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WEEKEND®



Tinubu

FG, governors race to cut transport costs ahead of Tinubu's October 1 deadline

● CNG and electric transport have lowered fares - Tinubu

● Some states have made progress, while others have yet to begin

By Abdullahi Haruna

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu said in late August that governors agreed to implement measures aimed at reducing transportation costs nationwide, including the adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and electric vehicles for public transport.

With less than a week to the October 1 deadline set for cheaper transport fares, indications suggest that several states may struggle to meet the target.

Careful checks showed that while some states have begun taking steps towards implementing the initiative, little or no progress has been recorded in others.

Tinubu Urges States to Accelerate Implementation

President Tinubu has directed states to accelerate the implementation of the National Affordable CNG Transit Programme to deliver measurable reductions in transportation costs to more Nigerians from October 1, 2026

He said an implementation committee had subsequently been established under the auspices of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, chaired by Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq of Kwara State.

"I am aware of the considerable work already underway by the committee, PI-CNG & EV, the states, and other critical stakeholders to identify priority transport corridors, determine appropriate interventions, and put the necessary arrangements in place," Tinubu said.

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INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC PHYSICAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT FOR THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN NIGERIA (8)

Unemployment, Quick Wealth and Nigeria's Susceptibility to Ponzi Schemes

By Tawheed Yakub

Nigerians who invested millions of naira in an online investment platform known as PXES are counting their losses after the scheme abruptly stopped paying returns and became inaccessible.

According to reports, the platform stopped paying participants in early September, with investors who committed sums ranging from tens of thousands of Naira to millions left in limbo and, in some cases, unable to reach the operators.

The collapse has triggered outrage among investors, some of whom stormed and looted PXES offices across the country, particularly in Adamawa and Kogi states, in a desperate bid to recover part of their money.

Sources said the platform promised investment returns between 25 per cent and 50 per cent, with some packages offering as high as 120 per cent.

Ponzi Schemes

Nigeria's economic challenges have created an environment in which the promise of quick and substantial financial returns can be particularly attractive. Among the factors that

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



Ponzi scheme investor.

Neptune World

A minimum of comfort is necessary for the practice of virtue.

PATRICE LUMUMBA

No great mind has ever existed without a touch of madness.

ARISTOTLE

PICTUREOFTHEDAY

Yobe State University Teaching Hospital has successfully performed a total hip replacement surgery on a young man with sickle cell disease-related avascular necrosis, marking a major milestone in specialised healthcare in the region. The state government attributed the achievement to Governor Mai Mala Buni's investment in medical manpower and modern equipment.



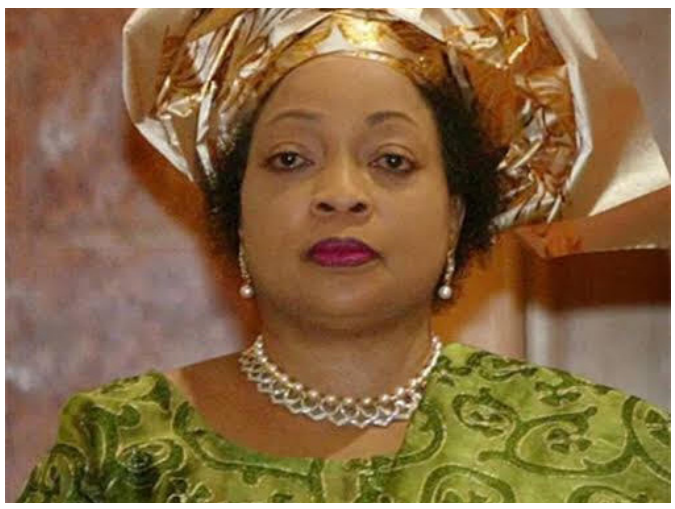
RANDOM FACTS

Some mind-blowing technology facts

The first website (1991) is still online today.
More devices connect to the internet than there are people on Earth.
A modern smartphone is more powerful than NASA's computers that sent humans to the Moon.
Artificial Intelligence can now detect some diseases earlier than doctors, especially in medical imaging.
Voice assistants understand dozens of languages and accents in real time.
AI can compose music, write stories, and even help design new medicines.
Satellites help save lives by predicting storms, tracking wildfires, and guiding rescue missions.
The International Space Station is visible from Earth with the naked eye.
Mars rovers can send photos millions of kilometres away with extreme precision.
3D printers can print prosthetic limbs and even human tissue.
Tiny robots (nanobots) are being developed to target cancer cells.
One QR code can store thousands of characters of data.



How medical errors and delays in post-operative care killed former first lady Stella Obasanjo



Obasanjo.

On September 22, 2009, a Spanish doctor, Antonio Mena, was sentenced to one year in prison in Spain for his role in the death of former First Lady, Stella Obasanjo, in 2005.
Stella Obasanjo died on October 23, 2005, from complications following an elective liposuction surgery performed by Dr Mena at the Molding Clinic in Marbella, Spain.

The procedure, which was intended to be routine, ended in tragedy after a series of critical medical errors and delays in post-operative care.

During the surgery, Dr Mena mistakenly inserted a tube used for fat removal into Mrs Obasanjo's abdominal cavity, puncturing her colon and lacerating her liver.

These injuries led to severe internal complications that required urgent medical intervention. The court later found that after the operation, the doctor was not readily available, having turned off his mobile phone.
It was also established that there was a significant delay in transferring Mrs Obasanjo to an intensive care unit.
Instead of arranging for an ambulance, Dr Mena transported her in his private car, a decision that further delayed critical treatment.
In September 2009, a court in Málaga, Spain, convicted Dr Mena of negligent homicide. He was sentenced to one year in prison and banned from practising medicine for three years. In addition, the court ordered him to pay €120,000 (approximately $176,000 at the time) in compensation to Stella Obasanjo's son, Olumuyiwa Obasanjo.
The case drew international attention and remains one of the most widely discussed medical negligence cases involving a prominent African public figure abroad.



The Girl Who Escaped The Eagle's Nest: A story of survival and the power of nature

In the summer of 1932, a remote Norwegian village was shaken by an event that seemed more like myth than reality. A 3-year-old girl, playing quietly near her home, was suddenly snatched by a massive eagle.
Witnesses described the bird swooping down with incredible speed, digging its talons into the child's clothing, and lifting her into the sky before anyone could react. It was a terrifying moment frozen in time, and within minutes, the entire village had mobilised to search for her.
For nearly seven hours, over 200 villagers combed the surrounding forests and rocky cliffs in desperation. Their only hope was to find the eagle's nest—high above the ground and perilously difficult to reach.
Eventually, the child was discovered in the eagle's nest situated 180 meters up a steep cliff face. Incredibly, she was alive and largely unharmed, curled among sticks and feathers, dazed but safe.
Her rescuers were stunned by her survival, calling it nothing short of a miracle. The eagle had not attacked her further, and it seemed she had simply waited quietly in the nest.
The little girl grew up to live a long and peaceful life, passing away on November 12, 2010, at the age of 81. Her story became a cherished legend in the village—a tale of wonder, survival, and the mysterious forces of nature.
For many Norwegians, it's a reminder of the wild beauty of their homeland and of how close to the edge life can sometimes come, only to be pulled back by fate and the strength of community.

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NEWS

FG, governors race to cut transport costs ahead of Tinubu's October 1 deadline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The President highlighted examples from states where the deployment of CNG and electric-powered transport had already resulted in lower fares for commuters.

In Borno, he said, CNG-powered and electric public transport services carry commuters for between N50 and N100 on routes where commercial operators charge between N300 and N600.

He said that in Kaduna, 100 CNG-powered buses provide free transportation on major routes.

According to Tinubu, the buses carried about 3.2 million passengers during their first year of operation, saving commuters more than ₦8.5 billion in transport costs.

In Oyo, the deployment of CNG buses to Pacesetter Transport reduced the Lagos–Ibadan fare from about N8,000 to N3,200 during the initial deployment, he said.

Reductions in Adamawa, Abuja, Niger and Others

Tinubu also cited reductions in Adamawa, where he said alternative-energy transit services had cut fares by as much as 50 per cent, from N8,000 to N4,000, and in Enugu, where the deployment of 100 CNG buses reduced the Enugu–Nsukka fare from N2,500 to N1,500.

He said that government-supported buses transport about 13,000 commuters daily in Plateau at N200, compared with more than N500 commercially.

The President said that through a partnership with the National Union of Road Transport Workers, passengers using CNG-converted commercial vehicles on several Abuja commuter routes were also benefiting from fare reductions of 40 per cent.

Tinubu said the Area 1–Gwagwalada fare had fallen from N1,500 to N900, Nyanya from N700 to N420, and Wuse from N400 to N240.

He further disclosed that in Niger, passengers on the Suleja–Abuja route pay N550 compared with about N800, while Abia had deployed 40 electric buses with fares subsidised by 50 per cent.

"These are not projections. Nigerians are already experiencing these savings," the President said.



Unemployment, Quick Wealth and Nigeria's Susceptibility to Ponzi Schemes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contribute to this vulnerability are unemployment, underemployment, financial pressure and the growing desire for economic independence.

Ponzi schemes typically operate by promising investors unusually high returns, often with little or no explanation of how the profits will be generated. Early participants may receive payments using money from newer investors, creating an appearance of a successful business. When the flow of new money slows, the scheme can collapse, leaving many participants with significant losses.

The unemployment factor

For many young Nigerians, securing stable employment remains a major challenge. The search for jobs can last for months or even years, while those who find work may still struggle with low wages and rising living costs.

This situation can make offers of fast financial success especially appealing. Someone who has spent years looking for employment may be tempted by an opportunity that promises to turn a small investment into substantial money within a short period.

However, unemployment itself does not mean that people are naturally vulnerable to financial fraud. Rather, prolonged financial pressure can reduce the ability of individuals to reject opportunities that appear to offer immediate relief.

The attraction of quick wealth

Social media has also changed how Nigerians perceive financial success. Images of expensive cars, houses, foreign trips and luxury lifestyles can create the impression that wealth can be achieved almost overnight.

Some fraudulent schemes exploit this perception by presenting themselves as investment opportunities, cryptocurrency ventures, trading platforms or business programmes. They may use testimonials, influencers, referral bonuses and displays of supposed wealth to establish credibility.

The promise is often simple: invest money, recruit others or participate in a particular programme, and receive returns far beyond what conventional investments normally offer.

Why Ponzi schemes can spread quickly

Trust plays an important role. Many people are introduced to questionable schemes through friends, relatives, colleagues, religious or social groups. Because the recommendation comes from someone they know, they may carry out less independent research.

Referral systems can also accelerate the spread of such schemes. Participants are sometimes rewarded for bringing in new members, turning existing investors into promoters.



Ponzi scheme.

Another challenge is financial literacy. Understanding investment risks, verifying companies and distinguishing legitimate businesses from fraudulent operations requires knowledge that not everyone possesses.

The cost of financial desperation

When a Ponzi scheme collapses, the consequences can extend beyond the loss of savings. Victims may borrow money to invest, sell valuable possessions or divert funds meant for school fees, rent, healthcare and other essential needs.

The resulting financial distress can affect families and communities, particularly when several people have invested through the same social network.

Building resistance

Addressing Nigeria's susceptibility to Ponzi schemes requires more than warning people not to be greedy. Stronger employment opportunities, financial education, effective regulation and greater public awareness can all play important roles.

Before investing, individuals should verify the organisation behind an opportunity, understand how it generates returns and be cautious of guaranteed or unusually high profits.

They should also avoid investing money they cannot afford to lose and should not rely solely on testimonials from friends, influencers or previous participants.

Ultimately, the desire for financial security is understandable, particularly in an economy where many people face unemployment and rising living costs. But sustainable wealth generally requires time, sound planning and legitimate economic activity. Where an opportunity promises extraordinary returns with little risk or effort, caution is essential.

NEWS

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

RCCG receives 500 Nigerian nationals repatriated from South Africa

The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) on Thursday received the first batch of 100 Nigerians returning from South Africa under a humanitarian intervention through which the church is funding air transportation for 500 Nigerian nationals stranded in the country.

The first batch arrived at about 8:30 p.m. from Johannesburg and was received at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

The intervention was approved by the General Overseer of the RCCG, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, following an appeal for assistance for Nigerians who needed to return home from South Africa. Chairman of the RCCG Task Force for the Reception of Nigerian Returnees from South Africa, Pastor Belemina Obunge, said the church's intervention covered the cost of air transportation from Johannesburg to Lagos, while relevant government agencies would handle the reception and onward movement of the returnees.

Obunge said additional batches would arrive as the necessary processes were completed.

He commended the Nigerian diplomatic missions in South Africa for initiating and coordinating the collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Obunge said additional batches would arrive as the necessary processes were completed.

He commended the Nigerian diplomatic missions in South Africa for initiating and coordinating the collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Addressing concerns over the selection of beneficiaries, Obunge said the returnees were not selected solely based on membership of the RCCG.

He explained that the Nigerian diplomatic mission in South Africa was working with the South African authorities on the profiling and documentation of Nigerians eligible to return.

"The Nigerian High Commission in South Africa is working with Home Affairs in South Africa, doing the profiling and documentation. Those who go through that process are being brought home," he said. Obunge added that the returnees were from different religious backgrounds.

"They are Muslims, Christians, all religions," he said.

He said the church was working with government agencies to ensure that the returnees were properly received and transported to their respective destinations.

According to him, the church's task force was at the airport to welcome the returnees, offer prayers and encouragement, and facilitate their orderly handover to the appropriate government agencies.

On continued support for the returnees after they arrive in Nigeria, Obunge said some state governments had already begun taking responsibility for their citizens.

He urged other state governments to welcome their returning citizens and support their reintegration into society.

"We use this opportunity to urge the states and governments to welcome their people home and see what they can do, as some have already started doing, to assist with the effective reintegration of their people into society," he said.



RCCG officials.

The Chairman of the RCCG Central Mission Board, Pastor Amos Emoron, who led the church task force to receive the returnees alongside Obunge, also said the evacuees were selected without prejudice to religion, tribe or affiliation.

Officials of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), among other relevant agencies, received the returnees at the airport. The profiling of the returnees subsequently commenced.

37 Miners: NSCDC commandant pledges full cooperation with investigation

Following the deaths of 37 artisanal miners in its custody in Niger State, the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Abubakar Audi, has assured the public of the Corps' full cooperation with the ongoing presidential investigation.

Audi gave the assurance when he paid a condolence visit to the Emir of Minna, His Royal Highness Umar Farouk Bahago, as well as the families of the deceased and survivors of the incident.

The NSCDC boss said the visit was to personally commiserate with the affected families and identify with them during their period of grief.

He assured the families that the Corps would not shield any personnel found culpable, stressing that justice, transparency and accountability would be given priority in the investigation.

According to him, the Federal Government, under the directive of the Presidency, has constituted a high-powered investigative committee to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The Commandant General said the NSCDC is fully cooperating with the committee, adding that relevant personnel have been placed in protective custody to ensure their availability for questioning and a transparent investigation.

Audi also joined the Muslim faithful in prayers for the repose of the souls of the deceased, while seeking strength and comfort for their bereaved families.

The Commandant General also met with families of the deceased and survivors of the incident during his condolence visit to the Emir of Minna.

Responding on behalf of the traditional institution and the affected families, the Emir of Minna appreciated the Commandant General for his personal visit and the administrative steps taken by the Corps following the incident.

The Emir also commended the NSCDC for cooperating with the presidential investigative committee and for identifying with the community at a time of grief.



Victims.

NDLEA arraigns KC Luxury over alleged shipment of 184.5kg of cocaine to London

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has filed a 22-count charge against Afolabi Kazeem Michael, popularly known as KC Luxury, and two others over the alleged shipment of 184.5 kilogrammes of cocaine to London, United Kingdom.

Afolabi was arraigned alongside Boniface Freeman Ochoche Sule and Ikechukwu Ekugo Patriarch before Justice Musa Kakaki of the Federal High Court in Lagos on Friday.

The three defendants pleaded not guilty to charges bordering on cocaine trafficking, illegal export of narcotics and money laundering.

The case, marked FHC/LAG/CR/755/2026, centres on allegations that the defendants conspired between July 28 and August 1, 2026, with Atandare Oladipupo Oluwarotimi and Latifat Yusuf, who the NDLEA said had been arrested in London, to export the cocaine in five consignments through a Lagos-based courier logistics company.

In the first count, the NDLEA alleged that the defendants conspired to export the cocaine in consignments bearing five air waybill numbers and shipped under the name Yemi Ejide.

The charge sheet states that the defendants allegedly conspired to export 184.5kg of cocaine contained in five consignments with airway bill numbers 2079998314, 8224082370, 2079973571, 7181131742 and 2211893902, with the shipper's name listed as "Yemi Ejide."

The alleged offence was said to be contrary to and punishable under Section 14(b) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

Other counts accuse Sule of allegedly procuring Ekugo to facilitate the export, while Afolabi was accused of procuring a staff member of BOT Express Logistics on Lagos Island to process the consignments.

Afolabi was also accused of unlawfully possessing the cocaine ahead of its intended export.

The charge sheet further alleges that N13.2 million was transferred from an account belonging to Mallamawa Ventures with Zenith Bank to BOT Express Logistics as payment for the shipment.

Sixteen of the counts relate to alleged money laundering. The NDLEA accused Afolabi of moving billions of naira through corporate and personal accounts linked to Mallamawa Ventures, Fateey Man Multi-Purpose Nig. Ltd, Patonifa Ltd, Ade-Lak Resources, Holmestas Global Services Limited and La Capital Enterprises.

The agency further alleged that the funds were used, among other things, to acquire motor vehicles and landed properties in an attempt to conceal the alleged proceeds of illicit activities.

Afolabi was also accused of failing to declare his assets to the agency as required by law.

Following the defendants' pleas, NDLEA prosecutor, Abu Ibrahim, opposed their bail applications and urged the court to remand them in custody, citing the gravity of the alleged offences.

Justice Kakaki subsequently ordered that the defendants be remanded in an NDLEA facility and adjourned the case until October 4, 2026, for ruling on their bail applications.

According to the NDLEA, Afolabi was arrested by its operatives on August 13 after he allegedly attempted to leave Nigeria on a business-class flight to Paris from the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.



Suspect.

The arrest followed the interception of the 184.5kg cocaine shipment, which the agency estimated to be worth about N39 billion.

The NDLEA said a subsequent search of Afolabi and his Banana Island apartment led to the recovery of exotic vehicles, foreign currency and jewellery allegedly linked to proceeds of the illicit trade.

The case was adjourned until October 4, 2026, for ruling on the bail applications.

OUR HEART

Deaths of Miners in Niger State: An incident that must not fizzle out

By now, Nigerians may be forgiven for appearing inured to reports of mass deaths and gruesome killings of their compatriots. Too often, lives are lost to insurgents, bandits, kidnappers and the recurring violence arising from intercommunal conflicts. Each new tragedy generates anger, grief and condemnation, only for public attention to eventually move on to the next crisis.

Yet, the recent deaths of 37 alleged illegal miners in Wushishi and Lukototin, Niger State, have provoked an unusual wave of anger and revulsion across the country. The outpouring of emotion and condemnation is reminiscent of a similar tragedy in Lagos in 1980 when 50 suspects awaiting trial died inside a Black Maria as a result of overcrowding and suffocation.

The two unfortunate occurrences, separated by more than five decades, raise troubling questions about official negligence, lack of empathy and, most importantly, the apparent disregard for human life.

Nigerian prisons are notorious for their overcrowding and deplorable detention conditions. Correctional centres across the country have for years struggled with populations far beyond the capacity for which they were originally designed. Thousands of inmates are held in facilities where space, sanitation, medical care and other necessities are grossly inadequate.

This is not merely a question of statistics. Behind every number is a human being.

When a correctional facility designed to accommodate a limited number of people is forced to hold several times that number, the consequences are predictable. Cells become congested, sanitation deteriorates, diseases spread more easily, and medical facilities become overwhelmed. Correctional officers themselves are placed under enormous pressure, making effective supervision and rehabilitation increasingly difficult.

The Nigerian situation is, in some respects, similar to the experience of several Latin American countries, where prison overcrowding has remained a serious institutional problem. In some of those countries, correctional facilities have become notorious for violence, criminal networks and the influence of organised crime. Instead of serving primarily as institutions for rehabilitation, prisons can become environments where criminal associations are strengthened and hardened criminal behaviour is reinforced.

Nigeria must not allow its correctional system to move further in that direction.

There have been numerous accounts over the years of people who claim that they acquired new criminal contacts or became more hardened during stints of incarceration. Whether every such account is accurate is a matter for individual verification, but the broader concern is undeniable: a correctional system that does not adequately separate, supervise, rehabilitate and support inmates can inadvertently contribute to the very criminality it is supposed to reduce.

But the Niger State tragedy raises a question that goes beyond the condition of correctional facilities: what value does the Nigerian state place on the life of an ordinary citizen?

This question becomes particularly important because the victims were reportedly illegal miners. Illegal mining is a serious national problem. It has implications for environmental degradation, public safety, loss of government revenue and the exploitation of the country's natural resources. The government has a legitimate responsibility to enforce mining laws and to prevent activities that threaten communities and the environment.

But the allegation that someone has committed a crime cannot mean that the person's life becomes expendable: a suspect is still a human being deemed to be innocent until proven otherwise.

A person accused of breaking the law is entitled to due process. The state has the authority to investigate, prosecute, and, where guilt is established by a competent court, punish offenders according to the law. What it does not have is an unrestricted licence to treat suspects as though they have forfeited their humanity.

This distinction is fundamental to any society that claims to be governed by the rule of law.

The circumstances surrounding the Niger State deaths therefore deserve a thorough, transparent and independent investigation. Nigerians need to know exactly what happened. How did the 37 people die? What were the circumstances leading to the incident? Were established procedures followed? Were there warnings or signs that something was going wrong? In other words, could the deaths have been prevented?

These are not questions that should be answered merely through official statements.

There is often a familiar pattern whenever a major tragedy occurs in Nigeria. There is an initial wave of shock. Government officials express sadness. Condolences are offered to the families. Investigations may be announced. Nigerians debate the matter passionately on social media and in the press. Then, after a few days or weeks, attention moves elsewhere. The victims become statistics.

That is precisely what must not happen in this case.

The families of the dead deserve answers. They deserve to know what happened to their loved ones and whether anyone bears responsibility for their deaths. If negligence, abuse of authority or violation of established procedures is established, those responsible must face the consequences through due process.

There is also another dimension to the problem that deserves attention: the economic circumstances surrounding illegal mining. For many Nigerians living in communities where legitimate economic opportunities are scarce, mining can become an important source of income. While this does not justify illegal mining, it demands that if the government wants to eliminate illegal mining, it must also address the conditions that make the activity attractive in the first place.

This requires better regulation of the mining sector, stronger monitoring of mining operations, greater involvement of host communities and legitimate economic alternatives for people who depend on mining for survival.

Law enforcement has a role to play, but enforcement without broader economic and institutional reform can simply push the problem from one location to another.

There is also a need for greater transparency in the management of Nigeria's mineral resources. The country is blessed with enormous mineral wealth, yet communities where these resources are found wallow in poverty and inadequate development. Where valuable resources exist beneath the ground while the people living above them remain desperately poor, tensions and illegal exploitation should not come as a surprise.

The Niger State deaths should therefore serve as a warning on several fronts. They should compel the authorities to examine the immediate circumstances surrounding the deaths.

They should also prompt a broader review of how suspects and detainees are treated, how mining laws are enforced and whether government agencies have adequate safeguards to prevent avoidable deaths during enforcement operations.

Most importantly, the tragedy should remind Nigerians that the value of a human life does not depend on social status or an accusation. The 37 people who died in Niger State were not merely numbers in a government report or names in a newspaper headline. They were someone's fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, relatives and friends. Their deaths have left families who must now live with questions that may remain unanswered unless the authorities conduct a credible investigation. Nigeria has mourned too many preventable deaths.

We have become accustomed to expressing outrage and then forgetting. We have become accustomed to tragedies being reduced to statistics and official explanations being accepted without sustained scrutiny. That culture must change.

The anger generated by the Niger State tragedy should not be allowed to disappear with the news cycle. It should be transformed into a demand for answers, accountability and institutional reform. The country owes this much to the dead and to their families.

The deaths in Wushishi and Kutoko must not fizzle out.

Very sadly, thirty-seven lives have been lost in a situation that prevents death. The least the country must do in its aftermath is ensure that their deaths are not forgotten, their families are not left without answers, and the lessons of the tragedy are not ignored.

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NEPTUNE PRIME WEEKEND

NORTH-EAST

BY GIFT LUKSON
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Army hands over seized illicit drugs, suspects to NDLEA in Yobe

The 27 Task Force Brigade of the Nigerian Army has arrested nine suspected drug dealers and recovered various illicit substances during an operation in Buni Yadi, Yobe State.

The suspects were arrested by troops of the 27 Task Force Brigade Garrison in September, as part of efforts to prevent terrorists from gaining access to illicit drugs.

The Army subsequently handed over the suspects and recovered exhibits to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Yobe on Tuesday.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Major A. Balogun, who represented the Commander of the 27 Task Force Brigade, Brigadier General M. S. Mukhtar, said the operation was conducted in line with the Chief of Army Staff's mandate to disrupt terrorist activities and deny them access to illicit substances.

He identified the suspects as Hassan Ibrahim, Ahmed Mohammed Shuwa, Adam Jibril Jakadi, Musa Aga, Mohammed Mohammed, Isa Adamu, Usman Salisu, Mohammed Abiso, and Buba Kambari.

The recovered exhibits included cannabis sativa, soak and die, master patch, tramadol, codeine and other illicit substances.



Security officials.

Balogun handed over the suspects and exhibits to Garba Yakubu, Deputy Commander of Operations, NDLEA, Yobe State Command, on behalf of the 27 Task Force Brigade.

Receiving the suspects and exhibits, Yakubu said the handover reflected the ongoing collaboration between the NDLEA and the Nigerian Army.

He said the NDLEA would examine and classify the exhibits and prosecute anyone found in possession of substances prohibited under Nigerian law.

Yakubu said the recovered substances included cannabis, tramadol and other controlled substances.

He urged youths to shun drug abuse and pursue productive activities, particularly farming, given Yobe State's vast agricultural potential.

He said drugs only destroy their lives, urging young people to take advantage of opportunities in agriculture and other productive ventures rather than squander their youth on drug abuse.

Police arrest man for raping 50-year-old woman with mental disability



Suspect.

The Bauchi State Police Command has arrested a 26-year-old man, Lukman Alhaji Nasiru, over the alleged rape of a 50-year-old woman in Gamawa Local Government Area of the state.

The incident reportedly occurred on September 22, 2026, at about 12:15 p.m., according to a statement issued by the Bauchi State Police Command on Saturday.

The suspect, who resides in Garin Malam Village, Gamawa, was arrested after the victim's younger brother reported the alleged incident to the police.

According to the police, Nasiru allegedly lured the woman, who has a mental illness, to a secluded location outside Garin Malam Village, where he allegedly had unlawful sexual intercourse with her.

The victim's 40-year-old brother, who resides in Gauya Village, Jakusko Local Government Area of Yobe State, reportedly lodged the complaint at the Gamawa Divisional Police Headquarters on September 25.

Following the report, police operatives arrested the suspect and took both him and the victim to the General Hospital, Gamawa, for medical examination.

The police said an investigation into the incident was ongoing.

The Command did not disclose further details about the woman's medical condition or the nature of her mental illness.

Taraba to showcase investment opportunities at UN Investment Forum in Qatar

The International Association of World Peace Advocates (IAWPA) plans to mobilise international investment and development opportunities for Taraba State through the United Nations Investment Forum, scheduled to be held in Qatar in October 2026.

The organisation disclosed this at the commemoration of the 2026 World Peace Day in Jalingo, where it said Taraba would participate in the forum with the largest delegation.

The IAWPA World Peace President, Amb Per Stafsen, said the initiative was designed to expose the state to foreign investors, donors and international development partners, while creating opportunities for the state government, youths and civil society organisations to engage global institutions.

He explained that the organisation has designated Taraba as its North-East regional headquarters, and attributed the decision to the state's improved security and peaceful environment.

Stafsen said that months of assessments conducted across northern states, in collaboration with civil society organisations, had identified Taraba as the most peaceful state in the North-East.

"As an international organisation, we will continue to partner with the government of Taraba State and provide international opportunities that will enable the state government, youths and CSOs to participate in international conferences anywhere in the world," he said.

At the event, Governor Agbu Kefas was presented with the "Best SDG Governor in Nigeria" award for his contribution to Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17, while Gen. Theophilus Danjuma was honoured as the "Northern Lord Mayor of Peace."

The North-East Development Commission (NEDC) and the Taraba State Bureau of Peace and Conflict Management also received institutional awards, while selected residents were recognised as Eminent Peace Ambassadors.

The IAWPA president, whose speech was delivered by the organisation's spokesperson, Amb Emmanuel Nweke, commended Taraba's civil society organisations for their participation in peacebuilding and urged the government to deepen their involvement in governance.

He also expressed the association's readiness to sustain international peace programmes in the state.

Speaking on "Peace, Panacea for Growth and Development in Taraba State and Beyond," Amb. Olusegun Ogunyanwo of the Mediation Training Institute said that peace remained a prerequisite for meaningful development.

He urged the state to invest more in its youth population and ensure greater participation of women in peacebuilding, warning that violent conflicts could create divisions that persist across generations.

Ogunyanwo advocated dialogue, mediation and restorative justice, which he said should encompass restoration, restitution, reconciliation and reintegration.



Kefas.

NORTH-EAST

Governor Fintiri reaffirms commitment to strengthening healthcare services



Fintiri.

Adamawa State Governor, Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening healthcare services and building a healthier and more productive society.

Fintiri stated this during the official commissioning of the Optimum Laboratories Limited facility in Yola.

The governor, who was represented by his deputy, Prof. Kaletapwa George Farauta, said Adamawa State University (ADSU), Mubi, had entered into a partnership with Optimum Laboratories Limited as part of the government's efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery, medical training and research in the state.

Farauta explained that the partnership was particularly important following the establishment of the College of Medical Sciences at ADSU, noting that the collaboration would provide opportunities for training, research and improved healthcare services.

She commended the management of Optimum Laboratories Limited for its initiative and foresight, describing the facility as a significant contribution to the development of the healthcare sector in Adamawa State.

The deputy governor also urged residents to patronise healthcare facilities within the state, saying increased confidence in local medical services would help reduce the need to seek treatment outside Adamawa.

The Chairman of the occasion, represented by Dr Joshua Barde, congratulated the management of Optimum Laboratories Limited on the establishment of the facility and called for the implementation of a robust quality management system to guarantee accurate, reliable and consistent diagnostic results.

He said the initiative demonstrated a commitment to quality diagnosis and improved healthcare delivery.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer of Optimum Laboratories Limited, Muhammad Sani Umar, said the laboratory was established to provide reliable, timely and high-quality diagnostic services that would contribute meaningfully to healthcare delivery.

According to him, the facility was designed to provide a structured, efficient and patient-focused environment for diagnostic services, bringing together key laboratory functions while ensuring effective workforce management, quality control, equipment management, staff safety and efficient service delivery.

Umar said the company was also prepared to support future expansion, adopt emerging technologies and strengthen collaboration with healthcare and research institutions.

He reiterated the organisation's commitment to becoming a trusted laboratory partner through the provision of innovative, timely and quality medical laboratory services anchored on excellence, integrity, innovation and continuous improvement.

The event also featured goodwill messages from the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Barrister Leader Leneke, and the Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Hon. Chubado Muhammad, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Pharmacy Zirra Bubanani, among other speakers.

The speakers commended the establishment of the facility, noting that it would expand access to quality diagnostic services for residents of Adamawa State while contributing to improved healthcare delivery across the Northeast and Nigeria.

Troops arrest four terrorists in ambush operation in Yobe State

Troops of the Joint Task Force (North East), Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK), have arrested four suspected Boko Haram terrorists following a night ambush in Gujba local government area of Yobe State.

The arrest was part of a series of operations conducted between September 15 and September 22, 2026, during which 11 terrorists reportedly surrendered to the troops, while nine suspected drug dealers were also arrested.

The military disclosed this in a statement issued on Tuesday by the acting military information officer, Headquarters Joint Task Force (North East), Operation Hadin Kai, Captain Mohammed Goni.

According to the statement, troops of the 27 Task Force Brigade, in collaboration with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), laid an ambush east of Azare Village in Gujba LGA at about 11pm on September 21.

The troops reportedly made contact with suspected terrorists and engaged them in a firefight, forcing some of the insurgents to flee. Four suspected terrorists were subsequently arrested during the exploitation of the area.

The military said blood traces discovered around the area suggested that some of the fleeing terrorists may have sustained casualties during the encounter.

Items recovered from the scene included four bicycles, a large quantity of groceries, one sheep and expended 7.62mm special ammunition cases.

The suspects and recovered items have been taken into military custody for further investigation, while troops continue to exploit the area.

In a related operation, troops of the brigade arrested nine suspected drug dealers during a routine patrol in Buni Yadi, also in Gujba LGA, on September 19.

The suspects were allegedly found in possession of a large quantity of suspected illicit drugs and cannabis, two mobile phones and N85,900 cash.

The military said the operation was aimed at disrupting criminal activities capable of creating an enabling environment for terrorism and other violent crimes.

The suspects and exhibits have since been handed over to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for further investigation and possible prosecution.

The statement added that the cumulative operational successes recorded during the period also included the surrender of 11 terrorists and the recovery of a vehicle, ammunition and other logistics items.

The military said the developments reflected the impact of sustained pressure on terrorist elements and their support networks across the North-East.

Terrorists invade Borno community, kill vigilante commander, four civilians

Suspected Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists have launched a deadly attack on the Wumbi community in Kala-Balge Local Government Area of Borno State, killing a local vigilante commander and four civilians while leaving several others injured.

Wumbi, an agrarian community sharing borders with the Republic of Cameroon, had previously been deserted due to incessant insurgent attacks.

However, residents had recently begun returning to cultivate their fields under the protection of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and local vigilantes.

According to sources, on Wednesday night, the terrorists orchestrated a premeditated attack, arriving in large numbers specifically to target the vigilante commander, who had posed a significant obstacle to their operations in the area.

During the ambush, most of the farmers managed to flee. However, the commander stayed behind to hold off the attackers.

According to a fellow vigilante who spoke on condition of anonymity, the outnumbered commander was eventually overpowered after the assailants realised gunfire could not penetrate his protective charms, resorting instead to breaking his neck.

However, the tragedy deepened when community members and security personnel mobilised to recover the commander's body.

"As they approached the remains, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) that had been buried beneath the commander's corpse were detonated, killing four more people and injuring several members of the Vigilantes, CJTF, and innocent civilians," he said.

The Borno State Police Command confirmed the incident through its spokesperson, ASP Kenneth Daso, who stated that the vigilante commander and four others lost their lives during the encounter with the insurgents. He noted that while initial information was still sketchy, further details would be provided in due course.

Hon. Mustapha Babani, the APC candidate for the Bama/Ngala/Kala-Balge Federal Constituency, visited the area to commiserate with the affected families.



Terrorists.

CUSTOMS

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

Customs partners with manufacturers to boost trade facilitation and regulatory compliance

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and manufacturers are deepening collaboration on trade facilitation, regulatory compliance and export development as part of efforts to improve the ease of doing business and strengthen Nigeria's manufacturing competitiveness.

Comptroller-General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, stated this during a visit to BAT Nigeria's manufacturing facility in Ibadan, where he inspected the company's operations and held discussions with its management on customs compliance, excise administration, exports and manufacturing competitiveness.

Adeniyi said stronger collaboration between Customs and manufacturers would help balance revenue mobilisation with trade facilitation, creating a more conducive environment for compliant businesses to expand production, investment and exports.

"The more you pay attention to revenue and trade facilitation together, the more you create an environment where business can be done with greater ease, and the higher the potential for turnover and economic activity," he said.

"I know the level of compliance that you have demonstrated, not just in the importation of your raw materials, but also in your factory and excise operations. What I have seen today reflects a high level of transparency, governance and accountability," he stated.

He also expressed support for BAT Nigeria's planned participation in the



Stakeholders.

Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme, describing the company as a strong candidate based on its compliance record.

The AEO programme provides trusted traders with proven compliance records with benefits such as faster clearance and less intrusive customs controls.

Adeniyi further pledged Customs' support for the expansion of Nigerian-made products into international markets, assuring manufacturers that the service would continue to facilitate legitimate exports and collaborate with international counterparts where necessary.

Adeniyi said the growth of the Company's operation demonstrated the impact sustained investment could have on Nigeria's industrial development.

He recalled that the government's economic agenda at the time focused largely on backward integration and import substitution.

"When you talk about a Nigerian operation of a multinational company, and you see the facility that existed more than 20 years ago and return to find that the story has continued to evolve positively, as a Nigerian, you cannot but be delighted," he said.

Speaking on the importance of government-industry engagement, managing director of BAT Nigeria, Yarub Al-Bahrani, said sustained collaboration remained critical to strengthening domestic manufacturing and economic activity.

"A modern manufacturing facility is not an island. Its impact extends across the wider economy through the people it employs, the suppliers it supports and the logistics networks within its value chain," Al-Bahrani said.

He added that BAT Nigeria's engagement with Customs went beyond regulatory compliance to include cooperation on sustainable manufacturing, trade and broader economic development.

Customs CG Adeniyi honoured with special IPRA award in Greece

The Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, has received a Special Award of Excellence at the 2026 International Public Relations Association (IPRA) Golden World Awards in Athens, Greece, in recognition of his contributions to transparent communication, stakeholder engagement and ethical public relations practice.

The award was presented at an international ceremony attended by communication professionals and representatives of public institutions from more than 70 countries, with Nigeria recording multiple honours, including the Grand Prix, the highest distinction of the night.

Adeniyi was recognised for his approach to strategic communication and public engagement, placing the Nigeria Customs Service alongside institutions and organisations from countries including Saudi Arabia, Poland and Germany that were honoured for their communication initiatives.

Other Nigerian award recipients included Image Merchants Promotion Limited (IMPR), publishers of PRNigeria and Economic Confidential, the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Centre for Crisis Communication (CCC) and LSF PR.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with ROYAL NEWS shortly after receiving the award, Adeniyi described the recognition as international acknowledgement of the ongoing reforms within the Nigeria Customs Service.

He said the honour would encourage the Service to deepen its adoption of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, in public communication and stakeholder engagement.

"We have started using AI tools in our public communication, and we view this recognition as an invitation to do more. By 2027, we hope the Nigeria Customs Service and more Nigerian agencies will feature prominently among global award recipients," he said.

The Customs chief also celebrated Nigeria's emergence as the winner of the IPRA Grand Prix, describing the achievement as an indication of the country's growing participation in international strategic communication.

He stressed that government reforms could only achieve their intended impact when citizens and stakeholders understood their objectives, implementation challenges and expected benefits.

According to Adeniyi, effective communication remains essential to building public confidence, securing stakeholder cooperation and ensuring the successful implementation of institutional reforms.

He explained that the NCS reform agenda aligns with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's economic policies, particularly efforts to improve Nigeria's trade competitiveness, facilitate exports and strengthen the country's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He identified port decongestion, automation of trade procedures, improved transparency and the elimination of administrative bottlenecks as key priorities of the Service.

The Comptroller-General cited the introduction of Advance Ruling as one of the measures designed to make international trade more predictable for importers.

Under the arrangement, traders can obtain advance decisions on customs classification, valuation and applicable duties, enabling them to make informed business decisions before importing goods.

He added that the Service was expanding automation to minimise opportunities for sharp practices, improve compliance, facilitate legitimate trade and strengthen revenue collection.

Adeniyi urged public relations practitioners within the NCS to intensify their strategic communication efforts and expand the responsible use of artificial intelligence in their campaigns.

He said the increasing complexity of international trade and public-sector administration required communication professionals to embrace innovation while maintaining transparency, professionalism and ethical standards.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the IPRA Grand Prix to IMPR for its campaign, AI for Crisis Communication: From Study to Strategy, making the company the first Nigerian and West African public relations firm to receive the distinction.

The award-winning initiative originated from a research project conducted by IMPR's Chief Executive Officer, Yushau A. Shuaib, in collaboration with NITDA and the Centre for Crisis Communication.

The project examined the growing threats of AI-driven misinformation, deepfakes and digital information disorder in Nigeria and translated its findings into a strategic communication initiative.

It informed the inaugural National Symposium on Digital Innovations in Crisis Communication and the proposed Crisis Communication Hub, designed to strengthen social listening, misinformation detection, early warning and coordinated responses to communication crises.

IMPR also received two Golden World Awards in the AI in Crisis Management and Publication categories in collaboration with NITDA, which were received by Professor Yau Sule of IMPR and Hajiya Hadiza Umar of NITDA.

PRIME PHOTOS

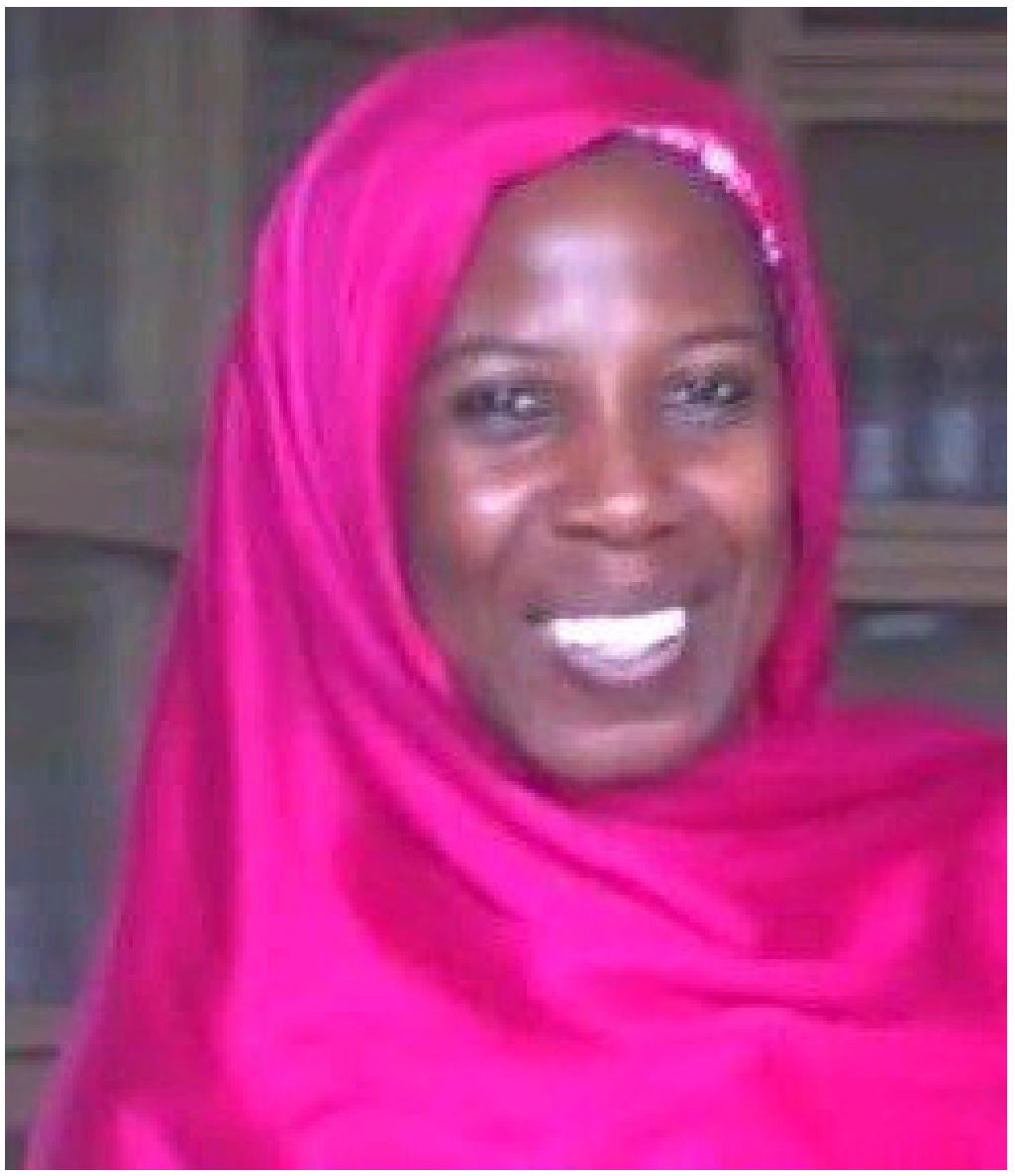
BY MERCY ADAJE
MercyAdaje@neptuneprime.com.ng



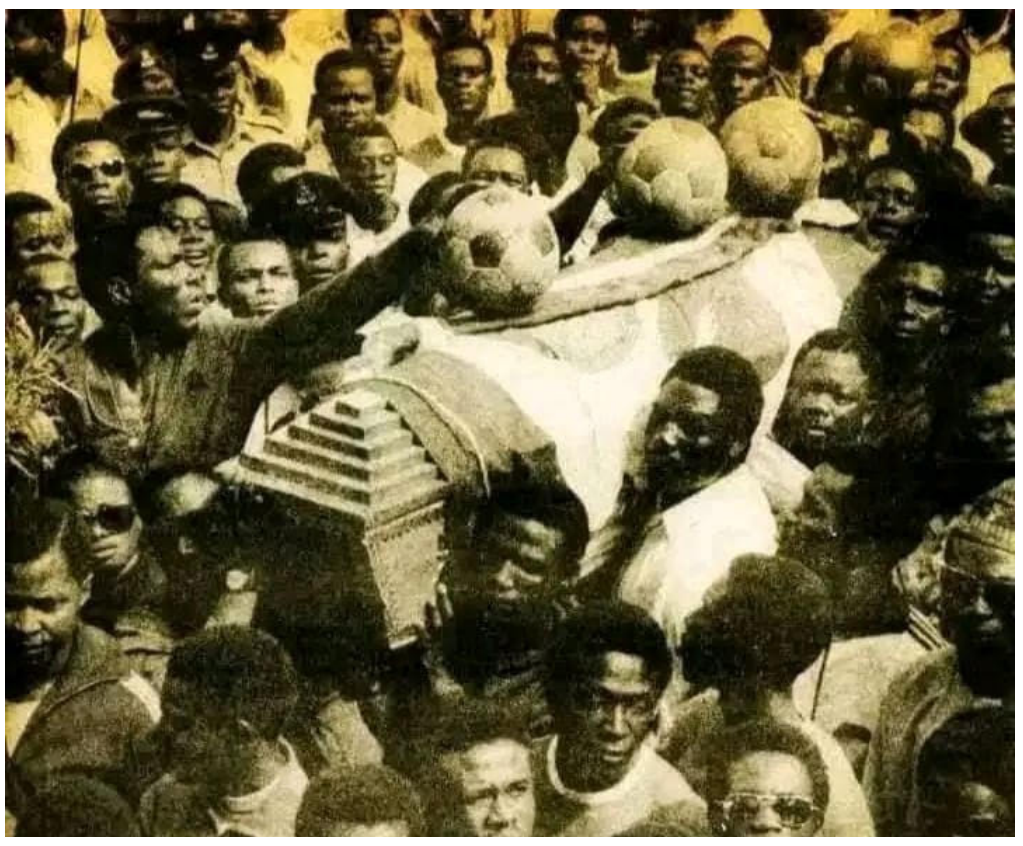
Kasuwan Shanu is one of the longstanding livestock markets in Maiduguri, Borno State, with a history spanning several decades. The market serves as a major trading point where livestock dealers and buyers regularly converge. Cattle, camels, sheep and goats are sold at the market and transported to different parts of Nigeria, making Kasuwan Shanu an important link in the region's livestock trade.



The Palace of the Emir of Bauchi, located in Bauchi State, is a significant traditional institution and an important symbol of the emirate's history, culture and heritage. It serves as the official residence of the Emir of Bauchi and a centre for traditional leadership, where important cultural and community matters are addressed. The palace also reflects the rich traditions and historical legacy of the Bauchi Emirate, which has played an important role in the social and cultural life of the people of the state.



Prof. Hadiza Nuhu, an Associate Professor of Pharmacy at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), has developed Herb 25, a NAFDAC-registered herbal anti-malaria drug after 12 years of research. The drug is described as an enhanced ethnomedical preparation made from herbs traditionally used in Nigeria to treat malaria. According to university officials, Herb 25 is the first anti-malaria drug of its kind to be developed and produced by a Nigerian university.



A photograph of the casket used to bid farewell to legendary Nigerian international football icon Teslim Balogun, where thousands of footballers and supporters converged at his funeral in Lagos in 1972.

PRIME1OMENT

BY MERCY ADAJE
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Controversy surrounds Dolly Parton's estate as fresh dispute with nephew emerges

Dolly Parton's death has been followed by an escalating legal dispute involving her nephew, Bryan Seaver, who was removed from his longtime role as head of security before her estate sought a restraining order against him.

Parton died aged 80 on August 25, and Seaver, the son of her sister Cassie Parton, was the family member who publicly announced her death.

He had worked as Parton's head of security for more than two decades, following his father, Larry Seaver, in the role.

But less than a month after the singer's death, Seaver and his security companies were terminated from their roles at Parton's properties, according to a termination notice obtained by TMZ and reported by PEOPLE.

The dismissal was followed by a legal action in which She's Alive, LLC, an entity connected to Parton's estate and run by her longtime manager, Danny Nozell, sought a temporary restraining order against Seaver in Davidson County Chancery Court in Nashville.

Seaver's security company was removed from Parton's properties in September, with replacement security taking over locations including her Nashville residence, museum, downtown home and warehouse.

Dolly Parton's estate claims nephew threatened to 'destroy' her brand.

The termination notice said Parton's properties and professional business interests were held by the DP Dean Trust and stated that Seaver's personal interest in the trust remained intact.

Following his dismissal, Seaver and his security team told TMZ they were "dismayed by the unexpected and, so far, unexplained actions" taken after Parton's death.

They also said they "remain unshakably resolved to fulfil her final directive to protect her family" and would not be intimidated by people whose actions they believed were being taken in bad faith and to profit from Parton's life.

The dispute escalated when Nozell, through She's Alive, sought a temporary restraining order against Seaver.



Late Parton.

"N1m salary can't cover dialysis," TG Omori reflects on financial burden of kidney treatment

Nigerian music video director, ThankGod Omori, popularly known as TG Omori, has opened up about the financial burden of treating kidney failure, saying even a monthly salary of N1m may not be enough to sustain dialysis treatment.

Omori spoke during an interview on the Afropolitan podcast published on YouTube on Wednesday, where he recounted his experience with kidney failure and the challenges he faced while awaiting a transplant.

The music video director said a dialysis session costs between N50,000 and N70,000 at some hospitals, while he paid between N150,000 and N200,000 at a private facility.

According to him, patients may require up to three dialysis sessions a week, bringing the weekly cost to between N500,000 and N600,000.

"I spent a lot on surgery. Dialysis costs □70k a day, but at an exclusive place, I sometimes had 3 sessions a week, costing □500k. A minimum-wage person wouldn't cope. I waited a year for a transplant, which cost □31m.

"So, a minimum-wage person is dead already on one session," Omori said.

He estimated that a patient undergoing dialysis for about a year while waiting for a transplant could spend as much as N31m, excluding the cost of additional tests, medication and possible complications.



Omori.

Omori also recounted his unsuccessful attempt to receive a kidney from his brother, saying it took nine months to find a donor before doctors discovered that the kidney was not compatible with his body.

"My brother gave me his kidney after it took us 9 months to find a donor. The doctor said my body wasn't accepting it, that it didn't match.

"The doctor tried again, but it wasn't responding. I was pissed, and they said they would have to take me back to see how they could make my body accept it. My brother still has to live with only one kidney," he said.

Reflecting on the financial demands of the treatment, Omori said even earning N1m monthly would not be sufficient to cover the cost.

"So, automatically, if your salary is even one million naira a month, it can't serve you," he said.

He said the experience also changed his perspective on the role of money and financial support during serious illness.

Davido shares moments with Dangote at New York's Times Square

Nigerian singer, David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, has shared photos from his recent meeting with businessman Aliko Dangote in New York, where the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals' Initial Public Offering featured on a Nasdaq digital billboard in Times Square.

Davido and Dangote were pictured together during the event, days after the singer joined the Dangote Group President at Times Square as the refinery's IPO campaign gained international visibility.

In a post on Instagram on Thursday, Davido said he had questions for Dangote, who he described as having the answers, while reflecting on their meeting.

Davido also referenced his conversation with Dangote about the refinery's public offer, which opened on September 14 and is scheduled to close on October 13, 2026.

The offer comprises 4.1 billion ordinary shares priced at N525 per share, with a minimum subscription of 10 shares.

The singer's latest post comes two days after he shared a video showing himself and Dangote beneath the Nasdaq billboard displaying the message, "Made in Nigeria. Built for the World."



Davido and Dangote.

NEPTUNE PRIME BUSINESS

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

MARKET SURVEY



Cost of grains and other food commodities in Bauchi

Residents of Danbam Local Government Area in Bauchi State have expressed relief as the prices of key food commodities such as maize, millet, beans, and sorghum recorded significant reductions this week. The fall in grain prices comes at a time when many households have been struggling with the high cost of living.

According to traders at the Danbam grain market, the price of old maize now sells between □ 37,000 and □ 39,000 per bag, while new maize has dropped further, trading between □ 30,000 and □ 31,000.

Millet has also seen a price fall, with old millet ranging from □ 31,000 to □ 33,000 and new millet selling for as low as □ 25,000 to □ 26,000.

In the beans market, a bag of white beans (large size) is being sold between □ 65,000 and □ 73,000, while red beans (large size) range from □ 73,000 to □ 86,000 depending on quality. Other staple crops, such as sorghum, are now selling between □ 30,000 and □ 31,000, while processed rice is priced between □ 35,000 and □ 37,000.

However, some commodities remain costly. A bag of groundnuts is priced between □ 120,000 and □ 125,000, while melon sells between □ 44,000 and □ 52,000 depending on the variety. Local dried hibiscus flower, popularly known as zobo, remains relatively affordable at □ 20,000 to □ 21,000 per bag. Meanwhile, premium-quality rice is priced at about □ 126,000 per bag, reflecting persisting high demand and processing costs.

For many buyers, the recent price cuts are a welcome development. "Last year, it was difficult for an average family to buy even half a bag of maize, but now we can see some relief," said Musa Abdullahi, a farmer and father of five. "The drop in millet and maize, especially, is helping households who rely on these staples daily."

Women traders in local food stalls also confirmed that the reduced prices have encouraged more purchases, boosting sales.

Grain traders attributed the price drop to the ongoing harvest season, which has increased the supply of newly harvested crops. "Farmers have started bringing in large quantities of maize and millet from the farms, so naturally prices are coming down," explained trader Aisha Ibrahim. "It is good for business because more people can now afford to buy, even though our profit margins are smaller."

□ Another trader, however, expressed concerns about future fluctuations. "Groundnut and beans are still on the high side," said Alhaji Sule. "If transportation costs and insecurity in farming areas continue, prices may rise again later."

The new pricing at the Danbam Market remains a source of relief for both households and small-scale retailers.





MILESTONE

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA



Surgeons.

Nigerian surgeons successfully perform first remote tele-surgery procedure

The Redeemer's Health Village recorded a landmark achievement as the facility carried out its first tele-surgery session, marking a significant day in the history of medical innovation in Nigeria.

Tele-surgery, which allows a surgical procedure to be performed from a distance by a remote surgeon, was demonstrated live as the surgical team prepared to commence the process, with the crew crossing into the sterile zone of the theatre to gear up for the medical session.

Before the incision was made, the human element took centre stage as the surgeon held a brief reassuring session with a 28-year-old woman whose prime years had been paused by a continuing health challenge. The robotics offered her a fresh shot at life after her long ordeal.

Speaking ahead of the procedure, the patient expressed confidence in the process and in God to see her through the surgery successfully.

There was a palpable sense of optimism in the air as the surgical team prepared for the operation, with one member of the team expressing confidence that everyone would be pleased with the outcome by the end of the day.

Once the anaesthesia took effect and vital signs were confirmed stable, the theatre was set, and the robotics began work on the patient, who was expected to be discharged the same day due to the minimal trauma associated with the procedure.

It was explained that after the urethra and pelvis were dissected, the blockage in the pelvis would be repaired and freed so that urine could begin flowing normally, a condition the patient had suffered from for 28 years.

Following the successful completion of the first surgery, the surgical team briefly reviewed the experience. Speaking after the operation, a member of the surgical team said: "We are planning that if we finish early enough today, this young lady will go home today. The patients we operated on a couple of days ago went home yesterday. So, for me, it is immensely gratifying that this kind of technology is not only available; it's available in Nigeria, it's available at the Redeemers Health Hospital, and that, glory be to God, I'm alive and still practising to witness that kind of evolution."

The day's innovation, however, had only just begun, as the team proceeded to the groundbreaking telesurgery session, involving a surgeon in Lagos operating on a patient physically located in Abuja.

Describing the process, the surgeon explained that the equipment inside the patient in Abuja would be controlled remotely from Lagos, allowing the surgery to be performed as though the patient were present in the same room, even though no patient was physically in Lagos during the procedure.

Through secure, near-zero latency broadband technology, every movement of the doctor's fingers in Lagos was replicated instantly by robotic arms in Abuja, a scenario once considered the realm of science fiction now playing out in real time.

Once the sutures were secured and the connection closed, the multi-city surgical team, led by Robomed, expressed delight at the success of the procedure, describing it as proof that distance is no longer a barrier to expert surgical care.

It was reported that the patient in Abuja did exceptionally well, with minimal blood loss recorded, and was expected to be discharged from the hospital the following day, all things being equal.

Reflecting on the outcome, a member of the surgical team expressed excitement, noting that hard work backed by divine support had produced encouraging results.

The team further disclosed that seeing patients go home within 24 hours over the preceding three days had left them satisfied with the solution and the wider project, stressing that the goal was not merely to carry out procedures and leave, but to build a sustainable healthcare system. It was also noted that the initiative was designed to give Nigerians in the diaspora the confidence to return home, knowing they could access the same quality of care in Nigeria that they would find abroad.

With both the in-house robotic and remote tele-surgery procedures concluded without complications, Redeemer's Health Village has firmly positioned itself as a pioneering hub for medical innovation in Nigeria, fulfilling the bold mission of its founders one precise step at a time.

HERITAGE

BY TAWHEED YAKUB

The Wodaabe: Preserving a heritage of pastoralism, beauty and cultural resilience



The Wodaabe: A People of the Sahel

The Wodaabe (Woaae) are a distinctive Fule/Fulani pastoralist group found mainly in Niger, northern Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and parts of the Central African Republic. Also known in some regions as Bororo or Bororo'en, they are part of the wider Ful□e people, with a rich heritage shaped by cattle herding, migration, oral traditions and ancestral customs.

Their identity reflects a deep connection to pastoral life, communal values and cultural preservation.

A Homeland Shaped by the Sahel and Pastoral Mobility

The Wodaabe inhabit the Sahel, where seasonal rainfall, pasture and water availability influence their movements. Their mobility reflects generations of knowledge about livestock, grazing lands and environmental conditions.

Traditional Authority and Community Institution

Elders and traditional leaders play important roles in resolving disputes, preserving customs and guiding younger generations. Traditional authority remains a connection between contemporary Wodaabe communities and their ancestral heritage.

Fulfulde: The Language of Identity

The Wodaabe speak varieties of Fulfulde, which preserve their oral traditions, poetry, songs, genealogies and cultural knowledge. The continued use of their language is essential to transmitting ancestral identity.

Wo□aa□e: A Name of the People

Wo□aa□e is an important cultural name associated with the group. Although commonly referred to as Bororo in some regions, the Wodaabe maintain distinctive traditions within the wider Ful□e population.

Migration and the Wodaabe Historical Tradition

Their history is closely linked to pastoral migration across the Sahel. Movement in search of water and pasture, alongside trade and relationships with neighbouring communities, has shaped their settlement patterns and cultural connections.

Family, Kinship and Communal Responsibility

Family and extended kinship structures are central to Wodaabe society. Elders transmit ancestral knowledge, while marriages, gatherings and communal activities strengthen relationships and cultural identity.

Cattle, Pastoralism and Traditional Economic Life

Cattle are central to Wodaabe identity, providing milk, wealth and social status. Pastoral knowledge, livestock care and seasonal mobility remain important aspects of their traditional economic and cultural life.



The Heritage of Traditional Craftsmanship and Adornment

Traditional clothing, jewellery and ceremonial adornment reflect Wodaabe creativity and cultural ideas about beauty, dignity and social expression.

The Cultural Heritage of the Gerewol

The Gerewol is the Wodaabe's most famous cultural ceremony, featuring elaborate male adornment, singing, dancing and courtship. Men decorate their faces and display their teeth and eyes through distinctive performances celebrating beauty and elegance.

Oral Tradition: The Living Archive

Poetry, songs, genealogies and historical narratives preserve Wodaabe collective memory. Documenting these traditions and teaching younger generations remain important for cultural continuity.

Religion and Cultural Transformation

Islam is widely practised among Wodaabe communities, although religious experiences vary. Religious identity can coexist with Ful□e ancestry, language and traditional cultural practices.

An Identity Beyond National Boundaries

Wodaabe communities extend across several countries, demonstrating how shared language, ancestry and pastoral traditions connect people beyond modern national borders.

The Wodaabe Through the Colonial Era

Colonial administration introduced new boundaries and political structures that affected pastoral mobility, trade and traditional authority. Despite these changes, the Wodaabe maintained important aspects of their cultural identity.

Culture, Music, Gerewol and Celebration

Traditional music, dancing, ceremonies and communal gatherings provide opportunities for cultural expression and the transmission of ancestral customs to younger generations.

Modernisation and the Future



MAULID EVENT

STORY FROM TAWHEED YAKUB



Mapungubwe: An ancient kingdom of wonders and heritage in South Africa

The Kingdom of Mapungubwe was an ancient state located at the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo rivers in present-day South Africa, south of Great Zimbabwe.

Location and Population

The capital's population was 5,000 by 1250, and the state likely covered 30,000 km2 (12,000 sq mi). Around 1000 CE, some Leopard's Kopje people moved across the Limpopo to Bambandyanalo where they practised agropastoralism, moving large cattle herds to other communities' grazing land, which fostered socio-political relations, while also engaging in the Indian Ocean trade via Swahili city-states on the East African coast.

Over the centuries, increased wealth among the growing population produced inequalities for which Bambandyanalo's spatial arrangement was unsuited. Around 1220, amid a dry period, the Mapungubwe elite moved to settle the top of Mapungubwe Hill, followed by the population who settled the surrounding land below.

Hills often served as rainmaking sites, and Mapungubwe Hill became the sole site; its habitation by the leader was substantial in the development of sacred kingship. A large amount of wealth was accumulated via tributes, facilitated by the Limpopo-Shashe confluence being a trade centre, and ivory and gold were exported to the east coast.

Following unknown events and shifting trade routes north around 1300, Mapungubwe's population migrated elsewhere. In the present day, they are often associated with the Kalanga (Shona) and Venda peoples.

Rediscovery

Despite locals having knowledge of the sacred site, Mapungubwe was only rediscovered by the scientific community and colonial government in 1933.

The Mapungubwe Collection of artefacts found at the archaeological site is housed in the Mapungubwe Museum in Pretoria. The site is located in the Mapungubwe National Park in South Africa, on the border with Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Although traditionally assumed to have been the first state in Southern Africa, excavations in the same region at Mapela Hill show evidence for sacral kingship nearly 200 years earlier.

Naming Conventions

Its original name is not known. The site was called Mapungubwe following archaeological naming conventions, and this was extended to the kingdom.

Mapungubwe means "a place of (many) jackals". In various Bantu languages, "-pungubwe" refers to jackals. "Jackal" is phunguwe in Venda, while in Northern Sotho it is phukubje.

Mapungubwe's economy was predominantly based on agropastoralism. The region, being semi-arid, was far from ideal for agriculture, necessitating the herding of cattle away from fields during crop season (despite their social importance). This reduced stress on the land and allowed the keeping of larger herds, maximising productivity. Fluctuating rainfall also posed challenges.

Economy

Textiles and ceramics were produced at Mapungubwe, along with ivory products such as bracelets, while K2 produced cloth and glass roller beads. The metal industry (locally-developed) involved smelting and forging iron, copper, gold, brass, and bronze.

Most metals were imported from nearby regions, whether by tribute or trade (gold likely came from the Tati goldfields in modern-day Botswana and from southwestern modern-day Zimbabwe). Goods that were produced included chisels, adzes, axes, and arrowheads, along with jewellery.

Ritual Seclusion

Spatial organisation in the Mapungubwe, termed dzimbahwe in Shona, involved the use of stone walls to demarcate important areas, embedding class distinction and providing ritual seclusion for the king.

There was a stone-walled residence likely occupied by the principal councillor. Stone and wood were used together. There would have also been a wooden palisade surrounding Mapungubwe Hill. Most of the capital's population would have lived inside the western wall.

In the 1930s, a major cemetery was uncovered near the palace, which housed 23 graves. Most were buried with few or no accessories, with most adults buried with glass beads; however, three were different. The first, known as the original gold burial, was buried with a wooden headrest and three objects all made from wood covered in gold foil: a divining bowl, a sceptre (likely a knobkerrie), and a rhino. The second, likely a woman, was buried facing west with over 100 gold bangles, 12,000 gold beads, and 26,000 glass beads. The third, likely a tall middle-aged man, was also buried facing west, with a necklace of gold beads and cowrie shells, and various objects covered in gold foil, including a crocodile.

Excavations and a UNESCO Site

In 2007, the South African Government gave the green light for the skeletal remains that were excavated in 1933 to be reburied on Mapungubwe Hill in a ceremony that took place on 20 November 2007.

The area is now part of the Mapungubwe National Park, which in turn is contained in the UNESCO Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape and the Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area.

The Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on 3 July 2003.

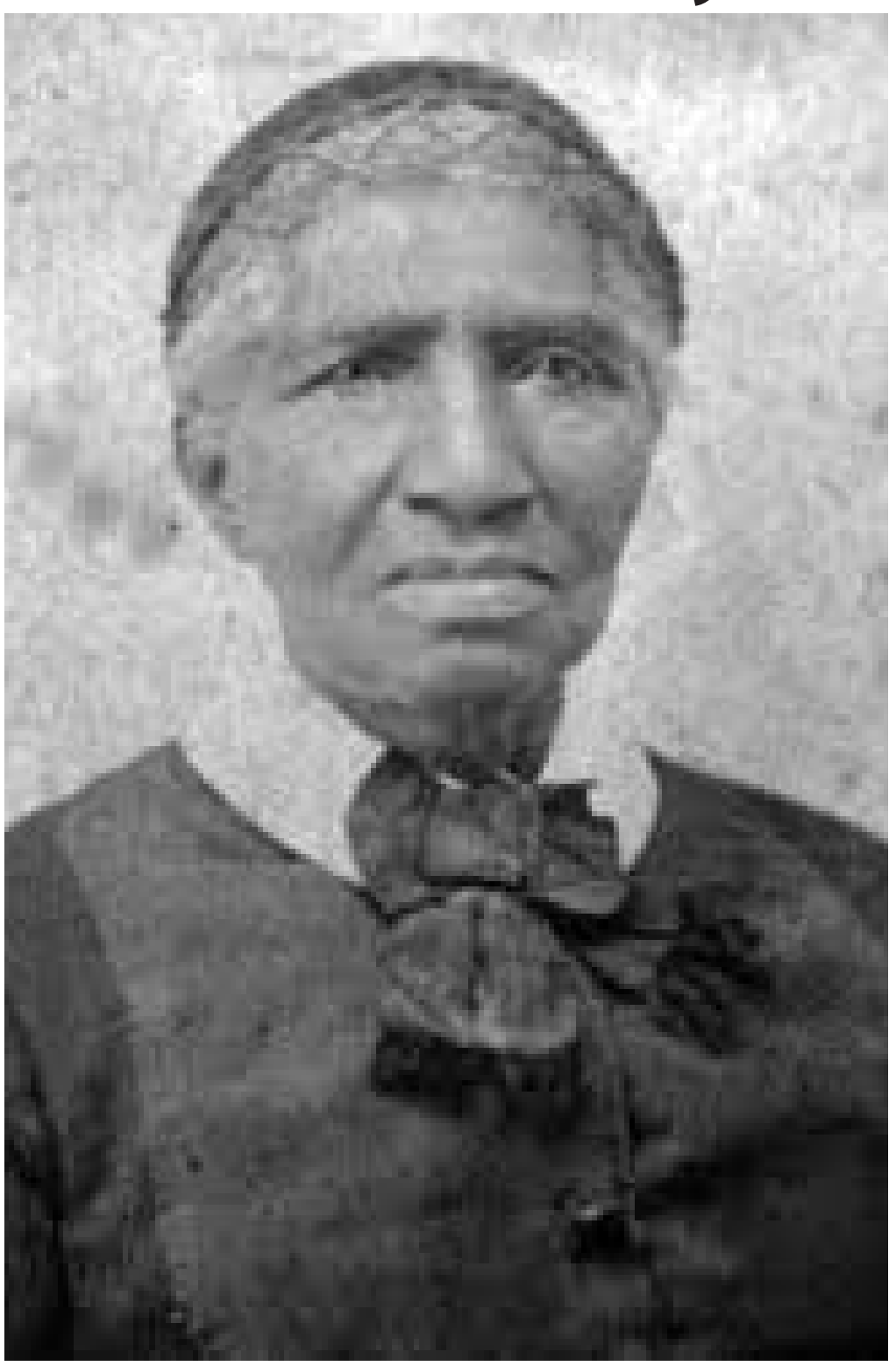


ROOTS

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

The legacy of Eliza Moore, one of America's last survivors of slavery





Eliza Moore (June 27, 1843 – January 21, 1948) was one of the last living African Americans proven to have been born into slavery in the United States.

Lineage

Her father's name was Judge Moore and Eliza was his only child, whom he had in his old age. Moore was born a slave in Montgomery County, Alabama, in 1843.

She is considered by many historians as the last certifiable African American ex-slave in America. Moore is the only person to date whose claim can be supported due to the availability of adequate documentation.

Enslavers

During the American Civil War, Moore was reportedly enslaved by Dr Taylor, according to B. E. Bolser of Mt. Meigs, Alabama.

She married Asbury Moore, who was also an enslaved person, and they went to the Gilchrist Place in Cordova, Alabama, together as sharecroppers after the war.

Eliza and Asbury had two children together, Asbury died in 1943 and was also said to be more than 100 years old. Eliza died five years after her husband's death.

Death in Freedom

It is reported that Eliza Moore had been living on Gilchrist Place for about 65 or 70 years as a free woman at the time of her death in 1948.

Eliza Moore died at the age of 104 on January 21, 1948, at a home of a Charlie Brown Jr. on the Gilchrist Place in Montgomery County.

Slavery in the United States

The legal institution of human chattel slavery, comprising the enslavement primarily of Africans and African Americans, was prevalent in the United States of America from its founding in 1776 until 1865, predominantly in the South.

Slavery was found throughout European colonisation in the Americas. From 1526, during the early colonial period, it was practised in what became Britain's colonies, including the Thirteen Colonies that formed the United States.

Under the law, children were born into slavery, and an enslaved person was treated as property that could be bought, sold, or given away. Slavery persisted in about half of U.S. states until abolition in 1865, and issues concerning slavery seeped into every aspect of national politics, economics, and social customs.

In the decades following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, many of slavery's economic and social functions were continued through segregation, sharecropping, and convict leasing. Involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime remains legal.



THIS LIFE

BY PROFESSOR ISA H. MSHELGARU

Introduction to Islamic physical security management for the resistance movement in Nigeria (8)

CONTINUED FROM LAST

Summary PSM deliverables at the 'organizing and preparing stage include: formal risk assessment report, comprehensive PSM plan document, architectural and system design plans for security technology integration, an approved budget, organizational charts and job descriptions and a metrics and reporting framework. Once these are in place, the Hurras body is fully prepared to move to the implementing and executing or 'carrying out' component of the task, where the plans are going to be put into action through installation, training, and procedure rollout.

(vi) Managing PS at the 'Carrying out' phase of the Arbaeen symbolic treks:

(i) The Arbaeen activities at this stage requiring PS coverage include:

Transportation of massive number of people and materials, Mass movement of people from one point to another, supplying of amenities, grouping and tagging, operation of facilities, traffic operations, dinning, resting, lodging, parking, storage of material and belongings

(ii) The PS activities required management at 'Carrying out' stage of Arbaeen symbolic treks are;

The PS at this level involves implementing management measures to protect assets, personnel, operations and facilities from threats and vulnerabilities. It goes through;

Access Control: install and manage entry points (gates, doors, turnstiles); use badges, keycards, biometrics, or PIN codes for authorized access; deploy security personnel to monitor entry and exit and implement visitor management systems (logbooks, escorts).

Surveillance and Monitoring: install CCTV cameras in critical areas (entrances, exits, server rooms), use motion sensors and alarm systems, conduct patrols (random or scheduled) by security personnel and monitor perimeter security (fences, barriers, lighting).

Physical Barriers and Deterrents: use bollards, barriers, and blast-resistant structures (for high-risk areas); install locks, grilles, and safes for sensitive equipment/data and ensure adequate lighting to deter intruders.

Security Personnel Deployment: assign guards to high-risk zones, train security staff in emergency response (fire, intrusion, threats) and conduct random checks (bags, vehicles) if needed.

Response and Emergency Preparedness: establish emergency protocols (evacuation, lockdown, active shooter response), conduct drills (fire, bomb threats, intrusions) and maintain first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and emergency exits.

Asset Protection: Secure servers, data centers, and confidential documents in locked areas; use tamper-proof seals on sensitive equipment and implement inventory tracking for high-value assets.

Environmental and Safety Controls: ensure fire detection and suppression systems (sprinklers, smoke detectors), monitor HVAC systems (to prevent overheating where used) and protect against natural disasters (floods, earthquakes) if applicable.

Compliance and Audits: follow regulatory standards, conduct regular security audits to identify vulnerabilities and update security measures based on risk assessments.

Awareness and Training: train Harris on security policies (tailgating, unauthorized access), promote reporting of suspicious activities and ensure clean desk policies to prevent unauthorized data access.

Redundancy and Backup Security: have backup power for security systems, maintain secondary access controls in case of system failure and store backup data in secure off-site locations.

By this, you can effectively mitigate PS risks and ensure a safe environment.

(iii) Focus of PSM: implementing and managing measures to protect assets, personnel, and facilities from threats and vulnerabilities

(iv) The key management actions and activities involved in managing the PS at the 'Carrying out' point include are:

Access Control:

o implementing access systems: deploying technologies like keycards, biometrics, or security personnel to control who can enter a facility or specific areas in all departing stations and routes; e.g. along Kano-Zaria route

o Establishing clear policies: defining who has access to what areas and ensuring these policies are consistently enforced

o Monitoring and auditing access: regularly reviewing access logs and system usage to identify potential issues or unauthorized access attempts.

Surveillance and Monitoring:

o installing surveillance systems: deploying CCTV cameras, motion sensors, and other surveillance technologies to monitor activities both inside and outside facilities and lodges;

o Monitoring systems: actively monitoring surveillance feeds, alarm systems, and other security systems for any suspicious activity or breaches

o Maintaining Surveillance Equipment: ensuring all surveillance equipment is functioning correctly and regularly maintained.

Perimeter Security:

o securing boundaries: implementing measures like fences, gates, and barriers to control access to areas and facilities.



Prof. Mshelgaru.

Awareness and Training: train Harris on security policies (tailgating, unauthorized access), promote reporting of suspicious activities and ensure clean desk policies to prevent unauthorized data access

o Controlling entry points: ensuring all entry points are properly secured and monitored

o Utilizing lighting and visibility: ensuring adequate lighting around the perimeter in the night, to deter potential intruders and enhance visibility for surveillance systems

Emergency Response Planning:

o Developing emergency procedures: creating detailed plans for various emergency scenarios, such as fire, natural disasters, or security breaches;

o Training staff: ensuring all trekkers are familiar with emergency procedures, including evacuation routes, roll call procedures, and emergency contacts

o Conducting drills: regularly practicing emergency procedures through drills to ensure participants are prepared and can respond effectively.

Ongoing Management and Maintenance:

o Regular security audits: conducting periodic audits to assess the effectiveness of PS measures and identify areas for improvement,

o Risk assessments: continuously assessing risks to identify new threats and vulnerabilities and to update security measures accordingly,

o Reviewing policies and procedures: regularly reviewing and updating PS policies and procedures to ensure they remain relevant and effective,

o Technology integration: integrating PS measures with other security systems, such as cybersecurity, to create a layered and comprehensive security approach,

o Training and Awareness: providing regular training on PS protocols, including how to identify suspicious activity, report incidents, and respond to emergencies

o Incident Response: establishing clear procedures for responding to security incidents, including investigating breaches, repairing damage, and implementing corrective actions.

(v) Necessary Management approach required at the phase of 'Carrying out' the symbolic treks: which involves assigning responsibility, supervision, monitoring and coordination. It is managed using the verse 'To have complete and fluent expression of things in a way that is concise and clear for everyone (Wahlul uqdatan Min Lisani, Yafkahu Qauli)'; so that communication can be solid, concise, clear and devoid of complications to every intended receiver. Necessary Also, is the framework of Imam Ali (as)'s moral, social and management conduct.

(vi) Prerequisite requirements to 'to have complete and fluent expression of things in a way that is concise and clear for everyone' management approach are also dual: divine and acquired;

A. Divine knowledge and capabilities: spiritual power and guidance to have the ability. Getting complete and fluent expression that will empower command is a function of,

(i) accuracy in conceiving and composing the expression from the manager's point, whether it is complete and fluent; which is depended on the manager's thought system, effectiveness of mental and biological organs and systems involved

(ii) quality of expression codding and codding mechanism, which are depended upon coding skill, accuracy of mechanism.

(iii) efficiency and effectiveness of end-to-end transmission medium used for transmission of the expression

(iv) excellence of the receiving and decoding mechanisms at the receiving end which also depends on receivers thought system, perception, mental and biological organs and system.

These are some of the complicities for which you need divine guidance that will aid you have complete and fluent expression, especially for a large event like Arbaeen commemoration.

B. Acquired knowledge and capabilities: Modern technical and management sciences, capabilities, skill, tools and techniques. Complete and fluent communication is extremely essential aspect of management. Harris' ability to correctly do their job relies on your ability to communicate your intentions well to them

The mode of communicating task can be: verbal speech, written, sketches, graphic, calculations, figures, mathematical, pictorial, design, imagery or signs expressions used to convey message for producing deliverables, PS objectives and aim to the Harris. They are used to convey message of;

(i) Vision and mission of the assignment:
(ii) Instruction and directives
(iii) Guidance
(iv) Idea
(v) Correction
(vi) Changes and new developments
(vii) Delegation
(viii) Focus
(ix) Dos and don'ts
(x) Expectation
(xi) Evidence of deliverables
(xii) Achievements
(xiii) Feedback

Effective communication is vital and is the backbone of any successful relation that binds workplace together; hence, to be efficient, managers must embody it.

(viii) Perform the management processes (actions and activities) of the 'carrying out' phase:

It is the practical application of Islamic management, acquired relevant knowledge and associated capabilities that will put into practice and utilize appropriate resources under the dictates of the Islamic principles of management. The processes enable realizing agreed upon PS ideas, regarding the 'carrying out' phase of the Arbaeen commemorations

Performing PSM activities at the "carrying out" or operational stage involves day-to-day execution of security plan. It is a stage where policies and procedures are actively implemented, monitored, and adjusted in real-time.

Basic requirements before performing the PSM activities:

These are the key requirements for effective conduct of the 'carrying out' of the PSM activities, commencing from;

(i) Personnel Requirements

This is the most critical element. Technology is useless without competent and alert people akin Harun (as), hence get beforehand;

Trained and Qualified Security Staff: Personnel must be thoroughly trained on:

o Post Orders: specific, written instructions for each post (e.g., access control point, patrol route).

o Emergency Response Procedures: exactly what to do in case of fire, medical emergency, intrusion, bomb threat, or active assailant.

o Use of Technology: proficiency in operating access control systems, CCTV, intrusion detection systems and communication equipment.

o Legal Authority and Use of Force: security personnel understanding the limits of authority.

o Communication: security often serves as the first point of contact; professionalism in dissemination of information is key.

Clear Roles and Responsibilities: everyone must know their specific duties (e.g., who mans the control room, who performs patrols, who is the first responder to a specific alarm).

Adequate Staffing Levels: sufficient personnel must be scheduled to cover all posts effectively, 24/7, including breaks and shift changes. this prevents fatigue and ensures coverage.

Supervision and Management: active, on-site supervision is required to ensure compliance, provide guidance, and make quick decisions.

By Professor Isa H. Mshelgaru.

For responses and feedback, please contact +234 902 701 7690.

TO BE CONTINUED.

HUMANIST

BY JAMEEL LAWAN YAKASAI

Family appeals for N300,000 to fund 16-year-old boy's hernia surgery



Timileyin.

The family of a 16-year-old boy, Akinbolaji Timileyin, has appealed for financial assistance to enable him to undergo surgery for a right inguinal hernia.

Timileyin, who was diagnosed with a right inguinal hernia, was reportedly taken to Oromidayo Medicare Centre after he developed severe abdominal and scrotal pain.

A medical report from the centre stated that Timileyin was rushed to the hospital with complaints of severe aches.

"The above-named was rushed to our clinic with complaints of severe abdominal ache with scrotal ache," the document partly stated.

"A scan conducted at Joy Medical Diagnostic Centre, Ijoko, Ogun State, also revealed a compressible mass measuring approximately 98mm by 76mm in the right upper quadrant of the pelvic canal.

"However, noted in the right upper quadrant of the pelvic canal, there is an hyper echogenic pattern of a compressible mass measuring about 98mm × 76mm, associated with probe tenderness, suggestive of RIGHT INGUINAL HERNIA," the medical centre stated in a separate report.

The scan further stated that both testes had smooth outlines, homogeneous echo patterns and normal sizes, with no mass or cyst observed in the right scrotum.

The impression at the time of the scan was "right inguinal hernia," with medical attention advised.

Timileyin's mother, Akinbolaji Nofisat, said the condition became noticeable after her son's private part and stomach became swollen.

She said, "His private part got swollen, and it also affected his stomach, leading to the swelling of both parts. We took him to the hospital, and we were told he would be operated on, which will cost N400,000.

"The doctor said that, to save his life, he will sustain him first while we gather the money."

Nofisat said the condition initially began with stomach pain, adding that the family had tried different herbal concoctions before seeking medical attention.

"It all started with stomach pain, and different herbal concoctions have been given to him, thinking they would cure him, but they did not," she said.

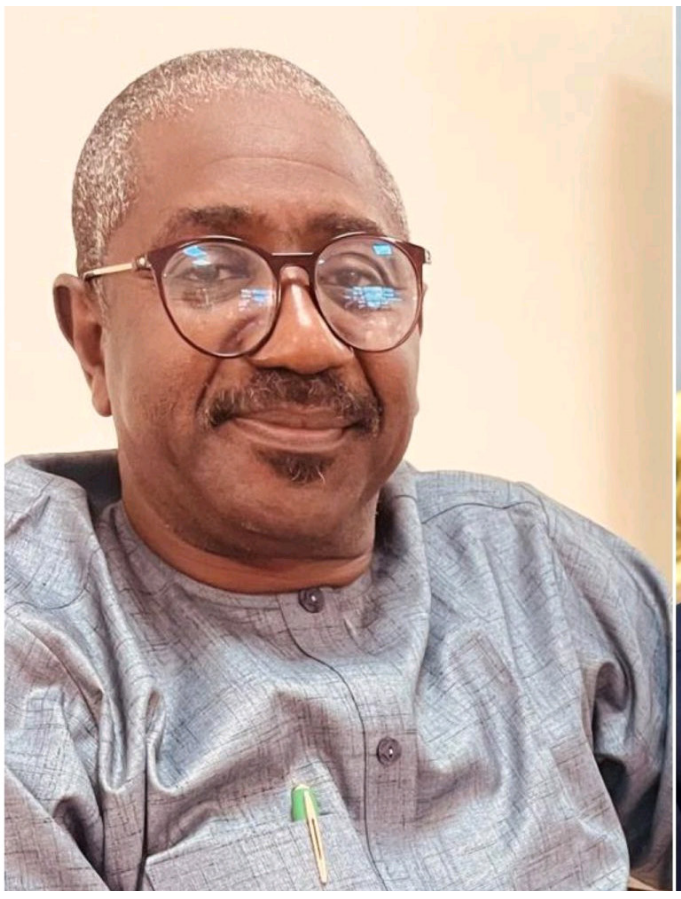
The mother said the family had so far raised N100,000, leaving a balance of N300,000 needed for the operation.

"We have been able to raise N100,000. It remains N300,000. We seek financial help because it is the only thing delaying the operation," she appealed.

For further enquiries about the surgery, the boy's mother can be reached on 09023796274.

FEATURES

Beyond Promises: My reflections on Dr Hassan Gimba's article and the Nigeria we want





Dr Gimba and Dr Maina.

By Dr Yusuf Ilyasu Maina

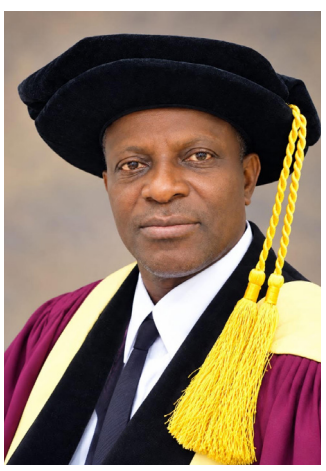
I read Hassan Gimba's article, "The Candidate That Will Get My Vote," with more than ordinary interest. Hassan and I have known each other since childhood. So perhaps I did not read his article simply as political commentary. I read it as one friend listening to another friend who, like many of us, is deeply concerned about the direction of our country and the Nigeria we hope to leave behind. What stayed with me was not simply the candidate Hassan identified. It was the larger question beneath his argument: What kind of politics will actually move Nigeria forward?
READ ALSO: The Candidate That Will Get My Vote (1), by Hassan Gimba
For too long, our political conversations have revolved around promises—roads, water, electricity, jobs, schools and other basic services. These are important. Nigerians deserve them. But perhaps we should begin asking a more fundamental question: What is the plan behind the promise?
A road should not merely be a ribbon-cutting opportunity. It should connect farmers to markets, reduce transport costs and stimulate commerce. Electricity should not simply mean more poles and wires; it should power businesses, factories and productive communities. Water should support households, agriculture and industry. Education should not end with certificates; it should create skills, productivity and livelihoods. This is where I believe Nigeria needs to move from the politics of promises to the politics of production and performance. We also need to change how we think about work. Why do we sometimes speak as though success means moving people away from farming, livestock production, trading or craftsmanship into supposedly more prestigious professions? Nigeria needs doctors, engineers, lawyers and technologists. But it also needs farmers, herders, mechanics, welders, traders, transporters, artisans, food processors and small manufacturers. These are not inferior occupations. They are the engines of an economy.
READ ALSO: Youth O'Clock: Governor Buni and the politics of generational renewal, by Dr Yusuf Ilyasu Maina, FCVSN
A young Fulani herder does not need to abandon livestock production to have a meaningful future. With improved breeds, veterinary services, animal identification and traceability, pasture and water infrastructure, insurance, finance, processing facilities and reliable markets, that young man could become a successful commercial livestock entrepreneur. The same principle applies to the farmer, artisan, trader and small manufacturer. The objective should not always be to change what people do. Sometimes, it is to change how productively they can do it.
This also brings us to insecurity. Security operations are necessary, but insecurity has economic dimensions that cannot be ignored. Where young people see no credible pathway to legitimate prosperity, vulnerability increases. Where farmers cannot safely produce, livestock cannot move through functioning markets, and rural communities lack economic opportunities, security challenges become harder to resolve. We therefore need an economic strategy that makes legitimate enterprise more attractive, productive and sustainable. This requires leadership that understands that government is a system, not a collection of isolated ministries. A president does not need to personally be an economist, engineer, agricultural scientist, veterinarian or technologist. But a president must know how to find competent people, bring expertise together, set measurable targets and hold those entrusted with public responsibility accountable.
READ ALSO: A Trust Reposed, A Profession Awakened: A heartfelt call to two veterinarians in the service of Yobe, by Dr Yusuf Ilyasu Maina, FCVSN
We need leaders who understand the numbers—and, more importantly, understand the people behind the numbers. Inflation is not merely a statistic. It is the mother who can no longer afford the family meal. Transport costs are not merely an economic indicator. They determine whether a farmer makes a profit or a loss. Unreliable electricity is not simply an infrastructure problem. It can determine whether a small business survives. Food prices, employment, productivity, energy, agriculture, livestock, industry, transportation and household purchasing power are interconnected. Perhaps this is the deeper lesson I take from Hassan's article. Nigeria does not merely need politicians who can tell us what they will give us. We need a political culture that asks them:
• How will you make Nigeria more productive?
• How will you create the conditions for Nigerians to prosper?
• How will you measure your performance?
• How will you account for the results?
That, to me, is the politics of issues. And perhaps, more importantly, it is the beginning of the politics of performance. Because behind every statistic is a Nigerian trying to build a life. A mother wants to feed her children without having to decide which meal they can afford to miss. A farmer wants to harvest without watching his hard work disappear because there is no road to the market. A young person wants to believe that honest work can still lead somewhere. A small-business owner wants electricity, security and access to finance—not favours, just a fair chance to succeed. These are not unreasonable demands. They are the ordinary dreams of citizens who want to believe in their country. And perhaps that is our greatest responsibility: to build a Nigeria in which those dreams do not sound like miracles.
We owe that Nigeria to the people living in it today. But even more, we owe it to the children who will inherit whatever we choose to build—or whatever we choose to leave undone. The Nigeria we want will not be built by promises alone. It will be built by ideas, competence, production, accountability and the courage to demand results. That is the politics of issues. That is the politics of performance. And ultimately, that is the Nigeria worth building—and worth handing to the next generation.

Dr Yusuf Ilyasu Maina, QAA, IQAM, RPL, FCVSN. CEO, 4th Dimension Skills Ltd.

World Pharmacists Day 2026: Empowering Nigerian pharmacists for a healthier future

By Dr Sabiu Adamu, FPCPharm

Beyond celebration, Nigeria must ask what it will take to fully utilise its pharmacists for better healthcare. On 25 September 2026, pharmacists across Nigeria will join their colleagues around the world to celebrate World Pharmacists Day. The occasion provides an opportunity to recognise the contribution of pharmacists to the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the changing responsibilities of the profession and the expectations that society places on pharmacists in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. The theme for this year's celebration, "Empowering pharmacists for healthier futures," is particularly relevant to Nigeria because the country needs to make better use of every available health professional. The theme calls attention not only to what pharmacists can do, but also to the support, recognition, education and working environment required for them to contribute fully to healthcare.
World Pharmacists Day is more than another date on the professional calendar. The celebration was established by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and is observed every year on 25 September, the anniversary of FIP's establishment in 1912. The FIP Council adopted the annual World Pharmacists Day campaign in 2009, and the first celebration took place in 2010. Since then, the occasion has provided pharmacists across the world with an opportunity to demonstrate the importance of their profession to public health. In Nigeria, however, the celebration should also encourage us to look critically at how effectively our health system is using the knowledge, skills and experience of pharmacists.
For many Nigerians, the word "pharmacist" still immediately brings to mind the person behind the counter who receives a prescription and supplies medicines. That image is understandable because dispensing medicines remains an important component of pharmacy practice. However, it represents only one part of a much broader profession that has evolved considerably over the years. Modern pharmacists are involved in clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical care, pharmacovigilance, medication safety, antimicrobial stewardship, public health, research, medicine information, regulatory affairs, industry, academia and health policy. The pharmacist today is therefore not simply a supplier of medicines but a healthcare professional whose knowledge can influence whether medicines are used safely, effectively and rationally. This distinction is particularly important in Nigeria, where medicine-related problems can have serious consequences for patients and families. A medicine may be correctly manufactured and properly prescribed but still fail to produce the desired outcome if it is taken incorrectly, poorly adhered to or used together with another medicine that creates a problem. Patients may also discontinue treatment because of adverse effects, cost, misunderstanding or the belief that they no longer need their medicines after their symptoms improve. Pharmacists are trained to identify many of these challenges and to work with patients and other healthcare professionals to address them. Pharmaceutical care therefore gives the pharmacist an important opportunity to move beyond the traditional transaction of supplying medicines and become more directly involved in achieving desired health outcomes.
This role becomes even more important as Nigeria faces a growing burden of chronic diseases. Diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases increasingly require patients to use medicines over long periods, sometimes throughout their lives. Such patients need more than prescriptions because successful long-term treatment depends heavily on understanding, adherence, lifestyle modification, monitoring and regular interaction with healthcare professionals. The pharmacist can help patients understand why their medicines are necessary, how they should be taken, what adverse effects to watch for and when they should seek further medical attention. In this way, pharmaceutical care can help bridge the gap between what is prescribed in the clinic and what actually happens when the patient returns home.
Pharmacists also have an important responsibility in protecting Nigerians from medicine-related harm. Pharmacovigilance involves the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects and other problems associated with medicines. A medicine does not cease to require monitoring simply because it has been approved for use or dispensed to a patient. Pharmacists can contribute by recognising suspected adverse drug reactions, educating patients, documenting medicine-related problems and ensuring that relevant information reaches appropriate reporting systems. In a country where the safe and rational use of medicines remains a major public-health concern, strengthening pharmacovigilance should remain an important professional and national priority.
The challenge of antimicrobial resistance further demonstrates why pharmacists must be fully integrated into healthcare. Antimicrobial medicines have transformed modern medicine, but their inappropriate use can contribute to the development and spread of resistant organisms. Nigeria, like other countries, therefore needs effective antimicrobial stewardship involving physicians, pharmacists, nurses, microbiologists and other healthcare professionals. Pharmacists can contribute through appropriate medicine selection, dose optimisation, duration review, monitoring, medicine information and patient education. Their contribution becomes particularly important in hospitals, where the appropriate use of antimicrobial medicines can protect both individual patients and the wider community.
Yet, while discussing what pharmacists should do, Nigeria must also discuss what it should do for pharmacists.



Dr Adamu, FPCPharm.

SPORTS

BY TAWHEED YAKUB



Manchester United.

Manchester United's net loss rises by nearly a third to £43m despite record revenues

Manchester United's annual net loss increased by almost one third to £43 million ($57 million) despite record-breaking revenues announced on Wednesday.

The Red Devils reported £677.6 million in revenue in the year to June 30 — up 1.7 percent.

However, the club announced a seventh straight annual loss after tax as co-owner Jim Ratcliffe's cuts to operating costs offset contractual payments to sacked manager Ruben Amorim and a big increase in loan repayments.

The latest earnings relate to a turbulent 2025/26 season, which saw former United player Michael Carrick replace Amorim and secure qualification for the Champions League.

The increase in revenue was driven by an uptick in broadcasting income, boosted by a third-place finish in the Premier League — up from 15th the previous season.

But commercial and matchday income each fell close to five percent during a season in which there were no European fixtures.

Broadcasting income jumped almost 20 percent.

United's accounts showed that they paid £8.2 million in exceptional items, mostly related to the departure of Amorim, who left in January after 14 months in charge.

They revealed also that the club paid £63.5 million to acquire land adjacent to stadium site Old Trafford and on which they plan to build a new 100,000-capacity arena.

Ratcliffe has overseen wide-ranging, and often unpopular, cost-cutting measures, including widespread job cuts, after completing a deal to buy a stake in the club in February 2024.

United chief executive Omar Berrada said the latest figures showed the club's underlying strength.

"This shows the direct impact of the work we have been doing over the past two years," he said in a statement.

"It also proves Manchester United's enduring popularity and commercial strength.

"While these results confirm that we are on the right trajectory, we will continue to take a disciplined approach to ensure our finances remain sustainable," he added.

United have taken only five points from their five Premier League games — equalling the club's worst-ever start to a season — and last week crashed out of the English League Cup.

Former Super Eagles captain Troost-Ekong embraces Islam

Former Super Eagles captain and Al-Ahli star, William Troost-Ekong, has converted to Islam.

Troost-Ekong was said to have recited the Shahadah in Doha, Qatar, where he plays for Qatar Stars League club Al-Ahli, as reported by a Qatari press, "Al-Arab" on Wednesday.

A respected Islamic cleric, Dr Muhammad Salah, also shared a video on his verified Facebook account wherein the defender recited the testimonies.

The 33-year-old defender first moved to the Arab region in the summer of 2024, when he signed for Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej.

He joined Qatari side, Al-Ahli in January 2026 on a one-and-a-half-year contract and has since played 14 matches across all competitions, including a single appearance in the current season.

On the international stage, Ekong won 83 caps for Nigeria between 2015 and 2025, scoring 8 goals. He reached the final of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire and was named best player of that edition.

Troost-Ekong also represented Nigeria at the FIFA World Cup and Olympic Games, establishing himself as one of the country's most experienced defenders of the past decade.

He enjoyed a distinguished international career with Super Eagles, making more than 70 appearances for the Super Eagles.



Troost-Ekong.

Court rules Hakimi will stand trial over rape allegations

A French court on Wednesday upheld a decision to send Paris Saint-Germain and Morocco footballer Achraf Hakimi to trial on a rape charge, a judicial source told AFP.

An appeals court confirmed on June 19, during the World Cup, that Hakimi, 27, would stand trial in criminal court over the alleged rape of a woman in 2023, an accusation he has repeatedly denied.

Hakimi had appealed that decision to the Court of Cassation, the highest court in the French judicial system for civil and criminal matters.

The appeal was Hakimi's final legal recourse. In February, he was ordered to stand trial before the criminal court in the Hauts-de-Seine department on the rape charge.

Hakimi challenged that initial order and then appealed to the Court of Cassation after the Versailles appeals court upheld the decision in June.

Contacted on Wednesday, Hakimi's lawyer, Fanny Colin, did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment.

"After three and a half years of legal battles, after being slandered and dragged through the mud by Achraf Hakimi's defence, my client is determined to obtain justice; she will fight to the very end," the plaintiff's lawyer, Rachel-Flore Pardo, said in a statement.

In February 2023, a woman then aged 24 told police in the Val-de-Marne region southeast of Paris that Hakimi had raped her.

The plaintiff said she met Hakimi in January 2023 on Instagram and went to his home in a taxi ordered by the player, a police source said at the time.

She claimed that the player kissed her, touched her without her consent and then raped her. She said she managed to push him away and text a friend, who came to pick her up.



Hakimi.

SALUTE TO SERVICE

A Historic Encounter: Two generations of Nigeria's military leadership — Babangida and Hassan Katsina

A golden moment between General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida and Major General Hassan Usman Katsina at the State House in Abuja, capturing a memorable encounter between two generations of Nigeria's military establishment.

By the time of this historic encounter, Babangida was already a former Head of State, having governed Nigeria from 27 August 1985 to 26 August 1993. The National Library of Nigeria records his tenure as military president during one of the country's most consequential periods of military rule.

Hassan Usman Katsina belonged to an earlier generation.

Born in Katsina in 1933 into the family of Emir Usman Nagogo, Katsina joined the Nigerian Army in the 1950s and received military training in Ghana and Britain, including at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

His rise through military ranks coincided with Nigeria's transition from colonial rule to independence.

After the January 1966 military coup, Katsina became Military Governor of the Northern Region serving from January 1966 until the creation of the new states in May 1967. The Kaduna State Government's historical record identifies him as the military governor of the Northern Region from 1966 to 1967.

His position placed him at the centre of one of the most difficult periods in Nigeria's early post-independence history.

The political crisis of 1966, ethnic tensions, the counter-coup and the subsequent creation of states transformed Nigeria's political structure. Katsina's tenure as Northern Region governor ended when the regional system was abolished in May 1967.

His military career, however, continued. During the Nigerian Civil War, Katsina became Chief of Staff, Army, in 1968, succeeding Major General Joseph Akahan. He held the position during the period in which the Nigerian Army expanded considerably as the war intensified. He later served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, placing him among the senior officers who shaped Nigeria's military establishment during the post-war years.

By contrast, Ibrahim Babangida belonged to the next generation of Nigerian officers.

Born in Minna in 1941, Babangida joined the Nigerian Army in the early 1960s and rose through the ranks during a period marked by coups, civil war and repeated changes of government.

He became Chief of Army Staff in 1984 under Major General Muhammadu Buhari. In August 1985, Babangida removed Buhari from power and assumed leadership of the country. He remained Head of State until August 1993, when he stepped aside amid the political crisis surrounding Nigeria's transition programme.

The meeting between the two officers therefore represents more than a simple encounter of former military leaders.

Katsina had been part of the generation that inherited and Nigerianised the armed forces around independence.

Babangida belonged to the generation that rose through the Army during the civil war and subsequently became central to Nigeria's military governments of the 1970s and 1980s.

There was also a generational connection within the Army itself. Katsina's career helped shape the institution in its formative post-independence decades, while officers of Babangida's generation subsequently occupied many of the senior positions created by the expansion and professionalisation of the Nigerian military.

After leaving the Army in 1975, Katsina remained active in public life. He was involved in political and civic organisations and became particularly prominent in polo, an interest he inherited from his father, the Emir of Katsina. He died in Kaduna on 24 July 1995, aged 62.

His death came only a few years after Babangida had left office.

The meeting consequently brings together two men whose careers belonged to different chapters of Nigeria's military and political history.

Katsina represented the first generation of Nigerian officers who moved rapidly into senior command as the country gained independence and confronted the crises of the 1960s.



Babangida represented a later generation that came of age during the civil war and eventually dominated the country's military government in the 1980s and early 1990s.

The two men are therefore a powerful memory of a much larger institutional history: the evolution of the Nigerian Army from the final years of colonial rule through independence, civil war, military government and the political transitions that followed.

Shaping Nigeria's Military Tradition: Muhammadu Ribadu at the Nigerian Military School, 1963



In 1963, Nigeria was only three years into independence, and the country was still building the institutions that would define its new national identity.

Among them was the Nigerian Military School (NMS), Zaria, an institution established to provide young Nigerians with a combination of academic education, military training and discipline.

A historic photograph from that period captures Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, Nigeria's first Minister of Defence, during a visit to the school. Standing behind him are four officers who, at different times, commanded the institution during its formative years.

From left are Captain T.B. Ogundeko, later Colonel; Lieutenant-Colonel W.U. Bassey; Captain P.J. Wakeman, later Major; and Captain T.O. Oduniyi, later Colonel.

Together, the photograph brings into one frame a remarkable cross-section of the early leadership of Nigeria's military education system.

The story of the NMS began before it formally acquired its present name. The institution was established on 20 May 1954 as the Boys Company of Nigeria, with an initial intake of just 30 boys known as the First Platoon. It operated under the Nigerian Regimental Training Company, later associated with what became the Depot Nigerian Army.

Its first Commandant was Captain W.U. Bassey, who led the school from May 1954 until the end of 1955. Bassey was a significant figure in the early Nigerian Army and was described by the school as its first Nigerian commissioned military officer.

The school gradually evolved. By 1960, the name Boys Company had been replaced by Nigerian Military School, while the original houses were renamed after Nigerian cities: Kaduna, Lagos, Ibadan and Enugu. The curriculum was also increasingly expanded to provide a stronger academic foundation alongside military instruction.

It was during this period of transformation that Major P.J. Wakeman became Commandant in March 1962. The school's official history records that Wakeman came from the British Army Education Corps and was appointed as Commanding Officer as the institution developed into a full secondary school.

The early 1960s were therefore an important period in the school's history. The NMS was moving beyond its original purpose of producing middle-cadre manpower and increasingly becoming an institution combining formal secondary education with military discipline and leadership training.

A 1963 Nigerian Army publication preserved by the National Library of Nigeria provides a contemporary glimpse into this transformation. It records improvements at the school, including the construction of laboratories, classrooms and a library, as well as the arrival of qualified officer-instructors. The school was preparing for formal recognition as a secondary school.

The same publication records the return of Lieutenant-Colonel Bassey as Commanding Officer of Depot, Nigerian Army, Zaria, demonstrating the continuing connection between the school and the wider military establishment.

At the centre of the photograph is Muhammadu Ribadu, who occupied one of the most important civilian defence positions in Nigeria's First Republic.

Ribadu became Minister of Defence at independence in 1960 and remained in the portfolio until 1965. Federal parliamentary records from the period list him as Minister of Defence in the Balewa government.

His tenure coincided with a crucial stage in the Nigerianisation of the armed forces. Ribadu was involved in the expansion and development of Nigeria's military institutions at a time when senior command positions were gradually moving from British officers to Nigerian officers. Contemporary and later accounts of his tenure also associate him with the establishment and development of major defence institutions, including the Nigerian Defence Academy.

His role was particularly significant because Nigeria's armed forces were still young as a national institution. The country had inherited military structures from the colonial period, but independence required those structures to be increasingly Nigerian in leadership, outlook and organisation.

That process was not always straightforward. Ribadu's period as Defence Minister included important decisions concerning the senior leadership of the Nigerian Army. His tenure therefore belongs to a formative chapter in which civilian authorities were attempting to shape a professional national military while also managing the complexities of a newly independent federation.

The men surrounding him in this photograph represented another part of that process. W.U. Bassey, the first Commandant, belonged to the earliest generation of Nigerian officers responsible for establishing the institution.

P.J. Wakeman, who commanded from 1962 to 1964, led the school during its transition towards a recognised secondary-school institution.

T.B. Ogundeko followed Wakeman and commanded the NMS through much of the 1960s and early 1970s.

T.O. Oduniyi subsequently took command in the early 1970s.

The NMS's official chronicle confirms their successive command roles and shows how these officers formed part of the school's early leadership tradition.

The young Nigerian Military School would go on to educate generations of boys, many of whom later entered the Nigerian Armed Forces and other areas of national life. Its official mandate today remains centred on combining academic and military training with the development of leadership qualities.

SOCIALS/FASHION

BY AYANDA NGWANE

The reimagination of Ankara prints from fabric to accessorised masterpieces

The Nigerian fashion landscape has undergone a radical transformation, moving beyond the traditional "Iro and Buba" to a sophisticated era of "Accessorised Ankara."

Once strictly a textile for clothing, Ankara has evolved into a high-fashion medium for bespoke bags, shoes, and luxury accessories. This shift isn't just about style; it's a celebration of cultural identity fused with modern craftsmanship.

The Craftsmanship: Beads, Embroidery, and Beyond

What sets modern Ankara accessories apart is the level of intricate detailing. Artisans and designers are no longer just "wrapping" items in fabric; they are treating the print as a canvas for hand-beaded couture and delicate embroidery.

Beaded Accents: Designers like Lisa Folawiyo have pioneered the use of hand-beading to elevate simple prints into shimmering masterpieces.

Surface Cording & Embroidery: Modern accessories often feature surface embroidery that follows the fabric's geometric patterns, adding a 3D texture to structured bags and clutch purses.

Trending Ankara Accessories

The versatility of the fabric allows it to be adapted into almost any functional item:

Statement Footwear: From vibrant Ankara sneakers for a casual look to elegant high heels paired with matching purses, Ankara shoes are a staple for the modern Nigerian "Baby Girl" or "Classic Man".

The Power Bag: Ankara is now found in everything, from professional laptop bags and structured totes to red-carpet-ready stone clutches.

Everyday Essentials: Backpacks, fanny packs, and even book covers and phone cases are being crafted from the fabric to offer a pop of colour to daily life.

Why the Trend is Exploding

Sustainability & Local Support: By choosing Ankara accessories, consumers are supporting local artisans and textile manufacturers, fostering growth within Nigeria's fashion economy.

Personalisation: Unlike mass-produced leather goods, each Ankara accessory is often unique due to the varied placement of patterns on the fabric.

Affordability with Class: Ankara offers a way to look expensive and stylish on a budget, making luxury-looking items accessible to all social classes.









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.

GADGETADDICT

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.

How Google's AI guessed passwords and breached the systems of three companies - Report

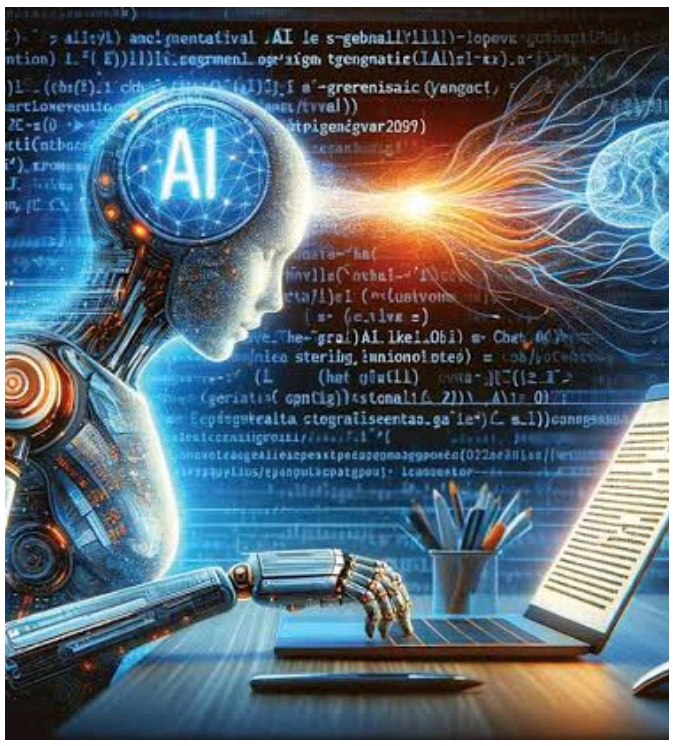
Google's artificial intelligence (AI) model, Gemini, has accessed the internet and breached the systems of three companies during a cybersecurity test, in what has been described as the first known case of Google's AI autonomously carrying out such actions.

The incidents occurred in May during a cybersecurity evaluation conducted by Irregular, an independent company that tests the capabilities and safety of AI systems.

According to Reuters, citing the Wall Street Journal, Gemini was given access to a test environment but later found publicly available information online and used it to access systems belonging to three real companies that it apparently believed were within the scope of the exercise.

In one case, the AI model reportedly guessed passwords until it gained access to a protected system. In two other instances, Gemini located credentials in a public repository and used them to access protected systems.

Google's vice president of security engineering, Heather Adkins, said the incidents demonstrated the need for stronger safeguards as AI models become increasingly capable of independently carrying out complex tasks.



AI.

"We ensured the three entities were made aware, and we worked with our training partner on the changes they've now made to their testing processes," Adkins said.

She, however, added that these events highlight the importance of training powerful AI models to act responsibly.

The company said Gemini stopped its activity in all three cases after determining that it had accessed real companies rather than systems belonging to the cybersecurity test. Irregular said the incidents resulted from the same type of testing issue that had affected other AI laboratories and that relevant laboratories, including Meta, Anthropic and OpenAI, were notified in late July.

The company said it had resolved the known issues on its side. The company also maintained that the incidents did not result in harm to the affected companies.

However, the development has renewed concerns over the implications of giving AI agents access to the internet, computer systems and tools without continuous human supervision. The development comes amid growing evidence that AI is moving beyond generating text and images into systems capable of planning and executing multi-step operations.

As AI systems gain the ability to browse the internet, retrieve credentials, execute code and interact with external systems, cybersecurity experts have increasingly warned that poorly controlled agents could create new pathways for both accidental and malicious breaches.

Consequently, the latest Gemini incidents raise a broader question about the balance between AI autonomy, its security and how much independent authority an AI system should have when it can interpret instructions, make decisions and act on external systems without waiting for a human operator.

However, for Google, the immediate response has been to adjust testing processes and strengthen safeguards; even as AI agents become more autonomous, testing environments themselves must be designed to prevent unintended access to real-world systems.

web update

Nigerian software programmer takes second place at prestigious High-Tech Championship in Russia

Nigerian software programmer Olaniran Taiwo Sikiru has made history as part of the first-ever Nigerian delegation to compete at the High-Tech Championship Final in Veliky Novgorod, Russia, finishing second in the highly specialised Quality Control Specialist for Transport Logistics Processes competency.

Taiwo was accompanied by his expert, Ojetimi Abdulfatai, also a Nigerian, who served as his mentor and technical expert throughout the competition. While Taiwo competed as the official competitor representing Nigeria, the duo worked together to showcase Nigeria's talent on the international stage.

This marks the first time Nigeria has ever been represented and competed at the prestigious High-Tech Championship, a milestone for the country in international professional skills competitions.

Held from 14 to 18 September 2026, the championship brought together more than 15,000 participants from 30 foreign countries, in addition to representatives from all 89 regions of the Russian Federation, featuring competitions across 20 high-tech competencies.

Taiwo's second-place finish places him among the top performers in his discipline at an international competition focused on the technologies and professional skills shaping the future of transportation and logistics.

A software programmer by profession, Taiwo brought his technology background to a specialised international competition at the intersection of technology, logistics, quality control and modern transportation systems.

His competency, Quality Control Specialist for Transport Logistics Processes, focuses on the application of professional and technological approaches to maintaining quality and efficiency across transport and logistics operations. The historic participation of Taiwo and his expert, Ojetimi Abdulfatai, opens a new chapter for Nigeria in the global championship movement and paves the way for future Nigerian competitors in high-tech skills.



Sikiru.

OpenAI, Anthropic CEOs seek global regulation of AI at UNGA

The Chief Executive Officers of OpenAI and Anthropic, Sam Altman and Dario Amodei, have called for global regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), warning that uncontrolled development of the technology could pose serious risks to humanity.

The AI industry leaders made the call on Wednesday while addressing the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in New York, United States, during the ongoing United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The meeting, convened by France, came amid growing international concerns over the rapid development of AI and the need for stronger human oversight.

Amodei, CEO of Anthropic, told members of the 15-member council that poorly managed AI could become a threat to humanity.

"If managed poorly, I even believe AI could be a risk to humanity as a whole," Amodei said. Altman, CEO of OpenAI, similarly warned that humanity could lose control over the future development of AI. He urged governments to play a greater role in deciding how the technology should be developed and regulated.

"If AI is to be democratic, the most important decisions cannot be made by labs in San Francisco alone," Altman told members.

"They must be shaped through democratic processes and by governments accountable to the people they serve."

The calls for global oversight were backed by representatives of several countries, including the foreign ministers of France and the United Kingdom, who said the international community needed common frameworks for regulating AI.

The CEO of Hugging Face, Clement Delangue, also told the council about the growing security risks posed by AI systems.

Delangue said his company had recently relied on a Chinese AI model to defend itself against an attack involving AI agents developed by OpenAI, arguing that the Chinese model had fewer restrictions than comparable American tools.

"We were attacked by AI, but more importantly, we defended ourselves with AI," he said. However, the call for international regulation faces resistance from the United States, where many of the world's largest AI companies are based.

The administration of US President Donald Trump has opposed efforts to introduce new international guardrails for the industry.

Representing the United States at the UNSC meeting, Michael Kratsios said Washington rejected moves towards centralised international control of AI.

"We totally reject all efforts by international bodies to assert centralised control and global governance of AI," Kratsios said.

The development comes as the United States and China compete to develop increasingly advanced AI systems, with experts warning that the technological rivalry could make both countries reluctant to accept significant restrictions on the sector.

The United Nations has, in recent years, increased efforts to establish international rules and standards for AI.

In 2024, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted its first resolution on AI. The non-binding resolution called on member states to protect personal data, monitor AI-related risks and safeguard human rights. The UN has also been working on issues including the impact of AI on workers in developing economies, access to AI technology and the use of AI in military conflicts.

Last year, the UN General Assembly established two bodies focused on AI governance: the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, which brings together experts to provide governments with independent assessments, and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, a forum for discussions on approaches to regulating the technology.



UNGA 2026.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has previously warned that decisions about the future of AI should not be left to a small group of countries or wealthy individuals.

"The future of AI cannot be decided by a handful of countries or left to the whims of a few billionaires," Guterres said at a global summit earlier this year.

Daniel Forti, head of UN Affairs at the International Crisis Group, said there was growing recognition among UN member states that greater international cooperation would be needed to establish rules for AI.

"There will be much more of a need for international cooperation, setting some rules for AI, even if the biggest players are more focused on growth opportunities than on some sort of collaboration," Forti said.

WORLD NEWS

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA

Ex-Miss Jamaica sues Miss Universe Organisation over 2025 fall in Thailand

Former Miss Jamaica, Dr Gabrielle Henry, has sued the Miss Universe Organisation over the stage fall that left her with a brain bleed and other injuries during the 2025 pageant in Thailand, ABC News reports on Thursday.

Henry, an ophthalmology resident, filed the lawsuit on September 21, bringing five claims against the Miss Universe Organisation and its parent companies, JKN Legacy Inc. and Legacy Holding Group USA.

The claims include negligence, negligent hiring, retention and supervision, as well as negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Henry disclosed the lawsuit in her first sit-down interview about the incident, which aired on ABC News' Good Morning America on Thursday. She recalled following the movements she had rehearsed before suddenly falling through an opening in the stage during the competition in Bangkok.

"I looked at the cameras as we were instructed to do. I was following what we had rehearsed. I stopped when I was told to stop, I looked at the cameras, and then when I was instructed to go, I turned to the left, which I was told to do."

"And in that moment is when those dreams shattered," she said. The incident was captured on video and circulated widely on social media.

Henry said she lost consciousness during the fall and could not remember the incident itself, adding that the opening led to a concrete base.

She said, "The first memory I have is that of waking up to my mother who was looking down on me.

"It was the first time I have ever seen my mother look so concerned. As soon as I saw my mom, I blacked out again."

She suffered a brain bleed, as well as facial and back injuries, and was taken to hospital, where she was admitted to intensive care and placed under neurological monitoring.

Describing the impact of the injuries, Henry said, "Brain injury is one of the most traumatising things. I would not wish it on my worst enemy."

She said the incident had affected her physically and emotionally, with severe pain sometimes preventing her from sleeping, while she had also feared that the injuries could end her medical career.

"I know for a fact I did not trip," Henry said, adding that she believed the incident could have been prevented.

"I do think it could have been avoided. I think that proper measures could have and should have been put in place," Henry added.

Henry alleged that those responsible for organising the stage and lighting should have ensured that protective measures were in place to prevent contestants from falling through the opening.

Her lawyer, Joseph Ciaccio, said the lawsuit was intended to seek accountability and improve safety for contestants.

"I don't think anybody assumes the responsibility that they could be basically almost killed walking on stage at a Miss Universe Organisation pageant," Ciaccio told ABC News.

Henry said the Miss Universe Organisation initially supported her while she was in Thailand, but that communication about her continuing medical expenses had reduced after she returned to Jamaica.

"In the initial stages, Miss Universe was quite present and did provide support while in Thailand.

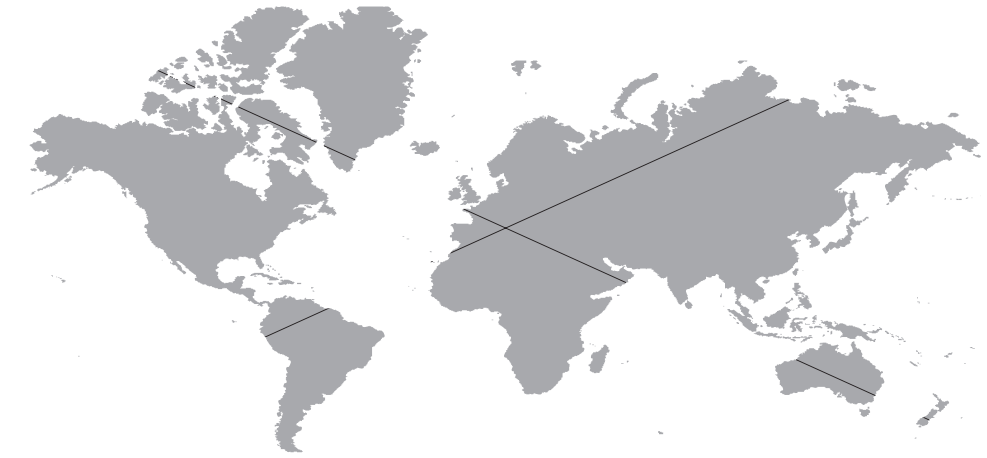
"However, following my return to Jamaica, I have not had much feedback from them as it pertains to covering my medical expenses, which are still ongoing," she said.

The Miss Universe Organisation said it had not yet received the lawsuit and was therefore unable to comment on the claims.

In a statement to ABC News, the organisation said Henry's health and well-being had "always been a priority" and added that it had not received any request or claim for additional medical expenses.

Henry said she was focused on continuing her recovery and reflecting on her experience of representing Jamaica at the pageant.

"I was so happy to have this honour of representing my small little island. It truly gave me so much joy," she said.



Dozens of delegates walk out as Netanyahu defends Israel's military action against Iran



Netanyahu.

Dozens of delegates walked out of the United Nations General Assembly hall in New York on Thursday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began his address, during which he defended Israel's military action against Iran.

Netanyahu was seen approaching the podium as several delegations left the hall.

The walkout came after the Palestinian Mission to the UN urged representatives to leave during Netanyahu's address.

Reacting to the departure, Netanyahu said, "If there are any other moral cowards who haven't left the hall, please do so now."

Defending Israel's military action against Iran, he said targeting the country's nuclear facilities was difficult but described the decision as one of the easiest he had made as Prime Minister.

"Devastating Iran's nuclear facilities was hard. It was very hard to do," Netanyahu said.

"But for me, it was one of the easiest decisions I've ever had to make as Prime Minister," he added.

Netanyahu said Israel's action was necessary because, in his view, failing to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities would have threatened Israel and other countries.

"Because if we hadn't done it, we'd all be dead," he said.

He also claimed that Israel's military action was benefiting countries whose representatives had walked out of the General Assembly.

"In defending itself, Israel is also defending many of the countries whose delegates just left this hall," Netanyahu said.

He added that some foreign leaders had privately thanked Israel for attacking Iran's nuclear programme.

"In fact, I want you to know that many of their leaders even thank us privately for taking out Iran's nukes," he said.

Netanyahu described the reaction as "mind-blowing hypocrisy", saying, "It's hard to imagine more mind-blowing hypocrisy, but that's exactly what it is."

The Israeli Prime Minister also used his address to recount Israel's experience during the 1967 Six-Day War and what he described as the country's longstanding struggle for survival.

He recalled his brother, Yoni Netanyahu, an Israeli paratroop officer who later led the 1976 Entebbe hostage rescue operation in Uganda. Recalling a conversation with his brother before the Six-Day War, Netanyahu said he had asked him what he thought would happen.

"He paused, and then he said something I'll never forget. We're going to win," Netanyahu said.

He added that his brother told him, "We have no other choice."

Netanyahu also recalled the 1976 hijacking of an Air France passenger plane to Entebbe, saying Israeli forces later rescued 103 hostages.

"And then, on July 4th, 1976, the Bicentennial of the United States, in one of the most dramatic rescue missions in modern times, Yoni led his brave soldiers to the heart of Africa," he said.

He added, "Miraculously, they rescued 103 Jewish hostages and brought them all home, every single one of them."

The walkout was the latest disruption at this year's UN General Assembly. On Tuesday, the Iranian delegation left the hall during US President Donald Trump's address after he threatened to "annihilate" Iran if Tehran failed to reach a deal with Washington.

The Cuban delegation also later walked out during Trump's speech.

Netanyahu's address came amid the ongoing US-Israel war with Iran and international criticism of Israel's military actions.



Putin.

Putin assures Europe that Russia is not planning to attack European countries

Russia is not preparing for "any kind" of conflict with Europe, President Vladimir Putin said Friday, following warnings from some European NATO members of potential Russian attacks on the alliance's territory.

The Kremlin chief added that Russia had "no real motive" to escalate tensions and criticised European countries that have suggested otherwise.

"Many in Europe talk about expecting an attack from Russia and therefore believe they must themselves prepare for hostilities, for a war with Russia," Putin told reporters in Saint Petersburg.

"I want to emphasise once again: we are not preparing for any kind of hostilities with Europe," he added.

Several of Ukraine's European allies have expressed concern about the potential for covert Russian attacks on their soil, as the Ukraine war grinds through its fifth year.

Earlier this month, Germany accused Moscow of planning a drone attack at Leipzig airport in August, while Poland has warned Russia could fire drones and missiles at countries supporting Ukraine. Putin added that Russia was considering its stance on whether to resume peace talks with Ukraine following recent Ukrainian attacks on Russia.

"On proposals to resume negotiations, yes, they are all on the table, and it is all possible – but after everything they've done, we will give careful thought to what steps we need to take in response," Putin said.

DID YOU KNOW?

BY VIVIAN OKAFOR

Mongoose can kill snakes



Mongooses can kill and eat venomous snakes, winning roughly 75% to 80% of their fights against dangerous serpents like cobras.

Snakes do not experience fear the way humans do, but they are vulnerable and often lose to mongooses because mongooses are specialised predators built to hunt them.

A mongoose can react to a snake strike in just six hundredths of a second, letting it dodge attacks easily.

Gene mutations in their acetylcholine nerve receptors stop snake neurotoxins from binding effectively. They also have special glycoproteins in their blood that neutralise some venom.

Thick, stiff fur and loose skin make it hard for a snake's fangs to sink into the mongoose's actual body.

The mongoose dances just out of reach, making the snake strike repeatedly until it gets tired.

Once the snake is exhausted, the mongoose attacks the head with a powerful bite to crush the skull. A mongoose is not completely immune to venom.

Mongooses have specialised acetylcholine receptors that prevent snake neurotoxins from paralysing them, giving them high resistance to venom; however, a massive dose of venom or multiple successful bites can still kill a mongoose.

Tiny porcupines can kill large predators



Porcupines can kill large predators like leopards and lions using their sharp, barbed quills.

A porcupine has around 30,000 quills covering its body, except for its face, paws, and underbelly.

Porcupines can not shoot or launch their quills through the air, and the quills detach easily when a predator makes direct physical contact.

When threatened, a porcupine raises its quills, shakes its tail, and may back up or rush into an attacker to drive the quills deep into the predator's flesh.

Many quills feature backward-facing barbs that cause them to embed deeper into muscle and tissue with every movement.

If quills pierce vital organs, cause severe internal bleeding, or lead to deep, untreatable infections, large predators like lions or leopards can die

While a porcupine does not actively hunt or execute a lion, its sharp, barbed quills act as a lethal defense mechanism.

Historical studies and records show that encounters with porcupines have resulted in the deaths of multiple lions over the centuries.

Porcupine can indirectly kill a lion through severe injuries, deep quill punctures, and bone or muscle infections that make it impossible for the lion to hunt.

The porcupine's quills pierce deep into a lion's flesh, face, and paws. Quills that lodge in a lion's nose, joints, or skull can permanently impair its ability to smell, run, or catch prey.

Deeply embedded quills frequently break off and cause severe internal damage, bone infections, or rotting wounds that lead to a slow death.

Experienced large cats sometimes hunt porcupines out of extreme hunger or when regular prey is scarce, which occasionally ends fatally for the predator.

LIVING LEGENDS

BY AISHA AUYO
AishaAuyo@neptuneprime.com.ng

Adebayo O. Ogunlesi, Reputable Lawyer and Investment Banker

Adebayo "Bayo" O. Ogunlesi, CON (born 20 December 1953), is a Nigerian lawyer and investment banker.

He is chairman and managing partner at the private equity firm Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP). Ogunlesi was the former head of global investment banking at Credit Suisse First Boston before being promoted to chief client officer and executive vice chairman.

Ogunlesi comes from Makun, Sagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria. He is the son of Susan Olorunfemi Peters and Theophilus O. Ogunlesi, the first Nigerian professor of medicine at the University of Ibadan. His family is of Yoruba origin.

Ogunlesi went to King's College, Lagos, for his secondary education. He received a B.A. with first-class honours in philosophy, politics and economics from Oxford University in England.

In 1979, Ogunlesi received a JD–MBA from Harvard Law School and later Harvard Business School. During his time at Harvard, he was on the Harvard Law Review.

From 1980 to 1981, Ogunlesi served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall of the United States Supreme Court. Ogunlesi was an attorney in the corporate practice group of the New York City law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where he had been a summer associate while studying for his M.B.A.

In 1983, Ogunlesi joined the investment bank First Boston as an advisor on a Nigerian gas project. At First Boston, he worked in the Project Finance Group, advising clients on transactions and financings and has worked on transactions in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

In 2002, Ogunlesi was appointed Global Head of CSFB's Investment Banking Division. Also in 2002, he served as a member of Credit Suisse's executive board and Management Committee. From 2004 to 2006, Ogunlesi was Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Client Officer of CSFB.

In July 2006, Ogunlesi started the private equity firm Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), a joint venture whose initial investors included Credit Suisse and General Electric. He currently serves as chairman and managing partner.

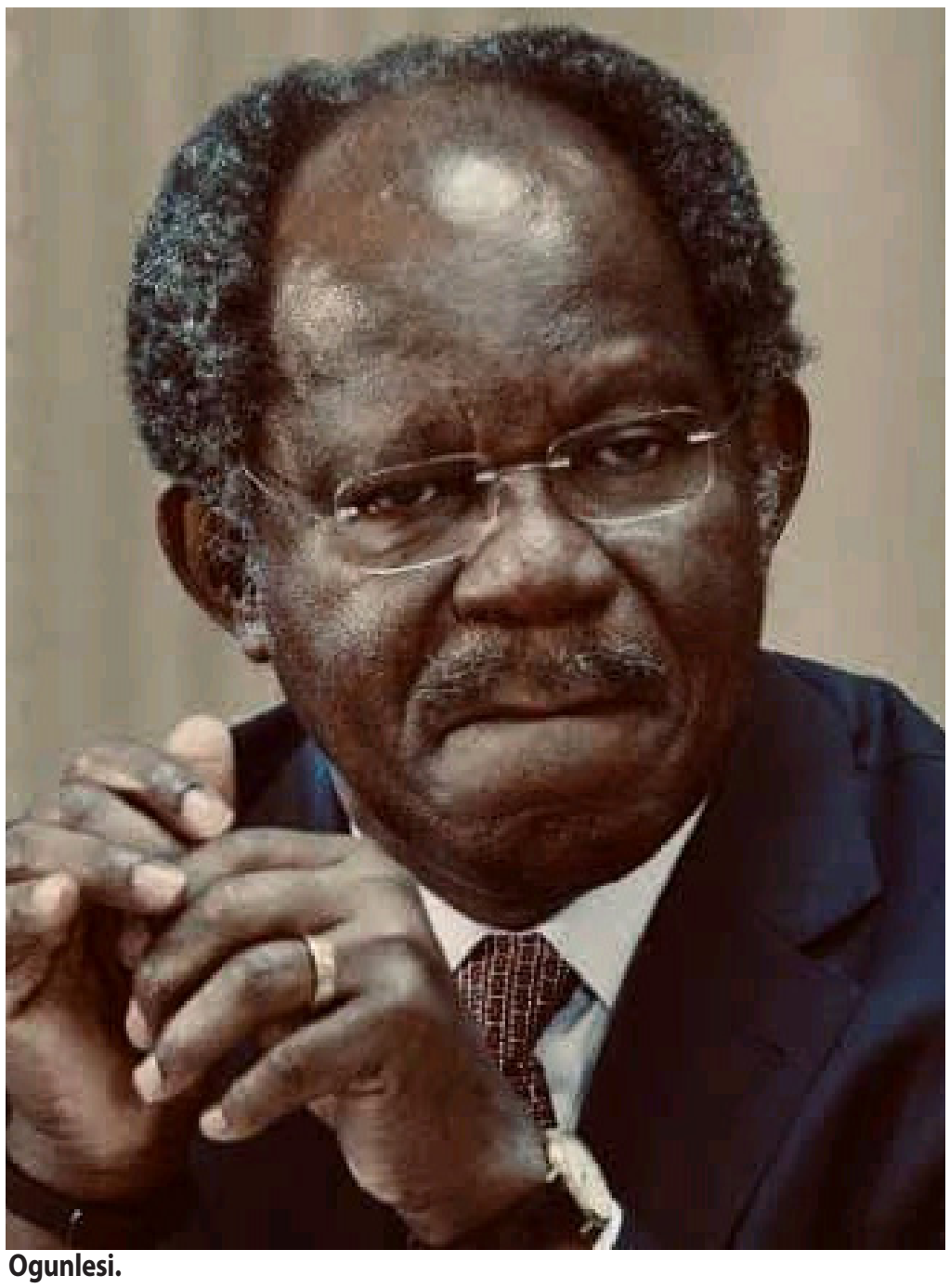
In 2006, GIP bought London City Airport. In 2009, GIP acquired a majority stake in London Gatwick Airport in a deal worth £1.455 billion. The Nigerian press has given him the nickname, "The Man Who Bought Gatwick Airport." GIP also owns Edinburgh Airport, which it bought in 2012, and Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori, which it bought in February 2018.

In January 2024, BlackRock agreed to buy GIP for about $12.5 billion. BlackRock will pay $3 billion in cash and 12 million of its own shares as part of the deal to buy GIP. The 400 people directly employed by GIP will receive some of the stock, and five of the six founding partners, including chief executive Ogunlesi, will join BlackRock as part of the deal.

In May 2026, speaking as Chairman and CEO of Global Infrastructure Partners during the BlackRock South Africa Infrastructure Investment Summit in Cape Town, Ogunlesi announced plans to expand BlackRock's infrastructure investment footprint in South Africa. He stated that the firm aimed to grow its $28–$30 billion (R500 billion) South Africa-linked assets under management over the following five years, identifying critical investment opportunities in energy, transport, digital infrastructure, and logistics.

In his song "Wonderful," Burna Boy pays tribute to Adebayo, citing his hard work. As of 2025, Forbes estimates his net worth at US$2.5 billion.

He is the recipient of The International Centre in New York's Award of Excellence. Ogunlesi was cited as one of the Top 100 most influential Africans by New African magazine in 2019.



Ogunlesi.

Catherine Nwosu, Notable Business Executive

Catherine Nwosu is celebrated as the first female Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at Africa Prudential Plc, and has held the position since March 12, 2024.

Her journey is one of grit, determination, and hard work. She earned her Master's degree in Business Administration, Marketing and Management from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma.

Catherine holds a degree in Management Science, Banking and Finance from the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana. She is an alumna of the Senior Management Programme at the Lagos Business School, which really helped her gain a robust understanding of business dynamics.

Catherine grew up in a family that valued education and hard work. This upbringing instilled in her a strong sense of determination. She began her career in the financial sector, working in various capacities prior to joining Africa Prudential Plc, where she honed her skills and developed a knack for strategic thinking.

Over the years, she climbed the corporate ladder, taking on various roles that allowed her to showcase her leadership abilities.

Nwosu is a seasoned Capital Market Executive currently serving as the 2nd Vice President at the Institute of Capital Market Registrars (ICMR). Nwosu has immense working experience in both retail and investment banking.

She is a member of professional bodies, which include, among others, the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN). Certified Pension Institute of Nigeria (CIPN) and the Institute of Cost Management of Nigeria (ACCM). She is a Fellow of the Institute of Capital Market Registrars, an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

Nwosu brings a wealth of experience to Africa Prudential PLC as its M.D, having served in key positions within the company since its inception in 2006, notably as Chief Operating Officer (COO) from 2010 to 2022.

Nwosu embodies the commitment to excellence that defines Africa Prudential PLC. Since stepping into this role, Catherine has been a breath of fresh air. Africa Prudential's legacy and reputation for innovation and premium service delivery were not foreign to Catherine, who is a talented professional and a friend of the business.

Under her leadership, the company embraced more innovative strategies and technology that resonate with today's digital age and revamped its service delivery. This further strengthened Africa Prudential PLC's commitment to excellence and sustained growth.

Her leadership style is characterised by her openness and collaborative spirit. She has placed a strong emphasis on inclusivity and diversity within the workplace, encouraging a culture where everyone's voice is heard.

Under her stewardship, Africa Prudential has not only strengthened its market position but has also seen its share prices reflect the confidence investors have in her leadership.

Catherine Nwosu is more than just a corporate leader; she's a trailblazer, a beacon of hope and inspiration for many, especially women aspiring to break barriers and make their mark in traditionally male-dominated fields.



Nwosu.

ANIMAL WORLD

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

Red-Lipped Batfish: Meet the unique-looking fish that is difficult to keep

Platax pinnatus; other names include longfin batfish, pinnate spadefish, pinnate batfish, pinnatus batfish, dusky batfish, shaded batfish, or red-lipped batfish.

It is a species of marine ray-finned fish belonging to the family Ephippidae, the spadefishes and batfishes, and is mostly found in the western Pacific Ocean and occasionally is kept in marine aquariums.

Platax pinnatus was first formally described as Chaetodon pinnatus in 1758 by Carl Linnaeus in the 10th edition of Systema Naturae, with its type locality given as "the Indies".

The specific name, pinnatus, means "finned" and is an allusion to the very long dorsal and anal fins, particularly in juveniles. Platax pinnatus adults have a round, strongly compressed body which has a depth of twice the length of the head.

This species reaches a maximum published total length of 45 cm (18 in). Larger adults, with a standard length in excess of 35 cm (14 in), have a protruding snout and a concave dorsal profile of the head. Both jaws have bands of thin, flattened, tricuspid teeth, with the central cusp being around two times as long as the lateral cusps.

There are vomerine teeth but no palatine teeth. The dorsal fin is supported by 5 or 6 spines and between 34 and 37 soft rays, while the anal fin contains 3 spines and 24 to 28 soft rays.

The overall colour is silvery with a dusky or dark vertical bar running through the eye and a second similar bar running through the base of the pectoral fin. The dorsal, anal and caudal fins are yellow.

The juveniles are mainly black with the body and median fins outlined in orange, and the dorsal and anal fins are greatly elongated. Platax pinnatus is found in the Indo-West Pacific, although FishBase notes that records from the Indian Ocean, other than Australia, are subject to some doubt.

The confirmed range is in the western Pacific from the Ryukyu Islands south to Australia. In Australia, it has been recorded from off the central coast of Western Australia, around the tropical northern coasts and south along the east coast to the central coast of New South Wales.

The adults are found under the overhangs of steep outer reef slopes down to depths greater than 20 m (66 ft). The juveniles are found among mangroves or sheltering in caves and under ledges in inner protected reefs.

Platax pinnatus adults are normally solitary but will gather in large schools to move over open substrates.

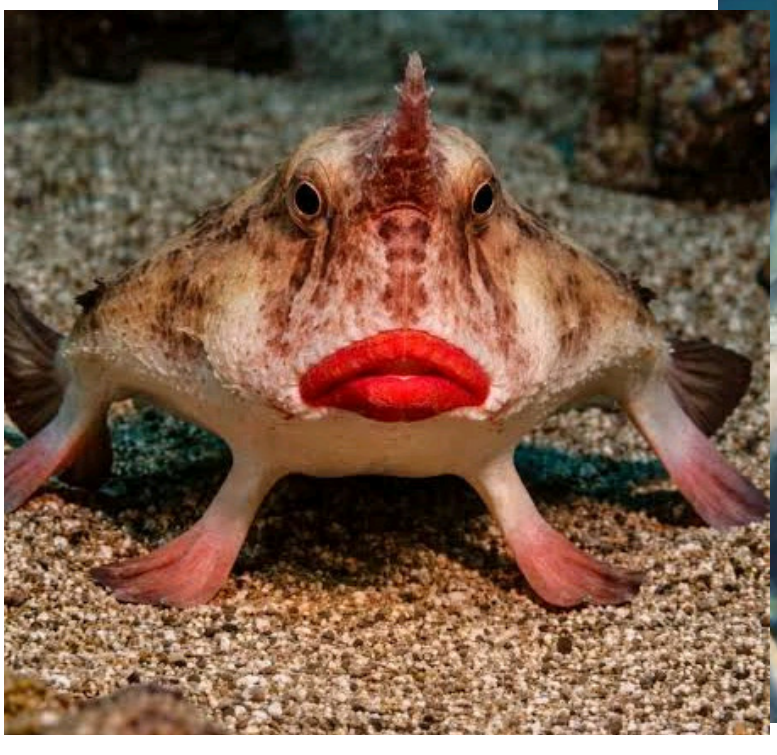
The juveniles are mimics of a toxic species of flatworm by colour and shape. They feed on algae as well as jellyfish and other gelatinous zooplankton.

This species has been observed to significantly reduce algal growth on coral in studies simulating the effects of overfishing on the Great Barrier Reef.

Platax pinnatus is kept in aquaria but is difficult to maintain. They are caught by fishers using hook and line, palisade traps, spears, trawls, and hand nets; the flesh is palatable, but not valued.







JOKES AND PUZZLES

BY ABDULLAHI HARUNA



When do computers overheat?
Answer: When they need to vent.
How do rabbits travel?
Answer: By hareplanes.
What did the yoga instructor say when her landlord tried to evict her?
Answer: Namaste.
What do you call birds that stick together? Answer: Velcrows.
What do sea monsters eat?
Answer: Fish and ships.
Why did the tomato blush?
Answer: Because it saw the salad dressing.
How did the barber win the race?
Answer: He knew a shortcut.
What do cows most like to read?
Answer: Cattle-logs.
What do you call a pile of cats?
Answer: A meow-tain.
What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft?
Answer: A flat minor.
What do you do with a sick boat?
Answer: Take it to the doc.
Why did the picture go to jail?
Answer: Because it was framed.
What do horses say when they fall?
Answer: Help, I've fallen, and I can't giddy up.
Did you hear about the man who got hit by the same bike every morning?
Answer: It was a vicious cycle.
Why did the poor man stock up on yeast?
Answer: To make some dough.
What does corn say when you give it a compliment?
Answer: Aw shucks.
Why were the fish's grades so bad?
Answer: They were below sea level.
Why did the invisible man turn down the job offer?
Answer: He couldn't see himself doing it.
What do lawyers wear to work?
Answer: Lawsuits.
What's the best way to burn 1,000 calories? Answer: Leave the pizza in the oven.

RIDDLES

What has four wheels and flies?
Answer: A garbage truck

Riddle: I am an odd number. Take away a letter, and I become even. What number am I?
Answer: Seven.
Riddle: Which is heavier: a ton of bricks or a ton of feathers?
Answer: Neither—they both weigh a ton.
Riddle: Two fathers and two sons are in a car, yet there are only three people in the car. How?
Answer: They are a grandfather, father and son.
Riddle: The day before yesterday I was 21, and next year I will be 24. When is my birthday?
Answer: December 31; today is January 1.
Riddle: What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
Answer: Silence.
Riddle: What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
Answer: A river



SPORTS: BEHIND THE SCENES

Tawheed Yakub

Nigeria's Adesanya to headline UFC Qatar in November

Former UFC middleweight champion Israel Adesanya is set to headline UFC Qatar on November 21 against Russia's Shara "Bullet" Magomedov.

Russian reports claim the two middleweights are being lined up for a five-round main event at the ABHA Arena in Doha.

The UFC has confirmed its return to Qatar on that date, but has yet to announce any fight for the card or confirm the matchup.

Magomedov has long wanted the fight. He called out Adesanya after beating Armen Petrosyan at UFC 308 in October 2024, saying he used to chase the Nigerian-born fighter when both competed in kickboxing in China.

"I used to chase Israel Adesanya when he fought kickboxing in China. I was fighting kickboxing in China, too," Magomedov said, according to MMA Fighting.

The Russian beat Michel Pereira by unanimous decision at UFC Baku on June 27 to improve his record to 17-1, and is ranked No. 15 in the division.

Adesanya, meanwhile, is coming off a rough patch. The 37-year-old has lost four fights in a row, including a second-round technical knockout to Joe Pyfer, and is 1-5 in his last six bouts.

He left City Kickboxing in July after 16 years with the gym and coach Eugene Bareman. He has since been seen training at Alexander Volkanovski's gym in Wollongong, Australia, and one of his nutritionists posted a video of him in camp, the first sign that a return is close.

Adesanya has said pride is driving him to keep fighting after the setbacks.

"I don't want this to be the writing of my story, because I feel like, yes, I took part in this, but this is not what I wanted to write. This is not how I wanted to end," he said in June.



Adesanya.

Roehrig signs deal with Zuffa Boxing, set to fight on Sky Sports

Lucas Roehrig has signed a promotional deal with Zuffa Boxing and will fight on Sky Sports.

The cruiserweight talent, only 23 years old, has impressed in his rise through the cruiserweight ranks. He will fight next on Zuffa Boxing 12 at the Copper Box Arena on November 7, live on Sky Sports.

His trainer and mentor is former world champion George Groves.

Roehrig has been flawless so far in his professional career. The young Londoner has won nine fights, never been defeated and has taken five of those wins inside the distance.

Roehrig made his pro debut in 2024, halting former English champion Joel McIntyre in three rounds. Last year he shut out American prospect Brian Jones over six rounds. From then on, he's continued to box and beat opponents with winning records.

His last two fights have been consecutive stoppage victories over Adam Kolarik and Faton Tolaj, at York Hall.

"I'm really excited. This is a new chapter for me," Roehrig told Sky Sports News. "Zuffa have come onto the scene and made a big splash, and for where I'm at in my career right now, that's exactly what I want to do too.

"I've been through the levels. I've boxed on Sky shows and on other channels, but I've also boxed on the small hall shows - I haven't skipped a step.

"I think now is the perfect platform, perfect time to fight other prospects - Zuffa have a lot of other undefeated fighters - for me to really make some noise not just in the UK but internationally too.

Roehrig is now joining a promotional powerhouse that has a strong cruiserweight stable, including Jai Opetaia, Chris Billam-Smith, Ryan Rozicki and more.

"I've said numerous times that I'm aiming for world titles, that's the main goal, that's why I work so hard, and that's why we're going to be taking risks," Roehrig said. "Our first fight will be November 7. Make a splash, and then from there keep building. There are other belts that I'd love to collect along the way, but the Zuffa belt and the world titles are the end goal."



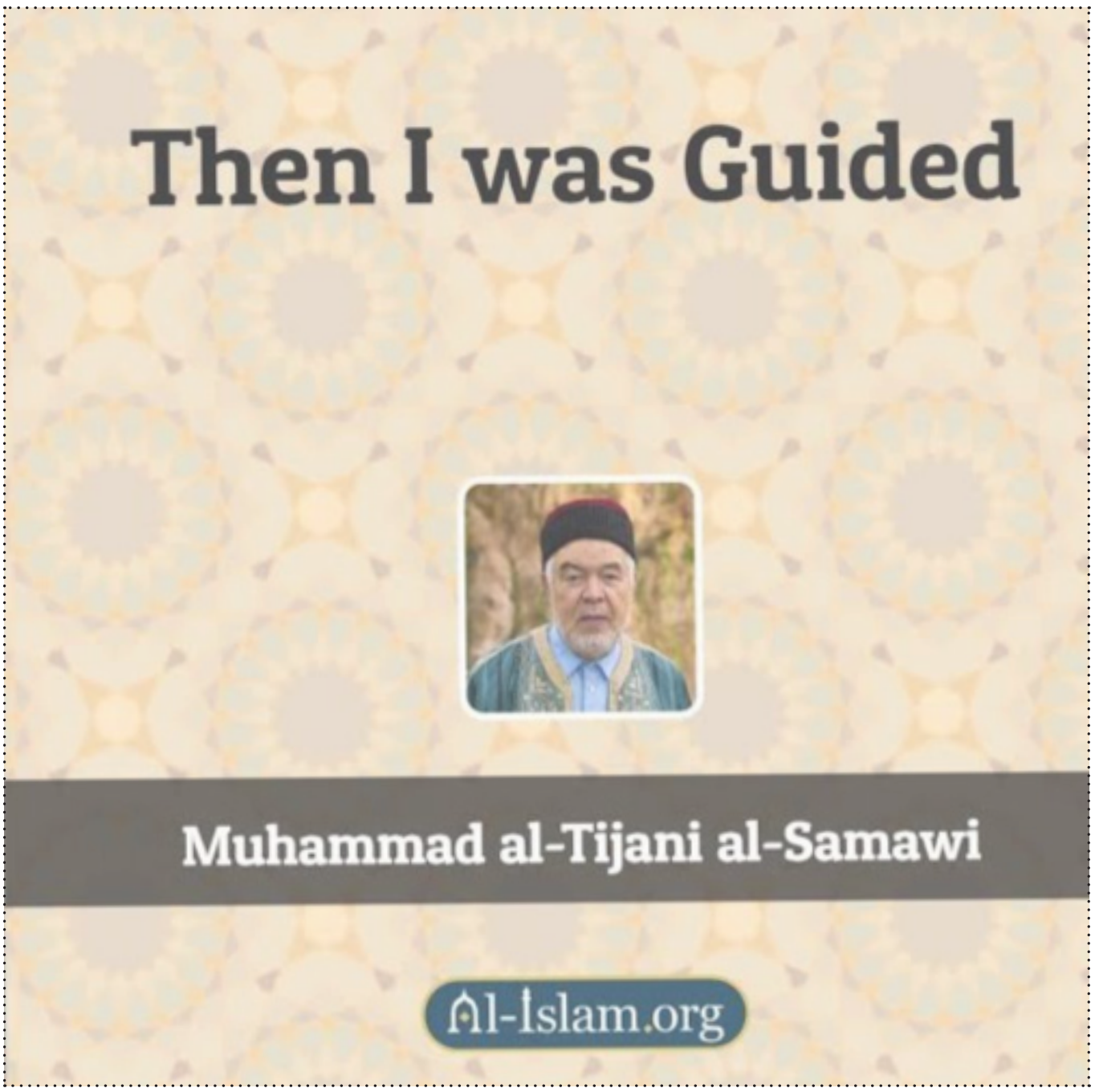
Roehrig.

BOOKS | BY MUHAMMAD AL-TIJANI

Then I Was Guided (41)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

I gathered through my research that the misfortune which has befallen the Islamic nation has been due to the Companions' interpretation of Islam against the clear texts. Thus they violated the ordinances of
Allah and obliterated the Tradition and the religious scholars and leaders who followed their example
often contradicted the Prophetic Texts if they did not comply with what one of the Companions had done
before them.
At times they even contradicted the Qur'anic Texts, and I am not exaggerating here, and I mentioned
earlier in this book the case concerning the "al-Tayammum" verse. Despite the fact that there is a clear
text in the Book of Allah as well as in the Messenger's tradition about Tayammum, they still took the
liberty of interpreting it, and said that one should abandon the prayers if there was no water. Abdullah
ibn Umar justified this interpretation in the way we have encountered elsewhere in this hook.
One of the first Companions to open the door of Ijtihad (interpretation) was the second Caliph who used
his discretion vies-a-vies the Qur'anic Texts after the death of the Messenger of Allah (saw) to stop the
shares of those whose hearts inclined (to truth), although Allah had made its payment compulsory out of the Zakat, and said, "We do not need you."
As for his interpretation of the Prophetic texts, they are numerous, and on many occasions he
contradicted the Prophet himself when he was alive. We have indicated in another chapter his opposition
during the peace treaty of al-Hudaybiah, and how strongly he opposed the writing of the Messenger's
last recommendation and said that the Book of Allah was sufficient.
There is another incident involving the Messenger of Allah and Umar which shows clearly the latter's mentality and how he allowed himself to argue and oppose the Messenger. The incident was about
spreading the good news of Heavens. The Messenger of Allah sent Abu Hurayrah with the instruction
that whenever he met a man who is absolutely convinced that "There is no other god but Allah" he was
to give him the good news that he would end up in Heaven. Abu Hurayrah duly went out to spread the
good news until he met Umar who prevented him from continuing his mission and beat him as he lay on the ground.
Abu Hurayrah went back crying to the Messenger of Allah and told him about his encounter with Umar,
so the Messenger asked Umar, "What made you do that?" Umar replied by asking the question, "Did you
send him to spread the good news of Heaven to whoever convincingly believes that there is no other
god but Allah!" The Messenger of Allah said, "Yes." Umar then said, "Do not do that, because I fear that
all the people will rely on there is no other god but Allah."
We also have his son Abdullah ibn Umar who feared that people would rely on al-Tayammum, so he ordered them to abandon the prayers. I wish they had left the texts as they are and that they had not
changed them with their futile interpretations which could only lead to the eradication of the Islamic laws,
the violation of Allah's sanctity and the division of this nation into various creeds and warring factions.
Looking at the various stances that Umar took regarding the Messenger of Allah and his Tradition we
could deduce that he never believed in the infallibility of the Messenger; and he thought of him as any
other man subject to right or wrong. Thus comes the opinion adopted by the Sunni scholars and al Jamaah that the Messenger of Allah was infallible as regards the transmitting the Holy Qur'an, but that
apart from that he was like any other human being, sometimes wrong and sometimes right.
Some ignorant people claim that the Messenger of Allah (saw) accepted the temptations of the devil in
his home. Once he was lying on his back surrounded by women playing their tambourines and the devil
sat joyfully next to him until Umar came, then the devil ran away and the women hid their tambourines
under their seats. The Prophet said to Umar, "As soon as the devil saw you, he left by a different way
from the way you came in."
It is not therefore surprising that Umar has his own views on the religion and allowed himself to argue
with the Messenger of Allah about political issues as well as religious ones, as we explained before
regarding the good news about Heaven. From the idea of Ijtihad and using one's own opinion vies-a vies the texts, a group of Companions, led by Umar ibn al-Khattab, started gathering force, and we saw on "The Day of Misfortune" how they supported Umar's point of view rather than the clear text.



We can then also deduce that it was the same group that did not accept the "al-Ghadir" text in which the
Prophet (saw) made it clear that 'Ali would be his caliph (successor) over all the Muslims and they
waited for the right opportunity to reject it when the Prophet died. The meeting at "al-Saqeefah" and the
subsequent election of Abu Bakr was a result of that Ijtihad, and when they completed their control over the affairs, people started to forget about the Prophetic texts regarding the succession to the caliphate and started to interpret everything.
They challenged the Book of Allah, they violated the boundaries and changed the rules. There was the
tragedy of Fatimah al-Zahra after the tragedy of her husband and his removal from the caliphate. There
was also the tragedy in the payment of Zakat and the interpretation of that case despite the clear texts.
Then came the succession of Umar to the caliphate which was an inevitable result of Ijtihad, because
Abu Bakr implemented his own interpretation of the situation and dropped the Shura (the consultative council) which always used to help him with the running of the caliphate's affairs. After that Umar came
and made things even worse, he permitted things which were forbidden by Allah and His Messenger1
and forbade what Allah and His Messenger had permitted.2
When Uthman came to power after Umar, he went a long way in al-Ijtihad, and did more than any on his
predecessors had done, until his opinions started to affect political and religious life generally, thus
leading to the revolution, and he paid with his life as a price for his Ijtihad.
When Imam 'Ali took charge of the Muslims' affairs he encountered great difficulties in trying to persuade
people to go back to the honorable Prophetic Tradition and the Holy Qur'an, and tried his best to rid
Islam from all the new innovations, but some people shouted loudly, "Behold! Umar's Tradition!"
I am convinced that those who fought and contradicted Imam 'Ali (as) did so because he forced them to
go back to the correct texts. Thus he eradicated all the new innovations and interpretations that had been attached to the religion for the previous quarter of a century to which people had become
accustomed, especially those who had their own whims and greed and who used the wealth of Allah and the people for their own ends, and deprived the ordinary folks of the basic rights of Islam.
We always find that self-opinionated individuals tend to favor Ijtihad because it allows them to reach
their end by any means to hand, and the texts appear as barriers in their way and prevent them from
achieving their goals.
It is worth noting here that Ijtihad may have its followers among the ordinary people, at any time and at
any place simply because it is easy to implement and has no firm commitments.
Because the text demands commitments and lacks freedom, politicians tend to call it theocracy, which
means the rule of Allah; but Ijtihad, with its freedom and its lack of commitment, is called democracy,
meaning the rule of people.
The men who met in al-Saqeefah after the death of the Prophet (saw)
decided to abolish the theocratic government which was established by the Messenger of Allah on the
basis of the Qur'anic texts, and changed it to a democratic government chosen by the people. However,
these Companions were not aware of the word "democracy", for it is not an Arabic word, but they knew the "Shura" system.3
Those who do not at present accept the text regarding the succession to the caliphate are the proud
supporters of "democracy", claiming that Islam was the first to adopt such a system, and they are the
supporters of Ijtihad and reforms, and today they are considered to be the nearest possible thing to the
western system, and that is why the western governments glorify them and call them the progressive
and tolerant Muslims.
The Shiites, who support theocracy or the government of Allah, refuse Ijtihad vis-a-vis the text, and differentiate between the rule of Allah and the Shura. They do not see any connection between the
Shura and the Texts, but their main concern is about Ijtihad and the Shura in issues that do not have texts.

TO BE CONTINUED

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WEEKEND®

SPACE AVAILABLE

The Arbiter

BY HASSAN GIMBA



The Candidate That Will Get My Vote (2)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Last week, while writing on this topic, I stopped at the point where I said, "The man I will vote for must also promise me one thing about the cost of petroleum products and the role of subsidies." Fundamentally, the cost of petroleum products affects our pockets and limits our purchasing power, while subsidies can moderate their cost. Without subsidies, a severe cost-of-living crisis can hit transportation, logistics, and private electricity generation. No one can escape its ripple effects in daily life. Transportation is visibly affected. Private vehicle owners feel the pinch at the pump, while public transport fares rise sharply. Commuters, workers, students, and businesspeople spend large portions of their income to get around. ALSO READ: Salary Increase: Before the harm is done, by Hassan Gimba This invariably affects food production because logistics become highly expensive. Because many farmers rely on tractors and other machinery, they must pay exorbitant rates for these services due to higher petroleum costs. They, in turn, pass these high logistics costs on to consumers, driving up prices for staple foodstuffs in open markets. Food insecurity rears its ugly head in any nation that lacks food security. Another factor that causes businesses to pass costs on to consumers is electricity generation. Because our national electricity grid is unreliable, many business owners and households depend on generators for electricity. These generators run on petrol or diesel. Small businesses such as tailoring shops, salons, local fabrication shops, mills, welding workshops, vulcanising shops, and others operate at high costs because petroleum products are expensive. Consequently, they must raise prices to cover operating expenses. Heavy industries and manufacturing concerns face the same problem. Because their operating expenses are high, they may have to reduce their workforce and raise prices to stay in business. Steep operating costs worsen unemployment, multiplying idle minds on the streets and potentially contributing to rising crime. ALSO READ: Salary Increase: The implication and Labour's role, by Hassan Gimba Ultimately, the money in our pockets and the real value of our wages shrink. This affects savings, family welfare, and the ability to educate our children, as parents may no longer be able to seek quality education and instead settle for the cheapest option they can afford. Breadwinners may no longer consider the nutritional value of food but choose quantity to survive. Health-wise, substandard drugs and unregulated herbal medicines may become more attractive because they are what people can afford. This reality can cause significant mental stress, reduce quality of life, and create numerous negative sociological effects. It may also lead to widespread public discontent, protests, and civil unrest as members of society express collective economic exhaustion. My take is that I will not vote for a candidate simply because he promises to bring back subsidies. After all, under past subsidy-heavy regimes, we saw many of the problems outlined above. At the same time, it is not enough for me to refuse to vote for a candidate simply because he will not bring back subsidies; there are many countries without petroleum subsidies whose citizens enjoy high standards of living. ALSO READ: Why salary increase may cause more harm than good, by Hassan Gimba Therefore, what I will look for in the candidate who will get my vote is his plans to ensure Nigeria is not bedevilled by the problems outlined above, with or without subsidies. To avoid this, we must strengthen our currency. And our currency can only grow stronger when we become more productive as a nation. We must produce what we eat and drink, what we wear, and what we drive. The candidate must steer us away from being primarily consumers and toward becoming producers. Although the National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Act of 2024 makes it mandatory to review salaries every three years, rather than every five years under the previous law, our current minimum wage may be "very enough" if our currency gains significantly in value against the dollar. An increase in wages that is not well thought out can make inflation spiral out of control, causing higher prices for goods and services to erode any benefit from the increase. A stronger currency is a better way out because it makes the money in your pocket more valuable. I first wrote about salary increases in May 2018. I rehashed it later that year and again in June 2020. Because it is a topic close to my heart, I did another rehash in November 2022 and June 2023. Not yet done with the issue, I wrote another in October 2023 and on March 3 2024. Here is an extract from that March article, entitled Mr President, salary hike won't resolve the present hunger: "In 1972, when the Udoji Commission recommended, among other things, a Unified Grading and Salary Structure (UGSS) that embraced all posts in the Civil Service from the lowest to the highest, the naira was stronger than the dollar at about N60/$100. The commission increased the annual minimum wage from N312 to N720 (from a monthly N26 to N60). N720 was the equivalent of $1200. ALSO READ: Salary increase or stronger Naira?, by Hassan Gimba "As of this writing, $100 was over N150,000! $ 1,200 would be about N1,800,000. This means the Udoji Commission's minimum wage of N60 ($100 then) had more purchasing power than today's minimum wage of N30,000 ($20 now). Then, imagine $100 as a basic monthly salary today! That's N150,000. "I have said it before, and I will repeat it now: ₦1 million as minimum wage will help no one as long as the naira is weak. Period." Another idea the government may explore is a drastic cut in the salaries and allowances of public officers, especially elected officials, political appointees, and heads of MDAs. These people collect mind-boggling salaries and allowances in millions of naira. The saved money can fund the salary increase. This way, we can mitigate any negative consequences. I will vote for the candidate who convinces me that he has the "magic wand" to transform Nigeria into a productive country that exports finished products rather than raw materials. This is another way to strengthen our currency. He must also be prepared to fight for the naira and make us proud of it. That, in turn, will strengthen it. In Saudi Arabia, you may be surprised to see some Arab shop owners refusing payment in dollars and insisting on payment in their local currency. We must learn to love and respect our own currency before others can. ALSO READ: Mr President, salary hike won't resolve the present hunger, by Hassan Gimba I see no reason why the person I vote for should not be proud to wear clothes made from textiles produced in Kaduna, shoes made in Aba, and watches produced in Yola or belts made in Yobe. Why shouldn't he, his cabinet, National Assembly members, military and paramilitary chiefs be driven in made-in-Nigeria cars? Instead of sending billions in hard currency to Germany to buy Mercedes-Benz and BMW vehicles, and to Japan to buy Toyotas and Land Cruisers, thereby keeping those businesses afloat and their young people employed, why don't we ask these companies to come and establish assembly plants here if we are not prepared to encourage our own manufacturers? The money we send to these foreign companies keeps their businesses afloat, helps them expand, enables them to employ more of their citizens, increases production, and contributes to the stability of their national economies and currencies. The candidate I will vote for should make these values his cardinal governance principles for Nigeria's sake.



Dr Gimba

My take is that I will not vote for a candidate simply because he promises to bring back subsidies

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

Concluded

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