Olayinka Buhari, Professor of Histopathology and former Chief Medical Director of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital; representatives of the Minna Emirate Council and Niger State Government.

Other members are the national secretary, Miners Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Liman Sulaiman, lawyer and human rights activist, Mr Deji Adeyanju; Mrs Zainab Suleiman Okino of Blueprint Newspaper; and Dr George Agbakahi, a public Affairs Analyst.

He stated that the committee may co-opt relevant experts, access necessary facilities and documents, visit relevant locations and request memoranda from members of the public.

They have two weeks to complete the assignment and submit their report to the Minister.

FG Suspends 20 NSCDC Officials

The 20 officers suspended in connection with the incident, in addition to the Niger State Commandant of the NSCDC, are listed below according to their respective ranks and roles:

The 20 suspended officers are:

O/C Station Guard, SC Usman Isah Ndamaka; Station Guard, ASCI Hassan Mohammed; Station Guard, CCA Bala Mohammed; Arresting Officer/O/C Investigation, CSC Oluwadare Sunday; Arresting Officer, DCC Obafemi Elvis; Arresting Officer, CSC Annas Shitto Lamino; HOD INT/INV, DCC Philip Ajayi; O/C Legal, ACC Barr. Stephen Tsado; Day/Night Duty Officer, ASCI Alhassan Mohammed; Guard Duty, IC Abdullahi Sale; Guard Duty, IC Mohammed Sonfada; Guard Duty, CAI Liman Abubakar; Guard Duty, CAI Bala Usman; Guard Duty, IC Mohammed Jiya; Guard Duty, DSC Isah Suleiman; Guard Duty, CAI Ahmed Wushishi; and Guard Duty, IC Sale Adamu.

Survivor Narrates Ordeal

A survivor of the detention-cell tragedy has narrated how detainees watched helplessly as their colleagues collapsed and died one after another.

The survivor, Dauda Shehu, said scores of detainees were crammed into a poorly ventilated cell at the Niger State Command of the NSCDC.

"We watched as our colleagues dropped dead one after another. When it became clear that we were in danger, we all raised the alarm. People screamed and called for help, but nobody chose to listen to us," Shehu said.

Shehu, who was taken to hospital alongside five other survivors, said about 65 detainees were packed into the small cell following raids on suspected illegal mining sites.

Speaking at the General Hospital in Minna, where the bodies were taken for examination, Shehu said the detainees banged on the cell door in an attempt to attract the attention of the guards.

According to him, those at the far end of the cell began collapsing first, while most of those who survived were positioned close to the door.

Another survivor said the intense heat left the detainees drenched in sweat, thirsty and desperate for water.

He recalled watching helplessly as the person beside him shook violently before collapsing and dying.

"The small cell was filled to capacity. There was no ventilation, and everywhere became stuffy. People started collapsing one after another, and before daybreak, more than half of us had died," he said.

El-Zakzaky urges Muslims to seek truth through revelation, reason and the Qur'an

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rational understanding itself points towards the existence of consequences for human actions.

Using the example of individuals who may escape justice in this world, he explained that escaping earthly punishment does not mean escaping divine justice. According to him, a person may evade a court or die before facing judgment, but no one can escape the justice of Allah. He further argued that human reason can lead a person to recognise the necessity of a Day of Judgment, but that the intellect alone cannot provide complete knowledge of the realities of the Hereafter. For that reason, he stressed the necessity of revelation, describing it as Allah's gracious guidance to humanity. El-Zakzaky explained that through revelation, Allah clarifies what is lawful and unlawful, obligatory and forbidden, guiding mankind towards what benefits them both in this world and in the Hereafter. The speaker also challenged the audience to approach the question of religion through sincere intellectual inquiry. He noted that where different religions make conflicting claims about truth, they cannot all be equally correct in every respect. He therefore encouraged people to use the intellect Allah has given them to investigate, reflect and pursue the truth rather than simply accepting beliefs without examination. According to him, the human intellect is among the qualities that distinguish mankind and places an obligation upon people to continuously seek knowledge and understanding. Turning to Prophet Muhammad (SAW), El-Zakzaky said the Prophet was sent at a stage in human history when mankind had reached a level of maturity that made the final and complete divine legislation possible. He described the Qur'an as the enduring miracle of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), emphasising its comprehensive guidance and its ability to remain relevant across generations. Unlike ordinary textbooks whose information can become outdated as knowledge develops, he argued that the Qur'an remains continually relevant because its guidance addresses the fundamental realities of human existence. He referred to the Qur'an as "tibyānan li-kulli shay'in" an explanation or clarification of all things and stressed that its message should not be viewed merely as something belonging to the past. The lecture also touched on the position of the Ahlul-Bayt and the dangers of using religion as a tool for division. El-Zakzaky warned against tendencies that turn religious differences into instruments for separating Muslims and society, urging the audience instead to remain committed to the pursuit of truth and to distinguish genuine religious guidance from human manipulation. He further reflected on the methods of Shaitan, noting that Shaitan approaches human beings from different directions and seeks to divert them from the path of truth. The lecture formed part of a broader programme of Qur'anic recitations, Ahlu-bayt praise poems, prayers and religious presentations held to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The growing attendance and sustained engagement of participants gave the event a strong atmosphere of religious reflection, with the gathering combining traditional Maulid poetry and recitations with discussions on faith, reason, revelation and the responsibility of Muslims to seek and uphold the truth. The Resource Forum's annual Maulid therefore provided not only an occasion for remembrance and praise of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), but also a platform for reflection on questions of justice, knowledge, divine guidance and the enduring message of the Qur'an.



The male section during the closing prayer by Sheikh El-Zakzaky



Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky



The female section for female attendees of The Resource Forum Of The Islamic Movement.



From left, Sheikh AbdulHameed Bello, Sheikh AbdulLahi Zango and Professor AbdulLahi Danladi at the event.



A cross section of male attendees during the Maulid even



Malam Muhammad Ibrahim, singing praises to the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

NEWS

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

500-level engineering student dies by suicide at off-campus residence



Suicide noose.

The Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Osun State, has expressed sadness over the death of Oluwole Oluwaseun, a final-year student of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Abiodun Olarewaju, the university's public relations officer (PRO), said the institution received information at about 1:30 pm on Tuesday about an emergency involving the student at an apartment in the Damico area of Ooni Layout, Ile-Ife.

Olarewaju said the institution's quick response and security team proceeded to the location after receiving the information.

"The Nigeria Police was immediately contacted, and officers from the 'A' Division, Moore, Ile-Ife, joined the university's security personnel at the scene," the statement reads.

"The student was subsequently conveyed to the university health centre, where he was certified dead by a medical doctor.

"The university is deeply concerned by the circumstances surrounding the death and has handed relevant information and items recovered from the scene to the police for further investigation.

"The police have commenced an investigation into the circumstances of the incident."

He cautioned members of the university's community against spreading unverified information or speculation about the circumstances of the death while the investigation continues.

The university's PRO advised students experiencing severe emotional distress, relationship difficulties, financial pressures and other personal challenges to seek help from trusted persons and appropriate support structures.

Reacting to the incident, Simeon Bamire, vice-chancellor of the university, extended condolences to the family, friends, classmates and colleagues of the deceased.

Bamire expressed concern over students and other members of the university community who may be emotionally affected by the tragedy.

The vice-chancellor reaffirmed his commitment to the welfare of staff and students.

"No student should feel that he or she has to confront overwhelming difficulties alone," he said.

Abiodun Ojelabi, police spokesperson in Osun State, said that investigations showed that Oluwaseun committed suicide.

"From the reports available to us, it is a case of suicide," Ojelabi said. "He is a 500-level student. It was a case of suicide; he hanged himself."

NADDC warns against unverified CNG conversions after Abuja explosion

The National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) says preliminary findings suggest an unapproved cylinder may have caused the explosion involving a CNG-retrofitted Toyota Camry in Abuja.

The incident occurred on September 13 at about 10:30am during refuelling at the NIPCO Gas Filling Station on Airport Road.

In a statement published via X on Wednesday, NADDC said no fatalities or injuries were recorded in the incident involving the vehicle with registration number MAP-962 JU.

The council said preliminary information indicated that the vehicle may have been fitted with an additional cylinder that was neither approved nor suitable for compressed natural gas (CNG) use.

The council said investigations were ongoing to establish the facts surrounding the incident.

"NADDC is working with the relevant authorities to establish the facts and further strengthen regulatory oversight, compliance monitoring and public safety across CNG conversion activities nationwide," the statement said.

"As the regulatory authority for Nigeria's automotive industry, NADDC reiterates that for safety and standardisation reasons, CNG conversion must be carried out only with the use of approved components, professional installation at certified conversion centres, proper testing and regular maintenance in line with established standards.

"Nigerians are encouraged to rely on verified information and not allow misleading reports to undermine confidence in properly certified CNG systems."

NADDC urged motorists to patronise only certified CNG conversion centres, use approved components and avoid unauthorised modifications to CNG systems.



CNG explosion.

The council said it remained committed to safeguarding motorists and the public while providing regulatory oversight for the development of CNG mobility in Nigeria.

Court jails herbalist for 12 years over money ritual offence

An Anambra State High Court sitting in Awka has sentenced popular native doctor Ekene Igboekweze, known as "Eke Hit", to 12 years' imprisonment.

Justice Jude Obiora sentenced Igboekweze to six years on count one and another six years on count two.

The sentences will run concurrently without the option of a fine, while the court considered the period he had already spent in detention.

The native doctor and other suspects were arraigned on April 4, 2025, on charges including conspiracy, kidnapping, protective charms and money rituals.

During his defence, Igboekweze told the court he was a registered herbalist and member of the Odinani Okija Traditional Association. He said he used herbs and roots in his practice, adding that the viral videos that made him popular were old.

According to him, the videos were recorded before the enactment of the Anambra State Homeland Security Law 2025.

In his judgment, Obiora held that the prosecution proved counts one and two beyond reasonable doubt.

The judge, however, resolved count three in favour of the defendant. Before sentencing, Igboekweze pleaded for forgiveness, saying he had learnt his lessons and urging the court to consider his family.

He particularly appealed for consideration of his newborn triplets, whom he said he had not seen.

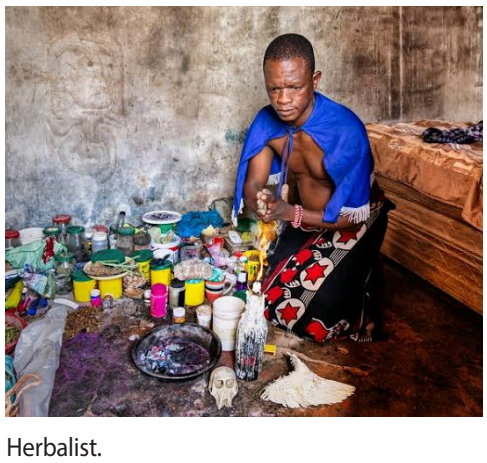
His wife, Elizabeth, and half-brother also pleaded for leniency, describing him as well-behaved and kind.

They told the court that Igboekweze was his mother's only son in a polygamous family and had maintained good character.

Igboekweze, a native of Umuofor Village, Okija, Ihiala Local Government Area, gained social-media popularity advertising charms purportedly capable of bringing wealth.

He was arrested by Agunechemba security vigilance operatives in February 2025 alongside two other native doctors. The arrests followed the signing of the Anambra State Homeland Security Law 2025 by Gov. Chukwuma Soludo.

The law prohibits native doctors from claiming to make people wealthy through "Oke Ite" and other rituals. It also prohibits the preparation of charms for criminals.



Herbalist.

OUR HEART

Attack on Peter Obi in Benue State: Another disturbing signpost to 2027

According to reports by most of the nation's mass media, the presidential flag bearer of the National Democratic Party (NDP, Mr Peter Obi and a convoy of the party's members were attacked by political thugs the penultimate week in Benue State. Specifically, the incident reportedly happened on the 19th of September, 2026, along the Gboko-Makurdi Express Road.

While the security agencies or credible independent sources are yet to clearly confirm the identities of the attackers, Mr Obi and various officials of the NDC have pointedly accused agents of the state government and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state.

In a statement personally made by Mr Peter Obi, certain officials of the state government were involved in the attack. The Special Adviser to the state governor on Youths was singled out by the NDC for leading the attackers.

Expectedly, spokespersons of the state government have vehemently denied the allegations. Mr Tersoo Kula, the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Hyacinth Alia, described reports of the attack as "completely baseless.'

Mr Kula went as far as denying that Mr Peter Obi was even in state in the first place. He doubled down on that line by stating that the presidential candidate and the NDC were not, after all, in any way regarded by the APC and the governor as constituting threats to their electoral fortunes in 2027.

In the face of contrasting reports on the incident by mass media correspondents and the state Police Command, the Benue State government spokesman made a very poor job of public relations. Mr Peter Obi was indeed in Benue State on that occasion, and the reported incident actually occurred.

In its statement confirming the encounter, the State Police Command said that it had received a notification for the visit from the state's officials of the NDC the previous day.

The police further stated that, while ten of the youths involved in the attack were hospitalised for various degrees of injuries, about forty-six persons had been taken into custody for questioning as suspects. The Police, however, refuted the report that one of the youths was killed in the debacle.

The NDC presidential candidate was said to have gone to Benue State, not on a political campaign, but strictly to empathise with those affected in the June 2025 bloody clashes in the village of Yelwata. Be that as it may, there was a clash with every strand of politics.

Coming barely one month after the Osun off-season governorship election, in which twelve people were reportedly killed in conflicts between political party agents, the Benue State political clash, even with a much lower reported fatality count, is, considerably, yet another major warning alarm regarding the nation's general elections in 2027.

There was, for example, the reported abduction of six clerics by "bandits" en route to Senator Abdulazeez Yari's house in Zamfara State. He is the Director General of the President's Re-election Council, and the clerics were said to be on a mission to offer prayers for the APC and the President's victories in the forthcoming polls.

There are several other reported similar incidents that have since come from Rivers, Cross River, Kano, Kwara and Kaduna States, among others.

The reported incidents of political violence witnessed so far in the countdown to the 2027 general elections might be comparatively low in the light of the nation's previous experiences. However, it will be unwise to ignore them as insignificant, on account of their scale and casualty figures. Big, ravaging conflagrations usually start from flickers and smouldering embers.

The attack on Mr Peter Obi in Benue State and other recent incidents of political violence must be taken as portentous beacons for 2027. Viewed through clear prisms, the coming year's elections, particularly the one in respect of the President, will be going down as a critical, existential watershed in the nation's political trajectory. For a long time afterwards, its outcome will continue to significantly define the nature of our union as a people and the character of our democracy.



Obi.

With a sitting President who is very resolute about having a second term, and an array of very formidable and highly determined candidates gearing up to engage him in a Titanic duel, the nation is practically at the threshold of a testy and dicey juncture in its entire political trajectory.

Besides the high political stakes that can trigger acrimonious politicking or campaigning, the insecurity in most parts of the country is another highly combustible tinder that can spark off a major inferno.

It is usually in the nature of the insurgent groups to opportunistically seize on conflicts between feuding politicians to unleash greater havoc on the polity. It is also very possible for desperate political actors to engage the services of armed, non-state actors in order to enhance their electoral fortunes. In the process, they inadvertently create a Frankenstein, a monster that devours even its creator.

For example, the emergence of the now ravaging banditry in the northwest and the north central regions of the country was not unconnected to the involvement of such armed hoodlums in the electoral process in the past.

The downturn in the nation's economy is another factor why we should be perturbed over the prospects for a peaceful conduct of the forthcoming national election. The situation has given rise to a vast population of poverty-stricken citizens as well as large armies of unemployed and frustrated youths. This unsavoury situation implies the presence of a potential pool for the recruitment of political thugs and other agents of violence.

It is therefore incumbent on the major political gladiators to tread very cautiously to avoid upsetting the nation's applecart. The political actors should eschew narrow and parochial personal interest in the pursuit of their political goals.

Our politicians gunning for electoral victories in 2027 should, advisedly, be guided by President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's words on marble: "My election is not worth the blood of any Nigerian."

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NORTH-EAST

BY GIFT LUKSON
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Taraba launches fresh drive to curb Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Type 2

Taraba State government has launched a fresh offensive against the spread of circulating Vaccine-derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), targeting priority wards and communities where large numbers of children have not received routine vaccinations.

The initiative, which is being implemented through a new collaboration between the Taraba State Primary Health Care Development Agency (TSPHCDA) and the John Snow Research and Training Institute (JSI), is designed to strengthen immunisation at ward and community levels in the state.

It is also aimed at closing the gaps that have left some children without basic vaccines during the previous exercise.

Under the new arrangement, the JSI will provide technical support for opportunistic novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) vaccination in priority locations, while supporting routine immunisation and supplementary immunisation activities, aimed at interrupting transmission of the virus.

During the engagement, the JSI senior immunisation technical adviser, Abuja, Dr Kazeem Ayankola, said the intervention would focus on three major areas, including strengthening existing immunisation structures in priority wards and local government areas.



Kefas.

He further said the collaboration would also introduce real-time monitoring of vaccination sessions and supportive supervision of outreach teams to enable programme managers to identify gaps quickly and take corrective action.

Dr Ayankola disclosed that the initiative would extend to school health clubs, as additional platforms for expanding Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination among girls aged nine years and above.

He added that JSI would support the state in estimating target populations and accurately quantifying vaccine requirements to ensure that resources were deployed according to actual needs.

Earlier, JSI Nigeria Country Director, Dr Olawale Durosinmi Etti, said the organisation would work with TSPHCDA to strengthen routine immunisation through a ward-based delivery model.

Dr Etti said the approach would improve access to vaccination in underserved communities, particularly areas with high numbers of zero-dose children.

He maintained that better use of immunisation data would enable the state to identify target populations, plan vaccination activities and determine vaccine requirements more accurately.

The Executive Secretary of TSPHCDA, Dr Tukura Nuhu Nyigwa, commended JSI for its continued support to Taraba's health sector.

Dr Nyigwa recalled the organisation's role in the introduction of the HPV vaccine in the state in 2023, saying the support contributed to Taraba recording 78 per cent performance during the vaccine rollout.

He, however, urged the JSI team and other stakeholders to remain realistic and evidence-driven in setting programme targets, stressing that interventions must translate into measurable results.

According to him, the latest collaboration will strengthen vaccination delivery across Taraba, improve the identification and reach of zero-dose children and enhance the state's capacity to use real-time data to guide immunisation planning and implementation.

Borno flags off distribution of five million insecticide-treated nets to combat malaria



Mosquito nets.

The Wife of Borno State Governor, Professor Falmata Zulum, has flagged off the distribution of five million Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) to tackle malaria in the state.

Professor Zulum, who is an ITN campaign ambassador, while flagging off the distribution in Maiduguri, said malaria is a strain on people's economy, productivity and health.

"Malaria is not about statistics but about a child too weak to go to school, about a pregnant mother whose life is placed at risk. It is about income loss when the breadwinner falls sick. But Insecticide Treated Net remains one of the effective, evidence-based tools to guard against malaria," she declared.

She said she will ensure the nets get to women and households, working through various women platforms.

Borno State Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Prof. Baba Malam Gana, disclosed that the state government has provided secured stores at all the local government areas to ensure the mosquito nets get to the people on time

He said the flag-off was a continuation of government innovation in the health sector.

Noting that the nets are free, he said: "Anyone caught selling will be dealt with according to the law."

He disclosed that the process of distribution across the state will be monitored independently. The commissioner said the task of ending malaria in Borno does not rest in the hands of government alone but requires concerted efforts of the people, traditional and religious leaders as well as partners.

Programme Director of Malaria Consortiums for West and Central Africa, Dr Maxwell Kolawole, in his remarks, highlighted the gains made in the end-malaria campaign.

He noted that progress has been made in Nigeria but emphasised the need to step up the campaign across the country. He stressed that ITNs remain one of the most potent ways to prevent malaria.

Adding that the five million nets rolled out is one of the largest distributions in Borno in 10 years, urging families to use them effectively and encourage others.

"When families use them consistently, they can sustain prevention of malaria for a long time," he declared. He said the consortium is prepared to pursue transparency and accountability in the distribution.

Yobe Police Command arrests drug dealers, kidnappers, other criminal suspects

As part of intensified efforts to combat crime and other violent activities in the state, the Yobe State Commissioner of Police, Usman Jibrin Kamfani, disclosed that the state Police Command recorded 145 criminal cases and arrested 240 suspects across the state during the period under review.

Kamfani disclosed this during a press briefing in Damaturu, where he presented the command's operational achievements and outlined measures being implemented to combat crime and protect lives and property.

According to him, the 145 cases comprised 16 murder cases, nine rape cases, one kidnapping case, two extortion cases involving threats of kidnapping, five armed robbery cases and 112 other offences.

He said 198 cases had resulted in convictions following investigation and prosecution, while two cases ended in acquittal. He added that 26 cases were pending before the courts, 10 remained under investigation and four case files were awaiting legal advice.

Kamfani added that police operatives also raided criminal hideouts and black spots across the state, leading to the arrest of 171 suspected drug dealers and users.

He said illicit drugs, including dry leaves suspected to be Indian hemp and other prohibited substances, as well as dangerous weapons, were recovered during the operations.

Speaking further, he said security agents neutralised one suspect during an operation in Fika and arrested another in a separate incident.

He also disclosed that the command had arrested a suspect who allegedly travelled from Maiduguri with the intention of snatching vehicles after killing their owners.

According to Kamfani, the suspect confessed to the plan following his arrest.

The commissioner said the command had arrested a suspect in connection with the alleged fraud and misappropriation of □77 million.

He further disclosed that police had arrested a suspect found in possession of four rolls of high-voltage electrical cables suspected to have been vandalised.

He said operatives, acting on technical intelligence, had also arrested two suspects who allegedly threatened and extorted a total of □630,000 from two victims under the threat of kidnapping.

The suspects, he said, confessed during the investigation, while the necessary legal action had been initiated.

He added that detectives had successfully investigated separate cases of culpable homicide, arrested the suspects and concluded investigations for prosecution.

Kamfani attributed the achievements to intelligence-led operations, prompt responses to reported crimes and collaboration with communities and other security stakeholders.

He urged residents to continue providing the police with timely and credible information, stressing that security remained a collective responsibility.

The commissioner also commended traditional rulers, sister security agencies, vigilante groups and the media for their cooperation in the fight against crime.



Suspects.

NORTH-EAST

Troops thwart terrorist attack in Borno, neutralise four terrorists



Troops.

Troops of Joint Task Force (North East), Operation HADIN KAI (OPHK), have recorded further operational successes in Borno State, foiling terrorist attacks on Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) at Gajiram in Nganzai Local Government Area and Mairari in Guzamala Local Government Area.

The operation led to the neutralisation of four terrorists, while sustained military pressure resulted in the surrender of 2 Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS) terrorists, including a Qaid (commander), with weapons.

Sources said the exploitation led to the recovery of four terrorists' corpses, some AK-47 rifles, magazines, quantities of ammunition, RPG bombs and a camcorder, among other items.

Troops who sustained injuries during the engagement were promptly stabilised and airlifted to hospital, where they are receiving appropriate medical attention.

The Acting Media Information Officer, Headquarters Joint Task Force North East Operation HADIN KAI, Captain Mohammed Goni, in a press statement on Friday, confirmed the separate incidents.

The statement reads: "On 17 September 2026, terrorists advancing towards FOB Gajiram were detected early by alert troops, supported by Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) assets.

"Troops immediately adopted appropriate defensive measures, while the Air Component OPHK provided close air support. Faced with the coordinated response, the terrorists withdrew from the vicinity of the location into adjoining areas.

"In a related attack on FOB Mairari later that night, several ISWAP terrorists attacked the location but were met with stiff resistance from troops, with robust close air support from the Air Component, who successfully contained the attack, inflicting casualties on the terrorists, and maintained the integrity of the FOB.

Over 20 feared dead as mining site collapses in Taraba



Mining site.

No fewer than 20 persons, including women and children, are feared killed or trapped after an illegal mining pit collapsed on Thursday afternoon at Mayo-Kam community in Bali Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The disaster occurred while artisanal miners were carrying out excavation activities at the site, triggering widespread panic and grief across the rural community. A resident of Bali, Saidu Baba Bali, who confirmed the incident, said the collapsed pit buried the artisanal miners.

It was also gathered that the victims were residents of the Mayo-Kam community.

Confirming the incident, spokesperson for the Taraba State Police Command, Victor Mshelizah, stated that rescue operatives have so far recovered five dead bodies from the collapsed pit.

Mshelizah explained: "The actual number of casualties has not yet been fully established, but our teams have recovered five bodies from the site so far.

"Search and rescue operations are ongoing to locate and evacuate any remaining persons who may still be trapped underneath the debris."

Police arrest man posing as okada rider to kidnap, rape women in Bauchi

The Bauchi State Police Command has arrested a 53-year-old suspected fake commercial motorcycle rider, Gambo Hassan, alias "Anahaka," over alleged kidnapping, rape, armed robbery and unlawful possession of offensive weapons in Bauchi metropolis.

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Nafiu Habib, disclosed this in a statement, saying the suspect was arrested through intelligence-led policing and covert operations.

Habib said operatives of the 'B' Division, GRA, Bauchi, arrested Hassan on September 11, 2026, at about 8:45 pm during a routine patrol along Adamu Jumba Road.

Habib said operatives of the 'B' Division, GRA, Bauchi, arrested Hassan on September 11, 2026, at about 8:45 pm during a routine patrol along Adamu Jumba Road.

He said, "On 11th September, 2026, at about 2045hrs, operatives of 'B' Division GRA, Bauchi, on routine patrol arrested 53-year-old Gambo Hassan, alias 'Anahaka,' a male of Igbo Quarters, Bauchi."

The PPRO said preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect allegedly disguised himself as a commercial motorcycle, popularly known as an Okada, rider during evening hours to target unsuspecting passengers, particularly women.

He said, "Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect disguised himself as a commercial motorcycle, 'Okada' rider during evening hours to target, kidnap, rob and at times rape unsuspecting passengers, particularly women."

According to Habib, the suspect was found in possession of a sharp knife and was riding a Bajaj motorcycle with registration number BAU 150G while wearing a black face mask and face cap.

He added, "At the time of arrest along Adamu Jumba Road, he was found in possession of a sharp knife and was riding a Bajaj motorcycle with Reg. No. BAU 150G, while wearing a black face mask and a face cap."

"During interrogation, the suspect voluntarily confessed to the crime. He further led detectives to identify fifteen women within Bauchi metropolis as victims of his criminal activities. The number of identified victims later rose to thirty-five women," Habib said.

He disclosed that following the development, detectives executed a search warrant at the suspect's residence and recovered several items suspected to be proceeds of crime.

According to him, the recovered items included "Fifteen assorted phones: Samsung Galaxy Fold, Redmi, two iTel, two iPhones, four Infinix, two Tecno, three power banks, six ladies' wristwatches, six assorted native caps, five bundles of women's wrappers, three women's hijabs and cash sum of N425,435."



Suspect.

CUSTOMS

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

Customs intercepts 56 containers carrying prohibited goods worth N5.53bn



Seized items.

The Nigeria Customs Service, Port Harcourt II Area Command, said it has seized 56 containers laden with prohibited goods with a total duty-paid value of N5.53bn.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Comptroller-General of Customs, Adewale Adeniyi, stated this while showcasing the seized containers to journalists at the command in Onne, Rivers State.

Adeniyi also reiterated the service's commitment to protecting Nigerian farmers, manufacturers, and businesses from prohibited imports, false declarations, and other practices that undermine domestic production and job creation.

"The service intercepted 56 containers laden with prohibited goods with a total duty-paid value of N5.53bn," Adeniyi said.

He mentioned that the consignments comprised 45 20-foot containers of foreign vegetable oil, nine 40-foot containers of used clothing, and two 20-foot containers of Channy tomato paste.

"Confiscating them aligned with the Federal Government's broader economic objectives, particularly policies promoting made-in-Nigeria products," he stressed.

The GCG explained that the interception formed part of intelligence-driven and risk-based operations aimed at preventing prohibited, "restricted and improperly declared consignments from entering the Nigerian market, thereby crippling the overall productivity of our local businesses."

Adeniyi highlighted that unchecked importation of products that could be produced or processed locally puts additional pressure on Nigerian farmers, manufacturers, and other domestic producers by exposing them to unfair competition, weakening demand for local products, and discouraging investment across domestic value chains.

"The economic impact is especially significant in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Large-scale importation of products that Nigeria can produce or process may undermine the Federal Government's efforts to promote local industries, strengthen food security, create jobs, and diversify the economy," he said.

He stressed that Customs enforcement was not designed to frustrate legitimate businesses, but to ensure that Nigerians and compliant businesses operated within a fair, secure, and predictable trading environment.

"The service's risk-based approach enabled it to facilitate legitimate cargo while directing enhanced scrutiny towards consignments considered high-risk," Adeniyi said.

He commended the Customs Area Controller in charge of the command, Aliyu Alkali, and officers of the Port Harcourt II Area Command for the interceptions.

Adeniyi also advised importers and other stakeholders to confirm the admissibility of their intended imports before commencing transactions and to make accurate declarations on the description, quantity, value, origin, and classification of goods.

Customs pledges to protect Nigeria's economy, curb smuggling of prohibited goods

The acting Customs Area Controller of Oyo, Osun Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service Command, Deputy Comptroller of Customs Wale Adewole, has vowed to protect the nation's economy and prevent the smuggling of prohibited and restricted goods.

Addressing newsmen at the command's headquarters in Ibadan, he said the service had continued to intensify its anti-smuggling operations across its areas of jurisdiction.

He disclosed that its personnel intercepted 573 Nigeria Police Force crests, 92 yards of Police camouflage uniform fabric, a pistol, six pistol magazines, a pump-action magazine and 60 detonating cords in its anti-smuggling operations last month.

Adewole, who expressed worries about interception of the Police-related materials because of their potential security implications, lamented that such materials could be exploited by criminals to impersonate law enforcement personnel, obtain unauthorised access to restricted locations or facilitate criminal activities.

"Of particular concern was the interception of Police crest and camouflage uniforms. The unauthorised possession and movement of security agency uniforms can create serious security concerns, particularly in view of the prevailing security challenges in the country", he said.

According to him, the seizure demonstrated the importance of preventing security-related materials from being diverted into the wrong hands, stressing that the command would continue to pay particular attention to items with implications for national security and public safety.

Other items seized included 2,012 bags of 50kg foreign parboiled rice, 550 bags of 25kg foreign parboiled rice, 2,440 wraps of cannabis sativa, 1,150 used tyres, 101 used compressors and 48 packs of 225mg tramadol.

The list of intercepted goods also included 105 bales and 28 sacks of used clothing, 18 sacks of used shoes, 450 25-litre kegs of Premium Motor Spirit, equivalent to 5,000 litres, 33 three-litre bottles of foreign vegetable oil, and 30 bags of foreign sugar weighing 60kg each.

The command further seized 17 used vehicles, otherwise known as tokunbo vehicles, 10 means of conveyance and 10 containers of corrosive mercury."

Adewole said the seizures recorded during the period had a cumulative Duty Paid Value of N4.1 billion.

He explained that the interceptions were part of the command's statutory responsibility to protect the national economy and prevent the smuggling of prohibited and restricted goods.

The acting controller said the interception of corrosive mercury was also significant because of the danger posed by the substance when improperly handled, stored or transported.

He said uncontrolled movement of the hazardous material could expose members of the public to fire, explosion, injury and property damage, and, in extreme circumstances, loss of lives.

"The uncontrolled movement of such materials can expose members of the public to risks of fire, explosion, injury, property damage and in extreme circumstances, loss of lives," Adewole said.

He said the interception therefore prevented potentially hazardous material from entering circulation and being handled by unauthorised persons.

Adewole attributed the seizures to the vigilance and professionalism of officers and men of the command, as well as the deployment of intelligence-driven operations and collaboration with sister security agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

He said the command would sustain its anti-smuggling operations while ensuring that legitimate businesses and law-abiding members of the public were not subjected to unnecessary impediments.

Adewole added that the command remained committed to improving revenue generation while facilitating legitimate trade and sustaining the fight against smuggling and other forms of economic sabotage.

Adewole further assured residents and legitimate businesses within the command's jurisdiction that the Customs Service would continue to strike a balance between enforcement and trade facilitation.

PRIME PHOTOS

BY MERCY ADAJE
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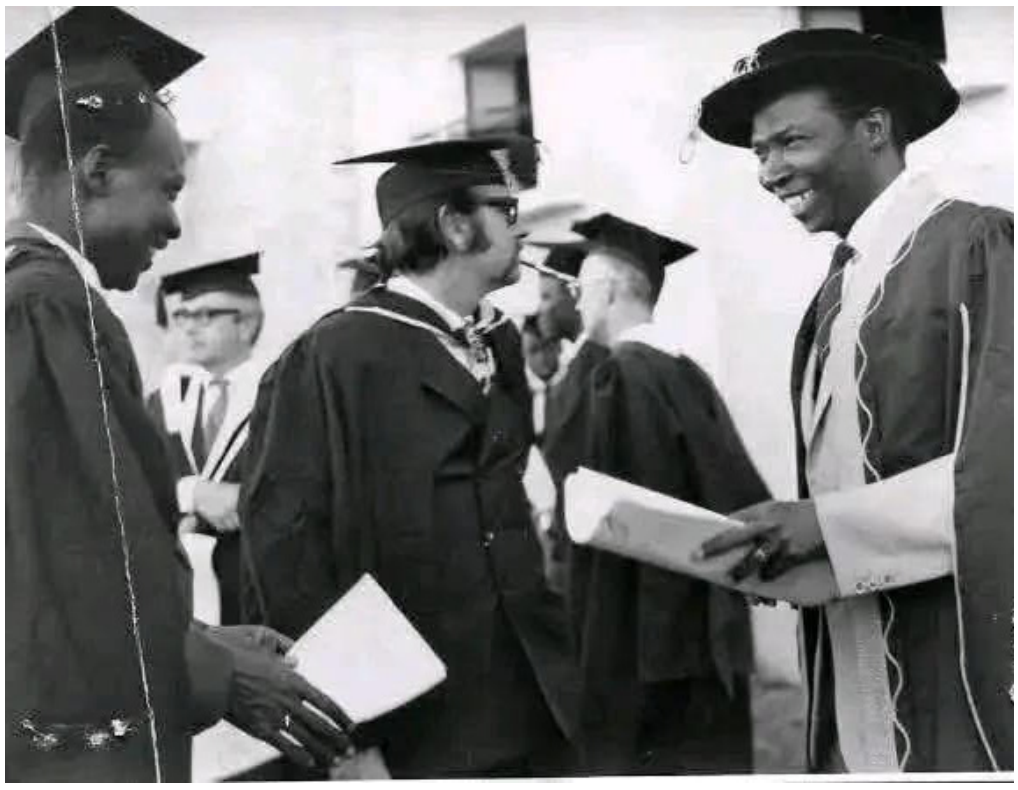
This photograph captures General Ibrahim Babangida arriving in Uyo in a Mercedes-Benz 600 Pullman in 1987.



Gombe State University has appointed Maryam Ibrahim Dan Azumi, the 2026 Global Qur'anic Recitation Champion in Saudi Arabia, as a lecturer.



Ishaya Audu (r), Northern Nigeria's first Professor of Medicine and first Nigerian VC of ABU, Zaria, with the Assistant Registrar, Mike Angulu, 1967.



A photograph of Nigerian men gathering to enlist in the Nigerian Army at the Apapa Army barracks in Lagos, Nigeria, around 1965.

PRIME1OMENT

BY MERCY ADAJE
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I'm not interested in dating again, men waste my time - Tems

Grammy-winning Nigerian singer Temilade Openiyi, popularly known as Tems, has hinted that she is no longer interested in navigating the dating scene.

Tems remarked on a TikTok livestream on Monday, telling viewers that she had "left the streets" after becoming frustrated with men who, in her words, waste her time.

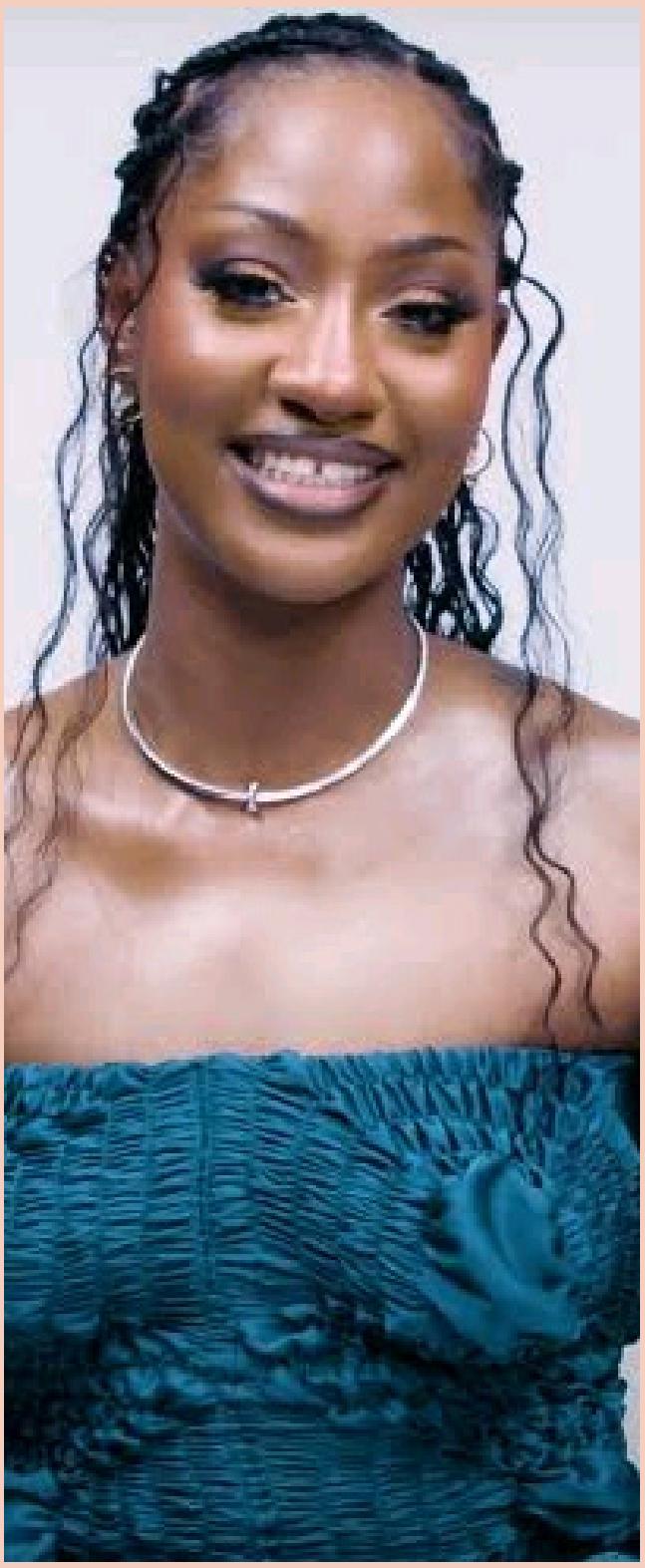
"I don't like it when guys waste my time. But for me, never again. I don't have that problem anymore. I have left the streets; I wouldn't even say I was ever on the streets," she said.

The singer did not provide further details about what prompted the declaration or indicate whether it was connected to a new relationship.

Her comment has nevertheless sparked speculation among fans, particularly because Tems has generally kept her private life away from the spotlight.

In an earlier interview with YouTuber Korty EO, Tems spoke about her experiences with men who approached her romantically. She said some of them appeared more interested in her physical appearance than in forming a meaningful relationship.

The singer had expressed a preference for genuine connections rather than relationships driven primarily by physical attraction.



Tems.

Lere Paimo counters Pete Edochie, says he began acting in 1958

Veteran Yoruba actor, Lere Paimo, has countered veteran actor Pete Edochie's claim about the beginning of his acting career, saying he started acting four years before the Things Fall Apart star.

86-year-old Paimo said he began acting in 1958, while Edochie recently said his acting career started in 1962, when he was 15.

The issue of seniority among Nigeria's veteran actors resurfaced after Edochie challenged actors who claimed to have started their careers before him to come forward and prove their claims.

Paimo responded during an interview with actor Kunle Afod, posted on YouTube on Monday, insisting that he was already acting when Edochie began his career.

"I started acting in 1958. I met Hubert Ogunde, who was senior to me and others, and there were big movies produced back then," he said.

Edochie had recently cited his performance in William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice in 1962 as evidence of how far back his acting career dates.

Paimo, however, also pointed to the earlier Yoruba travelling-theatre tradition, particularly the late theatre legend Hubert Ogunde, as evidence that indigenous Nigerian theatre predated English-language film productions.



Edochie



Paimo

"I heard from history that when he (Hubert Ogunde) started in the '40s, there was nobody before him, and we never heard from history that the English industry, or any movie done in the English language, started before him.

"Since we didn't hear or read that in any history books or documentation, I believe the Yoruba industry started first.

"There was nothing like English-language movie production then; Ogunde started by producing movies in the Yoruba language, which he used to educate everyone who watched those movies back then. We never heard about English-language movies until now, when, with civilisation, we started hearing and seeing that there are English-language movies," he said.

Paimo also addressed claims about whether other theatre practitioners, including Baba Olumegbon, may have started acting before Ogunde.

"I don't know if Baba Olumegbon started before Ogunde, but all I know is that Ogunde was the person I knew who started acting first. Although I have been hearing about him for a long time, I can't say he was senior to Ogunde," Paimo said.

Paimo began his career in the Yoruba travelling-theatre tradition and worked with the Oyin Adejobi Theatre Group, founded by veteran theatre practitioner Oyin Adejobi.

He later joined Duro Ladipo's Theatre Group, where he played Chief Basa in the stage production Obamoro.

He subsequently became one of the prominent figures in Yoruba theatre and film, gaining wider recognition for his portrayal of Soun Ogunola in the epic Ogbori Elemosho.

Why I stopped criticising the government — Mr Macaroni

Nigerian actor and social commentator Adebowale Adedayo, popularly known as Mr Macaroni, has explained why he has scaled back his public criticism of government, citing fatigue from repeating the same messages, backlash from citizens, and threats he faced.

Mr Macaroni was reacting to a video posted by Wazobia FM on Tuesday, where he spoke about life threats he received over EndSARS protests.

In a series of posts on X on Wednesday, the skit maker clarified that the interview was more than two years old but maintained that the points he raised remain valid.

"Forget about the threats. My issue with us as Nigerians is how we move on quickly. We complain and move on. There is nothing I will say now that I haven't already said a hundred times over. Until we as a people are ready to fight for what is ours, saying the same thing over and over again is just TIRING," he wrote.

In a follow-up post, he pointed to a March 2026 statement in which he described the administration of President Bola Tinubu as "the Most Useless Government in the history of Useless Governments" and said that day marked the moment he decided to take a break.

He added that a small number of politicians continue to ruin the lives of over 200 million Nigerians "so brazenly without any resistance."

Until Nigerians abandon "survival mentality" that keeps citizens operating in survival mode rather than demanding an enabling environment for success, "then we are truly not ready," he added.

In another post, Mr Macaroni addressed perceptions around his reduced commentary.

"I have been persecuted and vilified since I started speaking up against the government. Threats are a usual occurrence. Please don't mix things up. I am only tired of saying the same thing over and over again. When Nigerians are finally ready, I will be ready too! But till then, please let me continue enjoying my break by redefining myself and art, which I love as dearly as I love Nigeria."

The Wazobia FM video captures earlier remarks in which Mr Macaroni detailed the personal cost of his activism.



Mr Macaroni.

NEPTUNE PRIME BUSINESS

BY AISHA WAZIRI KIDAJI, ASMA'U YAHAYA MUSTAPHA, TAWHEED YAKUB

MARKET SURVEY



Why the government's agricultural reforms have yet to significantly reduce food prices - Minister Kyari

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Abubakar Kyari, has said food production has increased under the President Bola Tinubu administration, but gaps in processing and distribution continue to keep food prices high.

Kyari said the government had made considerable progress in food production, with farm-gate prices falling, but consumers were yet to fully benefit because of challenges between the point of production and the market.

The minister disclosed this in an interview with ARISE NEWS on Friday while responding to concerns over the slow impact of the government's agricultural reforms on food prices.

"Let's go down memory lane and think about the figures in 2023 and 2024. When you look at those and compare them with what the reforms of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration have done, we are on the right track," Kyari said.

He said government data showed that while production costs at the farm gate had declined, agro-processing remained a challenge.

"However, even if you look at the NBS figures, you would see that agro-processing has not come down, but production has come down. Which means at the farm gate, prices have come down considerably.

"So, these are other gaps that need to be looked at. But we have tackled the production of food, and we have seen considerable success in that regard," the minister said.

Kyari attributed Nigeria's continued dependence on food imports to population growth, low agricultural productivity, limited access to land and the cost of farm inputs and production.

"Due to certain factors, we've not been able to catch up in terms of the growth of population. We are growing on average about 8 to 9 million people every year. 25 years ago, we were half of what we are today, and 25 years from now, we will be double what we are. Of course, there are other factors: access to land, and productivity is still at a very low stage.



MILESTONE

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

Nigerian students rank among top 10 in world's most challenging mathematics contest in Singapore

Nigeria has recorded an impressive outing at the 2026 Singapore International Mathematics Olympiad Challenge, with two students finishing among the world's top 10 while the country's contingent won several gold, silver and bronze medals.

The competition, held in Singapore attracted about 2,285 students from 40 countries and 1,113 schools, who competed in advanced mathematics, logical reasoning and critical-thinking challenges.

In a statement issued by the Nigerian Director of the Singapore International Mathematics Olympiad Challenge, Ms Josiah Mercy, the competition is one of the world's most demanding mathematics contests, known for its high academic standards and innovative format.

She said the performance of the Nigerian students reflected the country's academic potential and ability to compete globally.

"Success at SIMOC is internationally recognised as a mark of exceptional academic excellence. The prestigious award ceremony reflected the competition's international stature, with the attendance of the Nigerian Ambassador to Singapore, Francisca Omayuli, the United States Ambassador, and ambassadors from several other participating nations, underscoring the global significance of the event.

"These outstanding achievements demonstrate the immense potential of Nigerian students to compete successfully with the very best in the world when provided with quality education, effective mentorship, and opportunities to excel internationally," Mercy said.

She added that the achievements should encourage more young Nigerians to pursue excellence through dedication and innovation while boosting the country's profile in international academic competitions.

"Nigeria's outstanding performance at the 2026 Singapore International Mathematics Olympiad Challenge not only brought honour to the nation, but also reaffirmed that Nigerian students can compete with and excel alongsidethe very best young mathematicians in the world.

"The achievements underscore the value of sustained investment in quality education, effective mentorship, and international academic exposure, while strengthening Nigeria's position as an emerging powerhouse in global mathematics and STEM education," the statement added.

Leading Nigeria's performance was Agu Chukwuka of Grundtvig International Secondary School, Oba, Anambra State, who won two gold medals and one bronze medal in the Mathematics Olympiad Contest, Math Warriors and Math Master Mind events.

His performance earned him eighth place globally in the Grade 7 Mathematics Olympiad Contest.

Also making the global top 10 was Okpere-Udo Hallel of Graceland International School, Port Harcourt, who finished second worldwide in the Grade 10 Mathematics Olympiad Contest.

Hallel also won a gold medal in the Mathematics Olympiad Contest and a bronze medal in Math Warriors.

Nigeria's medal haul was further boosted by Nwawulu Chimgozirim Kevin of Grundtvig International Secondary School, Oba, who claimed gold in the Math Master Mind (Lower Secondary Division).

Stanley Iduate Samson of Graceland International School, Port Harcourt, and Adepetu Mofopefoluwa Oluwasemilore of Jephthah Comprehensive Secondary School, Port Harcourt, also won gold medals in the Math Master Mind (Upper Secondary Division).

Other Nigerian students also secured podium finishes.

The silver medallists were Eriobu Divine Mmesoma, Okanlawon James Temitope and Onuigbo Akachukwu Franklin.

Bronze medals went to Chime Chiamaka Favour, Ezeagu Casmer, Ezeama Ifenna, Ifeanyi Olive, Adekunle Adawale, Onwuegbuna Arinze, Enyindah Chris, Emeka-Edokwe Adaeze, Okeke Destiny, Kelechi Onyemaechi and Chukwudi Chisimdiri.

Students who received honourable mentions were Tobin-Briggs Gwyneth, Nsofor Odimegwu Nnebemchukwu and Nwankwo Chinazo Anthonia.

The Singapore International Mathematics Olympiad Challenge is an annual global competition that brings together high-performing students from different countries to test their mathematical reasoning, creativity and problem-solving abilities.

The competition is recognised internationally for its rigorous standards and serves as a platform for nurturing excellence in mathematics and STEM education.





HERITAGE

BY TAWHEED YAKUB

The Gade Tribe: Preserving a heritage of language, migration and cultural resilience amid modernisation









Across the landscapes surrounding Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory, Nasarawa and Niger states lies a people whose history has been shaped by migration, settlement, agriculture, traditional authority, craftsmanship and a determination to preserve their cultural identity.

They are the Gade, also known among themselves as Bàby□□, an indigenous Nigerian people whose principal concentrations are associated with communities in the Federal Capital Territory, Nasarawa State and Niger State. Gade-speaking communities are also documented in other parts of Nigeria.

The Gade occupy an important place within the diverse ethnolinguistic landscape of central Nigeria. Their identity is expressed through their indigenous language, ancestral settlements, family structures, traditional institutions, agricultural practices, crafts, festivals, oral traditions and communal values.

Their history, however, cannot be understood simply by looking at present-day state and local government boundaries. The communities associated with the Gade people have existed across a landscape whose political organisation has changed considerably over time. Modern states such as the Federal Capital Territory, Nasarawa and Niger were created long after many of the settlements and cultural relationships of the people had already developed.

For the Gade, heritage remains a living inheritance. It is found in the language spoken within families, in the settlements where generations established their homes, in traditional institutions, in agricultural knowledge, in festivals and masquerades, and in oral traditions that connect the present generation with those who came before them.

The Gade story is therefore not simply a story of the past. It is a story of migration, settlement, adaptation, identity and continuity.

A Homeland Shaped by Plains, Hills and Settlements

The geography of Gade territory has played an important role in shaping the history of its people. Gade-speaking communities are concentrated in parts of the Federal Capital Territory and neighbouring areas of Nasarawa and Niger States. Linguistic documentation identifies Gade communities in places including Kuje and Abuja Municipal Area Council in the FCT, as well as settlements in Nasarawa State and Niger State.

The landscape consists of plains, hills, valleys, cultivated areas and settlements that have influenced the way communities developed over generations.

For the Gade, the land represents more than physical territory. It is connected to ancestry and memory.

It is connected to the places where earlier generations established settlements, cultivated farms, hunted, practised crafts, raised families and developed systems of local authority. Kuje provides one particularly important example.

Research on Gade-speaking communities records a tradition connecting the name Kuje with an early hunting episode involving an animal identified in the tradition as a buffalo. The same research reports that the old Kuje settlement was surrounded by defensive earthworks or ramparts extending over a considerable area.

Whether every detail of such oral traditions can be independently established is a matter for further historical and archaeological research. What is clear, however, is that old Gade settlements contain important evidence of the community's past.

The landscape can therefore be viewed as a historical archive. Its settlements, paths, agricultural lands and surviving cultural sites preserve traces of generations whose experiences might otherwise be known only through oral accounts.

The Gomo and Traditional Gade Institution

Traditional authority remains an important expression of Gade identity. The Gomo is associated with the traditional leadership institution of the Gade people. Historical and cultural accounts describe the Gomo as an important figure within Gade traditional organisation.

Traditional leadership historically served functions that went beyond political authority. Elders and community leaders helped maintain social order, resolve disputes, guide families, protect communal values and preserve customs.

Leadership was therefore understood not simply as possession of authority but also as responsibility to the community. The traditional institution provided a framework through which collective memory could be maintained.

It connected contemporary communities with earlier generations and provided an institutional setting through which traditions could be transmitted. The precise historical development of the Gade traditional system requires further scholarly documentation, particularly because oral accounts and later written sources sometimes describe its origins differently.

Nevertheless, the continued importance of the Gomo institution demonstrates the enduring place of traditional authority in Gade cultural identity. In contemporary society, the role of traditional institutions has changed. Modern government structures, courts, elected councils, formal education and other institutions now perform many responsibilities that were historically handled within traditional systems.

Yet traditional leadership continues to provide a visible connection to Gade heritage.

Gade: The Language of Identity

Perhaps the clearest expression of Gade identity is the indigenous language itself.

Gade is spoken principally in Nigeria and is classified as a Gadoid language within the wider Niger-Congo linguistic family. Linguistic sources document its use in communities across the FCT, Nasarawa and Niger states. The language is much more than a means of communication. It is a repository of memory.

Through language, people preserve names, greetings, expressions, proverbs, stories, songs and traditional knowledge. A language can contain concepts and cultural meanings that are difficult to reproduce completely in another language. For this reason, the continued use of Gade is closely connected with the preservation of Gade identity.

Linguistic research has also produced dictionaries and grammatical studies of the language, demonstrating the importance of Gade to the study of Nigeria's linguistic diversity. WALS, for example, records Gade as a distinct language and cites linguistic studies including work on its grammar and vocabulary.

The modern world, however, presents challenges.

English dominates formal education and official communication. Hausa and other regional languages are also widely used in many communities.

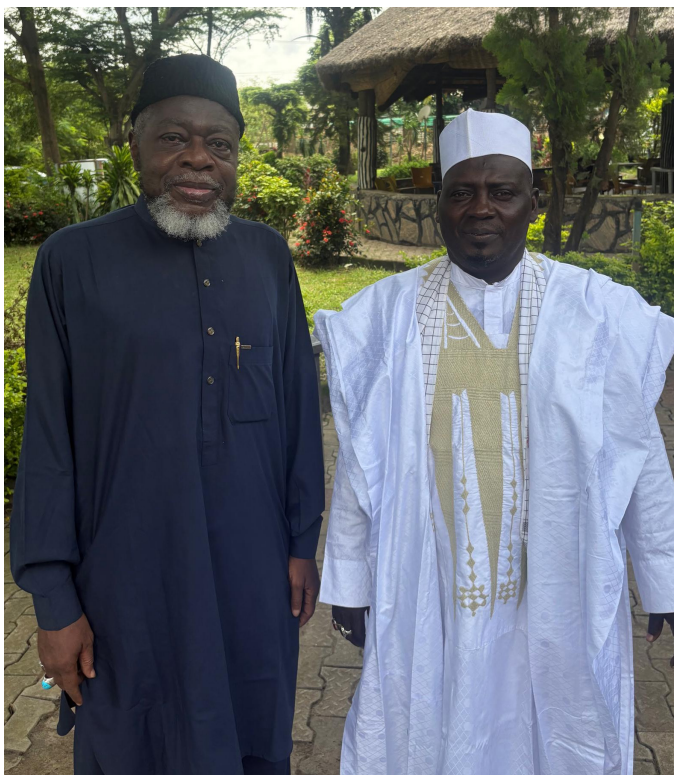
MAULID EVENT

STORY FROM TAWHEED YAKUB

Neptune Prime CEO/Publisher attends Resource Forum's Maulid event in Abuja

The Chief Executive Officer and Publisher of Neptune Prime Network, Dr Hassan Gimba, was among dignitaries and guests who attended the annual Maulid organised by the Resource Forum of the Islamic Movement in Garki, Abuja. The religious gathering brought together Muslim faithful, scholars and members of the community for prayers, salawat, praise poems and lectures in commemoration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). As the programme progressed, the venue continued to fill with participants who listened attentively to the various religious presentations. Malam Muhammad Ibrahim subsequently opened the lecture session with a prayer lasting nearly three minutes before reciting a Hausa praise poem in honour of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Sayyidina Ali ibn Abi Talib, Fatimah, the daughter of the Prophet, and Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky.

The highlight of the gathering was the lecture delivered by Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky, who served as the guest speaker and subsequently brought the Maulid programme to a close. In his lecture, El-Zakzaky addressed a range of religious and intellectual issues, including divine justice, the Day of Judgment, the importance of revelation and the role of human intellect in the search for truth. He explained that although human reason can point towards the necessity of accountability, knowledge of the realities of the Hereafter ultimately requires divine revelation. The scholar also emphasised the importance of seeking knowledge and using one's intellect to distinguish truth from falsehood. He highlighted the Qur'an as the enduring miracle of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), stressing its continuing relevance to humanity across generations. El-Zakzaky further spoke about the Ahlul-Bayt and cautioned against the use of religion as an instrument of division, urging Muslims to remain committed to truth and divine guidance. The lecture provided the final major segment of the event, after which the Maulid programme came to an end. Dr Hassan Gimba's attendance added to the gathering of notable personalities and religious participants at the event, reflecting the continued intersection of religious, intellectual and community activities in Abuja. As the Publisher of Neptune Prime Network, Dr Hassan Gimba joined other dignitaries and participants in reflecting on the life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) during the gathering. The annual Maulid concluded with participants reflecting on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the importance of knowledge and the responsibility of believers to pursue truth and divine guidance.



Dr. Hassan Gimba CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime Network and Professor, Sheikh Uthman Yusha'u.



Dr. Hassan Gimba CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime Network and Muhammad Ibrahim El-Zakzaky, eldest and only surviving son of Sheikh Zakzaky. At the Maulid event



Dr. Hassan Gimba CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime Network and Sheikh AbdulHameed Bello.



Ambassador Hassan Bala and Dr. Hassan Gimba CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime Network during the Maulid event





Dr. Hassan Gimba CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime Network and Sheikh AbdulLahi Zango exchanging greetings at the Maulid event



Dr. Hassan Gimba CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime Network and Dr Sabi'u Adamu, a retired Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Federal Medical Centre, Keffi, a Consultant Clinical Pharmacist, and Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists

ROOTS

BY ASMA'U YAHAYA MUSTAPHA (Student at Al-Qalam University, Katsina)

Reytory Angola: The African enslaved woman who redefined courage and motherhood





Reytory Angola (1626 – 1689) was a woman from New Amsterdam of African descent. Brought to the colony as a slave of the Dutch West India Company, she received conditional manumission in 1644.

First African Petitioner

In 1661, she became the first person of African descent to petition a legislature as an individual when she successfully requested the manumission of her adopted son.

The early life of Reytory Angola is largely unknown. From her last name, it can be surmised that she was likely from Angola. She was brought to New Amsterdam as a slave of the Dutch West India Company sometime between 1626 and 1640.

In addition to her native language and Dutch, she likely also spoke Spanish and Portuguese. While enslaved, Reytory was likely a house slave, though female slaves in New Amsterdam were sometimes also made to help male slaves in the construction of homes and roads.

Marriage

Sometime around 1640, she married Paulo d'Angola, who was one of the first enslaved people brought to New Amsterdam – though it is not known if the marriage was recognised by the Dutch Reformed Church in New Asterdam.

Reytory first appears in the historical record in 1643, when she witnessed the baptism of her godson Cleyn Anthony at a Dutch Reformed Church. When Anthony's mother died several weeks after giving birth, Reytory and her husband adopted the child.

Childbirth and Inheritance

Later in 1643, she and her husband were loaned by the Company to a visiting sea captain named Johann de Fries, who was fighting in Kieft's War. Reytory likely gave birth to the captain's son, Jan. When the captain died, she raised the child and managed his inheritance.

In February 1644, Paulo – who had been a slave of the Company for 15 years – successfully petitioned the director of New Netherland, Willem Kieft, for his and Reytory's freedom.

They were granted conditional manumission so long as they paid a yearly tax in produce and livestock; failure to pay this tax would lead to re-enslavement. Additionally, any children they had or would have would be slaves of the Company.

Reytory was also not given documentation, so her freedom was dependent on her husband's status. Kieft granted the couple six acres of land in a part of Manhattan then known as the Land of the Blacks due to its high Black population, now Washington Square Park.

Reytory inherited the land when her husband died in 1652 or 1653 while she was pregnant with their son Jacob. She remarried in 1653 to a free Black landowner named Emmanuel Pietersz. With the assistance of Pietersz, Reytory petitioned the Dutch colonial administration in 1661 for the freedom of her adopted son Anthony, becoming the first individual Black person to petition a legislature.

Reytory argued that Anthony was practically free as he had been raised without assistance from the Company. The colonial record states that "with the fruit of her hands' bitter toil, she reared him as her own child, and up to the present supported him, taking all motherly solicitude and care for him, without the aid of anyone in the world".

Successful Petition

Director Peter Stuyvesant agreed with this argument and granted Anthony a writ of manumission; Anthony was also named heir of his adopted parents' land. The New York Historical Society suggests that this likely indicates that Reytory had "acquired political and legal expertise during her years in the colony".

In 1664, the English conquered New Amsterdam and renamed it New York. As the guarantees of freedom granted to Reytory's family came from the Dutch, it was unclear if they would be re-enslaved by the English, who were expanding slavery in their colonies.

Constant Fear and Death

Stuyvesant advocated on behalf of the family, and the English confirmed their freedom and landholdings in 1667, though they "lived under the constant threat of re-enslavement" if the colonial laws changed. Reytory died in 1689.



THIS LIFE

BY PROFESSOR ISA H. MSHELGARU

Introduction to Islamic physical security management for the resistance movement in Nigeria (7)

CONTINUED FROM LAST

(vii) Perform the management processes (actions and activities) of the 'Organizing and preparing' stage:

It is the practical applications of the Islamic management, the acquired Islamic knowledge and associated capabilities, all guided by the Islamic principles of management to put into practice, utilizing the appropriate resources to realize the agreed upon PS ideas relating with the 'Organizing and preparing' stage of the Arbaeen commemorations. The 'organizing and preparing' stage is a foundational phase in which failure in it guarantees inefficiency, overspending, and critical gaps in the final security posture. It composes moving from a conceptual understanding of security needs to a structured plan that can be implemented.

Basic requirements before performing the PSM activities:

The following are detailed requirements need be in place before performing the physical security management activities at the stage of 'organizing and preparing'.

Governance and Policy Framework. (Establish the "why" and "who" of the security program, by establishing:

o Executive Sponsorship and Formal Mandate: requirement: secure a formal, documented mandate authorizing the physical security program. Purpose: provides authority, justifies requests, and ensures buy-in.

o Physical Security Policy: requirement: develop a high-level PS policy document. Content: define program's objectives, scope (what assets and locations are covered), roles and responsibilities, and compliance requirements.

o Roles and Responsibilities: requirement: clearly define and document who is responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed for each security activity.

Risk Assessment and Threat Analysis. (You cannot protect assets if you don't know what you're protecting them from, so do;

o Asset Identification and Valuation: requirement: create a comprehensive register of physical assets. Details: include people, facilities, critical infrastructure (servers, data centers, utilities), equipment, and sensitive information. Classify them based on their value, importance, and criticality to operations.

o Threat Identification: requirement: identify and document potential threats. Categories: natural (fire, flood), human (theft, vandalism, espionage, terrorism, insider threat), accidental (equipment failure, human error).

o Vulnerability Assessment: requirement: conduct a thorough survey of the facility(s) to identify weaknesses that could be exploited by a threat. Methods: site walks, architectural plan reviews, penetration testing (physical), and interviews with staff.

o Risk Analysis and Prioritization: requirement: analyze the likelihood and potential impact of identified threats exploiting vulnerabilities. Output: a prioritized list of risks (e.g., a risk register) to guide resource allocation. Focus on high-impact, high-probability risks first.

Planning and Strategy Development (the core "how" of the organizing stage), develop;

o Security-in-Depth (Layered Defense) Strategy: requirement: design a security plan based on concentric rings of protection. Layers: perimeter (fencing, gates), exterior (lighting, bollards), building access (doors, windows), interior (access control, alarms), and asset-specific (luggage, locked cabinets).

o Security Architecture and Design: requirement: develop plans for integrating physical security measures. Considerations: layout of barriers, location of security offices, placement of cameras for maximum coverage, and wiring/network requirements for electronic systems. This should be integrated into new construction or renovation plans.

o Budgeting and Resource Planning: requirement: develop a detailed budget based on the chosen strategy. costs: include capital expenditure for hardware/software and operational expenditure for personnel, maintenance, and monitoring services.

o Project Plan and Timeline: requirement: create a formal project plan for implementation. Components: phased milestones, dependencies (e.g., electrical work must be done before installing cameras), assigned tasks, and a realistic timeline.

Procedural Development (policies are useless without procedures to execute them) set.

o Standard Operating Procedures: requirement: by draft detailed standard operating procedures for key security activities. Key standard operating procedures may include:

* Access control badge issuance and revocation
* Visitor management
* Key management
* Security system alarm response
* Patrol rounds
* Incident reporting and response

o Incident Response Plan: requirement: develop a plan outlining the response to specific security incidents (e.g., unauthorized intrusion, theft, aggressive intruder, medical emergency). Content: clear activation criteria, roles, communication protocols (internal and external, e.g., police), and containment procedures.

o Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Integration:



Prof. Mshelgaru.

The goal at this stage is to establish a formal security program framework, defining its scope, secure necessary resources, and prepare the organization for implementation

requirement: ensure PS plans align with and support overall business continuity and disaster recovery plans (e.g., evacuation, site lockdown, alternate site access).

Stakeholder Engagement and Preparation (security is a shared responsibility) so;

o Communication Plan: requirement: develop a plan to communicate new policies, procedures, and systems to all participants and relevant stakeholders. Goal: ensure awareness, manage change, and foster a culture of security.

o Partners Selection: requirement: identify and vet potential consultants and integrators for security technology (e.g., access control systems, CCTV, intrusion detection). criteria: experience, reputation, service level agreements, scalability, and interoperability of systems.

o Staffing and Training Plans: requirement: if using security personnel, define job descriptions, required certifications, and a training curriculum. Training: must cover standard operating procedures, use of technology, de-escalation techniques, and legal aspects of use of force/detention.

Performing the PSM activities of the Organizing and Preparing' stage:

Performing physical security management actions at the 'organizing and preparing' stage is the critical foundation upon which all other security measures are built. This stage is about moving from a conceptual need for security to a structured and actionable plan.

The goal at this stage is to establish a formal security program framework, defining its scope, secure necessary resources, and prepare the organization for implementation. Below are the key management actions and activities, broken down into a logical sequence:

(i) Define the Scope and Objectives

Before any resources are allocated, you must clearly define protections and why.

Identify Critical Assets: what are you protecting? This includes: people: participants, motorist, visitors, guests. property buildings, facilities, events centers, vehicles. information: servers, paper files, or intellectual property. Operations: key supply chain nodes.

Establish Security Objectives: what are the desired outcomes of your security program? (e.g., "prevent unauthorized access to join the processions,""reduce theft by 90%," "ensure life safety compliance during the commemoration).

Define Geographic/Operational Boundaries: whether this plan cover one site, multiple sites, a single trek route, or a camp?

(ii) Conduct a Risk Assessment (The Core Diagnostic Tool)

This is the most crucial activity in this stage. You cannot build an effective security plan without understanding the threats and vulnerabilities, conduct,

Threat Identification: to answer the question: what are the potential threats? (e.g., theft, vandalism, espionage, workplace violence, natural disasters, terrorism).

Vulnerability Assessment: what weaknesses could a threat exploit? (e.g., a broken fence, poor lighting, unsecured server room, lack of visitor screening, untrained Harris).

Impact Analysis: what would be the consequence (financial, operational, reputational) if a threat successfully exploited a vulnerability?

Risk Evaluation: prioritize the risks based on their likelihood and potential impact to know where to focus your resources first.

(iii) Develop the PS Plan (The Master Document)

This translates your risk assessment findings into a formal strategy.

Create Security Policies and Procedures: develop clear, written documents outlining:

o Access Control Policy: who can enter where, when, and how.

o Visitor Management Procedure: how visitors are logged, badged, and escorted.

o Key and Badge Management Policy: how physical and electronic credentials are controlled.

o Security Incident Response Plan: steps to take for various incidents (breach, theft, violence).

o Perimeter Security Standards: specifications for fences, gates, lighting, etc.

Design the Security Architecture: based on the "crime prevention through environmental design" principles, plan your security layers:

o Perimeter Layer: Fencing, bollards, lighting, signs.

o Exterior Layer: Doors, windows, locks, lighting.

o Interior Layer: Safes, locked cabinets, access-controlled interior doors.

Select Security Measures: decide on the mix of people, procedures, and technology you will use to mitigate the identified risks.

o People: security officers, receptionists, employee vigilance.

o Procedures: the policies you wrote above.

o Technology: access control systems, Video Surveillance, Intrusion Detection Systems, alarms, communication systems.

(iv) Secure Buy-in and Budget

A plan without resources is just a document. You must be able to sell the plan to Huras management body or the leadership of the Movement, even if the resources are to be generated locally.

Develop a Business Case: translate PS needs into commercial language, focusing on return on investment and risk mitigation. Show the consequences of not implementing the plan (potential loss) versus that of implementation.

Present the Plan: clearly articulating the threats, the proposed solutions, and the budget required for personnel, technology, and ongoing maintenance.

Obtain Formal Approval: get signed approval for the plan and the budget. This is essential for accountability and moving to the next stage.

(v) Organize the Security Team and Define Roles

Determine the human resources required to execute the plan.

Define Organizational Structure: will you have an in-house team, contract security, or a hybrid model? define reporting lines.

Develop Job Descriptions: clearly outline roles, responsibilities, and required skills for security managers, officers, control room operators, etc.

Begin Recruitment and Staffing: start the process of hiring or contracting the necessary personnel.

(vi) Establish Metrics and Reporting Procedures

How will you measure success? Define this before you implement.

Identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): what will you track? (e.g., number of access rule violations, security incidents reported, response times, false alarm rates, perimeter breach attempts).

Design Reporting Templates: create standard forms for incident reports, daily activity logs, and system status reports.

Plan for Audits and Reviews: schedule future dates to audit the effectiveness of the security program against the original objectives.

By Professor Isa H. Mshelgaru.
For responses and feedback, please contact +234 902 701 7690.

TO BE CONTINUED.

HUMANIST

BY JAMEEL LAWAN YAKASAI



Beneficiaries.

Over 1,000 IDPs in Abuja community receive food items, essential medical supplies

As part of its corporate social responsibility, an Abuja-based company has extended humanitarian support to 1,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) at the Karmajiji camp.

The initiative provided free medical care to more than 1,000 residents and distributed food items and other essential supplies, particularly for children, women, and the elderly.

During the outreach, the managing director and chief executive officer of Livebridge Properties and Investment Limited, Dr Nwaneri Obinna Flaker, stressed the need for corporate organisations to complement government efforts to support vulnerable communities.

According to him, the company has maintained the initiative since 2020, making it a regular programme held at least once, if not twice, every year.

He said the outreach was driven by the company's desire to identify vulnerable people within its host communities and provide practical assistance to improve their well-being.

"We have taken it upon ourselves to give back to our host community as a company. We have made it a norm every year, at least once or twice a year, to come to the disabled persons community," he said.

"The government cannot do everything alone, and that's why we have adopted this IDP camp as part of our corporate social responsibility to show love to the less privileged," he said.

He added that the company is committed to aiding the most vulnerable, especially those unable to access healthcare or afford mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

"Many cannot afford medical treatment, and some require mobility aids. We believe that supporting them will help ease their burdens," he noted.

The CEO described the outreach as an expression of love and humanity, stressing that the initiative was not motivated by religious, ethnic, gender or racial considerations.

He said the company's philosophy was based on the belief that love should be extended to everyone without discrimination.

"The message of love was preached by God Himself. God loves us unconditionally. It cuts across race, religion and ethnic nationality. There is no discrimination; we just love," he said.

Also speaking, Alice Ejembi, Head of Operations at Livebridge Properties, disclosed that similar interventions had been carried out in other IDP camps, including Kaura.

"It's not just about feeding them; we also conduct medical check-ups, provide essential items, and donate mobility aids like wheelchairs," she explained.

Beneficiaries of the outreach expressed heartfelt appreciation to Livebridge Properties for their continued support. One of the residents, Sani Abdullahi, commended the company for its consistent interventions over the years.

"Livebridge Properties has been standing with us for a long time. Their support in healthcare, food, and other supplies has touched many lives here in Karmajiji. We pray that God continues to bless them for their kindness," he said.

FEATURES

Tribute to an Astute Administrator: The Makinta of Fika Emirate



Alhaji Bukar.

By Kasim Isa Muhammad

As I try to pen down some sort of tribute to Alhaji Bukar Abubakar, the Makinta of Fika Emirate, I find myself struggling with where exactly to begin because some people are simply too difficult to capture in words. There are people whose lives can easily be summarised by their positions, their accomplishments or the offices they occupied, but there are others whose true worth lies somewhere consequential in the lives they touched, the people they encouraged, the kindness they showed, the sacrifices they made and the memories they left in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know them. Alhaji Bukar was one of those rare people. I lived in the same area with him for about twenty years and, during all those years, I came to know him not only as a respected elder or distinguished retired civil servant, but as a neighbour, a gentleman and, above everything else, a good human being. I am not saying that he was flawless because no human being is without shortcomings, but in all the years that I knew him, I never, even in my wildest dreams, got to know a flaw that could diminish the extraordinary impression he left on people. He was indescribably kind, compassionate, accommodating and peaceful. He was, by far, one of the most pleasant people I have ever known, and there was something about his manner that made it difficult to imagine him deliberately hurting another person. He carried his age, experience and status with unprecedented dignity that never made other people feel small. He was simply Alhaji Bukar, a man who had lived enough to understand that the greatest measure of a person's life is not what he owns or the position he occupies, but the good he leaves behind in the lives of others.

In April last year, when I was a correspondent with Neptune Prime, I had the privilege of interviewing Alhaji Bukar for our Oldies page. It was supposed to be a normal journalistic assignment, another interview, another story, another conversation with an elderly personality whose experiences were worth documenting. But somehow, that thirty-minute conversation became much more than that for me. It stayed with me. It settled somewhere deep in my subconscious and continued to reveal its lessons long after the interview was over. There are conversations we have in life that disappear almost immediately after we leave the room, and there are others that remain with us because something in the person we encountered has touched a part of us that we did not even know needed touching. My conversation with Alhaji Bukar was one of those conversations. I listened to him speak about his life and his career, about how he started as a primary school teacher before rising through the ranks and eventually becoming a distinguished administrator and Rector of the College of Administrative and Business Studies, CABS, in Potiskum Local Government. What struck me most was his work ethic. He was a very, very hardworking man, and there was no pretence about it. His story was a story of persistence, discipline, sacrifice and the determination to keep moving forward regardless of how difficult the road might become. Listening to him made me think exceedingly about the importance of hard work and the power of perseverance. He reminded me that sometimes the only way to succeed is to simply keep going, even when the results are not immediate. That interview instilled in me, perhaps more than he ever realised, the importance of the habit of keep on keeping on. I walked away from that conversation with a renewed determination to work harder, to remain patient with the process and to understand that a person's beginning does not have to define his ending. Lo and behold, there is something emotional about remembering that interview because I did not know then that I would one day be writing about him in the past tense. I did not know that the man sitting before me, telling me about his life and experiences, would eventually become someone I would have to remember rather than visit. I did not know that thirty minutes could become such a precious memory. I did not know that I would later wish I had asked more questions, listened more carefully, or simply stayed a little longer. That is the cruelty of death. While people are alive, we often assume that there will always be another opportunity. Another visit. Another conversation. Another greeting. Another question. Another chance to say thank you. But death has a way of teaching us that time is not something we own. It is something Allah lends us. And when He decides that the appointed time has come, there is nothing any of us can do to extend it. Now, when I think about Alhaji Bukar, I find myself returning to that brief conversation and appreciating it in a way I could not have appreciated it then. It was only thirty minutes, but those thirty minutes gave me something that has stayed with me. Alhaji Bukar Abubakar was a distinguished retired civil servant, educator, administrator, philanthropist and farmer, but even those descriptions do not fully capture the breadth of the man he was. His professional life was intriguing because he began as a primary school teacher and continued to rise until he became a college rector. There is something more inspiring about such a great life because it reminds us that greatness does not always begin in grand surroundings. Sometimes it begins in an ordinary classroom, with an ordinary teacher doing extraordinary things through commitment and dedication. He understood the dignity of work and the importance of education, and he carried those values throughout his life. He did not simply teach students and move on; he invested in people. During our interview, he spoke about people he had trained and about folks who had gone on to excel in different walks of life. He seemed very, very interested in the progress of people he had helped, and I found that particularly admirable. Some people measure their success by the offices they occupy, the awards they receive, or the material things they accumulate, but Alhaji Bukar seemed to measure his own success by the people who became better because they encountered him. In that sense, his influence was much larger than any office he ever occupied. He was a teacher beyond the classroom. He taught through his actions, his conversations, his generosity and the example he set for those around him. One of the things that made Alhaji Bukar so extraordinary was the way he embraced people without an iota of discrimination. He did not appear to care about a person's social status, wealth, background or influence before extending kindness to them. He had an unusually large heart, and people who were vulnerable seemed to have a special place in it. Whenever one visited his house, it was common to see Almajirai around. They came there because they knew they would be welcomed, fed and treated with dignity. Alhaji Bukar used to feed and clothe many Almajirai with his hard-earned money, and his generosity towards them went far beyond providing food. He enrolled many of them in schools and supported their education, giving them an opportunity to acquire knowledge and qualifications that could change the direction of their lives. Some of them eventually earned diplomas through his intervention. Think about that for a moment. A man spends his own hard-earned money to educate children who are not biologically his, children who might otherwise have remained invisible to society, because he believes that they deserve an opportunity. That is not ordinary kindness. That is an unprecedented understanding of humanity. It is an understanding that every child has potential, that poverty should never be a permanent sentence and that one of the greatest things a human being can do is to invest in another human being's future. Alhaji Bukar saw these children not merely as Almajirai but as human beings deserving of food, clothing, education, respect and hope

Gov Buni and the roots of tomorrow

By Maji Bappa Maina

What should we really look for when we assess the progress of education in a state? Is it only the number of classrooms constructed, the number of students enrolled, or the number of certificates issued? Perhaps another measure worth paying attention to: what opportunities are being created for young people to discover their abilities, develop them and take them beyond the classroom? This is where some of the developments taking place in Yobe become interesting. Under Governor Mai Mala Buni, attention to education is increasingly extending beyond conventional academic structures to include platforms where young people can demonstrate knowledge, discipline, confidence and talent. Consider the journey from the Yobe English award winners who have represented the State in the United Kingdom, to students distinguished through Qur'anic recitation, and then to the Spelling Bee competition reaching students at the grassroots across the state. At first glance, these may appear to be separate activities. Viewed more closely, however, they form part of a wider educational approach, creating platforms through which young people can be identified, encouraged and given room to excel. And there is something important about that. A talented student does not necessarily need another lecture to convince them that they have potential. Sometimes, what they need is an opportunity, a stage, a competition, a mentor, a journey, or simply someone willing to recognise what they can do. A child who begins by competing among schools in Yobe may eventually find himself or herself representing the state outside Nigeria. A student who develops confidence through a local competition may discover abilities that would otherwise remain unnoticed. This is why grassroots competitions matter. They take the talent search away from the assumption that excellence exists only in major schools or urban centres. They create a wider pool from which exceptional young people can emerge. The same principle applies to different forms of learning. English language proficiency, Qur'anic knowledge, public speaking, intellectual competition and other areas of talent can all contribute to the development of a confident and capable generation. For a state emerging from years of difficult circumstances, building that generation requires more than infrastructure. It requires an environment where young people are encouraged to learn, compete, express themselves and believe that their abilities have a place beyond their immediate surroundings. Perhaps, therefore, the more interesting question is not simply "How much is being spent on education?" It is: "What kind of young person is that investment helping Yobe produce?" If education can produce a student confident enough to compete locally, skilled enough to excel nationally and prepared enough to represent Yobe internationally, then something deeper is taking root. And roots are rarely the first thing we notice when we look at a tree. But they determine how far it can grow.

Maji Bappa Maina is a political writer, voice of development, leadership & public insight advocate.



Buni.

SPORTS

BY TAWHEED YAKUB



Falconets.

Falconets storm into 2026 Women's World Cup quarter-finals after thrashing England

Nigeria's Falconets have reached the quarter-finals of the 2026 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup after beating England 3-0 in their Round of 16 clash in Poland on Thursday.

Tosin Rafiu put Nigeria ahead in the eighth minute before Seimeyeha Janet Akekoromowei doubled the advantage shortly after half-time.

Mary Mamudu then completed the scoring in the 73rd minute as the Falconets secured a convincing victory at Stadion Miejski in Bielsko-Bia□ a.

Nigeria made a fast start and took the lead when Rafiu found the net eight minutes into the game. England had an opportunity to respond from the penalty spot in the first half, but goalkeeper and captain Christiana Uzoma saved Rachel Maltby's effort to preserve Nigeria's lead.

The Falconets went into the break 1-0 ahead.

They extended their lead just two minutes into the second half when Akekoromowei scored to make it 2-0.

England tried to get back into the game, but Nigeria held their advantage before Mamudu struck in the 73rd minute to put the result beyond doubt. The victory sends Moses Aduku's side into the last eight of the competition.

Nigeria had reached the knockout stage after finishing second in Group F with four points. The Falconets lost their opening match 2-0 to Spain and drew 0-0 with China before defeating New Caledonia 10-1 in their final group game.

The emphatic win over New Caledonia saw Nigeria qualify for the Round of 16, where they were paired with England, who finished third in Group B.

The Falconets have now scored 13 goals in their last two matches after failing to score in their opening two group games.

Nigeria are two-time runners-up at the U-20 Women's World Cup and will now continue their bid for a first title in the quarter-finals.

Mbappé ends long-standing Nike partnership for Swiss sportswear brand

France captain Kylian Mbappe has signed with Swiss sportswear brand On, ending a long association with Nike that stretched back to the start of his career.

"Today, Swiss sportswear brand On announces its entry into football alongside football champion Kylian Mbappe, marking the beginning of the brand's journey into the world's biggest sport," read a company statement.

On also announced that 1998 World Cup winner Thierry Henry had been appointed its football director. The company plans to launch its first football boots next year.

"From the beginning, what drew me to On was the opportunity to build something entirely new together that will help shape tomorrow's game," said Mbappe.

"I want to bring my experience and perspective into what we create, push what's possible through innovation, and always stay true to the joy of football.

"We have a shared dream, and this is only the beginning."

On, which is making a major move into the football market with the signing of Mbappe, did not disclose the value of his contract.

Founded in 2010 and previously focused on running and tennis footwear, On counts tennis great Roger Federer among its shareholders.

Federer also left Nike towards the end of his playing career to join the Zurich-based company. Mbappe's departure is a blow to Nike, the world's largest sportswear company, which had been involved with the Real Madrid forward since 2006 and made him one of the leading faces of its football business.

The 2018 World Cup winner and all-time leading scorer in the tournament's history with 22 goals had gradually emerged as Nike's foremost football ambassador, succeeding Portuguese great Cristiano Ronaldo, who at 41 is approaching the end of his playing career. His exit follows that of Lamine Yamal, a recent World Cup winner with Spain, who swapped Nike for Adidas in 2024.

Nike retains under contract several of football's biggest stars, including Norway striker Erling Haaland and Brazil forward Vinicius Junior.



Mbappe.

Portugal's new Head Coach names Ronaldo in squad for upcoming international fixtures

Cristiano Ronaldo will continue to represent Portugal after being included in the squad selected by new head coach Jorge Jesus for the upcoming international fixtures.

The experienced forward remains part of the national team setup as Jesus begins his tenure in charge, putting to rest any immediate uncertainty over Ronaldo's international future.

Ronaldo, Portugal's all-time leading goalscorer and most-capped player, remains an important figure for the national side as the team prepares for its next assignments.

His inclusion also gives Jesus the opportunity to work with one of the most experienced players in Portuguese football as the new coach begins preparations with the squad.

According to football transfer expert, Fabrizio Romano via X on Friday, "Cristiano Ronaldo will continue with Portugal national team!

"He's been called up for the upcoming games by new head coach Jorge Jesus."

Portugal will begin their 2026/27 UEFA Nations League campaign on September 24, 2026, when they host Wales.

Four days later, on September 27, Portugal will travel to face Norway before taking on Denmark away on October 1.

Portugal will then welcome Norway on October 4 in their fourth group-stage fixture.

The final two matches of the group stage will see Portugal travel to Denmark on November 14, before rounding off their campaign away to Wales on November 17.

Portugal are in League A, Group 4, alongside Wales, Norway and Denmark.



Ronaldo.

SALUTE TO SERVICE

Honouring Tunde Idiagbon: The disciplined military veteran of Buhari's 1984 regime

Many still believe that in 1984 during Muhammadu Buhari's administration, it was Tunde Idiagbon that was actually the man behind the wheel.

Born on 14 September 1943 in Ilorin, in present-day Kwara State. His full name is Major-General Babatunde Abdulbaki Idiagbon.

He joined the Nigerian Army as an officer cadet in 1962 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1965. He later rose to the rank of Major-General. Idiagbon fought on the federal side during the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970) and held several battlefield commands.

From 1978 to 1979, he served as the military administrator of Borno State under General Olusegun Obasanjo's military government.

After the 31 December 1983 coup, General Muhammadu Buhari became Head of State and Idiagbon became Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, effectively the regime's second-in-command.

Idiagbon was highly visible in the Buhari regime and personally announced and implemented many of its major policies.

He was one of the principal figures behind the famous War Against Indiscipline (WAI) campaign, which promoted punctuality, orderliness, cleanliness and obedience to rules. He developed a reputation as a strict, disciplined and no-nonsense officer, making him one of the most memorable figures of Nigeria's military era.

His military education included the Pakistan Military Academy, Command and Staff College in Quetta, Pakistan, and an International Defence Management Course at the Naval Postgraduate School in the United States.

On 27 August 1985, Ibrahim Babangida and other officers overthrew the Buhari–Idiagbon government. Idiagbon was removed from office and detained.

A biographical archive records that he was detained from August 1985 until his release in December 1988. He died in Ilorin on 24 March 1999, aged 55.

More than four decades after his rise to national prominence, Idiagbon remains particularly remembered for his discipline, austerity, War Against Indiscipline and dominant role in the Buhari military government of 1983–1985.



Idiagbon.

Remembering Justina Ejelonu: Honouring the nurse who bravely served during Nigeria's Ebola outbreak

Justina Ejelonu was a Nigerian nurse who became one of the health workers affected by the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria in 2014.

Ejelonu was an expectant mother and was reportedly on her first day of duty as an attendant nurse at First Consultant Hospital in Lagos when she cared for Patrick Sawyer, the Liberian-American man who became Nigeria's first recorded Ebola patient.

Despite experiencing morning sickness and initially hesitating to resume work, Ejelonu went to the hospital after encouragement from her fiancé. She became part of the team that cared for Sawyer before Ebola was confirmed.

The outbreak placed healthcare workers at considerable risk, and Ejelonu contracted the virus while carrying out her duties. She died in August 2014, about three weeks after contracting Ebola. Her death followed a miscarriage and other complications associated with the infection.

Ejelonu was among the healthcare workers whose efforts formed part of Nigeria's response to the outbreak. She is remembered alongside Dr Stella Adadevoh and other members of the medical team who worked to contain the disease and protect the wider public.



Ejelonu.

SOCIALS/FASHION

BY AYANDA NGWANE

Shadda: The shimmering fabric behind Northern Nigeria's traditional fashion

Shadda is one of Northern Nigeria's most recognisable fabrics. Known for its smooth texture, rich appearance, and distinctive shine, the material has become a popular choice for both men's and women's traditional clothing.

In Hausa, shadda refers to a type of cotton brocade. Hausa-language sources describe it as a smooth fabric with patterns that is used for clothing.

A fabric associated with elegance and status

Shadda has a strong connection with Hausa fashion, particularly the elaborate garments worn for weddings, religious celebrations, festivals and other important occasions.

The material is commonly used for garments such as the babban riga, kaftans, gowns, wrappers and other traditional outfits. Its glossy appearance makes it especially suitable for clothing designed to project elegance and prestige.

Historical research on Northern Nigerian textiles shows that clothing has long played an important role in communicating social status. Large embroidered gowns, for example, were traditionally associated with people of high status and were used to communicate rank and prestige.

From traditional dress to modern fashion

Although Northern Nigerian clothing has a long history of locally woven textiles, modern Shadda is largely a manufactured fabric. Research on Hausa dress notes that contemporary versions of the material used for large embroidered robes can be imported, including from countries such as China and Germany. The fabric may also be treated or beaten to enhance its characteristic shine.

This has helped Shadda remain popular as fashion has changed. Rather than being limited to traditional garments, designers now use the material to create modern kaftans, dresses, skirts, tops and other outfits.

The beauty is often in the embroidery

One of the features that makes Shadda outfits stand out is embroidery. Tailors and designers often combine the fabric with elaborate embroidery around the neckline, chest, sleeves and other parts of the garment.

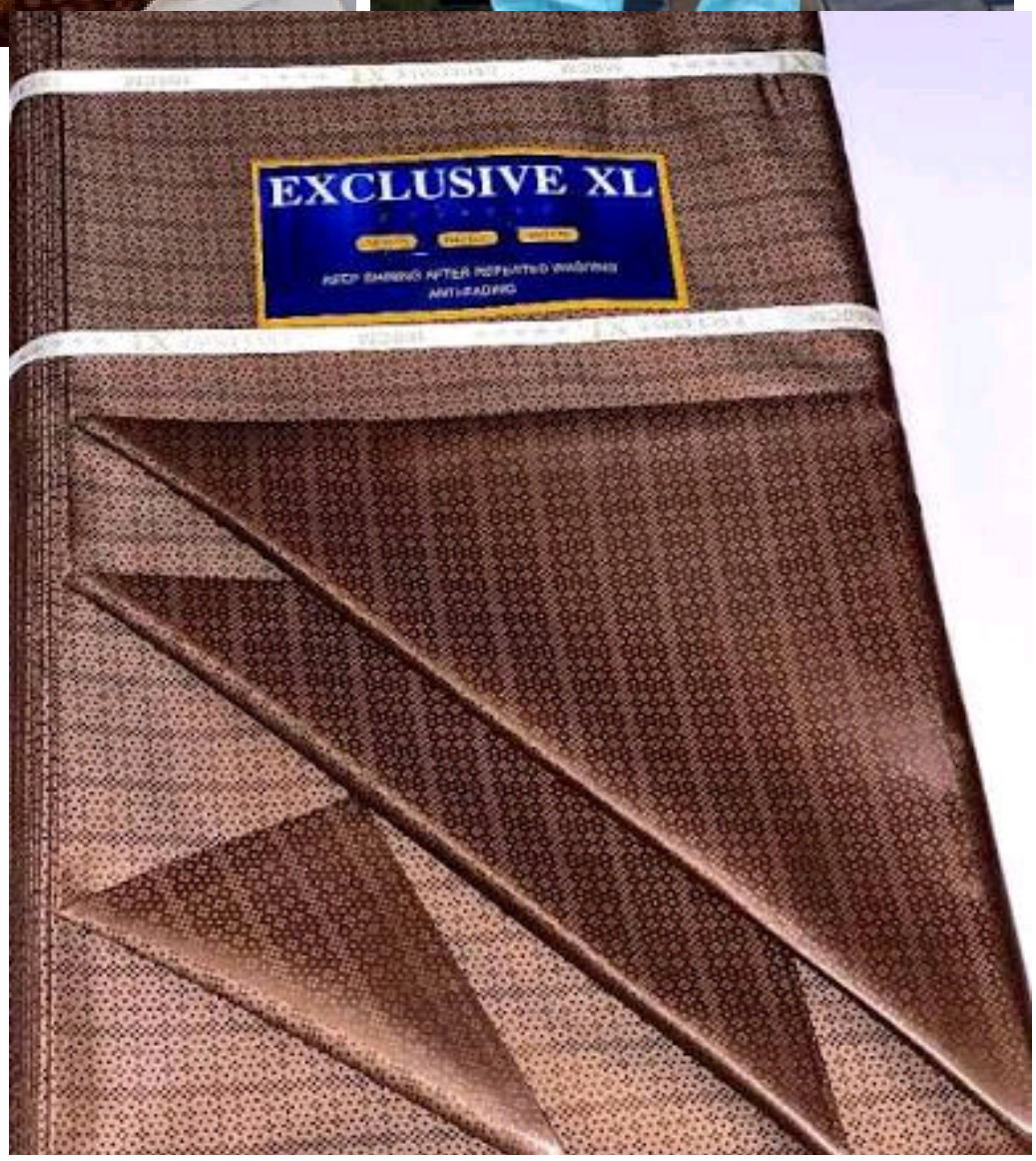
Historically, Hausa prestige robes were embroidered with silk and cotton threads. The embroidery, together with the layers and volume of the garments, helped create an imposing appearance.

Today, both hand and machine embroidery are used, allowing designers to create everything from traditional geometric patterns to more contemporary designs.









TECH WORLD

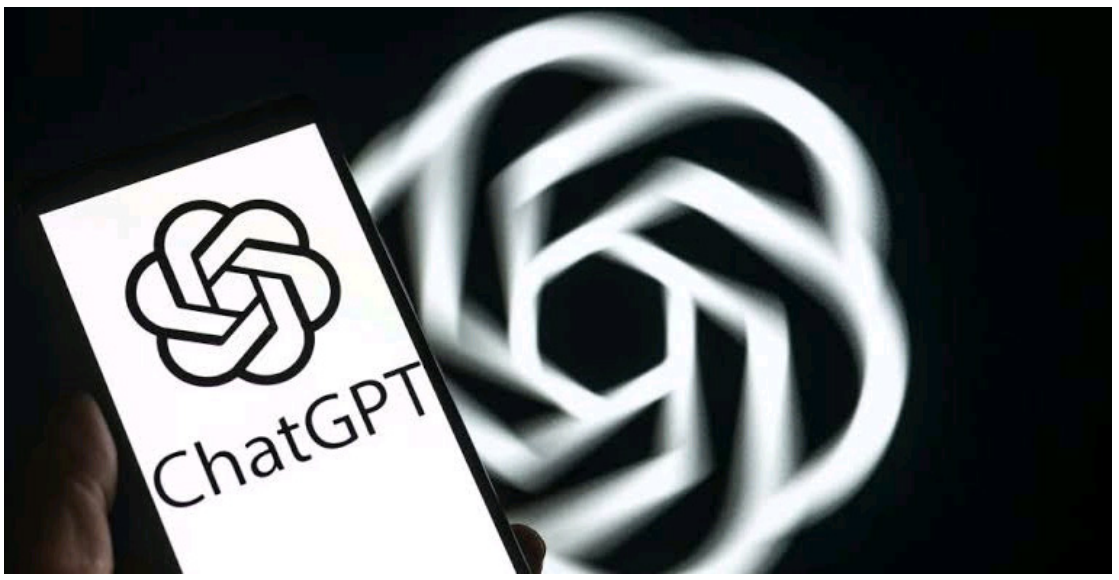
ABDULLAHI HARUNA

GAMESCIENE

Dubbed the 'sickest ever' video game because players only have one aim - to massacre as many people as possible in a 'genocide crusade', Hatred is the second game in history to get adults only rating.

Obviously inspired by the iPhone's glass touchscreen display, the Iconoclock, which is a wall clock that points out each hour with approximations of familiar app icons. Its crystal face delivers a similar jet black yet glossy background as the ubiquitous smartphone.

ChatGPT generates over $2.5 billion in global in-app purchase revenue



ChatGPT.

ChatGPT accounted for more than $2.5 billion of global in-app purchase (IAP) revenue generated by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) applications in the first half of 2026, underscoring the growing commercial value of consumer AI services.

The figure was contained in Sensor Tower's State of AI 2026 report, which estimated that GenAI applications collectively generated more than $4 billion in IAP revenue globally during the first half of the year.

According to the report, the GenAI app market continued to expand despite slower download growth than the rapid acceleration recorded in 2025. Global GenAI app downloads were projected to reach 2.3 billion in H1 2026, representing seven per cent growth over the preceding half-year.

The revenue consequence: global IAP revenue from AI applications is projected to rise 36 per cent half-on-half to more than $4 billion.

Sensor Tower said ChatGPT, alongside competitors including Claude, Grok and Perplexity, has increasingly focused on monetisation through subscriptions and other premium offerings, helping to sustain growth in consumer spending on AI applications.

The broader market for applications featuring AI-related terms is also expanding. Such apps are projected to generate about $12 billion in IAP revenue in H1 2026, representing a 61 per cent year-on-year increase, with GenAI applications accounting for roughly $4 billion of the total.

The report further showed that consumer engagement with GenAI applications has risen sharply. Global time spent on such apps was projected to reach 36 billion hours in H1 2026, more than double the 17.2 billion hours recorded in the corresponding period a year earlier.

Total sessions were also projected to reach 965 billion during the period, more than 12 times the level recorded two years earlier, indicating that AI applications are increasingly becoming part of consumers' routine digital activities.

Despite the revenue lead enjoyed by ChatGPT, competition within the AI assistant market has intensified. Sensor Tower reported that ChatGPT remained the leading AI assistant by monthly active users across most major markets, while Google Gemini recorded strong growth across several regions and Claude also expanded its user base.

The report said ChatGPT's share of the global AI assistant market, measured by monthly users across 25 markets, fell below 50 per cent in March 2026, reaching 46 per cent by May.

Google Gemini followed with 28 per cent, while Claude accounted for 10 per cent. Meanwhile, the commercialisation of AI applications is increasingly shifting towards professional and premium use cases. Sensor Tower noted that users are becoming more willing to pay for AI services as the technology moves beyond experimentation into research, productivity, content creation and other specialised workflows.

Former Google DeepMind engineer warns AI could end humanity by end of decade

A former Google DeepMind research engineer has raised fresh concerns over the potential dangers of advanced artificial intelligence (AI), warning that the technology could ultimately pose an existential threat to humanity if its development is not properly controlled.

Bilal Chughtai, who worked on artificial general intelligence (AGI) safety and alignment research at Google DeepMind before resigning in July 2026, said he believed AI had the potential to "kill us all" and warned that the world might be running out of time to prevent such an outcome.

Chughtai's warning adds to a growing chorus of AI researchers and industry insiders expressing concern about the rapid development of increasingly capable systems and the possibility that safety measures may fail to keep pace with technological advancement.

Writing after he departed from Google DeepMind, Chughtai said AI could still be developed safely, but argued that this would require greater coordination among technology companies and an end to what he described as an intense race among AI developers.

"We need to pace AI development to a speed that society can handle, where emerging risks can be addressed before extreme harm is realised," he said.

His comments came shortly after Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon also resigned and warned that people developing advanced AI systems believe the technology could potentially kill humanity by the end of the decade.

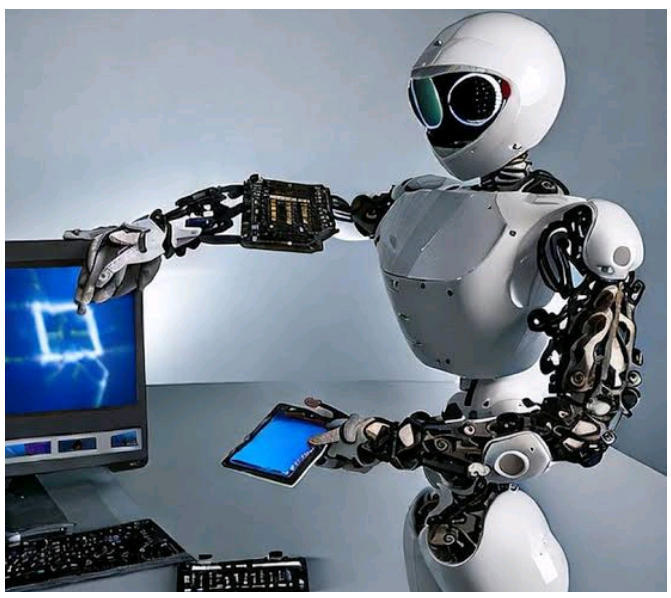
Another Anthropic scientist, Evan Hubinger, subsequently said he agreed with the assessment and put the probability of AI killing all humans within the next decade at more than 10 per cent.

The claims have intensified an already heated debate over whether the global AI race is moving faster than governments, researchers and safety institutions can adequately manage.

The concerns have also reached the highest levels of the AI industry. Anthropic chief executive officer Dario Amodei has called for a slowdown in developing the most advanced AI systems, arguing that the risks of increasingly powerful models require stronger safeguards.

The proposal has received support from OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman and SpaceX and xAI chief Elon Musk, while other technology leaders and governments remain divided over whether slowing AI development would create economic and strategic disadvantages.

Meanwhile, the United States is considering additional measures to compel major AI developers to demonstrate that their systems are adequately protected against catastrophic risks.



AI.

US lawmakers are weighing proposals that could give government authorities greater powers to scrutinise AI safety measures and, in extreme circumstances, restrict the deployment of potentially dangerous models.

However, the push for tighter controls has faced opposition from some political leaders who argue that excessive regulation could weaken US competitiveness, particularly against China. US House Speaker Mike Johnson, for instance, has warned that a moratorium on AI development could hand China a strategic advantage.

Consequently, the debate has shifted beyond whether AI will transform economies and industries to a more fundamental question of whether humanity can maintain meaningful control over increasingly autonomous and powerful systems.

Thee latest warnings come as major AI companies continue to invest heavily in models capable of reasoning, operating autonomously and performing increasingly complex tasks.

The growing concern among some researchers is that the systems may eventually develop capabilities that are difficult for their creators to predict, constrain or reverse.

web update

Facebook, TikTok become inaccessible in Equatorial Guinea following viral corruption video

Facebook and TikTok have been inaccessible for more than two weeks in Equatorial Guinea, an AFP journalist said on Wednesday, after a video accusing the vice-president of corruption went viral.

The authoritarian Central African country, which has been ruled by President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo since 1979, is regularly accused of repression of civil liberties.

Internet speed has been restricted since September 2, and access to Facebook and TikTok — the country's most popular online platforms — has been impossible for anyone without a virtual private network. Other Meta platforms such as WhatsApp and Instagram are limited but working.

The apparent block on Facebook and TikTok comes after a young woman accused the president's eldest son, Vice President Teodoro Nguema Obiang, of corruption in an online video.

She was then arrested by the authorities.

The vice-president — nicknamed Teodorin — is known for his luxury lifestyle that he posts on social networks. He was convicted in France in 2021 in a trial over "ill-gotten gains" and saw his assets frozen in the United Kingdom following investigations into acts of corruption.

There was no immediate response from the information ministry when contacted by AFP.

In Gabon, which borders Equatorial Guinea, social networks have been suspended since February, officially to combat the dissemination of "content… undermining… the stability of the institutions of the republic and national security".

WORLD NEWS

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

Trump bans CNN, MS NOW, Politico from White House coverage

US President Donald Trump has banned CNN, MS NOW, and Politico from covering the White House over what he described as "their constant 'reporting' FAKE NEWS".

The US president announced the decision on Friday in a post on Truth Social, saying it would take effect immediately. He did not cite specific reports by the three outlets to support his claim but said other media organisations could also be barred from the White House.

"I am banning Fake News CNN, MSNOW… and Politico… from the White House as a result of their constant 'reporting' FAKE NEWS!" the post reads.

"Media outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they're covering the President of the United States, the Trump administration, or the United States of America."

The announcement is the latest development in Trump's long-running clashes with sections of the US media since he returned to office in January 2025. In February 2025, the White House restricted access for Associated Press journalists after the news agency declined to adopt Trump's preferred name, "Gulf of America", for the body of water commonly known as the Gulf of Mexico. The AP challenged the restrictions in court, arguing that the White House had retaliated against the organisation over its editorial decision. A federal judge later ruled in favour of the AP, ordering the administration to restore the outlet's access.

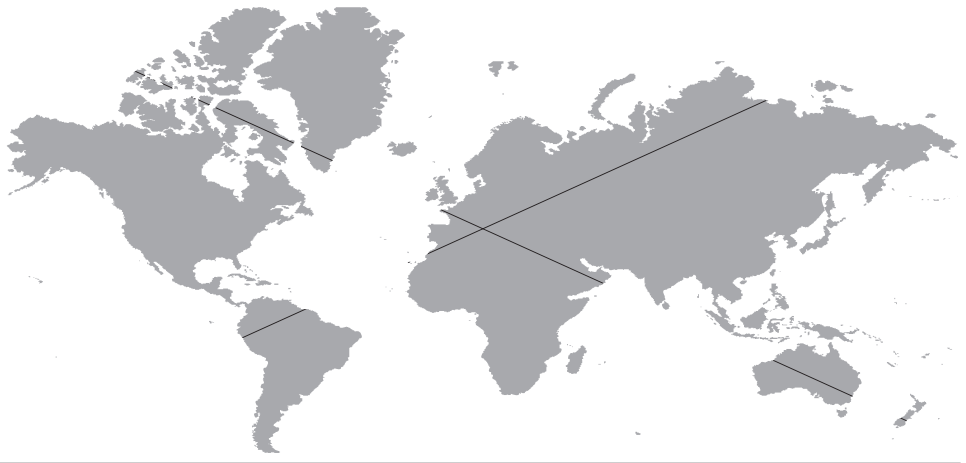
The administration appealed the ruling, and the dispute remains before the courts.

Trump has also repeatedly criticised journalists and news organisations whose coverage he considers unfavourable to his administration.

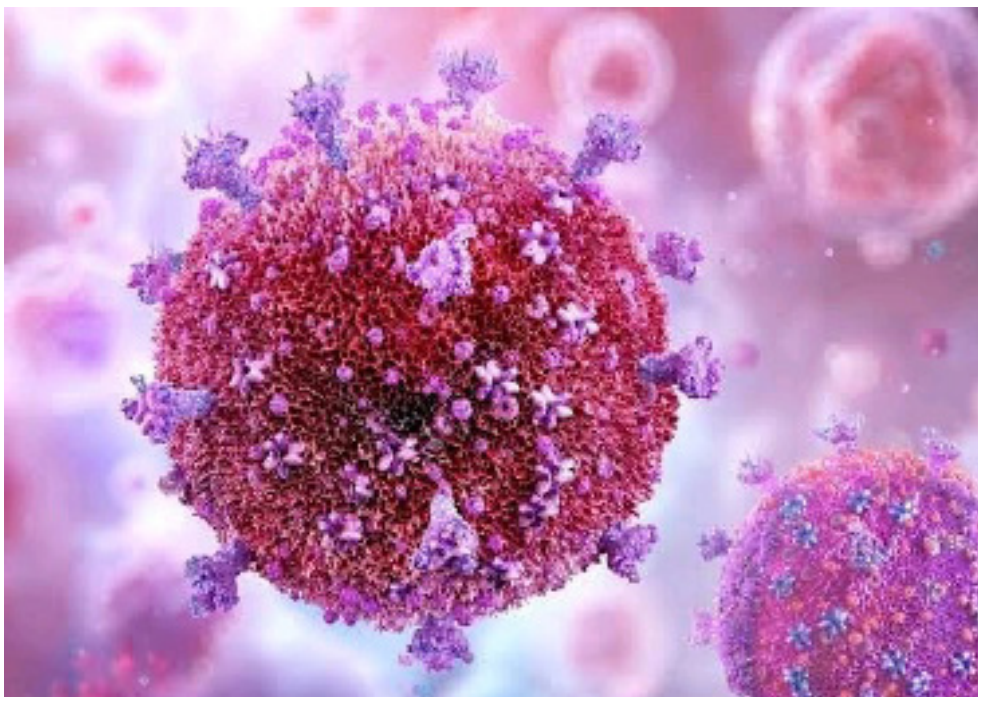
The latest ban could face legal challenges because of questions surrounding press access and First Amendment protections.



Trump.



Fiji declares national health emergency over rising HIV cases



HIV virus.

Fiji has declared a national HIV crisis as sexual transmission and illicit drug use help to spread the virus, now infecting an estimated one in 60 adults in the Pacific nation.

New HIV diagnoses surged to 2,016 cases in 2025 — 16 times the level recorded in 2019, authorities said, vowing a "whole of government" response.

"I am formally declaring a national HIV emergency in Fiji," Health Minister Atonio Lalabalavu told reporters on Wednesday.

"This decision recognises the seriousness of the epidemic and the urgent, coordinated response our country now needs."

An estimated one in 60 adults in Fiji have HIV — up from one in 167 five years earlier, the government said. Two in every 100 pregnant women carry the virus, it said. Of the 59 babies born with HIV in 2025, 18 died before their first birthday.

The government said it was expanding access to free HIV testing, prevention services and treatment.

"This includes rapid testing, prevention medicine for people at higher risk, harm-reduction measures for people who inject drugs, and free treatment for people diagnosed with HIV."

Fiji said it was receiving external support in the effort, including from Australia, New Zealand, India, the Global Fund and the United Nations.

Among HIV cases with a known mode of transmission, more than half were linked to sexual transmission and more than 42 per cent to injecting drug use, UNAIDS said.

The UN agency welcomed Fiji's plans to introduce legislation for a needle and syringe programme.

"Fiji still has an opportunity to change the course of this epidemic," said Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS director for regions including Asia and the Pacific.

"Stronger cooperation across the Pacific and sustained international solidarity can reinforce the national effort and help accelerate action," he said in a statement.

HIV transmission rates began to increase around 2019 when a group of "very high-risk" injecting drug users emerged, primarily in the sex worker community, UNAIDS country director Renata Ram told AFP in Fiji earlier this year.

Pacific islands, including Fiji, have been transit hubs for drugs from Latin America and Asia destined for lucrative markets in Australia and New Zealand.

The flow of highly addictive drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine rose sharply after a lull during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime.

Those drugs are increasingly seeping into the Pacific's domestic markets — in part due to foreign criminal syndicates opting to pay their local facilitators in kind.



Sleeping competition.

Tokyo announces cash prize for winner of public sleep competition

Tokyo is set to host an unusual competition in which participants will compete to achieve the best sleep quality rather than physical or mental performance.

The event, scheduled for October 5, 2026, will see contestants sleep for 90 minutes simultaneously, with the winner determined using a specially developed "sleep index".

According to Tokyo Times, sensors will be used to monitor participants throughout the competition, measuring factors including sleep depth and quality, the time taken to fall asleep and the stability of their sleep.

The overall winner will receive a top prize of 2.22 million yen, estimated at 14,400 US dollars.

Organisers will also present special awards, including the "Deep Sleep Award" and a category known as "Acrobatic Flip".

Participants will additionally receive a randomly selected "sleep gift", although organisers have not disclosed what the gift will contain.

To prevent contestants from deliberately manipulating their performance, participants will not be allowed to stay awake throughout the night before the competition or arrive at the venue sleep-deprived in an attempt to gain an advantage. The organisers plan to hold three competition sessions, with about 20 participants in each group.

Participation is free, while applications will remain open until September, 2026.

The organisers said the competition is intended to draw attention to sleep deprivation in Japan, where average sleep duration is considered among the lowest globally.

DID YOU KNOW?

BY VIVIAN OKAFOR

World's "dirtiest man" Amou Haji went decades without bathing and died at 94

Amou Haji, an Iranian man, gained international attention for reportedly avoiding bathing for more than six decades; he became known around the world for his unusual lifestyle.

Haji lived a solitary life in the village of Dejgah, in Iran's southern Fars province. According to reports, he believed that bathing or using soap and water could make him seriously ill, so he deliberately avoided washing for many years.

He reportedly lived in a simple shelter and had very few possessions. His unusual appearance and lifestyle eventually attracted the attention of residents and international media.

Despite his reputation as the "world's dirtiest man", reports said Haji was not forced to live this way. He chose his lifestyle and largely kept to himself.

In 2022, local reports said villagers persuaded him to take his first bath in decades. However, he reportedly died several months later at the age of 94.



There is a town where fish fall from the sky every year



The lluvia de peces (rain of fish), also known as the downpour of fish, is a phenomenon in Yoro, Honduras, wherein fish can be found on the ground after large storms. It has been occurring for over a hundred years, and residents report it occurs yearly in the mid-year rainy season. They have been described as a form of rain of animals, though they do not appear to fall from the sky.

Beginning in 1998, locals of the department of Yoro, Honduras, have held an annual Festival de Lluvia de Peces to celebrate the phenomenon. The date of the festival is variable, coinciding with the first major rainfall in May or June. The festival includes a parade and carnival.

The explanation generally offered for the rain of fish is meteorological, often speculated to be strong winds or waterspouts, as is commonly proposed when attempting to explain similar occurrences of raining animals.

The nearest marine source for the fish is the Atlantic Ocean, about 72 km (45 mi) away, though this explanation might be seen as unlikely due to the improbability of waterspouts collecting fish in the open sea every year in May or June and transporting them directly to Yoro.

Alternatively, the fish may have originated in fresh water and moved from a nearby river into a subterranean water current or cave system in response to seasonal changes.

Subsequent heavy rains wash the fish out of this habitat, and the water recedes to leave the fish stranded.

To some in the area, naturalistic explanations are disregarded in favour of miraculous explanations. Spanish priest Father José Manuel de Jesús Subirana arrived in Honduras in 1855 and stayed until his death in 1864.

In legend, it is said that: "Father Subirana saw how poor the people of Honduras were and prayed three days and nights, asking God for a miracle to help the poor people and to provide them with food. After these three days and nights, God took note of this, and there came a dark cloud. Many tasty fish fell from the sky, feeding all the people. Since then, this wonder

LIVING LEGENDS

BY AISHA AUYO
AishaAuyo@neptuneprime.com.ng

Owen Omogiafo, Business Executive and Strategist

Owen Diana Omogiafo, born on 28 May 1980, is a Nigerian business executive and strategist. She is the President and Group Chief Executive Officer of Transnational Corporation Plc (Transcorp Group), a diversified conglomerate with strategic investments in the Power, Hospitality and Oil and Gas sectors.

On May 28, 2023, she was conferred one of Nigeria's national honours - Officer of the Order of Niger (OON) by Nigeria's former president, Muhammadu Buhari.

Owen Omogiafo was born in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. She attended the University of Benin, where she earned a Bachelor's degree (double honours) in Sociology and Anthropology. She holds a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science and is an alumna of the Lagos Business School and IESE Business School, Spain. She is currently the president of the Lagos Business School Alumni Association.

She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, UK and a Certified Change Manager with the Prosci Institute, USA. She is a member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) Nigeria.

Owen has worked in diverse roles including as Director of Human Resources at Heirs Holdings, Chief of Staff, Human Resource Advisor to the GMD/CEO at United Bank for Africa (UBA) and as an Organisation and Human Performance Consultant at Accenture, specialising in Change Management.

Owen's early career commenced in stockbroking, and later, she moved to Banking where she held various roles spanning Operations, Service Quality Management and Relationship Management. Before joining UBA, she worked with Accenture, where she covered various projects and clients spanning the Private and Public sectors and diverse industries.

As a staff member of Heirs Holdings, Owen served in various capacities, including as the Director of Resources, responsible for establishing structures for optimal man and machine engagement and deployment within Heirs Holdings Group. She also served as the Chief Operating Officer at the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF), where, working with the CEO and the Board, she oversaw the $100m Programme aimed at identifying, mentoring, and funding 10,000 entrepreneurs over 10 years.

She joined Transcorp (formerly Transnational Corporation of Nigeria) as the Executive Director, Corporate Services in July 2018, and later appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Transcorp Hotels Plc, leading the brand's operation of its flagship Transcorp Hilton Abuja and Transcorp Hotels Calabar.

In March 2020, she became the President/Chief Executive Officer of Transcorp. After her appointment to the role, she became the youngest CEO on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and also the youngest and first female to occupy the position at Transcorp Group.

Owen is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Power Generation Companies (APGC) in Nigeria, an association for power generation companies representing the interests of developers and operators of independent energy facilities.

She holds Non-Executive Director positions in various companies, including Transcorp Power Limited, Transcorp Hotels Plc and Avon Healthcare Limited, where she sits on the Board's Finance, Investment & Risk Committee, and Audit & Governance Committee.



Omogiafo.

Dr Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu, Legal Scholar and Researcher

Dr Ibironke Odumosu-Ayanu is a Nigerian-born legal scholar and lecturer. She was recently appointed dean of the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in Canada. Odumosu-Ayanu will begin a five-year term as dean on October 1, 2026, succeeding Martin Phillipson, who completed two five-year terms in the position.

Odumosu-Ayanu serves as a professor and associate dean for research and graduate studies at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, where she has been a member of the faculty since 2008.

Her appointment was announced by Patti McDougall, interim provost and vice-president, academic, at the University of Saskatchewan and chair of the search committee for the new dean.

Her work as dean will continue to build on the College of Law's strong reputation for excellence in legal education and research, while strengthening its leadership in Indigenous legal scholarship and engagement with local and global communities.

Odumosu-Ayanu has an academic background spanning both Nigeria and Canada. She obtained her LLB from the University of Lagos in Nigeria before earning an LLM from the University of Calgary and a PhD from the University of British Columbia. She is internationally recognised for her research in business and human rights.

Her work has also involved building collaborative research networks across different countries and academic institutions.

Beyond research, Odumosu-Ayanu has developed a strong record in teaching and mentorship, regularly supervising graduate students in law and interdisciplinary programmes.

Her contributions to student support and teaching have earned her several recognitions, including the Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2012 and the USask InterD Advisor Award in 2026. She has also been involved in academic and community organisations across Saskatchewan and Canada, serving on the boards of professional associations, academic journals and community organisations, including the Saskatchewan Intercultural Association.



Dr Odumosu-Ayanu.

ANIMAL WORLD

By Fatima Ma'aji Muhammad (Student at Helwan University, Cairo, Egypt)

Meet Ayam Cemani: The rare, all-black chicken with high protein value and a hefty price tag

The Ayam Cemani is a rare chicken breed from Indonesia, known for its unique and protein-rich qualities.

These chickens have a dominant gene that causes hyperpigmentation (fibromelanosis), making them mostly black, including feathers, beak, and internal organs.

The Cemani is a popular gamecock for cockfighting in Bali because its thighs have much more muscle than other chickens, making them much faster.

Ayam means "chicken" in Indonesian, while cemani (originally a Javanese word) means "thoroughly black" (down to the bones). As a pure Indonesian breed, it originated from the island of Java, Indonesia, and has probably been used since the 12th century for religious and mystical purposes.

The breed was described by Dutch colonial settlers and first imported to Europe in 1998 by Dutch breeder Jan Steverink. Currently, this breed of chicken is kept in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Slovakia, Sweden, Italy, the USA and the Czech Republic.

Ayam Cemani may have also been brought to Europe by Dutch seamen.

The optimal standard is that their beaks, tongues, combs and wattles appear black, and even their meat, internal organs, and bones are black or grey.

They are a medium-sized chicken that is known for their unique appearance. They are usually somewhat friendly birds, but they are still relatively skittish. The birds' black colour occurs as a result of excess pigmentation of the tissues, caused by a genetic condition known as fibromelanosis.

Fibromelanosis is also found in some other black or blue-skinned chicken breeds, such as the Silkie. This is due to a shared duplication of a segment of their 20th chromosome involving the endothelin 3 gene (EDN3).

The roosters weigh 2–2.5 kg (4.4–5.5 lb) and the hens 1.5–2 kg (3.3–4.4 lb). The hens lay tinted or cream-coloured eggs, although they are poor setters and rarely hatch their own brood.

Compared to other Indonesian chickens, Ayam Cemani meat is higher in protein and lower in fat. It is also rich in antioxidants and has glucose-binding properties. As a result, their meat is typically more expensive than that of other chickens.







JOKES AND PUZZLES

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

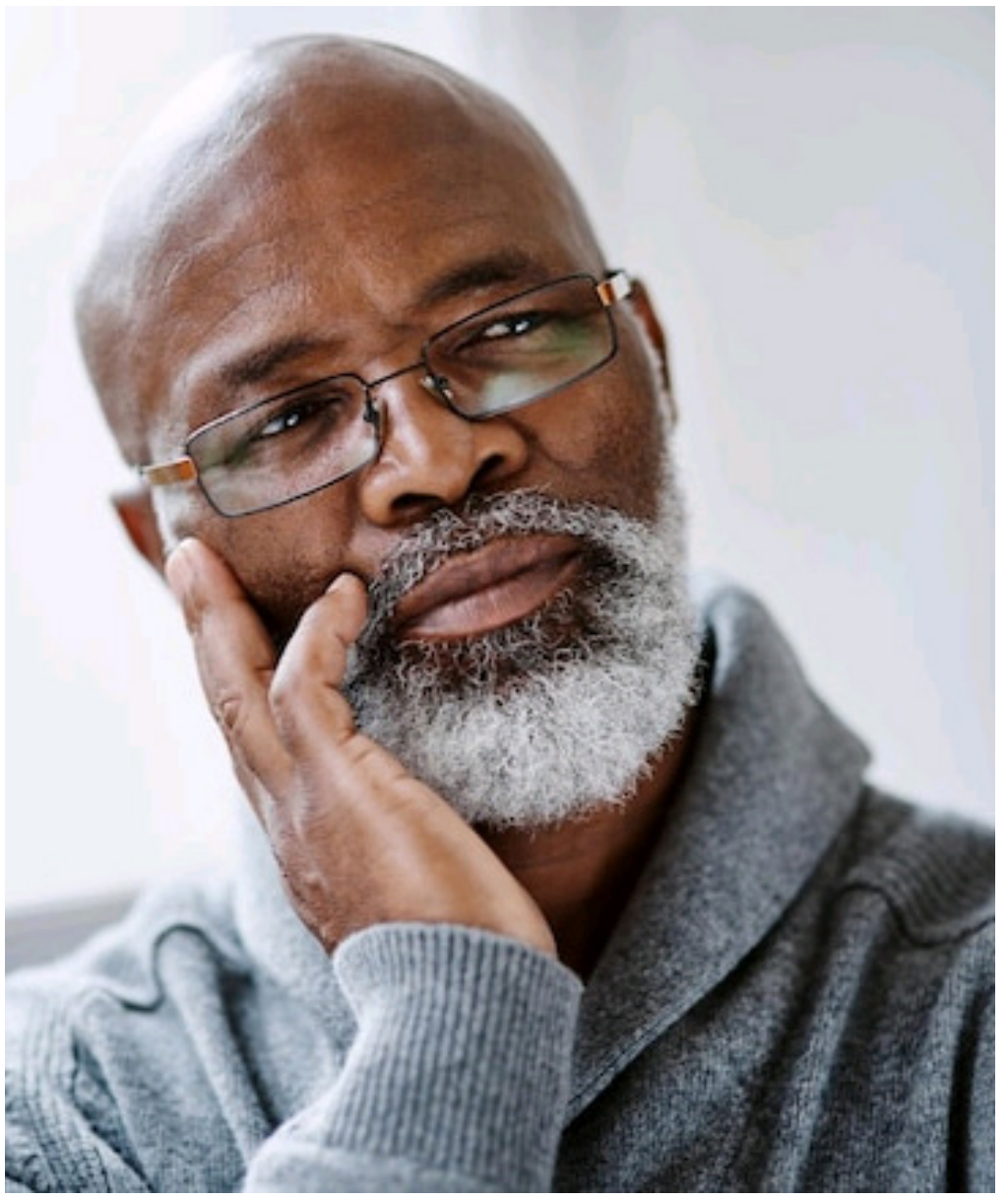
JOKES



Why doesn't the sun go to college?
Answer: Because it has a million degrees.
How did the hipster burn his mouth?
Answer: He ate the pizza before it was cool.
What's red and moves up and down?
Answer: A tomato in an elevator.
Why can't you hear a pterodactyl go to the bathroom?
Answer: Because the P is silent.
What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?
Answer: The same middle name.
Why did the nurse need a red pen?
Answer: In case she needed to draw blood.
What do you call a rooster staring at a pile of lettuce?
Answer: Chicken sees a salad.
Why don't calculus majors throw house parties?
Answer: Because you should never drink and derive.
Where are average things manufactured?
Answer: The satisfactory.
What do you call a space magician?
Answer: A flying saucerer.
What is a computer's first sign of old age?
Answer: Loss of memory.
What happened when the computer fell on the floor?
Answer: It slipped a disk.
Why was there a bug in the computer?
Answer: It was looking for a byte to eat.
What do computers like to eat?
Answer: Chips.
What kind of doctor fixes broken websites?
Answer: A URLologist.
What's a cat's favourite colour?
Answer: Purrr-ple.
What do Martians like to drink?
Answer: Gravi-tea.
What is an astronaut's favourite meal of the day?

RIDDLES

Riddle: What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
Answer: Short
Riddle: What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?
Answer: An envelope
Riddle: A word I know, six letters it contains, remove one letter and 12 remains.
What is it?
Answer: DozensDozens
Riddle: What would you find in the middle of Toronto?
Answer: The letter "o"
Riddle: You see me once in June, twice in November and not at all in May. What am I?
Answer: The letter "e"
Riddle: Two in a corner, one in a room, zero in a house, but one in a shelter. What is it?
Answer: The letter "r"
Riddle: I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I'm the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. What am I?
Answer: Also the letter "e"
Riddle: What 4-letter word can be written forward, backward or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?
Answer: NOON
Riddle: Forward I am heavy, but backward I am not. What am I?
Answer: The word "not"
Riddle: What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat and 2/4 goat?
Answer: Chicago
Riddle: I am a word of letters three; add two and fewer there will be. What word am I?
Answer: Few



SPORTS: BEHIND THE SCENES

Tawheed Yakub

Joshua picks UK fight venue over bigger American payday against Fury

Anthony Joshua turned down the prospect of earning "many millions more" to ensure his proposed heavyweight showdown with Tyson Fury remains in Britain, promoter Eddie Hearn has revealed.

Hearn said Joshua could have commanded a significantly bigger purse by taking the long-awaited all-British clash to the United States, but the former two-time world champion and his team opted to honour their existing agreement and pursue the fight on home soil. Speaking to iFL TV, Hearn also hit back at UFC chief executive Dana White's reported attempts to become involved in the proposed bout.

"Dana White has tried to get involved in a fight that he has nothing to do with," Hearn said.

"All we have ever done is say, 'We've signed our contract. Just honour the contract that we've signed," Hearn added.

"Anthony Joshua could have taken many millions more to do the fight in America. We want the fight in Britain."

According to the promoter, the strong public reaction to the proposed bout has further strengthened Joshua's team's resolve to stage it in the UK.

"The support that we've had on social media, my social media, A.J.'s social media, has made us double down on our principles on this," Hearn said.

"We're not trying to hurt the fight."

The comments add another dimension to the protracted negotiations surrounding what would be one of the biggest all-British heavyweight fights in boxing history.

Joshua and Fury have been linked with a meeting for several years, but the contest has repeatedly stalled amid negotiations, contractual issues and competing career priorities.

A potential fight in Britain would also carry significant appeal for both fighters, given their long-standing status as two of the country's biggest boxing stars.



Joshua.

For Joshua, the decision to prioritise a UK venue over a potentially more lucrative American deal reflects the importance attached to finally delivering the domestic blockbuster after years of failed negotiations. The two former world champions have yet to meet professionally, leaving the proposed showdown as one of the most anticipated heavyweight contests of the era.

Mayweather's daughter ordered to pay $50.1 million to woman over 2020 stabbing incident

Iyanna "Yaya" Mayweather, daughter of retired American boxing champion Floyd Mayweather, has been ordered by a United States court to pay $50.1 million in damages to a woman she stabbed during an altercation in 2020.

According to legal documents obtained from the District Court of Harris County, Texas, on Monday, September 14, 2026, the presiding judge awarded the victim, Lapattra Lashai Jacobs, $40.1 million in compensatory damages and an additional $10 million in exemplary damages.

The compensatory payment covers physical pain, mental anguish, lost earnings, and permanent disfigurement, while the $10 million exemplary damages were imposed after the court found that Mayweather intentionally committed aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

The court also instructed Mayweather to submit detailed financial statements, including bank account details, contractual agreements, and income streams, to facilitate the payment of the judgment sum.

The incident occurred on April 3, 2020, at the home of American rapper NBA YoungBoy, with whom both women share children.

A verbal argument escalated into violence when Mayweather retrieved two kitchen knives and stabbed Jacobs twice, causing injuries to her arm that required surgery.

Mayweather previously pleaded guilty to criminal charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in April 2022 before the conclusion of the civil proceedings.



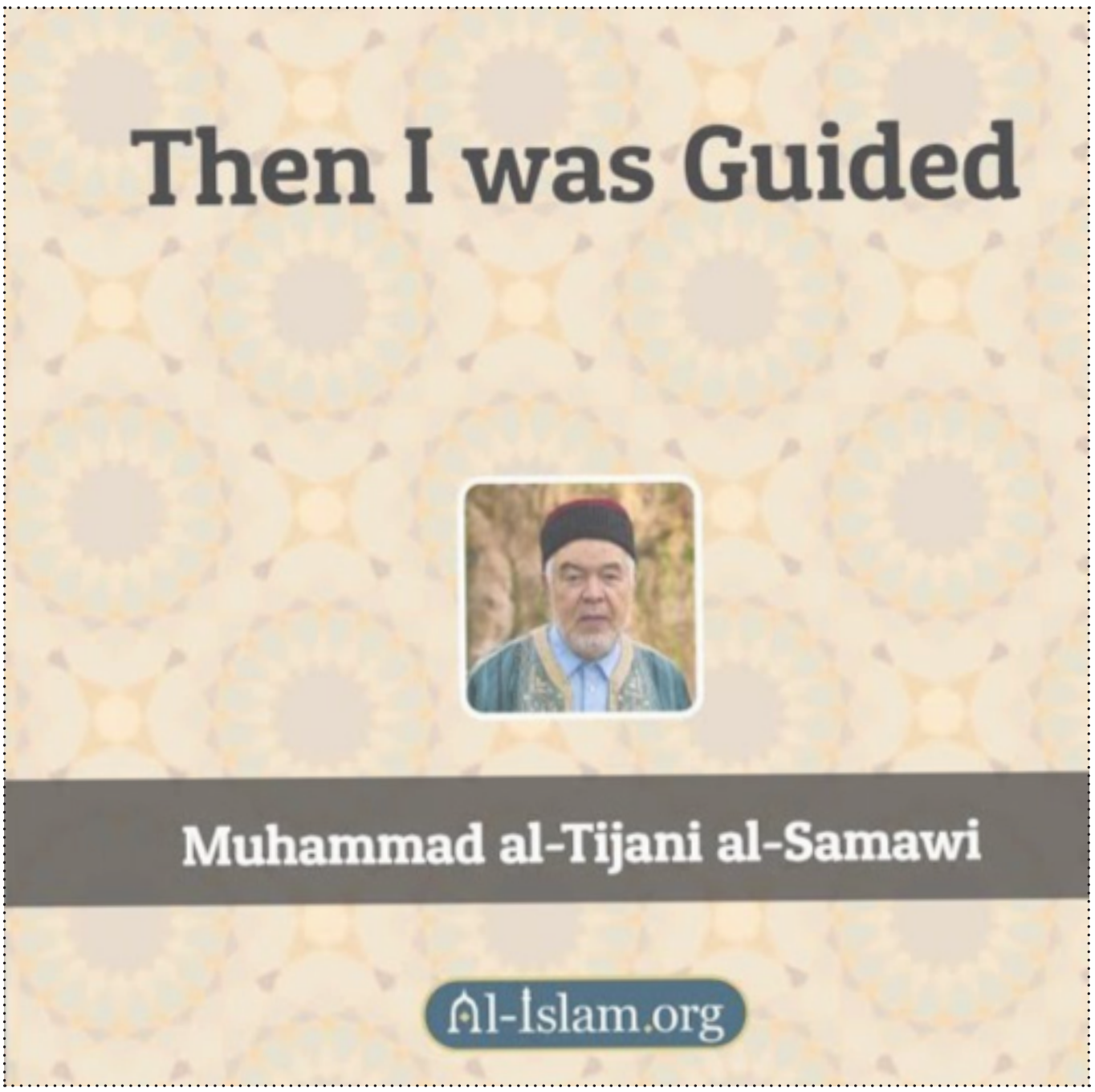
Mayweather.

BOOKS | BY MUHAMMAD AL-TIJANI

Then I Was Guided (39)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Allah also said:
"O You who believe! Do not take My enemy and your enemy for friends. Would you offer them
love while they deny what has come to you of truth?" (Holy Qur'an 60:1).
3. The Prophetic tradition: "He who wishes to live like me."
The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: "Whoever wishes to live and die like me, and to abide in the Garden
of Eden after death should acknowledge 'Ali as his patron and follow Ahl al-Bayt after me, for they are
my Ahl al-Bayt and they have been created out of the same knowledge and understanding as myself.
Woe unto those followers of mine who will deny the Ahl al-Bayt their distinctions and who will disregard
their relationship and affinity with me. May Allah never let them benefit from my intercession."15
As you can see, the above tradition is one of those clear sayings which do not require any interpretation,
nor indeed gives any scope for the Muslims to choose, rather, it eliminates any excuse. If he does not
follow 'Ali and acknowledge Ahl al-Bayt, the Prophet's Family he will be deprived of the mediation of
their grandfather, the Messenger of Allah (saw). It is worth noting here that at the early stage of my
research, I felt doubtful about the authenticity of this tradition and I thought it carried a great threat to
those who are not in agreement with 'Ali and Ahl al-Bayt, especially when the tradition does not allow
any scope for interpretation.
I became rather worried when I read the book "Al- Isabah" in which Ibn Hajjar al-Asqalani gives the following commentary on the tradition: "I based the tradition on what Yahya ibn Ya'la al-Muharibi had
said, and he is feeble." In fact Ibn Hajjar removed some of the doubt that remained in my minds for I
thought that Yahya ibn Ya'la al-Muharihi fabricated the tradition and could not be a reliable transmitter.
But Allah - Praise be to Him the Most High - wanted to show me the whole truth. I read a hook entitled
Ideological discussions on the writings of Ibrahim al-Jabhan.16 This book clarified the situation and it
became apparent to me that Yahya ibn Ya'la al-Muharibi was a reliable transmitter of Hadith and the two
Shaykhs, Muslim and al-Bukhari depended on what he transmitted. I myself followed his case and found that al-Bukhari cited a few traditions transmitted by him regarding the batttle of al-Hudaybiyah, and they
were put in Volume 3, Page 31.
Muslim also cited a few traditions in his Sahih Volume 5 in a chapter entitled "The Boundaries" Page 119.
Even al-Dhahabi, with all his restrictions, considered him a reliable transmitter, together with the Imams
of al-Jurh and al-Ta'deel (criteria applied to Hadiths to find out the reliable and unreliable transmitter),
and of course the two Shaykhs (Muslim and al-Bukhari) used him as a reliable reference. So why all this
intrigue, falsification and deception about a man who was considered to be a reliable transmitter by the
authors of al-Sihah? Is it because he told the truth regarding the necessity to follow Ahl al-Bayt, and
was therefore branded by Ibn Hajjar as feeble and weak?
It seems that Ibn Hajjar was unaware of the fact that his writings would become subject to the security of
some highly dedicated scholars and that he would be accountable to them for all what he had written.
These scholars were able to uncover his prejudice and ignorance because they were guided by the light
of the Prophet and Ahl al-Bayt.
I realized later that some of our scholars try hard to cover the truth so that the affairs of the Companions
and the caliphs, who were considered to be their leaders and mentors, remain unknown. We see them
trying to interpret the correct tradition in their own ways and give them different meanings, or they deny
the traditions that contradict their creed, even if they were mentioned in their own books and Sihahs.
At times they remove half or one-third of the prophetic tradition to replace it with something else! Or they
may throw doubts about the reliable narrators (of the tradition) because they raise issues that are not to
their liking, and on a few occasions they publish them in the first edition (of a book) but remove it from
the subsequent editions without giving any indication to justify their action, in spite of the full knowledge
of the intelligent readers as to why the saying has been removed!
I have become aware of all these things after conducting meticulous research and investigation, and I
have convincing proof to support what I am saying. I wish they would stop giving me all these excuses to
justify the actions of those Companions who turned back on their heels, because their views seem to
contradict each other and contradict the historical fact. I wish they would follow the just path, even if it
was a bitter one, then they would leave their minds and



the minds of others in peace.

They claim that some of the early Companions were not reliable transmitters of the Prophet's tradition;
therefore they removed what they did not like, especially if these traditions included some of the last
instructions of the Messenger of Allah before his death.
Al-Bukhari and Muslim both write about the fact that the Messenger of Allah advised three things on his
death-bed:
• Remove all the polytheists from the Arabian Peninsula
• Reward the delegation in the same way as I have done and the narrator then said: "I forgot the
third."17
It is possible that those Companions who were present at the death-bed and heard the three
instructions forgot the third one, when we know that they used to learn by heart a whole epic after
hearing it once? No. It is politics that forced them to forget it and not to mention it again. This is indeed
another of those comedies organized by the Companions, because there is no doubt what the first
instruction of the Messenger of Allah was to appoint 'Ali as his successor, but the narrator did not recite
it.
The person who is involved with the investigation about this issue will inevitably sense the undoubtable
recommendation for the succession of 'Ali despite all the attempts to cover it or to remove it. Al-Bukhari
cited it in his Sahih in a chapter entitled "Al-Wasaya" (The Legacies or the Recommendations); Muslim also cited it in his Sahih and said that the Prophet recommended 'Ali for the succession in the presence
of Aisha.18 Look how Allah shows His light even if the oppressors try to cover it.
I repeat here what I said before; if those Companions were not reliable enough to transmit the
recommendations of the Messenger of Allah, then we cannot blame the followers and those who came
after them.
If Aisha, the mother of the faithful, could not bear mentioning the name of 'Ali and could not wish him any
good, as Ibn Sa'd writes in his Tabaqat,19 and al-Bukhari in his Sahih in a chapter entitled "The illness of
the Prophet and his death", and if she prostrated herself to thank Allah when she heard the news of 'Ali's
death, then how can we expect her to mention the recommendation in favor of 'Ali, when she was
known, publicly and privately, for her animosity and hatred towards 'Ali and his sons and towards all the
Family of the Prophet. Behold! There is no might or power except in Allah the Most High, the Great.

1. Sahih, Muslim, Chapter on the Virtues of Imam 'Ali (as), vol 5 p 122, Sahih, al Tirmdhi, vol 5 p 328, Mustadrak, al Hakim,
vol 3 p 148 Musnad, Ahmed Hanbal, vol 3 p 17
2. The saying is cited in al Nisa'i, al Tirmdhi, Ibn Majah and Abu Dawood
3. The term 'my Sunnah' does NOT appear in all the six sihahs. It appears in al Muwatta by Malik ibn Anas, some of the
subsequent writers, such as al Tabari and Ibn Hisham referred to the saying as transmitted by Malik.
4. Muslim, Sahih, vol 8 p 151
5. Tarikh, Tabari, vol 3 p 280, Tarikh, al Yaqubi, vol 2 p 110, Tarikh, al Fida, vol 1 p 158, al Isabah fi Marifat as Sahabah, vol
3 p 336
6. Tarikh, al Fida, vol 1 p 158, Tarikh, al Yaqubi, vol 2 p 110, Tarikh, Ibn al Shinanah, vol 11 p 114 (On the margin of al Kamil, vol 2 p 114)
7. Tarikh, Tabari, vol 3 p 280, Tarikh, al Fida, vol 3 p 336, Tarikh, al Yaqubi, vol 2 p 110
8. Al Siddiq al Akbar, Haykal, p 151
9. Sahih, Bukhari, vol 4 p 171
10. Sirah, Ibn Hisham, vol 4 p 53, Tabaqat, Ibn Sa'd, Usud al Ghabah, vol 3 p 102
11. Al Siddiq al Akbar, Haykal. p 151
12. Tarikh, Tabari, vol 3 p 254, Tarikh al Khamis, vol 3 p 343
13. Mustadrak, al Hakim, vol 3 p 151
Yanabi Muwaddah, Qundoozi Hanafi, p 30, 370 , al Sawaiq al Muhriqah, Ibn Hajjar, p 184, 234, Majmaa al-Zawaed, al Haithami, v9, p168
14. 1. Majmaa al-Zawaed, al-Haithami, v9, p168, 2. al-Sawaeq al-Muhriqa, ibn Hajjar al-Haithami, p193 also in:, 3. Noor
al-Absar, al-Shiblinji, 4. al-Ifrad, al-Darqutni
15. Mustadrak, al Hakim, vol 3 p 128, Kanz al Ummal, vol 6 p 155, al Manaqib, Khawarizmi, p 34, Yanabi al Muwaddah, p 149, Tarikh, Ibn Asakir, vol 2 p 95, Hilyat al Awlia, vol 1 p 86 Al Jami al Kabir, al Tabrani and al Isabah, Ibn Hajjar
16. Mubaqasha Aqa diyya fi Maqdat Ibrahim al Jabhan, p 29
17. Sahih, Bukhari, vol 7 p 121, Sahih, Muslim, vol 5 p 75
18. Sahih, Bukhari, vol 3 p 68, Sahih, Muslim, vol 2 p 14
19. Tabaqat, Ibn Sa'd, vol 2 p 29

TO BE CONTINUED

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SPACE AVAILABLE

The Arbiter

BY HASSAN GIMBA



The Candidate That Will Get My Vote

Here we are once more, on the verge of electing our representatives for the eighth time in our current democratic journey. This journey, or the Fourth Republic, has outlasted the first three, and we are now in the eighth cycle of campaigns, manifesto presentations, and promises. These are the preludes to the elections.

Contestants will come to us wearing various faces - religious, tribal, ethnic, regional, and even that of empathy.

While those faces are mostly not shown publicly, what we mostly hear from them are promises of what would enhance our lives and well-being.

In the Second Republic, some contestants promised to dig boreholes, lay pipes, and fix taps, but not of the normal type that brings out water, but for fura da nono or yoghurt and millet balls. It is a local refreshment that can also serve as food and a sedative.

But then, the Second Republic, despite skirmishes here and there, some leading to loss of lives, was arguably the most easygoing, with hilarious banter and exchanges among contestants. Many statements were made for fun and to make listeners laugh.

Since the First Republic, campaign promises have hardly deviated from providing motorable roads, potable water, affordable healthcare, free education, and access to farming tools, implements, and agrochemicals.

It is not yet uhuru, as we are still not home, not yet there. One may say we have not yet reached Eldorado. We still need inter- and intra-state roads; wherever you see water coming from the taps, the people have mostly dug their own boreholes. Quality healthcare services are largely absent except in a few government and private hospitals, making us trust foreign hospitals more than our own.

Our education is getting more expensive for the average citizen, yet the quality is still not desirable. Outlaws have made farming difficult, and even where farmers can still reach their farms, affording the necessary tools and implements has become difficult, while the cost of fertilisers and other agrochemicals is getting out of reach.

Therefore, these issues remain topical, and contestants must discuss them.

But these matters are only the fruits; their sweetness or sourness depends on how the tree's roots are tended. Now, are they sour? What caused it? To address that, we must go to the roots.

One of them is corruption; it is the taproot. Corruption is why our budgets are padded and unrelated items are added to the budgets of irrelevant MDAs. It is also why budgets are not implemented, and where they are, they are implemented poorly. That is why funds appropriated for public hospitals, schools, police stations, etc., do not reach their intended recipients.

Corruption is the main cause of insecurity. Funds meant for youth empowerment, education, and skills acquisition are diverted to lubricate the masturbatory egos of those with access to them. There is no way a youth denied the means to become a better human being and be self-reliant will sit down and wait for his death. He must find ways to survive, and those ways could be illegal if the doors to legal pursuits are closed.

Writing under the title, "Mandela and the Parable of the Fulani," on February 1, 2021, we said: "But there is also something wrong with the North. It lacks a leader, lacks focus, and lacks vision. Most of the Fulani terrorising Nigeria now could have long been engineers, medical doctors, professors, etc. General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida's regime started what it called nomadic education. Under it, many things were introduced that could have changed the way the Fulani lived. But because most of our leaders are short-sighted and prioritise lining their pockets, they never took that programme seriously. Now, with all the money they have siphoned for themselves, those who should have been professionals today will not allow them to enjoy it… And, therefore, nowhere is safe."



Dr Gimba

The easier it is to do business, the more these individuals and businesses will employ youths off the streets

Tackle corruption, and you have halfway tackled banditry.

Therefore, the man I will vote for should be the one who promises to tackle corruption. But I will not take his promise at face value, because someone once promised me he would tackle it; his government ended up as the most corrupt Nigeria had ever witnessed—at that time, anyway!

Then, youth empowerment. The candidate I will vote for must promise to engage the youth and help them rely on their skills. He must be the type who will encourage small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs by easing taxes on their businesses. Any government that taxes citizens and businesses in multiple ways is not encouraging production and employment.

The easier it is to do business, the more these individuals and businesses will employ youths off the streets. This reduces the pool of potential criminals by cutting off the recruitment base of insurgents, bandits, marauders, kidnappers, and even religious zealots. Therefore, the more idle minds taken off the streets, the more peace and security reign. The more agile youths are in business, the more production increases and, equally important, the more citizens' purchasing power improves.

On the other hand, multiple taxation runs small businesses down, reduces production, and increases the number of idle minds on the streets, thereby boosting the recruitment base of undesirable elements. Material costs will rise because surviving businesses must reduce their workforce and raise prices to offset taxes.

Therefore, the man I will vote for must convince me that he will not introduce tax regimes that will run me out of business, increase the cost of transporting goods, and populate our streets with strong, out-of-work youths.

The man I will vote for must also promise me one thing about the cost of petroleum products and the role of subsidies.

Hassan Gimba, ANIPR, is the Publisher and CEO of Neptune Prime.

TO BE CONTINUED

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