

**Ahmed Rufai
Abubakar:**
Perfect fit for
NIA



**All hail
the new
Baraden
Kano**



Jalal Arabi:
Spearheading
refreshing
change in style

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2019: Buhari still best option — Ganduje

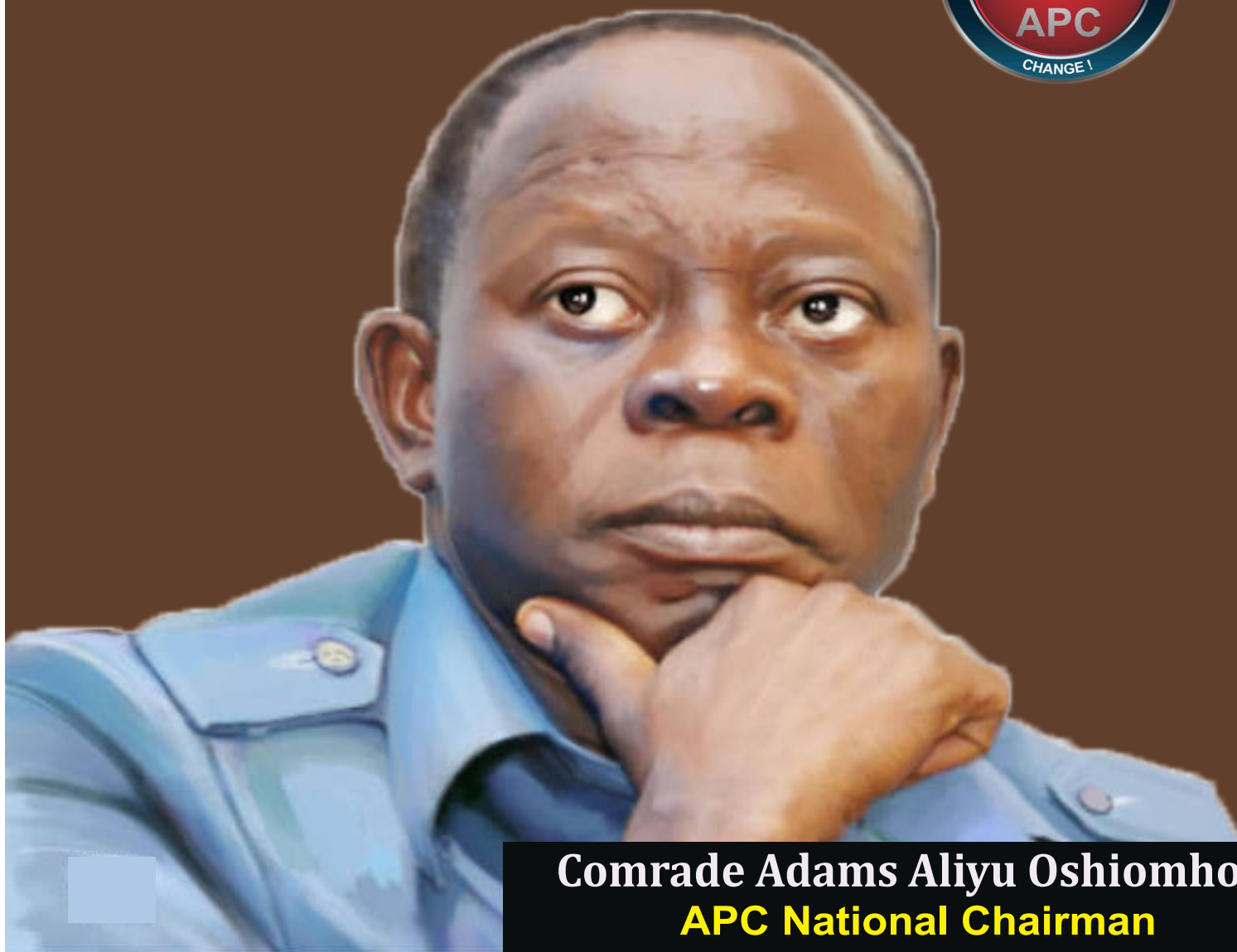
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A NEW DAWN AT



Comrade Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole APC National Chairman

As a labour leader, you were second to none. You organised and galvanised Nigerian workers on the platform of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and fought obnoxious government policies. Even at great risks to your personal liberty, you demonstrated how selfless, altruistic and courageous you were by speaking truth to power for the good of workers in particular and Nigerians in general.

As Governor, you demystified governance and demonstrated in words and actions that leadership is about service to God and humanity. You provided a visionary and effective leadership that made life more meaningful and worth living for the people of Edo state. So much so that after your trail-blazing tenure, outpourings of appreciation and adoration continue to flow from all directions.

As national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), we are convinced that you will surely open new vistas in the realm of leadership, management and governance for the good of APC in particular and Nigeria in general.

The management and staff of **THINKERS COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED**, publishers of **Thinkers Newspaper** and **Thinkers Magazine**, join millions of Nigerians in wishing you a resounding success in your new national assignment. May your tenure stand out as the most illustrious and innovative in the history of party leadership in Nigeria and beyond. Amen!

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Editorial Suite



As we approach 2019, the year of another round of crucial elections, this month's edition of Nigeria's number one News Magazine has come up with rich contents to keep you abreast and updated regarding the preparation of the gladiators.

To start with, Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje of Kano state is our star man for the month. In a no-holds-barred interview, the Governor said there is simply no alternative to President Muhammadu Buhari in the 2019 elections. He argued that the present administration has shown that if given another four years, it would be able to complete the great job it has started, and Nigerians would now appreciate the foundation the President started laying in 2015. While sharing the laudable achievements of his administration in Kano, Ganduje said his predecessor, Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, now a Senator, had for years frustrated the efforts of stakeholders to reconcile them, adding that it's now a difficult task for anyone to achieve the reconciliation because of Kwankwaso's presidential ambition since Kano, as he said, is 100 per cent for President Buhari.

One of Nigeria's unsung heroes in this present administration is the Permanent Secretary of the State House, Jalal Arabi, whose remarkable efforts to keep government afloat go unnoticed by the media. We have in this edition a brief insight into the life of the trained lawyer and quintessential civil servant.

We also peeped into the life of Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, the Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA). Abubakar, a former Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs/International Relations, is a retired staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who has excelled in his chosen field of spying. He served in many senior level security, defense, and intelligence positions.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jam'at recently hosted a forum for both Muslim and non-Muslim leaders and stakeholders to discuss the way forward for the country in terms of achieving peace and inter-religious cooperation. The full story is in this edition.

This amazing copy also contains all the routine, interesting pages for Sport, Entertainment, Quotable Quotes, This Month in History, and the profile of your favourite celebrities celebrating their birthdays this month, among many others. Enjoy.

Abdurahman

ABDULRAHEEM

Editor-in-Chief/MD

Nigeria's unbanked population stands at 37% – CBN

Barely two years to the 2020 target to reduce unbanked Nigerians to 20 per cent, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) says the country's unbanked population currently stands at 37 per cent.

The bank's Director of Banking and Payment Systems, Mr Dipo Fatokun, said this at the third Annual Banking Security Summit organised by MAXUT Consulting in partnership with OneSpan, a global data security company, in Lagos.

He said the CBN had in 2010 in Mexico made a commitment to reduce the population of unbanked Nigerians to at least 20 per cent by 2020.

"We made a commitment in Mexico then to reduce the number of unbanked to at least 20 per cent by 2020, then in 2010 we observed that over 46 per cent of bankable Nigerians didn't have access to financial services," he said.



MacArthur awards \$6.5 million grant to advance anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced on Thursday nearly \$6.5 million in funding to advance anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria.

The grants are part of the Foundation's On Nigeria grant making, which seeks to reduce corruption by building an atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance in the country.

The grants support non-profits working to inform and empower

communities in the fight against corruption and to promote anti-corruption as a national priority in advance of the 2019 Presidential and Assembly elections.

They include support for efforts to strengthen systems and study what works to reduce corruption. These awards build on decades of Foundation support for projects to enhance credibility, integrity, monitoring, and security around past elections.

Dangote Sugar Refinery shareholders get N21 billion dividend

Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc has increased dividend payable to shareholders for the financial year ended December 31, 2017 to N21 billion.

The company's chairman, Aliko Dangote, made this known at the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Lagos that the dividend payable to shareholders increased by 192 per cent or N1.75 per share from N7.2 billion or 60k paid in 2016.

"The board of the company has recommended to shareholders for approval, at this meeting, the payment of a final dividend of N15 billion, being 125 kobo for the year ended December 31, 2017," he said.

The board had earlier approved the payment of an



Dangote

interim dividend of N6 billion, being 50 kobo per share, which brought the total dividend for the year under review to N21 billion.

Nigerian govt feeds 8.7 million school children under Social Intervention Programme – Minister

The Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, said the federal government has no fewer than 8.7 million school children in its Home Grown School Feeding Programme.

The minister said this while fielding questions from some stakeholders on the status of the programme at the Public Presentation of

the 2018 Approved Budget of Consolidation in Abuja.

The Home Grown School Feeding Programme is one of the components of the Social Intervention Programme of the federal government.

She said the Social Investment Programme had a lot of teething problems when the implementation commenced in 2016.

The world needs good, responsible journalism – Buhari

President Muhammadu Buhari has called on media practitioners to practice good journalism in order to rid the world of fake news, hate speech and insecurity.

The President said this during the opening ceremony of the 67th International Press Institute's (IPI) world congress 2018 in Abuja.

The 2018 world congress is titled "Why Good Journalism Matters: Quality Media for Strong Societies."

He said good journalism matters a lot in a world where the borderline between hate speech and free speech has become blurred.



Buhari

USAID, INTL FCStone announce landmark Structured Trade Seminar in Africa

Trade and investment in Africa is fast changing in the digital age and so are regional policies. In an attempt to strengthen the continent's trading ability, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in collaboration with INTL FCStone, a NASDAQ listed company that provides risk management and advisory services across asset classes and markets worldwide, are proud to announce a landmark seminar that will strategically tackle commodity challenges and outline a viable roadmap for inter-regional trade in Africa.

The Southern African Structured Trade Seminar will take place at the Avani Victoria Falls Resort in Zambia from 26-

29 June 2018. The three-day event will provide a platform where experts from private equity firms, financial institutions, commodity exchanges, mineral and agribusiness companies will discuss investment match-making and business-to-business facilitation.

The seminar will help delegates to gain economic advantage, mitigate trade risks, develop commodity marketing, all while structuring and packaging commercially viable finance. Regulators will be able to develop and implement regulatory frameworks that enhance market efficiency and stability, while policymakers will look at national best practices.

Goodluck Jonathan, hero of democracy – Atiku



Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has described former President Goodluck Jonathan as a hero of democracy in Nigeria.

The former Vice President said this during a courtesy call on Jonathan at his country home in Otuoke, Bayelsa state.

Mr Abubakar, who recalled Mr Jonathan's exemplary decision to hand over the reins of power without qualms, observed that that singular historic decision set him apart as a democrat of unimpeachable credentials.

Mr Abubakar, while reflecting on Mr Jonathan's action that doused tension in the country at that time, noted that the situation in Nigeria may have been different if he (Jonathan) did not voluntarily relinquish power.

Over 100 parties to contest in 2019 polls – INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has said that over 100 political parties would feature on the ballot paper during the 2019 general elections.

This was disclosed by the chairman of the commission, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, at an Elections Stakeholders' Summit in Abuja.

The INEC chairman said 138 political associations have applied for registration as political parties.

He said personnel of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) have been deployed to voter registration centres across the country leading to arrests of over 300 foreigners attempting to register.



68.5 million people displaced globally – UNHCR

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo Grandi, said the number of people forced to flee their homes in 2017 rose to 68.5 million, warning that the world's displacement hotspots "are becoming hotter."

Mr Grandi also said nearly three million more people were displaced year-on-year, citing ongoing, protracted violence around the globe and a lack of solutions to conflicts as reasons for the increase.

According to him, more than two thirds of all refugees worldwide originated from only a handful of countries.

He said that "continuous pressure on civilians" caught up in fighting, had pushed them to leave their homes.



BOVICAMPO 18

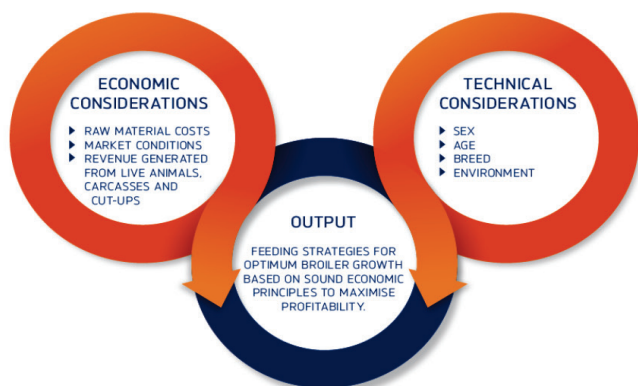


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SHORT & SHARP

FIFA proposes mini-World Cup every two years

President Gianni Infantino has proposed staging what would effectively be a mini-World Cup, featuring eight international teams, every two years in addition to the traditional competition.

The tournament, known as the "Final 8", would be the climax of a global Nations League competition.

It is part of an ambitious plan to reform international football which FIFA believes could be worth \$25 billion in a 12-year cycle.

In a letter seen by Reuters, Infantino suggested that the new tournament would take place every October and/or November of every odd year starting from 2021.

He said that a "solid and serious" group of investors were willing to spend \$25 billion on the competition and a revamped version of the Club World Cup, which would also start in 2021 with 24 teams.

Aisha Buhari bags Korean varsity's Honourary Doctorate degree

Wife of the President, Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari has been awarded an honorary Doctorate degree in Humanities by Sun Moon University in South Korea.

This was disclosed by Professor Hong Young-Shik of Political Science Department of the university, who led a team to pay a courtesy visit on the wife of the President at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

"The humanitarian activities of Mrs. Buhari have caught the attention of the world and the Senate of the Sun Moon University, especially her outstanding work with women and children," he said.

The university, he said, identifies with Mrs Buhari's efforts through Future Assured, stressing that Mr. and Mrs. Buhari are showing good leadership example to humanity.



Aisha

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Nigerian banks lose N12.30 billion to fraud in four years – NIBSS



Shonubi

The Nigerian Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS) said the banking industry lost the sum of N12.30 billion to various frauds between 2014 and 2017.

Managing Director of NIBBS, Adebisi Shonubi, disclosed this at the third Annual Banking Security Summit organised by MAXUT Consulting in partnership with OneSpan, a global data security company, in Lagos.

He said the figure was lost in 41,461 fraud cases between 2014 and 2017.

He said 2014 fraud volume stood at 1,461; 10,743 in 2015; 19,531 in 2016 and 25,043 in 2017.



Hajj 2018: FCT begins orientation exercise for intending pilgrims

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, has commenced the first phase of its education and orientation exercise for intending pilgrims for the 2018 Hajj exercise.

A statement by the spokesperson of the board, Mr. Muhammad Aliyu, said Islamic scholars have been mobilised for the exercise.

He said the exercise would

be conducted in four phases to enable enlighten pilgrims on hajj rites as well as new policies introduced for this year's hajj by the Saudi authorities and National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON).

He advised intending pilgrims from the territory to participate in the four exercises he said were aimed to assist them to attain acceptable hajj.

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Insecurity: Air Force deploys 150 troops to Taraba

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sadiq Abubakar, said no fewer than 150 special forces would be deployed to assist in restoring security in troubled areas in Taraba.

He said this in Enugu when he led a delegation of senior officers of the Air Force on a visit to Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi.

He said the Air Force was more or less interested in flying operations,

but had recently shown interest in ground operations too, adding that another 150 special forces were presently in Sambisa Forest along with the officers of the Nigerian Army.

Dasukigate: PDP chairman, other members got N14 billion, govt tells court

The federal government has included chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mr. Uche Secondus, and other members of the party in the amended charge against former National security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki.

During a court session on Mr Dasuki's trial, prosecution counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, informed the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, presided by Justice Hussien Baba-Yusuf, of the prosecution's decision to increase the number of counts in the charge against Mr Dasuki from 19 to 32 counts.

The federal government included some of the names mentioned in the list of alleged looters as beneficiaries of funds allegedly diverted from Mr Dasuki's office.

NLC wants N66,500 minimum wage for all workers



Wabba

The organised labour under the aegis of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has said the proposed N66,500 minimum wage should apply to all workers in the country.

Speaking at the workers' celebration in Abuja, President of NLC, Comrade Ayuba Wabba, said workers would vote out governments that failed to pay the new minimum wage.

"We insist that once the Minimum Wage bill is signed into law, all employers in public and private sectors must pay at once. We shall resist moves to renegotiate the minimum wage at any level," he said.

Dasukigate: PDP chairman, other members got N14 billion, govt tells court

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SHORT & SHARP

Dutse Emirate strips Sule Lamido's son of traditional title

The Dutse Emirate Council in Jigawa state has approved the removal of the suspended district head of Bamaina, Mustapha Lamido, with immediate effect.

A statement from the emirate council signed by its secretary, Amadu Malami, said a substantial district head would soon be appointed for Bamaina district in Birnin Kudu local government.

The decision followed the confirmation of the allegation levelled against the former district head for participating in active partisan politics.

The sacked Santurakin Dutse, Mustapha Lamido, is the son of the former governor of Jigawa, Sule Lamido. Both men are being prosecuted for allegedly embezzling public funds while the elder Lamido was in office as governor.

EU aid to Nigeria €2.2 billion in 10 years — Official

The European Union (EU) aid assistance to Nigeria in the last decade was above €2.2 billion, the Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to Nigeria, Ketil Karlsen, has said.

He said as a demonstration of EU's commitment to the continued political and economic development and growth of the country, another €318.5 million has been set aside to fund various activities relating to the forthcoming 2019 general election and the humanitarian crisis of the country's North-east region.

The ambassador, who described the EU as Nigeria's "key political development partner," said about €1.5 billion was committed to the Nigeria's development over the last decade, apart from about €200 million spent last year alone.

He said between 2015 and 2017, about €144.18 million was spent in humanitarian aid to victims of terrorist attacks in the North-east region of the country, including Borno State, while another €100 million went in support of the electoral process since 1999.



God will judge Jonathan, Obasanjo, others for mismanaging Nigeria's resources — Buhari

President Muhammadu Buhari has taken another swipe at successive Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) administrations between 1999 and 2015, saying God would judge them for mismanaging the country's resources.

"Nigerians know that there were no roads or rail lines, there was no power, despite the billions of dollars spent. Only God will judge this thing," he said.

The President said he approached the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) shortly after assuming office and he told him there was no money in federal coffers.

Worse still, the president said,

there was no infrastructure or any developmental achievements to point to as justification for draining substantial crude oil earnings.

"In those 16 years of PDP rule, Nigeria was getting 2.1 million times 100 (2.1 million barrels by \$100 per barrel) everyday, every week, but when we came on board, the price fell to between \$37-38 and hung around \$40-\$50. I went to the Central Bank of Nigeria, – the governor of CBN is here – and asked him, how far? And he said nothing was left apart from debts. I said, but this is what the country made? And he said: Yes. He knew, and I asked him, where is the money? All gone," he said.

7 million people die annually from polluted air – WHO

Air pollution levels remain dangerously high in many parts of the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

A new data from WHO shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants.

According to a press statement issued by the health organisation on Wednesday, at least seven million people die every year from inhaled ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution.

Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, said air pollution threatens everyone, but the poorest and most marginalised

people bear the brunt of the burden.





Forte oil to quit Ghana operations, sell Nigerian assets

Nigerian energy firm, Forte Oil, said it plans to quit operations in Ghana.

Reuters reports that the firm plans to sell its upstream services and power businesses in Nigeria and divest from Ghana to focus on its core fuel distribution operation at home.

The move comes as a surprise for

a company that recently announced plans to aggressively pursue opportunities along the energy value chain.

Forte Oil's Chief Executive, Akin Akinfemiwa, told investors in Lagos in August that the company also wanted to acquire marginal oilfields to boost its upstream business.

My husband films me during sex, leaks video - Woman tells Court

A divorce-seeking woman, Folasade Olaniyan, has told an Idi-Ogungun Customary Court, Agodi in Ibadan, Oyo that her husband, Ojo Olaniyan, filmed her while they were having sex.

She also told the court that her husband also went ahead and leaked the video to his friends and family members.

Mrs Olaniyan, 37, approached the court for dissolution of her 15-year-old union with Mr Olaniyan over brutality and lack of trust.

She also told the court that her husband did not care for the four kids of the union, threatened her life and also smoked Indian-hemp.

2019: Media crucial to free, fair elections – INEC Chairman

The media is crucial to the conduct of a free and fair elections in the country, chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmoud Yakubu, has said.

Speaking on the role of the media in ensuring a free, fair and peaceful conduct of 2019 elections at the 69th General Assembly of Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria (BON), the INEC Chairman cautioned against the use of media to incite crisis and violence, reminding media practitioners of the Rwanda and Burundi Genocide

in 2014.

"We are so determined that the 2019 elections will be free, fair, credible and peaceful. A badly conducted election could be a disaster for any nation. Without the media, safeguarding the credibility and transparency of the election will be a very herculean task

"The role of the media in information dissemination and public enlightenment, through the provision of platforms for electoral campaigns, public debate, and voter education is often a precondition for free and fair elections," he said.

Boko Haram kills 2,295 teachers in North-east – Minister

Minister of Education, Mr. Adamu Adamu, said 2295 teachers were killed in attacks by insurgents in the North-east.

The minister said this during a workshop organised for the Review of Legal Framework on the Safe School Declaration in Abuja.

The minister, who expressed concern over the systematic destruction targeted at education, said 2,295 teachers have been killed and 19,000 others displaced in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States in the last nine years.

The minister's claims follow similar ones by the teachers' union and governments of the affected states.



Adamu

Human rights at risk in Nigeria – Amnesty International

The intimidation and harassment of journalists and bloggers as well as violent crackdowns on peaceful protests show the determination of the authorities to suppress the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in Nigeria, said Amnesty International Nigeria during World Press Freedom Day.

The organisation called on the Nigerian authorities to desist from the disturbing patterns of using security agencies to silence dissenting voices.

"Many Nigerians are becoming increasingly afraid of exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly," said Osai Ojigbo, Director of Amnesty International in Nigeria.

Obaseki tasks journalists on ethics, independence

Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo state has stressed the need for journalists to uphold the ethics of the journalism profession to deepen good governance and fast-track the nation's advancement.

Obaseki, who gave the charge on the occasion of the United Nation's World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on May 3 each year, said "a free, uninhibited and independent press is a major pillar for the sustenance of democracy, good governance and economic advancement."

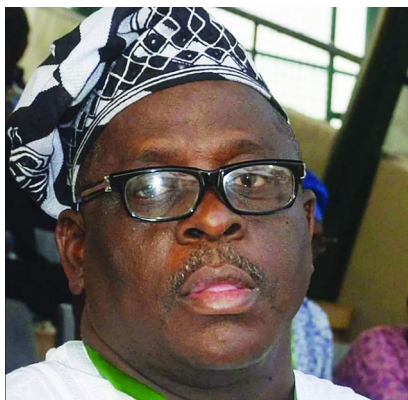
He commended the display of courage by journalists who daily challenge oppressive governments, obnoxious policies and impunity by political actors, stressing that "the world's history is replete with inspiring stories on the doggedness of journalists, who published objective reports in defense of



Obaseki

truth, that changed the course of history for the better, even at great personal cost."

Buruji Kashamu can be arrested by govt agencies - Appeal Court



Kashamu

The Lagos Division of the Court of Appeal has nullified a ruling by the Federal High Court (FHC) which prohibited the arrest of Buruji Kashamu by Nigerian law enforcement agencies. The court

said the senator is not above the law and should be arrested if there is a need.

The Court of Appeal panel led by Justice Yargata Nimpar overturned the ruling which was delivered by Okon Abang of the Federal High Court in 2015.

Mr Kashamu, a serving senator representing Ogun East Senatorial District, approached Mr Abang for the enforcement of his fundamental rights, saying he had uncovered a purported plot by Nigerian security agencies to abduct and extradite him to the United States of America.

Mr Kashamu is being sought in the U.S. on drugs charges, although he had continued to deny the allegations, saying it was, at worse, a case of mistaken identity.

815 million people hungry globally - UN report

No fewer than 815 million people are hungry in the world, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2018 has revealed.

The report stated that conflict and climate change were major contributing factors to increased hunger and forced displacement, among other challenges.

"For the first time in more than a

decade, the number who are not getting enough to eat is trending upwards, and there are now approximately 38 million more hungry people in the world: rising from 777 million in 2015, to 815 million a year later," the report stated.

According to the UN report, conflict is now one of the main drivers of food insecurity in nearly 20 countries.

Aisha Buhari bags Korean varsity's Honourary Doctorate degree

Wife of the President, Mrs. Aisha Muhammadu Buhari has been awarded an honorary Doctorate degree in Humanities by Sun Moon University in South Korea.

This was disclosed by Professor Hong Young-Shik of Political Science Department of the university, who led a team to pay a courtesy visit on the wife of the President at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

"The humanitarian activities of Mrs. Buhari have caught the attention of the world and the Senate of the Sun Moon University, especially her outstanding work with women and children," he said.

The university, he said, identifies with Mrs Buhari's efforts through Future Assured, stressing that Mr. and Mrs. Buhari are showing good leadership example to humanity.

PENCOM Multi-fund Structure Pension takes-off July 1

The multi-fund investment structure for all contributors under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) is scheduled to take off July 1, 2018, the National Pension Commission (PENCOM), has said.

This is coming just as the Commission said total pension fund assets as at February, 2018 rose risen to about N7.77 trillion.

Under the new fund structure, Head, Investment Supervision Department, PENCOM, Ohioma Ehimeme, said all active young contributors under 49 years would be under Fund 2, with about 60 to 70 per cent of contributions to be invested in bonds and treasury bills.

The balance would go into money market and other instruments. Fund 3, which is a pre-retirement fund, Mr Ehimeme explained, would be for those in the 50 to 60 years old bracket, with 80 per cent of the funds to be invested in bonds and treasury bills.

2019: Buhari still best option – Ganduje

Governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje of Kano state is an old hand in politics and administration as he has seen it all at state and federal levels. In this interview, the governor accused his predecessor and Senator representing Kano Central, Mr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, of frustrating several efforts by well-meaning Nigerians to reconcile the duo and find lasting peace in the Kano APC. He also spoke on his developmental strides, the boosting of the state's IGR, completion of old, abandoned projects and why reconciliation may be difficult to achieve between him and Kwankwaso as according to him the former governor is nursing Presidential ambition in 2019 while he is working unrepentantly for Buhari

How have you been handling security challenges in Kano state, one of the most populous states in the country?

Kano is not just one of the most populous states in the country, it is the most populous state in the country according to official figures. Kano is a cosmopolitan city, and wherever you have a cosmopolitan city, you must have developmental challenges.

What we are doing in Kano is to convert our

challenges into opportunities and that is what governance should be. Of course number one issue is that of security.

Before the coming of President Muhammadu Buhari, we were having the fallout of the insurgency by Boko Haram. I could recall that at one time, eight police stations were burnt including an attack on the headquarters of the State Security Service, over 200 people were killed. Also at one time, mosques were bombed, filling stations were bombed, many motor parks and markets were bombed.

But since the coming into office of this administration, we have not seen a single insurgency of such magnitude. We want to thank the almighty God, and the President for taking the issue of security very, very seriously even though people forget easily.

Many people found it very difficult to sleep when on daily basis you get information that 100 people were killed, 200 were killed, school children slaughtered and such other bad news. This was a very big issue that almost consumed the whole country. People were trying to create religious problem between Muslims and Christians and later on graduated and didn't spare anybody. Now people have forgotten, people are now concentrating on other aspects.

In Kano state, we were able to make effective and community security programme in addition to what the President has done. We were able to provide effective communications equipment, some logistics and frequent meetings and also established synergy with local communities so that we can get some security information. I think that assisted us in curtailing insurgency situation in the state.

Many Boko Haram commanders have been arrested in Kano, that also is as a result of efficiency of the security agencies and also, of course, the gadgets that we provided.

Another issue that has contributed to peace and stability in Kano state is the



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constant dialogue with all the stakeholders. Few weeks ago, we had an Interfaith Summit and we invited Christians and Muslims leaders, and other relevant stakeholders. We met for one week and came up with a communiqué. We also set up an Interfaith Committee to be meeting from time to time, and that is why we have been able to reach understanding among the religious leaders.

It is not only the summit that is important but the message from the summit that the leaders carried to the churches and the mosques, to let the people know and appreciate the importance of living together. You know there was a time some northern youth gave ultimatum to the Igbo community in the north to pack and go back to the South East, trying to take us back to the 1966 and 1967 when the war broke out. Some of us who were old enough to witness that situation know that is not something we want to welcome again. In my area, I saw where people were bombed, killed and that is not a situation we can wish for as Nigerians.

So we had to quickly summon the northern youth, some of the Igbo leaders to come to Kano state. We dialogued for two days and were able to broker peace. They came to Abuja, and that's how the issue was dropped. We found out that issuance of the ultimatum had to do with what was happening in the south eastern part of the country at that time. I am happy we were able to resolve that issue amicably.

You have been governor for a couple years, what would you say are your developmental programmes so far?

Pertaining to developmental programmes, when we were campaigning, we did say that our government will be a government of continuity; continuity in the sense that we will complete projects that were initiated by my predecessor because as a deputy governor for eight years, I was party to it.

In fact, many of the capital projects that were abandoned by previous administrations that we were not even party to, we decided to complete them because that is what governance should be.

Also, I hope to consolidate some of the programmes and policies because of the economic realities. So, we are really working to deliver on the things we promised. I can assure you that we have started

a number of capital projects both in the metropolitan and the rural areas.

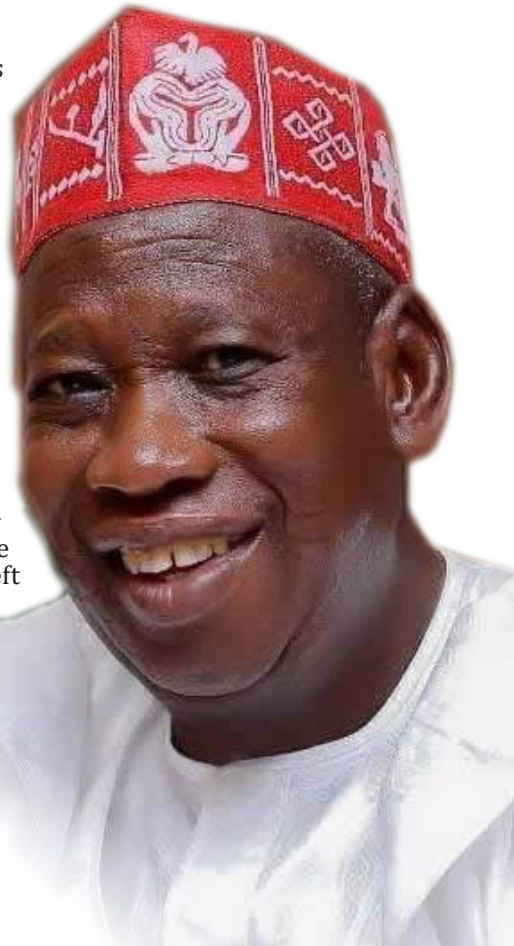
The fact that you talked about continuity is impressive because it's been the bane of development in this country. How many of the projects by your predecessors have you completed or currently working on?

Yes, we have completed some and we are working on many others. There is a N10 billion hydro-electricity Challawa and Tiga dam we are working on that was left at about 30 per cent completion. That of Tiga dam will be completed by June this year, remaining about N14 billion. And that of Challawa is on.

We have the longest bridge in the northern part of this country, which over two kilometrss in Sabon Gari. It was abandoned at about 30 per cent completion. We believe it will be

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completed by June and it is over N10 billion. There are other road projects within the city that are not of this magnitude.

We have scholarship arrears of over N1 billion, we have paid and still paying other liabilities. We had to pay over N2 billion retirement benefits of some staff and some other things we had to do to ensure that we complete abandoned projects.

There was one important hospital project abandoned over 10 years ago by the Shakarau's administration. It was abandoned at about 35 per cent completion. We had to redesign the project and spent over N7 billion to complete and equip the hospital. I have spoken to the Minister of Health and he agrees that up till today, there is no hospital in Nigeria that is well-equipped with modern facilities like that one.

With that project, we are trying to reduce health tourism not only in Kano but in all parts of the country. So, you can see the level at which we are completing abandoned projects.

You are one of the leaders who called for the removal of indigene issue in the constitution. Why do you think such move is necessary?

Well, in this country we are

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having a lot of problems, religious, tribal, herdsmen and farmers' clashes, etc. All these have to do with relationships and, of course, the current economic realities. But, the constitution we borrowed from the United States of America should be applied fully even though we are in a different zone and culture. In order to get very serious national integration, the parameters of national indigeneship should not be based on tribe, religion or place of birth, it should be based on where you are staying and what you do. Are you paying your taxes? Are you contributing to the overall development of where you are since you are benefiting from the services there? You are benefiting from the security that is being provided, are you contributing your own quota to the development of that environment? If you are already paying your taxes, I think you are already an indigene of that place, not just because you are the son of the soil, but because you are contributing to the economic development of the state, employing people and doing great and positive things.

In Kano, we are doing our part to ensure that that dichotomy is removed. Because in some states where we have some problems, it is basically because of this indigeneship issue. So, our believe is that to have national integration we should remove indigeneship issue. So, I think it is a constitutional issue which the national and state assemblies should deal with.

So, in other words, you are saying that all the people in Kano state are indigenes?

Yes. In Kano, I tell all the ethnic groups that they are indigenes of Kano state only claiming to come from somewhere else.

The Vice President said in Kogi state recently that N1.9 trillion was given to states as support. How much did Kano get? How much did you expend on workers welfare?

Of course, we have benefited from all the bailouts from the federal government because the situation we found ourselves when the oil money dropped below \$30 a barrel was such that many states couldn't even pay salaries. We got the bailout and now we are paying salaries on time.

We are not owing any salary arrears. The problem we were having initially was an internal one which has been solved. Some

people were being overpaid while others were underpaid maybe due to the fact something went wrong in the system, but we have already put that in order.

The projects of the previous government you have completed and the ones you have initiated, where did the funds come from? Is it from your internally generated revenue?

When we came, we had to reform the old system. I had to request all the staff of the State

Board of Internal Revenue to go back to the Office of the Head of Civil Service. We employed a consultant, advertised, and then we took the best brains, some of them not even from the state.

When we took over, we were getting less than N1 billion a month, but because of our reforms and interventions, we now get over N4 billion every month. It is not up to what we are expecting because up till now those that are supposed to be paying tax are yet to be fully captured in our revenue net.

You know some people don't want to pay tax, so we are deploying a lot of advocacy to capture them on our revenue net. The reason people don't want to pay taxes is that they assumed their money is being embezzled.

Yes, the increase in our IGR made it possible for us to embark on a lot of capital projects. We virtually use what we are getting from Abuja to pay salaries. So, all are capital projects in Kano state are being funded from the revenue generated from taxes and that is why we label each project thus: "This project is being funded with tax payers money." This of course is encouraging people to pay taxes.

You said recently that the political history of Kwankwaso cannot be written without you being mentioned and yours too cannot be written without mentioning him. So how come you have refused to bow to him to get the maximum political stability and peace in the state?

Yes, we were very, very close. Even before 1999, we have been friends. I was Commissioner for Works and Transport for six years during military, and my former governor is a politician right from the military when political parties were formed.

I started politics right from 1978, and in 1979 during the NPN period, I even contested election and was even part of the executive members of the party in the state. So, politics is not something I am just starting now.

So, we contested together for governorship in 1999 and the result was controversial. Prince Tony Momoh from PDP was in Kano to supervise the primaries, the result was controversial; elders reconciled us that he should be governor and I should be the deputy governor. I insisted that there should be re-election, but elders pleaded and I agreed to be the deputy governor. Tony Momoh is still alive you can ask him.

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And since I became the deputy governor I had to do it well. I had to be loyal, respectful and honest. So, I worked hard to add value to the government by supporting the governor not only by being loyal to him but working very hard to fill the gaps, promote the government and work round the clock to ensure when he is not around there is no difference. That is how we worked together.

Even when he was a minister, I was with him. I was on my own when he invited me to come and be his adviser when he was Minister of Defence. I agreed because after all, we have been together, and he felt we could work together.

When we won the elections in 2011, he graciously invited me, it was not as a result of any contest between us, but out of his own volition. I have to thank him for that because he could have invited someone else.

So, we worked together peacefully. When I was nominated and after I won the elections in 2015, before handing over, I started seeing some elements of undercuts from his body language.

He didn't attend my swearing-in, he just handed over and left for Abuja because he claimed he had something to do. I said okay and went for the swearing-in. A night before he left, I went to him and I said during my campaign I said that my administration will be a government of continuity. I told him that I want to retain the Secretary to the State Government.

The SSG did not know, I was the one that told him. I told him that I want to retain the Accountant General. The DG Media is his friend, I told him I want to retain him, and I later made him a Permanent Secretary. The Press Secretary, I told him I want to retain him, so he phoned and told him. And then the four administrative staff in the office, I asked him will you like to take some, he said he was taking only one, the remaining three are still in my office.

So, that was a symbol of continuity. Then it came to the appointment of commissioners and, of course, from his body language I had started seeing some elements of disagreements. So, I didn't get his opinion on the appointment of the commissioners because I thought that was not even necessary because the commissioners are not as strong in government as SSG and the Accountant General. So, I thought it was something I could do. Even at that, my Commissioner for Agriculture now was also his Commissioner for Agriculture, we are still together; the Commissioner for Local Governments is a younger brother to his wife, he was chairman of local government during his time; the Commissioner for Water Resources was an adviser in his government; the Commissioner for Finance was also Commissioner for Finance in his government.

How is the state preparing for the APC convention and the 2018 elections?

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We are planning, and we are working hard to get a minimum of five million votes for Buhari in Kano, and we would get it. We are not saying that there would be no obstacles. Of course, there would be obstacles. Politics is about obstacles. But we would get it

Kano state has a total of 342 delegates. We have the highest number of delegates in Nigeria in APC. No state is up to 300 delegates, and I can assure you if Kwankwaso contests against Buhari in APC, he will get zero vote from Kano.

...We are planning, and we are working hard to get a minimum of five million votes for Buhari in Kano, and we would get it. We are not saying that there would be no obstacles. Of course, there would be obstacles. Politics is about obstacles. But we would get it.

Don't you think that the crisis with your immediate predecessor will affect your chances in the 2019 elections?

On 2019 elections, that is left to God. But personally, I wouldn't mind for him to join another party, back a candidate that will contest against me.

And if the constitution allows, I would even invite him to come and contest against me on a different platform to test his popularity. Politics is like that.



Ahmed Rufai Abubakar: Fantastic lies often told against a faithful, decent public servant

By Abdullahi Mohammed

The practice or art of telling lies repeatedly, forcefully and consistently has a philosophical foundation and far-reaching psychological effects. Those who tell lies in this manner, even though they know they are not being truthful, have a reason for doing their trade. They do this because they know the more they dish out the lies, tie them around some events and coincidences

and make sure these lies come in different shapes and sizes and from different sources and sustain them in the public domain through the media - social and traditional, the more people tend to believe it's the truth or close to the truth. The simple explanation is this: A lie repeatedly told get stuck in people's consciousness and in their sub-conscious mind, it begins to assume the status of the truth.

This of course is the only reason one can trace to the barrage of

lies, lies and lies told by too many self-centred people against one of Nigeria's outstanding public servants, Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, the Director General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA).

The latest in the series of orchestrated propaganda aimed at forcing the hand of President Muhammadu Buhari to remove Abubakar from office was published in the current edition of PowerSteering Magazine. Among other fallacies, the Magazine claimed that Abubakar's loyalty is to Chad and Morocco, not Nigeria, since he is Chadian and his wife a Moroccan, that he was indicted for impregnating a Sierra Leonian while in the service of the United Nations, that he left the foreign service as assistant director, having failed promotion exams twice... All these are lies, false tales just to portray the cerebral Abubakar as incompetent to serve in such a crucial foreign intelligence outfit like the NIA. All these lies have been busted by more diligent investigations carried out by well-meaning Nigerians.

To start with, from records available, Abubakar NEVER failed any promotion examination and NEVER retired as an assistant director but as deputy director. Three times during his glittering career, he had won the merit awards for competence and meritorious service. There is no way the NIA in its finest tradition, would allow officers who failed exams to work for the President of Nigeria, even after retirement. It is common knowledge at the highest level of government that the NIA puts its best foot forward at every turn. That Ahmed Rufai Abubakar occupied a sensitive post in the President's office is a clear indication that he is one of the best products of the NIA and the Agency is proud of him.

Contrary to the obvious lie that his wife was a Moroccan, Abubakar's wife is not only a Nigerian and an indigene of Katsina state, she is also from the same village as her husband. In fact, she is his cousin. Abubakar is a full-blooded Nigerian. He actually hails from Katsina state while his parents had only settled in Chad at a given period and Abubakar did his secondary and university education in Nigeria. He NEVER at any time held Chadian nationality.

SECURITY WATCH

Now to the nitty gritty of the matter, it is difficult to fathom how some people even believe a stranger, foreigner or an incompetent or inexperienced fellow could make it to the top of the NIA, based on its strict internal rules of background checks.

The National Intelligence Agency created on June 5, 1986, is a national agency saddled with the task of overseeing foreign intelligence and counterintelligence operations. NIA owes its existence to Decree 19 by the military government of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida in 1986, proscribing the National Security Organisation (NSO).

Based on his erudition, experience and background, it is

difficult if not impossible to say any other person is qualified for this job other than Abubakar. He has seen it all in the classroom and government - foreign and local intelligence community. He worked as a Lecturer at Bayero University before taking up appointment with Katsina State Government. Later he transferred his services to NIA in the 90s. At different times, Abubakar served at the Nigerian Embassy Rabat, Morocco, African Union Peace Mission in Darfur, Sudan and later joined United Nations as Director in Peace Support Operations, Mediation Process, Preventive Diplomacy and Good Governance office. He also worked as Senior Advisor with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), with headquarters in Ndjamena, Chad before his appointment as Senior Special Assistant to the President. He has always been fluent in English, French and became a versatile intelligence officer whose service is ever required in Nigeria's intelligence community.

He had also acquired extensive experience working with the United Nations in peace support

operations, mediation process, preventive diplomacy and good offices, while all along helping to promote good governance and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

As noted in the beginning of this piece, liars and propagandists do their thing regularly because they believe their lies would stick in the minds of people, but they must also know that no matter how fast falsehood travels, truth would meet it someday.

People who lost out in the hunt for the NIA top job have a right to be angry, but attempting to destroy the institution just because of one man who can only be in office for a few years is the height of callousness and unpatriotic disposition. Nigerians must purge themselves of this If-i-dont-have-it-I-must-destroy-it mentality.

In all of these, kudos must be given to President Muhammadu Buhari for sticking to merit in appointing Abubakar to head the NIA and for not dancing to the tune of people who do not wish the country well.

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Based on his erudition, experience and background, it is difficult if not impossible to say any other person is qualified for this job other than Abubakar. He has seen it all in the classroom and government - foreign and local intelligence community

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Sound and furry over N9.1 trillion 2018 budget

By Mohammed Hassan

It took what seemed like eternity to be approved and signed into law, but not without a sizeable chunk of controversy and brickbats. Welcome to the world of the year 2018 budget of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Presented to the National Assembly way back in November 2017 by President Muhammadu Buhari, the appropriation bill was expected to be ready for execution at the dawn of his year. Alas, that was not to be, thanks to sundry disagreements between the Executive and Legislative arms of government. In particular, the legislators alleged that heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government failed or unnecessarily delayed to honour budget-defending invitations, thereby prolonging their work endlessly.

When, at long last, the National Assembly passed the budget

in May, it took the presidency about one month to scrutinise what had been presented for the assent of the President. Giving an insight into what was responsible for the one-month hiatus, President Muhammadu Buhari highlighted a number of sore points in the document. For example, what he presented to the legislators in November 2017 totalled N8.612 trillion but what he got in return from the NASS was N9.120 trillion. "Hmmm, after seven months!" The President muttered with barely concealed exasperation. A seven-month period which in his considered opinion was devoted mainly to ill-conceived tinkering with the budget estimates.

A case in point, the President pointed out "is the budget of the National Assembly itself which (was) increased by N14.5 billion from N125 billion to N139.5 billion without any discussion with the Executive." Then there is the litany of "new"

projects which the NASS in its wisdom unilaterally inserted into the budget. According to the President 6403 "projects of their own" worth N578 billion, many of which were not "properly conceptualized, designed and costed and will, therefore, be difficult to execute," were inserted into the document he had submitted to them last year.

As if that was not bad enough, the lawmakers allegedly cut allocations "for some nationally/regionally strategic infrastructural projects." He listed these to include counterpart funding for the Mambilla Power Plant, the Second Niger Bridge/Auxiliary roads, the East-West road, Bonny-Bodo road; Lagos-Ibadan expressway and Itakpe-Ajaokuta rail line. Turning to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the President lamented that funds appropriated for the major arterial roads and the mass transit rail projects on the

BUDGET

one hand, and the rehabilitation and provision of extra security for the United Nations building in Abuja on the other, were slashed by the legislators.

Given that “the logic behind the constitutional direction that budgets should be passed by the Executives is that it’s the Executive that knows and defines its policies and projects.” The President finds it curious that the NASS found it expedient not to accord much regard to the budget proposal. As it stands, the federal government cannot implement the 2018 budget. The only way out, the President said, is for the executive to prepare a supplementary budget. Despite his well-documented misgivings, however, he decided to sign the appropriation bill so as not to cripple the nation’s economy.

Among other obligations, the federal government plans to spend a hefty 21 per cent of the budget (N2.01 trillion) on debt servicing and to retire maturing bonds to local contractors with N190 billion. In the same vein, N1.6 trillion will be borrowed to finance part of the budget, including N793 billion to be borrowed domestically; N849 billion will be obtained from foreign reserves.

According to the Minister of Budget and National Planning, Mr. Udoma Udo Udoma, the overall budget deficit of N1.950 trillion in the appropriation bill represents 1.74 per cent of the Gross Domestic Production (GDP). The projected deficit, he said, was within the threshold stipulated in the Federal Responsibility Act (FRA) 2017.

That may be so, but the prime targets of the President’s barbed arrows were not too impressed with what they National Assembly members regarded as misplaced attacks. Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, the Deputy Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Bala Na’Allah, contended that had they allowed the budget to be passed the way the President had presented it to them, the electorate would have condemned them, implying some lop-sidedness. “You have to balance between the six geo-political zones,” he said. “It is the balancing efforts by the National Assembly that has led to those observations.”

Denying that the legislators intentionally delayed the budget as implied by the President, Na’Allah wondered if anyone had forgotten that the delay caused by the Executive had reached such an extent that at a stage the President had to order

some MDAs to appear before the National Assembly for the purpose of defending their budgets. He said it would be irresponsible for the National Assembly to simply proceed to approve whatever figure government officials propose for, say, a road contract. Putting the matter in perspective, the Senator pointed out that an agency may, for instance, propose N500 million for fixing bridges without taking cognisance of the fact that National Assembly had approved such a sum for the same project the previous year. Would it be fair to blame National Assembly for demanding for explanation or accountability? He wondered.

What intrigues many observers in the budget brouhaha is the self-evident fact that both the executive and legislative arms of government at the federal level are controlled by the same party - the All Progressives Congress (APC). It beggars belief that the two barracks seem to find it difficult to work in tandem with each other in terms of consultation and mutual respect, for the national interest. Nigerians can only hope that the budget, despite being passed belatedly, will be implemented faithfully for their common good.





24 million jobs to open up in the green economy

Twenty-four million new jobs will be created globally by 2030 if the right policies to promote a greener economy are put in place, a new ILO report says.

According to World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs, action to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius will result in sufficient job creation to more than offset job losses of 6 million elsewhere.

New jobs will be created

by adopting sustainable practices in the energy sector, including changes in the energy mix, promoting the use of electric vehicles and improving the energy efficiency of buildings.

Ecosystem services - including air and water purification soil renewal and fertilization, pest control, pollination and protection against extreme weather conditions - sustain, among others, farming, fishing, forestry and tourism activities, which employ 1.2 billion workers.

But projected temperature increases will make heat stress, particularly in agriculture, more common. It can lead to several medical conditions, including exhaustion and stroke. The report calculates that heat stress will cause a 2 per cent global loss in hours worked by 2030 due to sickness.

"The findings of our report underline that jobs rely heavily on a healthy environment and the services that it provides. The green economy can enable millions more people to overcome

LABOUR



poverty, and deliver improved livelihoods for this and future generations. This is a very positive message of opportunity in a world of complex choices,” ILO Deputy Director-General Deborah Greenfield said at the launch.

At the regional level, there will be net job creation in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific and Europe, representing some 3 million, 14 million and 2 million jobs respectively, resulting from measures taken in the production and use of energy.

In contrast, there could be net job losses in the Middle East (-0.48 per cent) and Africa (-0.04 per cent) if current trends continue, due to the dependence of these regions on fossil fuel and mining, respectively.

The report calls on countries to take urgent action to train workers in the skills needed for the transition to a greener economy, and provide them with social protection that facilitates the transition to new jobs, contributes to preventing poverty and reduces the vulnerability of households and communities.

“Policy changes in these regions could offset the anticipated job losses or their negative impact. Low- and some middle-income countries still need support to develop data collection, and adopt and finance strategies towards a just transition to an environmentally sustainable economy and society that includes everyone from all groups of society,” says Catherine Saget, the lead author of the report.

Other key findings

- Most sectors of the economy will benefit from net job creation: of the 163 economic sectors analysed, only 14 will suffer employment losses of more than 10,000 jobs worldwide.
- Only two sectors, petroleum extraction and petroleum refining, show losses of 1 million or more jobs.
- 2.5 million jobs will be created in renewables-based electricity, offsetting some 400,000 jobs lost in fossil fuel-based electricity generation.
- 6 million jobs can be created by transitioning towards a ‘circular economy’ which includes activities like recycling, repair, rent and remanufacture - replacing the traditional economic model of “extracting, making,

using and disposing”.

No gains without the right policies

Although measures to address climate change may result in short-term employment losses in some cases, their negative impact can be reduced through appropriate policies.

The report calls for synergies between social protection and environmental policies which support both workers’ incomes and the transition to a greener economy. A policy mix comprising cash transfers, stronger social insurance and limits on the use of fossil fuels would lead to faster economic growth, stronger employment creation and a fairer income distribution, as well as lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Countries should take urgent action to anticipate the skills needed for the transition to greener economies and provide new training programmes. The transition to more sustainable agricultural systems would create jobs in medium and large organic farms, and allow smallholders to diversify their sources of income, notably if farmers have the right skills.

The report also shows that environmental laws, regulations and policies that include labour issues offer a powerful means to advance the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda and environmental objectives.

“Social dialogue which allows employers and workers to participate in the political decision-making process alongside governments plays a key role in reconciling social and economic objectives with environmental concerns. There are cases in which such dialogue not only helped to reduce the environmental impact of policies but also avoided a negative impact on employment or working conditions,” concludes Saget.

LABOUR

In a statement to the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder warned that high and rising levels of inequality are impeding inclusive and sustainable development. Looking to the future of work, he also called for a focus on decent work to confront the challenges of demography, technology, and climate change.

Summary

- The rebound in economic growth has strengthened job creation and the global unemployment rate is expected to fall slightly during 2017-19 (after a three-year rise).
- However, the labour market recovery is uneven across country groupings, with continued rises in the numbers of people unemployed in developing and emerging economies.
- Real wages continue to grow slowly and there are concerns that weak social dialogue mechanisms are stifling a stronger connection with productivity growth.
- High and rising levels of inequality impede inclusive development: the high global incidence of low-wage employment is an obstacle to decent household income and to efforts to prevent excessive working hours; and the growing pay gap between the top 1 per cent and the rest of the workforce is causing widespread concerns about injustice.
- The productivity growth slowdown is partly caused by declining real wages and growth in non-standard employment, while informal employment remains pervasive, especially in developing countries, and is on the rise in parts of the new digital economy in all regions.
- Encompassing legislation is needed to extend social security coverage, raise decent wages, protect freedom of association and boost sustainable enterprises.
- The global rate of progress in reducing working poverty has slowed. More than 700 million workers still live in poverty in emerging and developing countries, including one in four of the workforce in Africa (no forecast change during 2017-19).
- New policies are required to foster decent jobs for youth in an era of rapid technical change, including promotion of youth entrepreneurship and the protection of rights at work.
- Persistent and pervasive gender inequalities demand a radical step-change in approach by all stakeholders, and strong policy measures will need to address the gap in labour market participation (27 points in 2018), women's higher risk of unemployment and their worse pay prospects.
- The global commitment to universal social protection, including floors, must be embraced by policy makers at all levels.
- Actions to mitigate climate change require complementary labour market measures to deliver a "just transition" for all, including skill investments, pro-active labour market policies and effective mechanisms for social dialogue.



- The Future of Work holds the potential to become the future we want, but only if policies promote sustainable and inclusive growth and deal with the challenges of demography, technology, and climate change by placing decent work at their centre.

The rebound in economic growth has strengthened job creation, but the labour market recovery is uneven across country groupings

1. After hitting a six-year low in 2016, global economic growth rebounded in 2017 and is expected to further strengthen over the next couple of years. The pick-up in global economic prospects is expected to be accompanied by stronger job creation, with the global unemployment rate falling from 5.6 per cent in 2017 to 5.5 per cent in 2018 (193 million persons). This marks a turnaround after three years of rising unemployment rates. However, because population growth is expected to outstrip employment growth, the number of unemployed people is projected to increase by 1.3 million in 2019.

2. Importantly, the labour market recovery remains uneven across country groupings. Much of the forecast decline in global unemployment figures results from progress in developed countries, where the unemployment rate is set to reach the lowest level since the 2008 crisis. Meanwhile, in developing and emerging countries, the unemployment rate is projected to remain relatively stable and numbers of unemployed are likely to continue rising in the years to 2019.

Wage growth is still slow and too often disconnected from social dialogue

3. Real wages in 2017 continued to grow slowly, at less than 1 per cent in many of the major advanced economies. In many cases, the evidence conflicts with expectations: Falling unemployment ought to exert more upwards pressure on earnings, and productivity growth is often outpacing earnings growth. While part of the explanation lies with the adoption of new technologies, intensified global competition and the uncertain economic outlook, sluggish wage growth also results from a changed

institutional and business environment.

4. Many countries have witnessed an expansion of jobs with wages fixed outside of collective agreements (and therefore less likely to grow in tandem with labour productivity). On average, ILO analysis identifies a drop in collective bargaining coverage since the economic crisis¹ and highlights both the economic and social justice case for governments to support expansion of bargaining in new sectors, extensions to protect vulnerable workers, and the wider formalisation of employment.

5. In developing and emerging economies, recent real wage growth has been more diverse, slowing in some countries and accelerating in others². The low wages of millions of workers – including workers in global supply chains – remain a major challenge. In many instances, wages are too low to fulfil the basic needs of workers and their families, which also leads to excessive overtime. In addition, large wage gaps remain between salaried workers in urban formal jobs and workers in rural areas and in the informal economy.

High and rising levels of inequality impede inclusive and sustainable development

6. Labour's share of income is still in long-term decline in the majority of countries for which we have reliable data – although China and the United States recently experienced a small uplift. There are several causes, including a weakening of labour market institutions and growing pressures from financial markets to shift surpluses generated by large businesses towards investors.

7. Wage inequality is a major cause of concern in developed and developing countries; the IMF, for example, believes job and wage polarisation may be undermining popular support for economic integration³. The ILO Global Wage Report 2016/17 found that four in five workers in Europe are paid less than the average wage of the enterprise in which they work. Moreover, in Brazil the top 10 per cent receive one third of all earnings, and in South Africa half. The usual skills-related explanation does not hold. These disparities have led to a "pyramid" of highly unequally distributed wages,



emphasising the extent of wage inequality both between enterprises and within enterprises. In response, many countries have recently established or strengthened their minimum wages.

The productivity growth slowdown is partly caused by declining real wages and growth in nonstandard employment

8. The slowdown in productivity growth in many parts of the world in the last decade reduces the scope to boost real incomes, inhibiting the ability to reduce poverty, and in the longer term is likely to diminish investment and potential growth. At first blush this is difficult to reconcile with advances in artificial intelligence and other technologies, which should have boosted output growth more than growth of labour inputs, accelerating productivity. Explanations for this discrepancy refer to measurement problems and to the role of “frontier” enterprises. The latter hypothesis suggests that only a small elite of firms have implemented new technologies so far and that productivity growth should accelerate in the next few years once the bulk of firms perceive greater investment security in markets for their goods and services.

9. According to ILO research, another cause partly accounts for the slowdown in productivity growth, namely, declining real wages and the rapid growth in non-standard forms of work. Faced with reduced labour costs, employers have lesser incentives to substitute capital for labour, especially in labour intensive sectors, which hinders diffusion of artificial intelligence and other technologies.

Informal employment remains pervasive, especially in developing countries, and is on the rise in parts of the new digital economy in all regions

10. During the last decade (2006-16), significant progress occurred in reducing the share of workers in two major segments of informal employment (own-account work and contributing family work). However, the forecast for 2017-19 suggests a halt in this trend (see World Employment and Social Outlook 2018). This calls for urgent policy attention.

11. Income growth is not a sufficient condition for formalization, as the persistent high share of informality in some middle income countries suggests. Instead, the transition to formality requires an integrated

policy framework with the aim of improving decent work, eradicating working poverty, contributing to a country's fiscal base, boosting sustainable enterprises and advancing development.

The rate of progress in reducing working poverty has slowed and even halted in some regions

12. Despite significant progress, in 2017 there were still more than 700 million workers living in poverty in emerging and developing countries, unable to lift themselves above the US\$3.10 per person daily poverty threshold. The rate of progress has slowed, and in many developing countries is failing to keep pace with the growing labour force.

13. In Africa, working poverty is forecast to stall at 24 per cent of the workforce during 2017-19, with numbers rising from 104 to 110 million. In Asia and the Pacific the share will drop only marginally from 16 to 15 per cent and the number of workers in poverty will still be close to 300 million by 2019. The slowdown in progress threatens not only workers' individual well-being, but also our global ambition to eradicate poverty by 2030.

New policies are required to foster decent jobs for youth in an era of rapid technical change

14. The ILO estimates that 67 million young women and men are unemployed globally, and around 145 million young workers in emerging and developing countries live in extreme or moderate poverty⁴. New automation and digital technologies pose further challenges. The opportunities they present will demand innovative policy solutions.

15. Proper infrastructure and equal access to information and technology should complement investment in education and skills and effective approaches towards lifelong learning⁵. In addition, the promotion of youth entrepreneurship and the protection of rights at work for young people will be crucial in the new context. Designing evidence-based labour market programmes will ensure disadvantaged youth are not excluded from the benefits of technological advances.

Only a radical change in approach will achieve gender equality in the workplace

16. Despite global commitments to secure further improvement,⁶ women

continue to fare much worse in the workplace than men. This presents major obstacles to global economic growth. In 2018, the gender gap in global labour market participation is 27 percentage points, rising to 31 points in emerging countries. The gap has narrowed at a slow rate since the economic crisis and, more worryingly, the ILO forecasts halting or even a reversal of progress during 2018-217. Similarly, while the gender pay gap has narrowed in most countries there is still a striking variation in women's relative pay, varying from close to zero to up to 45 per cent⁸. Women's greater investment in education, as well as some shifts in cultural attitudes, have not removed major obstacles to progress, and the pervasive harassment and violence that have come to light demonstrate how much progress remains to be done⁹.

17. Several components of a more fundamental approach to equality require urgent attention. We need an alternative, “high road” approach to decent care work, which requires re-engineering social protection systems, a care-centered approach to fiscal policy and extending rights and benefits to all care workers, paid and unpaid¹⁰. We must end violence and harassment against women in the workplace. This year, the ILO's International Labour Conference will begin to draft a new international labour standard on violence and harassment with the aim of improving women's freedom to participate and succeed in the world of work. In addition, both men and women must have the right to exercise choice over their working hours. Greater freedom to balance work and family life would improve well-being and bring benefits for the economy and society.

International trade must benefit everyone

18. The combined growth of international trade and private investment were key factors behind the generalised economic recovery in 2017. Policy makers must ensure that workers in advanced, emerging and developing countries all benefit from a global trading system that produces fair outcomes. Failure to do so risks the multilateral system, as the IMF warns¹¹, with significant economic costs and political risks for all nations. Key to restoring faith are policies to ensure fairer distribution of the benefits of trade. Stronger labour market institutions, including minimum



Ahmed Rufai Abubakar: Perfect fit for National Intelligence Agency

By Nasir Kura

Within a short time the new Director General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, has demonstrated unique leadership and management skills that put him in good stead towards becoming a leader to be loved and respected by the rank and file of the NIA.

Despite the initial failed attempts to cast doubts on his pedigree by interlopers

who lost out in the desperate bid for the soul of the Agency, Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, came in the saddle focussed on delivering the mandate of his office through a clear sense of vision and purpose.

This did not come to officers of the Agency as a surprise because they know him to be a thorough bred professional.

Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar started by mobilising all the staff

“Within a short time the new Director General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, has demonstrated unique leadership and management skills that put him in good stead towards becoming a leader to be loved and respected by the rank and file of the NIA”

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towards strengthening and sustaining the NIA on its familiar path of efficiency, professionalism, courage and patriotism. He communicated the right thoughts and set the right tone in the most effective manner. He also listened patiently to views and suggestions across the Agency.

There is now a groundswell of consensus that he is on the trajectory towards becoming the perfect boss. Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar has won the hearts and support of the Agency's Management Team and members of staff in general through consistency, courage, compassion, confidence and effective delegation of functions.

He has been showing clear willingness to remove obstacles that may constrain members of staff from taking initiatives and professional risks towards

delivering on the Agency's core mandate. After almost eight months of distractions orchestrated by purveyors of fake news, Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar is spreading optimism across the Agency by demonstrating integrity, honesty, fairness, forthrightness, decisiveness and discipline in the management of the Agency's affairs.

With Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar, everyone in the NIA has a voice and that is the crux of the matter for the obscure but patriotic men and women who constantly put their lives on the line for the security, peace and progress of Nigeria. Surely, by appointing Ambassador Ahmed Rufai Abubakar as the Director General of National Intelligence Agency, President Muhammadu Buhari has put a square peg in a square hole.

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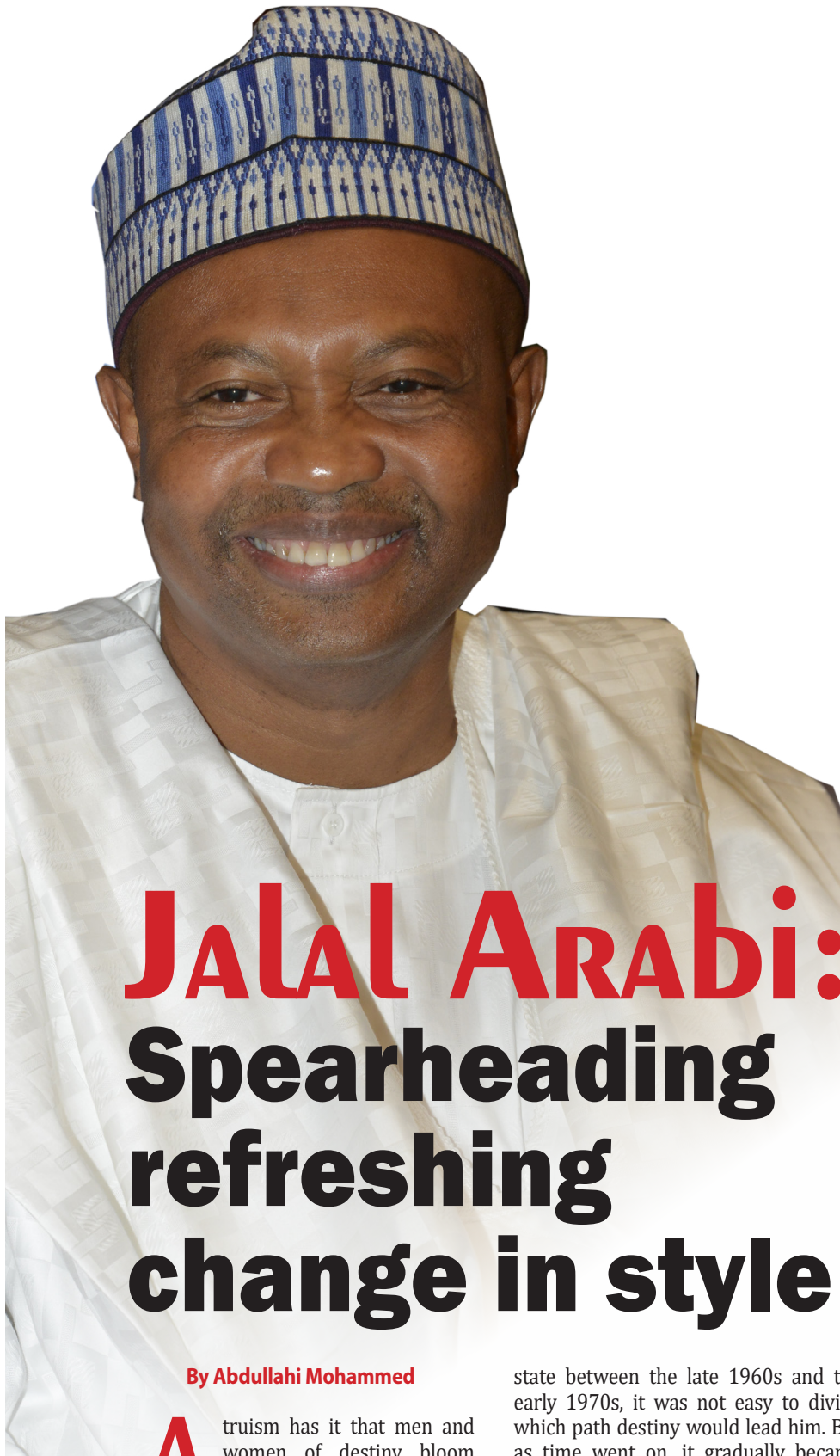
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JALAL Arabi: Spearheading refreshing change in style

By Abdullahi Mohammed

Atruism has it that men and women of destiny bloom wherever they are planted. One way or the other, fate manages to make the flowers of their life germinate, take root, grow and blossom. A living example of this self-evident fact is the Permanent Secretary of State House, Mr. Jalal Ahmad Arabi.

As at the time he was “planted” in Islamiyya Primary School, Jos, Plateau

state between the late 1960s and the early 1970s, it was not easy to divine which path destiny would lead him. But as time went on, it gradually became evident that young Jalal was like a flower destined to bloom.

At least his level of dynamism, industriousness, intelligence, discipline not to mention his academic brilliance marked him out as a child who, all things being equal, would sparkle in one field or the other to the extent of attaining some measure of greatness. As fate

would have it over the intervening years, that’s exactly how things panned out for the youngster. So much so that it has become apparent even to the blind that fate’s “prophecy” has not only come true, but has done so in a heart-warming way. Between then and now, the small boy has risen from that humble background, through the ivory tower to a high pedestal in the Bauchi State Civil Service all the way to a corner of the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

As a Permanent Secretary, Mr. Jalal Ahmad Arabi has been distinguishing himself as a dependable agent of President Muhammadu Buhari’s change agenda.

You may wonder who the essential Permanent Secretary is and where he is coming from and what makes him tick? The story started on October 28, 1962 when Jalal was born in Jos, Plateau state. Although a native of Gombe state, he embraced the city of his birth with open arms, enrolling at the Islamiyya School in 1967. After obtaining his First School Leaving Certificate in 1973, Jalal proceeded to Government Secondary School Gombe that same year, rounding off college in 1978 with an enviable performance in the West African School Certificate (WASC) examination.

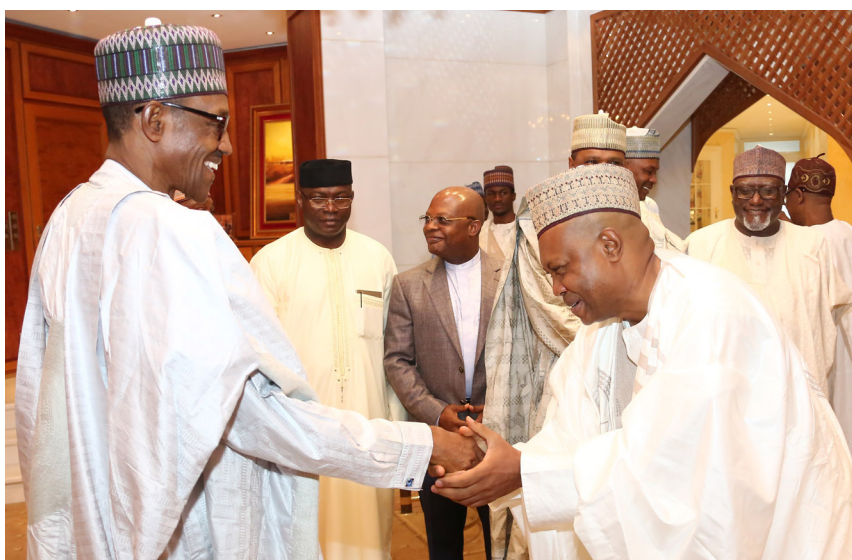
With his eyes and heart fixed on attaining higher academic laurels, the youngster spent the next two years (1978 to 1980) at the College of Arts and Science, Bauchi, where he obtained his IJMB Certificate before berthing at the prestigious University of Jos in 1980. By 1983, Jalal had done enough to earn his Law degree, LLB (Hons) following which he moved to the Council of Legal Education, Lagos, where he bagged his BL in 1984. Armed with his sparkling academic credentials, he turned to the labour market in the quest for a job.

Mr. Jalal Ahmad Arabi’s working career began in July, 1985 at the Ministry of Justice, Bauchi, Bauchi state. Employed as a State Counsel, he hit the ground running to the extent that barely one year later, his superiors had no option than to insist that he be promoted to the post of Senior State Counsel.

When fortune and fate decide to smile upon someone, they do so faithfully; and it so happened that within another one year, specifically from 1987 to December 1989, the fast-rising lawyer held fort at Manto Processing Ltd, Bauchi as Secretary/Legal Adviser and Head of Administration, a position he retained at Bauchi State Water Board from 1989 to August 1990.

Having come, saw and conquered at the Bauchi State Civil Service in record times, the attention of the proactive

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young man shifted to the federal level and in August 1990, he joined the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources as Legal Officer and Personal Assistant to the Honourable Minister. And thus he kick-started a career adventure that would see him rising in leaps and bounds, in the intervening years, from one office and ministry to the other; charming everybody with his high level of competence, dedication to duty and passion for excellence.

In May 1993, Jalal Arabi was moved to the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) as Legal Adviser to Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF). This entailed advising and participating in both legal and administrative matters including policy implementation; defending and representing the Presidency on judicial and quasi-judicial bodies, as well as attending Joint Intelligence Board (JIB) and other security meetings. After this tour of duty, Jalal Arabi was deployed to the Federal Ministry of Transport in December 2000 and for the next two years served dutifully as Assistant Director (Rail).

His next port of call was the Ministry of Defence as the Deputy Director (Parastatals/Special Services) in January 2003. His responsibilities include being in charge of the Para/Special Service Division which oversees the Armed Forces' foreign training, bilateral and multilateral relations with other nations and organisations on military-civil relations, security and intelligence matters. With this wealth of experience coupled with his remarkable track record in the legal arena, it came to no one as a surprise when he was made the State House Counsel in June, 2007.

Aside from his normal duties, Jalal Arabi has also handled various ad-hoc work for his fatherland over the years. They include being a member of the Inter-Agency Committee for the Final Relocation and Settlement of Public Officers in Abuja - 1993; member of Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Drafting of Terms of Reference and Procedures for the Ad-hoc Constitutional Bodies (Transition Committee, Constitutional Conference Committee etc) - 1994; and member of Inter-Agency Committee on the Reorganisation and Repositioning of the Trade Unions and Affiliate Associations - 1994.

He was also the Assistant Secretary of the Panel on Review of Judiciary and Police 1994; Member of Nigerian Legal Team on Bakassi - 1994 to 2002; member of the Sub-Committee on International Criminal Court (ICC) - 1996 to 2000; member of Nigerian



Delegation to the UN Human Rights Committee, Geneva – 1996 to 2000; and also member of the Ministerial Committee on Re-assessment of the Nigerian Railway and Repositioning of the Rail Transport Project - 2001. That's in addition to being member of the Ministerial Committee on the Reorganization of the Military Pension Board – 2003; member of Ministerial Committee on the Re-evaluation and Re-assessment of Bilateral Military Assistance to Defence Personnel -2003; Member of Inter-Agency Panel on the Clash between Nigeria Air Force and Nigerian Police Personnel – 2003; chairman of Ministry of Defence Anti-Corruption Unit 2003; member of Presidential Committee on Financial Action Task Force from 2009 to date; and member of Presidential Committee on Inter-Professional Relationship in the Health Sector.

As part of his quest for knowledge and continuous self-improvement, he has attended a legion of conferences, seminars, both at home and abroad, including Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, (Legal Drafting); ASCON, (Management) 1993 University of Maryland, (Negotiations) – 1990, Jesus College, Cambridge, (Economics Ethics and Etiquette), 1996 and World Bank Institute, (Public-Private Partnership) 2000. Others include Institution for Higher Defence Studies, Paris, (Counter-Terrorism) 2003, Africa Centre for Strategic Studies, (Seminar on Strategy and Command) 2004; Geneva Centre for Security Policy, (Security Policy) 2006; Marshall Centre for Security Studies Germany, (Counter-Terrorism) 2006; Naval Postgraduate School



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Monterey, California, (Civil-Military Relations) 2005; Harvard Business School, (Negotiations for Development) 2010; RIPA, UK, (Management) etc., 2011; ILI Washington (Leadership, etc.) 2013 and LSE, UK (Management) 2014.

For someone who had been rising through the ranks steadily since he joined the civil service, the poser was not whether but when he would reach the ultimate height: Permanent Secretary. This question was comprehensively answered in November, 2015, when

he was appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari to the highly coveted post of Permanent Secretary.

With his elevation as the Permanent Secretary of State House, the lawyer-cum-administrator finds himself in a vantage position at the heart of Nigeria's prime corridor of power. Typical of the gentleman whose interests include travelling, reading, voluntary service and meeting people, Jalal Arabi sees this as another golden opportunity to be grabbed with both arms, and needless

to say, this is exactly how he has acted. Ask any man or woman who has been to the State House of recent and he or she would not hesitate to say that under Jalal Arabi's watch, things have truly changed for the better in terms of management of activities and public functions at the nation's seat of power.

What particularly endears Jalal Arabi to his admirers and foes alike are his ennobling virtues such as courage, resilience, patriotism, endurance, abiding passion for excellence and of

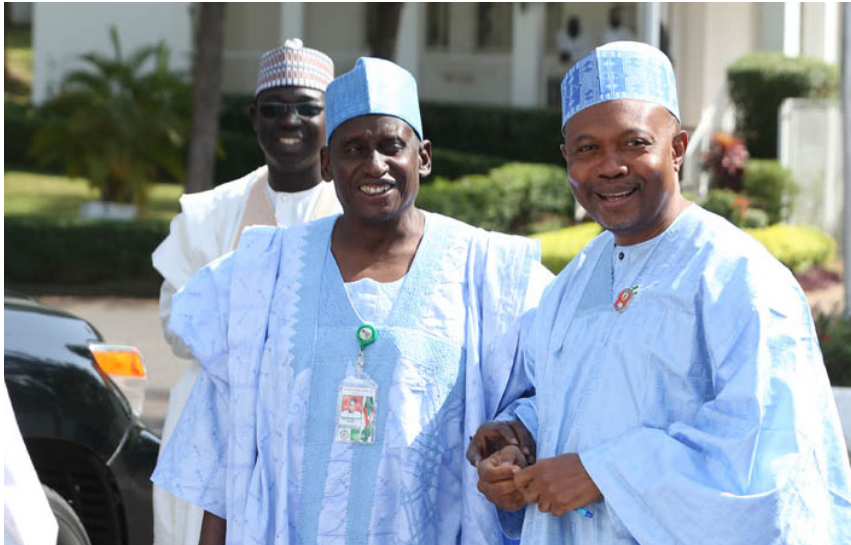
PERSONALITY

course, hard work. As many of those who work with him have testified again and again, he performs his duties with a single-minded devotion.

Bearing in mind his avowed commitment and determination to be a veritable driver of the President's change mantra, it has come as little or no surprise to none that this one-of-his-kind

Permanent Secretary has been acting accordingly in both words and deeds, day after day, week after week and month after month. What's more, Jalal Arabi determinedly forge ahead even in the face of intimidating odds. Little wonder, he was honoured with the national honours award of the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON).

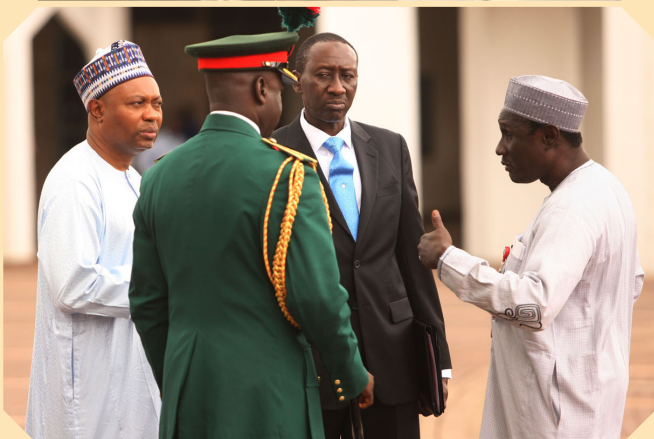
From the foregoing, it is obvious to all and sundry that Jalal Arabi is demonstrating impressive intelligence and skills worthy of emulation. He has not only lived up to expectations, but has been a dependable and outstanding compatriot in the service of his fatherland in general and the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration in particular.



PERSONALITY



PERSONALITY



All hail the new Baraden Kano

By Abdullahi Mohammed

Kano state witnesses star-studded social and political ceremonies once in a while, but that of May 11, 2018 was something else. Conjure adjectives such as 'colourful,' 'eye-catching,' 'wonderful,' 'riveting,' and you would be right on target. And this

isn't surprising considering the calibre and pedigree of the man of the moment on the one hand, and the uniqueness of the somewhat historic ceremony, on the other. Retired Lieutenant-General Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau, the Minister of Interior was being turbaned with the enviable title of Baraden Kano.

To get an idea of how really enviable and prestigious the

traditional title is, it is pertinent to note that no personality has been bestowed with it in the state in living memory.

Apparently impressed with the retired general's glittering track record of performance and industry, the paramount royal father of Kano, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Sanusi Lamido Sanusi II, decided to bestow the honour on this gallant gentleman.

ROYALTY

Hence, pomp and panache held sway in the ancient city of Kano that red-letter day. Lo and behold men and women of calibre filling the Emir's palace from the East, West, South and North in their hundreds to witness one of the Interior Minister's days of glory. In the same vein, a legion of common folks from far and near trooped to the venue, determined to be part of the historic event.

Not unexpectedly, encomium upon encomium were showed upon the man of the moment with gusto. Speaker after stood up to enumerate what, in their respective views, are the virtues and qualities that have set Dambazau apart from many of his peers in the





past couple of decades. Words such as “Distinguished Officer and gentleman,” “An uncommon soldier,” “Mercurial Minister of the Federal Republic,” “One of his kind,” and “The man who the cap fits as the new Baraden Kano,” flowed like confetti.

Understandably so. Over the years, the man of the moment has marked himself out as a trail-blazer first in his chosen career and then in his current job as a cardinal member of the Muhammadu Buhari administration. Indeed, barely had he mounted the saddle in 2015

than he hit the ground running, dazzling all and sundry with his peculiar brand of man, material and machinery management. Ask any staffer of the Ministry of Interior and he or she would wax lyrical about how the retired Lieutenant General has tirelessly reinvigorated their operations in the sort of skillfull and effective way which none of his predecessors had ever mustered.

Amidst the frenzied excitement, pomp and outpouring of accolades, the retired general, as is characteristic of him, remained his amiable, humble and unassuming self. This trait dated back to his days at Barewa College, Zaria, from where he graduated in 1974. Thereafter Dambazau, who was born on March 14, 1954, before proceeding to the highly reputable Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) in Kaduna. A member of NDA's 17th Regular Course, Dambazau was commissioned into the Army's Infantry Corps before subsequently proceeding to the United States





ROYALTY



Army Military Police School in Fort McClellan, Alabama. He followed this up by obtaining a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kent State University in 1982. As if to add an icing to his impressive academic laurels, he obtained a PhD in Criminology from the University

of Keele in 1989.

A harbinger of what was to come in his highly decorated military career manifested in 1979 when he served as the Aide de Camp (ADC) to the Chief of Army Staff (a position which, as fate would have it, he himself would occupy barely

few decades later). As a military police officer, he was privileged to command a number of military police units across Nigeria and also served as a Special Investigator between 1984 and 1985 before occupying the post of Chief Inspector, Support Weapon Wing



ROYALTY



of the Infantry Centre and School from 1999 to 2001. Dambazau then ventured to hold sway as Directing Staff of the National War College from 2004 to 2006 and as General Officer Commanding (GOC) the 2nd Division Ibadan from 2007 to 2008. The highest ambition of a typical Army brass is to be elevated to the

position of Chief of Army Staff and this was what fell into Dambazau's lap in 2008 when President Umaru Musa Yar'adua made him the Army Chief. In November 2015, Danbazau was appointed Minister of Interior by President Muhammadu Buhari.

What not many Nigerians are aware of is that this retired General

is a sound scholar and author of a couple of books, just as he is also a member of several international and professional organizations. These include the World Society of Criminology, World Society of Victimology, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, American Society of Criminology, British Society of

ROYALTY

Criminology, International Police Executive Symposium and Fellow, Institute of Public Relations.

With such a rich vein of experiences across the broad spectrum, it has come as little or no surprise to those familia with Dambazau's pedigree that he has been installed as the new Baraden Kano. All hail the newest traditional title holder in town. Indeed, the general consensus is that with a man like Danbazau as the new Baraden Kano; a man whose patriotism is as legendary as his philanthropy and selflessness, Kano state has found a "Daniel cometh to judgment."





CNBC Africa receives Best Business Television award

The Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) presented CNBC Africa the 2018 Award for "Best Business Television," in Victoria Island, Lagos. The award which aims to acknowledge the very best of business journalism, comes in recognition of the network's efforts to highlight the narrative of Africa's growth and the opportunities present in the continent.

According to the Director of Advocacy and Research, LCCI, Dr. Vincent Nwani, "the objective of the annual awards is to recognise, celebrate and promote private and public institutions that have exhibited the core values of best business practices, growth through innovations, business sustainability and have positively impacted the society. This award is the outcome of a painstaking selection process from numerous entries received for this award category and backed by feedback from industry/

market intelligence."

The distinct blend of PAN African and International content, and keen focus on economic news led CNBC Africa to emerge as the undisputed winner of this award. CNBC Africa commenced its African journey in 2007- and has since then, grown to be a dependable network for actionable business and financial information. The detailed coverage provided by the channel across markets and sectors, makes it a reliable source of information to the African business community. With a viewership crossing 23 million households on DSTV, Startimes Nigeria, Canal Plus and Kwese TV, across 48 African countries- CNBC Africa bridges the gap between CEO's, entrepreneurs, government, the business community and the average man. The channel has state-of-the-art infrastructure and studios in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kigali and Johannesburg, and imbibes a PAN African spirit unique to itself.

Mr. Frederic Vandevyver, Executive Director for West Africa, collected the award on behalf of CNBC Africa and expressed his gratitude for the honour. Mr Vandevyver noted that CNBC Africa remains committed to creating value and empowering people by accurately and passionately telling Africa's business story first; He stated, "To get an award in Lagos, which in my opinion is one of the most vibrant economic and business cities in Africa means a lot. I want to dedicate this award to the team working here in West Africa. They work 24 hours, 7 days a week to ensure that we cover all the business news in the best way possible. This award goes to them."

The network aims to be Africa's business channel of choice across the continent – focused on aggressively growing its viewership by making the channel more accessible to the average African, this award does provide more momentum and encouragement to channel to achieve its dream.

11 Reasons Why You Must Date A Journalist

By Torana Aurora

As far as popular belief exists, dating a journalist is not easy. They are not minting money as much as their counter parts and in many cases are even workaholics.

Yes, it may not be easy peasy but who isn't up for a challenge. It's certainly not as dull as it is projected and dating a journalist can be quite an experience. Go ahead, read with an open mind and decide for yourself. Here's hoping to change some mind sets.

1. They know the coolest places in town
According to pop culture and stereotypical representation, journalists are considered to be dull, anti-social and full of themselves. However, reality paints a different picture. They get to attend the most happening parties in town, movie premiers, dine at finest restaurants. Who wouldn't want to be their partner?
2. They are creative
Of course, we are. We journos can spin creative, knowledgeable and engaging stories and this definitely extends beyond the realms of the newsroom. So all you ladies and lads, get ready to shed some happy tears, for you are going to be loaded with the most mushy, corny and breathtakingly beautiful love letters. Need more reasons?
3. Endless conversations with them
Journalists are a perfect blend of being nerdy and smart. Keeping track of what is going around in the world comes to naturally to them. Conversing with them can be engaging, intellectually stirring and endless, since they can discuss anything under the sun.
4. Money is secondary for them
Passion for their work is what drives them and not the moolah. If it were about minting money, then they wouldn't be in this profession in the first place. They may not be earning as much as their counter parts but they do get to enjoy the freebies from time to time.
5. They are trustworthy
Trust is the number one trait journalists swear by. Right from

keeping important information off the record, to gaining the trust of their source. Be rest assured, if you do date a journalist, your trust won't be broken and your secrets will always be safe.

6. Multitasking is their forte
Innumerable sources, never ending deadlines and working in high pressure environment. Even with the constant insanity looming over their heads, journalists are experts at multitasking. They can perfectly balance their work and their relationships. They do not shy away from showering their partner with love and care even after a hard day's work.
7. They will give you your space
Journalists have no time to mop over trivial matters. They won't bombard you with a million questions nor demand to know how you've spent every minute of your day. They are beat working day and night and will give you your space and in return, also expect the same.
8. They are hard working
Being a journalist is not easy. It is a life laden with hard work and unconditional perseverance. Right from dealing with PR's to running after sources for their stories, they know exactly what it

takes to get it right and to make it work; and expect the same behaviour when it comes to their personal lives as well. They will give it their all to make their relationships work. Passionate communicators and great listeners
Journalists always have interesting stories to narrate. Having said that, they are also great listeners, they will genuinely show interest in you. They have a knack for reading between the lines and even catch the subtle hints in your tête-à-tête.

9. They are helpful
Journalists will go out of their way to help those in need. It doesn't matter even if they are mere acquaintances. With their contacts and friends in the industry, they will leave no stone unturned in their endeavour. It's safe to say, journalists have big hearts.
10. The joy of free tickets
Want to attend your favourite game, concert or an art event? Your wish is their command, a few phone calls and voilà! You have your free tickets.

Let us know if you would be dating a journalist any time soon.

SOURCE: storypic.com



FOREIGN

Behind the smoke screen: An authoritarian new president

By Rafael Marques de Morais

After the 2017 elections, the hopes ordinary Angolans placed on President João Lourenço were so high that many regarded him as a gift from God. Next September, his predecessor, José Eduardo dos Santos, will finally step down from the leadership of the ruling MPLA, after 39 years. The combined imperial powers of the country's presidency and of the MPLA will make João Lourenço the absolute ruler of Angola, and it does not bode well for the country.

The political partisanship of the army and the militarization of justice are two troubling trends seen since Lourenço took office. Both need to be addressed urgently before he gets comfortable with absolute power.

Initially, President Lourenço enjoyed a surge of popularity thanks to a strong anti-corruption stance. He fired his predecessor's children from key positions, and ditched some other rotten apples. He also allowed for some other senior officials to be publicly named formal suspects in grand corruption cases, though no one has yet been arrested.

But these early hopes have been dashed by the appointments and promotions that President Lourenço has made, and his popularity has sunk with the same speed as he earned it.

For instance, last April he appointed his own brother, General Sequeira João Lourenço, as deputy head of



the President's Intelligence Bureau, which oversees the armed forces, the national police and the intelligence services. In February, Lourenço's government sold state-owned planes (O Exemplo Vem de Cima, mas João Lourenço não o Dá

(Beechcraft 900s) to the same brother's air company, SJL Aeronáutica, without a public tender and for an undisclosed price. Through acts like this, the president has exposed himself as a hypocrite.

What is most worrying is how

the President, himself a general, is endangering the already fragile cohesion of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) by handing it over to an MPLA apparatchik. The FAA originates from the 1992 integration of the former MPLA party-state People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FAPLA) and UNITA's former guerrilla Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola (FALA). The integrated army withstood the civil war that returned and ravaged the country for ten more years after its creation.

Recently, President Lourenço dismissed the chief of the General Staff of the FAA, General Geraldo Sachiengo Nunda: the former FALA officer to become head of the FAA. Abroad, the move was seen as another outstanding sweep of Dos Santos' cronies and protégés and as another example of tackling high-level corruption. The general's name was associated with a multi billion-dollar scam. He had had been previously asked by the attorney general to resign. In an exclusive to Maka Angola (<http://www.MakaAngola.org>), General Nunda clarified his position and told how the attorney general had apologized to him for the formal announcement that he had been named a formal suspect in the scam. Legally, there was no case against him, only a political one.

General Nunda's term was due to end in October, but the President sacked him in October and replaced him with General António Egídio



FOREIGN

de Sousa Santos “Disciplina”. The appointment sent shockwaves through the army and concerned sections within society who view General Santos as a largely political figure, with little aptitude for the job as head of the armed forces.

General Santos was previously deputy chief of the General Staff for Patriotic Education, which is the post-communist name for political commissariat. For two years until 2012, the general simultaneously held his position in the army and as a Central Committee member of the ruling MPLA an unconstitutional situation. He is best known for his partisanship and opportunism and lust for partying. He has thrown two lavish parties within a week to celebrate his rise to the top job of the army.

In the 1980s, Lourenço headed the National Political Directorate of the FAPLA. It was in charge of all the political commissars and controlled the army on behalf of the MPLA, under the one-party system. Former political commissars have risen to the top leadership, and among them are: the current vice-president, Bornito de Sousa; the minister of state and head of the President’s Intelligence Bureau, General Pedro Sebastião; and now the head of the army, General Sousa Santos.

Minutes after being sworn in, General Sousa Santos showed the press how inept and incoherent he is. Asked about the reaction of the rank and file to his appointment and his priorities for the army, he replied: “Allow me to cite the Bible. I am the good shepherd, and I know my flock, and my flock recognizes me.” The sound bite went viral on social media where many in the army, including generals, openly expressed their disbelief, and ridiculed him aplenty. Angola is a secular state. The general, who holds a PhD in History, forgot that in his attempt to dodge a basic question.

Angola has an army of over 138,000 soldiers, and more than 600 generals on active duty. Retired generals are like mushrooms, too many to count.

General Sousa Santos is a wolf in a sheep’s clothing. Four years ago, in 2014, we wrote about a generals’ involvement in a triumvirate which aimed to destabilize the army by placing it under the partisan control of MPLA in the post-Dos Santos era.

At the time we wrote: “the secret discussion group aimed at fostering a climate of instability within the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), in such a way as to justify purges. This strategy is known as the purification of the FAA.” The then head of the Military Intelligence and Security Service, General Zé Maria, led the group and the



third party was Lieutenant-General João António Santana “Lungu” of the Security Studies Office within the Intelligence Bureau of the Presidency.

“The object of the scheme is to ensure that generals who were formerly with UNITA, then a rebel movement, and who joined the FAA as the result of peace accords are seen as loyal to the UNITA political leadership and therefore will be seen as a threat to the MPLA’s hold on power, particularly in the post-Dos Santos era.

“The main target of the intrigue is the current General Chief of Staff of the FAA, Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda, who left UNITA in 1993, joined the government forces, and was instrumental in destroying the war machine of his former commander, Jonas Savimbi. The rebel leader was killed in action in 2002, thus bringing the 27-year post-independence war to an end. Zé Maria and his allies are now circulating information within the FAA that Nunda is trying to promote ex-UNITA officers in order to make it easier for him eventually to seize power.”

According to the plotters at the time, the partisan control of the army by MPLA would be achieved with the appointment of General Sousa Santos to the top job. Such a plot had to be addressed among the top brass of the army, and it was General Nunda himself who prevailed against the others to maintain the cohesion of FAA, and the army as a pillar of peace and national unity. President Lourenço, against conventional wisdom, has adopted the plotters’ strategy. This must be denounced for the sake of peace and democracy.

Making Generals

Meanwhile, President Lourenço

has lost no time in creating yet several more generals, one of them already dead. On April 19, the president posthumously promoted Angola’s founding President Agostinho Neto, who died in 1979, to the rank of three-star general of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA). President Lourenço also awarded the former President José Eduardo dos Santos the rank of three-star general, and retired him from active duty through Commander-in-Chief Order 9/18.

The family of the late president Neto publicly dismissed the gesture as unnecessary, and called on Lourenço to devote his attention to the living rather than the dead.

But what shows General Lourenço to be a troubling copycat of General Dos Santos (ret.) is the promotion of the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, Manuel Miguel da Costa Aragão, to the rank of Brigadier. The chief justice has been a civilian for decades, and was transferred from the Supreme Court, where he held the same position, on Lourenço’s orders. In 2012 President Dos Santos promoted the then-chief justice of the Supreme Court, Cristiano André, to the rank of Lieutenant-General.

President Lourenço is maintaining the militarization of justice. Last December he appointed General Helder Pitta Grós, who is still on active duty, to the country’s attorney general.

The signs are mounting that President Lourenço is hiding his authoritarian claws behind the façade of his anti-corruption rhetoric. Little else is happening in the country besides smoke screens and the maintenance of the status quo. This is worrisome.

So far, the only clear strategy from the president seems to be the consolidation of his personal power.

Buhari's 2019 bid and matters arising

By Garba Shehu

The country is gearing itself up for the General Elections in February next year and with President Muhammadu Buhari announcing that he will bid for the governing Party, APC's ticket to run for a second term, all hell has been let loose by the chaotic, ill-prepared opposition camp.

A joke on WhatsApp last week was about the abuse and insults heaped on Muhammadu Buhari, attacking him for everything wrong with the country but failing to answer an important question: who do you have that is better?

In democracies around the globe, second terms by incumbents are usually harder to get simply because, somehow, there is always some kind of anti-incumbency leading to a loss of faith among those supporters.

For President Buhari, who won with massive votes in 2015, his major challenge is to do as well as he did, or even better. He came to power with a lot of expectations and Nigerians had, justifiably placed very high hopes on him. As we said sometimes back, he as a consequence, has become a victim of the tyranny of expectations. The weight of unrealistic expectations has evidently blinded many of the people from seeing the revolutionary changes happening across the nation.

Nigerians expected him to undo the damage in several decades of misgovernance and naturally, many are already feeling frustrated that he hadn't done that in three years.

The problem with our opposition is that beyond fault-finding, they are unable to give or innovate a vision of their own on how they can make the nation better.

A so-called Third Force has failed to get political traction since its birth. This is understandable, given that they have promised to give the country everything that is new but have so far produced no new faces, no new ways of doing things. Certainly, there is no face that can be called the President of Nigeria.

For the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP parading itself on the glory of being the largest opposition, the party has not less than 10 leaders acutely ambitious to rule Nigeria. It will take them minimally two to three terms of presidential tenure, that is eight to twelve years to reinvent the party.

Looking at the entire opposition landscape, it can be said that they cannot be united by ideology, the type that made the pre-2015 opposition fuse into a formidable challenger that pushed an



incumbent out of office. There is in no way therefore, they can choose leaders with unanimity.

What then they have taken to, is scaremongering by fanning ethnic and religious divisions among the minorities especially in the Middle Belt where hundreds of innocent citizens are confronted with violent death.

Before they take the words out of my mouth, let me state that the spate of those killings are tragic and unacceptable. They ought not happen and I am aware of how sad the Presidency is about these unfortunate goings-on. And there is so much that is being done to end the killings.

More, however, could still have been achieved if there is cooperation extended to the security agencies by everyone, and by everyone, I mean especially the

political opposition. A political warlord recently ordered the provocative stoning of a Nigerian Air Force personnel as their chopper landed in a Northeastern state.

Today, government has irrefutable evidence that much as most of these killings are arising from herdsmen-farmers attacks, some of it is driven by politicians. The recent arrests by the army in Taraba State point to a clear political sponsorship, and the kingpins, some of whom have been arrested have been handed over to the DSS for further investigation. Others who are being sought have either gone into hiding or they are pulling strings of blackmail to force the hands of government to abandon the search for them.

It is clear by now that the Middle Belt killings even if they are not caused by the opposition are no doubt seen as a



political opportunity to set the tone for the 2019 elections.

Another matter of great disappointment is the ongoing attempt to victimize a group of religious leaders, the Arewa Pastors Initiative for Peace, representing 45,000 members, simply because they paid a visit to President Buhari. We see this development as an unnecessary distraction at a time the country should be united against its common problems and challenges.

We are both mystified and disturbed by the growing lack of tolerance and accommodation by some groups who see it as their birth right to visit and address the President on their issues but lack the modicum of respect for others to do the same. It is regrettable that an innocuous visit is becoming a subject of needless and unprintable attacks on the President and his visitors for doing nothing wrong.

For the avoidance of doubt, the President would not want to set a dangerous precedent for the country by discriminating against any group exercising their democratic rights of freedom of speech and association.

The Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo told the tale of the toad at the Asiwaju Bola Tinubu Colloquium recently in Lagos.

"Let's discuss tails," the toad was told. It, not having a tail, the toad said, "no,

let's talk about other things."

Rather than coming to the table to discuss what has been achieved or not in key areas of policy, the conversation is today limited to one, the morbid tale of the relationship between farmers and herders.

Sad as these incidents involving farmers and herdsmen are, I wonder what the result will be if half the newsprint and airtime devoted to this is used to draw attention to malaria which kills 300,000 Nigerians every year; the 88,000 malnourished children and the 230,000 malnourished, pregnant women in the northeast, a quarter of whom the UNICEF said would most likely not make it.

An important motivation for President Buhari's bid for second term is that the gains made from 2015 should not be frittered. Buhari is not involved in corruption and is not desperate for the office. He is among the few leaders we have who are not obsessed with money, cars and homes but working passionately for the country's economy, peace and safety. If a corrupt politician wins, we will go back to where we were in 2015.

Many by now have forgotten where we are coming from. The daily bomb blasts in our cities between 2012 and 2015 including the deadly attack on the United Nations office in Abuja have been

forgotten by many. The Juma'at Mosque bomb attack on Kano that left 300 dead and the theft of 270 girls in Chibok as they assembled to write their final exams, with 113 yet to return have for many, faded into history.

We lived in perpetual fear. I remember the story of the roadside Mosque in one settlement in which a black plastic bag was noticed by the congregation as the Imam led in prayer. The entire congregation fizzled out, the Imam realizing that he was left alone only from the eerie air of silence after everyone had quietly left.

Today, religious gatherings and crowded markets have resumed. Witnesses reported that Abuja and Kaduna witnessed the largest simultaneous assembly of people when the Tijjaniyya Islamic movement celebrated their Maulud a week ago without the fear of bomb blasts.

Cabinet meetings are now about how trillions of Naira are to be used to provide long delayed infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railway, power, drugs and equipment for hospitals. Grand corruption, by which ministers sat around the table to share money drawn from the treasury has been ended.

A majority of our people are farmers who depend on good rains, access to land and fertilizer to grow the food they eat

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and sell the surplus to make money for school fees for their children and where possible, add a wife or two and make the Hajj or other plans. This administration has broken the jinx of fertilizer shortage and its high cost and has put land clearing for agriculture on a priority. Loans at low or no interest rates are being given by the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Bank of Agriculture, the Bank of Industry and the Development Bank. It will take years to raise our rising population from poverty. Even in China, with the world's fastest growing economy, this, still, is a work in progress.

The administration is doing so much for women, children and our enterprising youths. This is the first time anyone has given our country a social welfare scheme.

By it, 7.5 million children are served free meals in schools. This has improved school attendance. Two Hundred thousand graduates are now enrolled in N-Power, and 300,000 have just passed screening in the biggest, most audacious employment scheme on the continent. Our youths have a lot of ideas and many who need support, mentoring and guidance under the various schemes under the Social Investment Programme of the government are getting help.

Three years on, the economy has seen a paradigm shift with agriculture getting a pride of place. We are importing 90 percent less rice than we did three years back. The World Bank has certified Nigeria as being one of the top ten most improved economies in the world. Power ministry has done commendably well, raising generation from an average of 2,600 megawatts to 7,500 mw.

Today, each state has a minimum of between one to five federal roads under construction or reconstruction. Some have as many as eight or nine. The legendary second Niger Bridge is by now 44 percent complete, putting to shame the many years of platitudes and lies by



several past administrations.

With the advent of the Buhari administration, foreign policy has become robust. Nigerian enjoys a good reputation in West Africa, Africa and the world.

What this government is doing is different and the results are showing, for example:

- Reversing the decline which began in 2014 and stabilizing the economy for Nigerians.
- Recovery of stolen national assets.
- Economic restructuring for the growth of private sector as the best solution to unemployment.
- Demonstrable infrastructure improvement: roads, power and energy
- Re-establishment of collaborative working relationship between the President and the Vice President as model of how Northern/Southern, Muslim/Christian, Older/Younger Nigerians can and should work together.

The thing about Second Term in all political climates is that voters must have a practical reason to vote for someone. President Buhari has not given anyone an excuse not to choose him on this count. His is an administration that has something for everyone.

Supporters who talk about a noticeable loss of faith by some must note that there is nothing permanent in politics. Many of the allies will, in pursuit of power, come back to the APC, being the party with superior power.

The party did extremely well in the North to come to power and every indication is that in 2019, it will do in the South, what it did in the North in 2015.

By the way, did anyone notice the poll on who to choose in 2019 by a young man, Mark Essien @markessien on Twitter? Buhari supporters need to read that to cheer up!

Garba Shehu, is the Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media and Publicity)





As new APC helmsmen mount the saddle...

By Nasir Kura

Among the eagerly anticipated political events of year 2018, last week's national convention of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) was arguably one of the picks of the pack. The make-or-mar convention, particularly the infighting which marred the party's ward, council and state congresses in many states of the federation, raised concerns, anxiety and suspense. The poser on most lips was: Would the convention be torpedoed by the same factors that rocked the congresses, or will it enjoy a smooth sail?

Against this backdrop, palpable tension and uncertainty enveloped the atmosphere as the conventions D-Day drew nearer. This was more so as multiple reports had it that some APC factions in certain states had gone to court in a bid to stop rival factions from attending the event billed for the Eagle Square, Abuja. To make the situation more delicate, virtually all the last-minute efforts made by concerned stakeholders to reconcile the warring factions in states like Oyo, Kano, Imo, Lagos, and Rivers floundered. Not even the fact that the then national leadership had stipulated that only the newly-inaugurated state executives and their delegates would be recognised at the

convention, would deter the other factions.

Not unexpectedly, some measure of melodrama reared its head. Delegates from Imo and Delta states, for example, engaged in a free-for-all before the eyes of all and sundry, including President Muhammadu Buhari. This was just as the Minister of Communications, Mr. Adebayo Shittu, pointedly shunned the space reserved for delegates from his home state and sat, instead in the space occupied by delegates from a particular northern state. Not to mention the fact that a number of prominent APC personalities shunned the convention. They include former governor of Kano state, Dr Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, and Senators



Dino Maleye and Shehu Sani from Kogi and Kaduna states, respectively, to mention but few.

Despite these and other oddities, however, the APC national convention generally panned out according to the expectations of the party's members and leaders. The highlight of the event, needless to say, was the election of a new set of leaders who will pilot the party's affairs in the next four years.

Rather unusually, positions that would normally have witnessed keen contests turned out to be "anything but contest" as scores of officials emerged unopposed. Their rivals either voluntarily withdrew from the race in advance or were reportedly prevailed upon by the powers-that-be to step down for "consensus" candidates.

The list of unopposed winners include Comrade Adams Oshiomhole (national chairman); Tunde Bello (national financial secretary); Ibrahim Masari (national welfare secretary); and Hassana Abdullahi (Zonal Women leader, North central); and Misbahu Didi (representative of the physically challenged). Tukur Gusau (ex-Offico, North west); Mrs Akpabio (women leader, South South); Isa Azare (Ex-offico, North East); and Nelson Abbu (ex-offico, North central) also emerged unopposed.

Ahead of the election, all eyes had been on the contestants eyeing the national chairmanship position. Although it was an open secret that many of the party's leaders, notably state governors, had anointed Oshiomhole for the post, at least three other contestants, including a former governor, Clement Ehiri, warmed-up for the race. They eventually threw in the towel thus paving the way for the Ex-Edo state governor, Oshiomhole, to emerge as the brand new helmsman of the APC.

Apparently satisfied with the way and manner events turned out at the convention, President Muhammadu Buhari said he was optimistic APC would emerge stronger despite a couple of yet-to-be resolved issues. "I want to assure everyone here that despite a few lingering issues..., our great party will emerge stronger after this convention," he said. "The unresolved cases we have are the price we have to pay for success, as everyone wants to be associated with a winning team. I am imploring all those with grievances to keep faith with the party until we put things right."

In fact, there are a lot of things to put right in the ruling party and this, analysts believe, is at the heart of the agenda for the newly-inaugurated officials. First on the list is the task of reconciling the divergent factions in virtually all the states of the federation. Over the past couple of months, competition for the control of APC affairs has thrown the party into convulsion in many states. Oshiomhole and other leaders of the party have their work cut out for them in this particular regard.

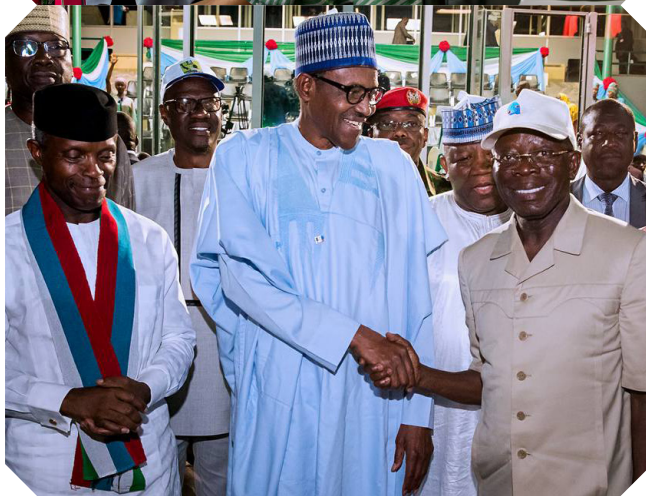
Allied to that is the little matter of aggrieved members of the former new Peoples Democratic Party (nPDP) in the APC. As the nPDP leader, Alhaji Kawu Baraje, pointed out during the convention, their presence at the event notwithstanding, the issues that they have articulated again and again are yet to be settled. The new APC leadership needs the wisdom of King Solomon to resolve this tricky

matter.

Mounting the saddle barely a couple of months to the 2019 general elections and barely few weeks and months to the Ekiti and Osun governorship elections, respectively, it goes without saying that APC's success or failure in

these contests will, to a large extent, depend on the dexterity or otherwise of the Oshiomhole-led executive. From the foregoing, it is evident that the new leaders of the ruling party have no choice than to hit the ground running and do the needful before it may be too late.





POLITICS

The emerging political revolution in Kaduna

By Abdul-Azeez Suleiman

Politics can be a challenging as well as a rewarding profession in which successful and selfless politicians potentially get the power as elected officials to make a difference in their communities.

Winston Churchill, a foremost British politician described selfless service as “the first of all human qualities, because it is the quality which guarantees all others”.

In another description, a late President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt said: “the most successful politician is he who says what the people are thinking most often in the loudest voice”.

Politicians are by these descriptions, expected to play central roles as the concentrated voices of the people by making all efforts to improve their constituencies and peoples’ welfare.

The descriptions imply that to be an effective politician, one needs to combine hard work with smart choices so he can end up in a position of influence and represent voters on a local or national level.

They also suggest that good and dependable politicians are always expected to be delighted to serve the people and to consider themselves as servants and people their paymasters. In short, good politicians should be selfless in all their dealings.

In Kaduna state, one politician happens to be an accurate personification of these twin descriptions, having been gifted with the ability to represent the hopes, aspirations and the interests of both his admirers and opponents alike.

Alhaji Lawal Adamu aka Mr LA, is one political actor with a rare blend of the wisdom of the old and the dynamism of the younger generation.

His chief qualities are his



Lawal Adamu

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characters that are natural, often backed by skills, experiences, intelligence, integrity, with instincts – all combined together to achieve his goals, and the overall happiness of the people he aspires to represent in politics.

First and foremost, his best selling point as a politician is honesty, which makes him trustworthy and reliable; he captures the essence of truth, displays sincerity and practices what he preaches. He makes decisions and accepts responsibility for his actions and his words.

The same is true in the young Mr LA's dealing with his people; he makes promises and keeps those promises, loves people with all his heart, might, mind, soul and strives to help them as a true mark of responsible politician.

Quite apart from the stock of fake politicians who see the struggle for personal political ascendancy as an end in itself, rather than for public good, Mr LA's greatest strength is deriving joy in expending energy and personal resources on serving people, firmly believing that a fulfilling and meaningful life is created through service to others.

A rare example of an effective politician, his followers have trust in him as he has long ago built trust by displaying good sense of character and qualities composed of values, beliefs, traits and skills.

Another important trait that stands Mr LA out is integrity and inherent technical skills to handle challenging moments, issues, plans, projects, ideas and to initiate solutions to problems.

Integrity, to him, is simply a matter of consistency of actions, methods, measures, values, principles, expectations and outcomes.

He cherishes doing what is right, both legally and morally at all time even when no one is looking, a quality that endears him to people.

Mr LA, the current thrill of Kaduna politics, believes that since politicians are expected to play very significant roles in the administrative processes, especially having hands in policies to their communities, state and country, they should be modest, with experience in social welfare, volunteering or should have done

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He has taken it upon himself to construct hundreds of community institutions of learning, sponsor the education of hundreds more and put smiles on the faces of many more hundreds within communities that make up his constituency, which earned him the acronym

some good work for the society.

Thus, having a thorough knowledge and up-to-date information about his political constituency, Mr LA promptly provides most of its immediate needs from his own purse.

His disciplined personality with selfless service to make life better for his people is therefore reflected in his empowerment effort for the community where he lives in all ramifications.

He has taken it upon himself to construct hundreds of community institutions of learning, sponsor the education of hundreds more and put smiles on the faces of many more hundreds within communities that make up his constituency, which earned him

the acronym, “Dan Baiwa.”

He does all these out of sheer conviction that a good aspiring politician enriches lives, and that selfless service is “putting the welfare of the people you're representing before your own”.

Mr LA also firmly believes in taking care and maintaining the community of his people, insisting that community service is about giving back.

This of course, is not the case with most other self-seeking politicians in the state and their agents who capitalise on the exploitation of cleavages of religious and ethnic nature to cause artificial divisions among the people.

This class of politicians not only scandalised the state's institutions, ridiculed its traditions and customs, but also derives pleasure in expelling people from jobs and undermining the state's economic and social fabrics by encouraging rampant poverty, corruption and social problems like armed thuggery, kidnapping, prostitution, drug and substance abuse.

While this destruction goes on, Mr LA has remained the bulwark of respect, integrity, dignity, decorum, decency, morality, civilization, etiquette, good behaviour, politeness, accommodation, and all other positive traits that have rightly earned him the esteem and praise of the people who aptly refer to him as the “man of the moment”.

He has consequently been called upon by the people to run for an office in the coming round of general elections in the state. Initially he was tipped for the chairmanship of Kaduna North local council.

Then the stakes were raised by his growing crowd of supporters who are now digging for him to go for the senatorial seat of zone two comprising Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Birnin Gwari, Igabi and Giwa Local Government Areas.

Though the political office Mr LA would eventually opt to seek remains unclear for the moment, what is clear however, is that voters all over the state are rooting for him to vie for election in 2019 with a sealed guarantee of mass support.

Abdul-Azeez Suleiman is the Coordinator, Northern Emancipation Network

Ahamdiyya Muslim Jama'at: Pursuing justice and peace towards a greater Nigeria

By Abdulrahman Abdulraheem

Based on the turmoil, conflicts, natural disasters and human-made calamities befalling mankind across the globe, peace is seemingly the scarcest commodity, yet the most important in the world today. Real, sustainable peace has also been described by some social scientists as the presence of justice while lack of peace has been traced to a situation of injustice. To these scholars, any peace that exists without justice can only be cosmetic, temporary and unsustainable... Nigeria is not anyway disconnected from this sad, global reality.

The fact that peace cannot stand or endure without justice must of course have influenced the decision of the leaders of the Ahamdiyya Muslim Jama'at (Northern Region) to choose: "Justice and National Peace: The Role of Religion," as the theme of this year's National Peace Symposium, the third in the series.

Fully aware that all Nigerians cannot leave all their problems on the doorstep of government, Ahamdiyya Muslim Jama'at has over the years provided a veritable platform for all stakeholders - religious leaders, politicians, security men, media professionals, youths and women groups etc to dialogue on how the country can ensure justice, attain peace and move forward. Most importantly, the group provides a platform for all religious groups to discuss how we can ensure less rancour and inter-religious harmony in the society. In doing this, the group invites and decorates people from all religions and sects to ensure balanced views are generated. If there is one society which deserves an award for the level of inter-religious cooperation Nigeria has attained today, it is the Ahamdiyya Muslim Jama'at.

Vice President Yemi



Special Guest of Honour, Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo

Osibajo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogora, former Head of State, General Abdul Salami Abubakar, His Eminence Cardinal John Onaiyekan, the Registrar of Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB), Professor Ishaq Oloyede, prominent lawyer, Mallam Yusuf Alli (SAN) and His Grace Most Reverend Oche Job of the Methodist Cathedral were expected to attend the historic event held at the International Conference Centre Abuja, between Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th March 2018. Some of them however sent powerful emissaries to represent them

The three-day programme featured a National Peace Award, Peace related lectures from all religions which was moderated by the Director News Nigerian Television Authority, Aliyu Baba Barau Mallam.

In his keynote address, the Special Guest of Honour, Vice President Osinbajo urged religious leaders to promote peace in their sermons to the adherents for positive change. He reinstated government's commitment in ensuring justice and equality in discharging its role to its citizens.

Osinbajo argued that the country's problems are not necessarily religious but can be

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tackled by religious leaders by emphasizing in their sermons those core values that bind the people together as a nation and deemphasizing those issues that divide the people.

He used the occasion to reject the accusation against the federal government of any form of bias or favoritism towards any group of Nigerians, adding that the administration is committed to serving all Nigerians irrespective of where they come from.

Also speaking, the president of the group, Dr Mashood Fashola, said religion is not the cause of the country's social and economic challenges but blamed long years of poor leadership for the sorry state of the nation.

"Religion preaches peace and tolerance as well as adherence to rules but greedy, corrupt but powerful people in the society are the ones who subvert the process for selfish gains," he said.

In his contribution, the president of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Dr Samson Ayokunle who was represented by Dr Samuel Olanrewaju called on the federal government to halt the alleged marginalization and persecution



Representative the Awardee, Mr. Abdul Rasheed Usman, Esq; Missionary-in-Charge Ahmadiyya in Nigeria, Maulvi Afzaal Ahmad Rauf; The Amir, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Nigeria, Dr. Mash'ud Adenrele Fashola and Naib Amir Northern Region, Dr. Yaqeen Habeeb,

of Christians in the country in the interest equity and justice and to ensure lasting peace in the land.

The event brought together dignitaries from all walks of life and all leaders of various religious groups in Nigeria agreed that equality and tolerance were vital keys that could foster peace.

Three other papers were presented in the course of the three-day event. They were 'The Objective of the Advent of the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi' by Missionary Lukman



The 2018 National Peace Award Winner, Mallam Yusuf Alli (SAN)

Shoretire. The second paper was on 'Khilafat in Islam; Reformation and Source of World Peace' by Barrister Bashirudeen BADR Muhammed, while the third paper was on the 'Importance of Obedience to Khilafat Ahmadiyya and Nisaam-i-Jamaat' which was presented Barrister Abdul qadeer Mustapha.

A health talk on 'Managing the Old Age' was presented by Dr Ahmad Mudassar of Ahmadiyya Hospital in Kano. Special night prayers session -Tahajjud was also be held for 'Peace and National development of Nigeria.' Tour of the exhibition stand was conducted by Dr Fasola.

The highlight of the event however was the honour bestowed on lawyer, philanthropist and human rights crusader, Mallam Yusuf Alli (SAN) as the 2017 National Peace Award recipient. He was honoured for his selfless contributions to the attainment of peace and justice in the country.

In receiving the honour, Alli followed the footsteps of Archbishop of Abuja, John Onaiyekan, and former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, (rtd) who won the prestigious awards in 2017 and 2016 respectively.



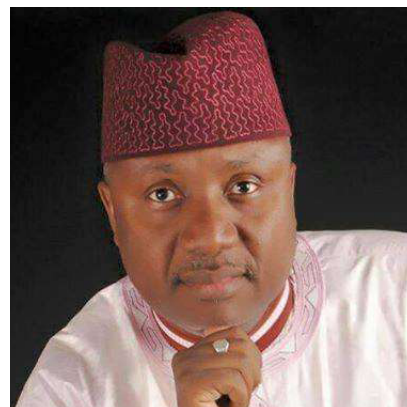
The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) who is also the Abuja Circuit president of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Dr Abdulatif Demola Busari



Gov Gaidam



Gov Shettima



Gov Bindow

Healing the mental scars of violence in northeastern Nigeria

It began as a hot autumn day like any other for Aisha (pseudonym). The girl with big eyes was looking out of the window of her house, watching a group of men approach her brothers who were harvesting crops. Aisha thought they were family friends because they came up close to her siblings.

Her mother Gaji was doing her household chores when she heard her 13-year-old daughter let out a piercing scream.

"Mother, they are killing my brothers!" cried out Aisha.

After that, Gaji doesn't remember much except that somehow she fled with her daughter to the surrounding countryside. They returned later to bury the young men who, like so many others, were murdered by insurgents.

The killings which Aisha witnessed aggravated her already fragile mental state.

"She became violent, kicking and fighting everyone," said Gaiji. "I couldn't control her."

Initially the mother and daughter returned to their home in northeastern Nigeria, but the armed rebels made forays into that community as well. So Gaji moved with Aisha to Bakass, a camp for internally displaced people on the outskirts of Maiduguri in Borno state.

Gaji worried about her daughter, who had trouble communicating and would often disappear.

"I couldn't leave her alone, because I wasn't sure what she would do," said Gaji.

Nearly 7 million people are living in camps for internally displaced people (IDP) in northeastern Nigeria.

In emergency settings, the rate of common mental disorders can double. Gender based violence, abductions, and gross atrocities can trigger psychological problems which take years to heal.

WHO estimates that as many as 1 in 5 people in IDP camps may need mental health care.

Despite this huge and urgent demand for care, there is only one specialized mental health facility in the whole region. The Federal Neuro-Psychiatric hospital of Maiduguri has seen the number of its patients increase significantly.

"In a humanitarian crisis, mental health is often neglected because the focus is on saving lives due to preventable infectious diseases such as diarrhea, respiratory tract infections and malaria," said Dr Wondimagegnehu Alemu, WHO Representative to Nigeria. "But WHO has made mental healthcare one of its top priorities in northeastern Nigeria."

In September 2017, WHO, Borno state authorities and the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric hospital teamed up to launch the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). The partners trained 64 primary healthcare workers in IDP camps and other humanitarian facilities to recognize and treat mental disorders which are common in emergency settings.

Aisha was one of the first beneficiaries of the programme. She began her treatment in October



Prof. Adewole

2017 in the Bakass camp. Falmata Muhammed is a primary healthcare worker who provides psychosocial support to Aisha once a week.

If Falmata has questions over how to handle difficult cases she can turn to her supervisor, Umar Musami, Psychiatrist, Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital. Umar visits Bakass camp every two weeks to also treat patients and observe Falmata.

"I either supervise her in person or she calls me on the phone and tells me the patient's symptoms and I will advise her on what to do," said Umar.

In the first five months of the programme, 5 000 people accessed mental healthcare in 36 primary healthcare facilities. In 2018, WHO is scaling up the pilot intervention and training 70 additional health workers across northeastern Nigeria.

For Aisha, her treatment is helping her to overcome the scars left behind by that autumn day when her world broke apart.

"Aisha has improved remarkably," said Umar. "When she came she was having severe psychological issues, but she is now doing better."

Aisha can now help her mother with household chores.

"I don't fight with people anymore and I can go on errands," said Aisha. She now dreams of becoming a civil servant. WHO

HEALTH



By Suleiman Haruna

Each morning, Aisha Muhammadu Buhari, Wife of the President of Nigeria wakes up with a picture of women and children struggling through challenges of hunger and sickness, having to choose between food and medication, sometimes losing both, battling lack of education and harmful cultural practices. More often than not, suffering permanent wounds and scars of these challenges, at other times, succumbing to the cold hands of death.

Each time, she would flash options in her mind, what to do, how to do it, who to do it with – all in a bid to ensure that one more life is saved, one more prospective contributor to national development. Is it easier to give women education or to empower them with self-reliance? How much impact can one make?

She has keyed into the RMNCAH+N Policy, (Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition) through her Future Assured Programme and has already made a lot of impact through advocacy campaigns on breastfeeding, deworming, killer

Dying for lack of iron, acid, zinc and

diseases, complementing this with food, nutrition and medicinal aid, calling on government and privileged Nigerians to save more lives of women and children.

At a recent event she organized for the private sector, she spoke on the need for them to embrace RMNCAH+N as their Corporate Social Responsibility and advocated for Innovative partnerships for investment in the sector. She presented a portfolio of areas of support for them to choose from. Captains of industry attended, listened and keyed in. Most importantly, they understood the precarious lives that women and

children go through because of lack of access to essential health services.

Every year in Nigeria, 58,000 women are said to die from pregnancy related complications; from excessive bleeding after child birth, to complications of hypertension in pregnancy, unsafe abortions, infections and obstructed labour. At the event, Mrs. Buhari stressed that interventions to save the lives of these women are low cost, but of high impact because with only N58,381 it is possible to save one pregnant woman from dying in the process of giving birth to another life. She requested private sector to join her in saving at least 5% of these

HEALTH



ack of folic and iron

each year over the next 5 years.

Also important, 839,500 children do not make it to their 5th birthday because of malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, HIV and malnutrition. N28,454 is required to save each of these children so that they can live their lives. Some of the interventions include simple prevention and treatment, case management, therapeutic foods, fortifications and the like, some as simple as zinc, vitamin A and folic acid. In fact, it has been established that folic acid taken before conception and in the first few months of pregnancy can prevent spina bifida and associated complications.

Deficiency of these drugs causes problems for both the mother and the unborn child. Sometimes these deficiencies are attributed to poverty and illiteracy rather than lack of the drugs at the antenatal clinics. A lot of mothers get to know the dangers only too late. Some of them, after suffering from a traumatic pregnancy and even child birth, now have to contend with a perpetually sick child, whose ailment can only be treated at a huge cost. Most of the support in this area is therefore slow and low.

This is why Mrs. Buhari has come in and supported the surgeries

of eight children aged from a few months to 6 years. The surgeries were principally in three areas; Hydrocephalus, Encephalocele and Myelomeningocele.

Hydrocephalus results from complications of premature birth, diseases such as meningitis, tumors and traumatic head injury. It is typified by accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within the brain. This fluid compresses the brain, causing neurological symptoms such as convulsions, intellectual disability and epileptic seizures. Fetuses, infants, and young children with hydrocephalus typically have an abnormally large head, excluding the face, because the pressure of the fluid causes the individual skull bones — which have yet to fuse — to bulge outward at their juncture points.

Encephalocele causes a groove down the middle of the skull, or between the forehead and nose, or on the back side of the skull. Symptoms may include neurologic problems, cerebrospinal fluid accumulated in the brain, paralysis of the limbs, an abnormally small head, uncoordinated muscle movement, developmental delay, vision problems, mental and growth retardation, and seizures.

Myelomeningocele is the type of spina bifida that often results in the most severe complications. In individuals with myelomeningocele, the un-fused portion of the spinal column allows the spinal cord to protrude through an opening. The membranes that cover the spinal cord also protrude through the opening, forming a sac enclosing the spinal elements, such as cerebrospinal fluid, and parts of the spinal cord and nerve roots.

These children have undergone successful surgeries so far, while others are receiving attention. Ya'u Usman, male, 9 months old had Hydrocephalus; Ma'aruf Abdulsalam, male, 3 months had Hydrocephalus and Myelomeningocele; Muhammad Auwal, male, 1 year old had Encephalocele. Nana Khadija Adamu, female, 1 year old, had Hydrocephalus and Myelomeningocele; Asmau Sabiu, female, 6 years old, had brain tumour and Hydrocephalus.

Mrs. Buhari's acts of compassion continues to show the way for others to emulate. If the private sector can sponsor one hundred or one thousand lives of women and children, then our collective humanity has been proven, our women and children will have a chance be full and not temporary members of our national reality.

HEALTH

On the trail of Lassa fever in southern Nigeria

Nafissa Ikerodah is both a detective and diplomat of sorts. On a Saturday morning in early March, the Disease Surveillance Officer in Edo State area rushes to a household where a man has just died of Lassa fever.

The young father left behind two sons who show symptoms of the infectious disease. Nafissa wants to get the children to a hospital as quickly as possible. One boy is so weak he can barely stand.

She must also identify all the people who recently came into physical contact with the deceased father so they can be monitored for signs of the viral haemorrhagic fever.

Both jobs are difficult in a community reeling from a recent death and fear for their own lives.

"The first time you visit and tell them you are a disease surveillance officer, they are always scared," says Nafissa.

Faith Ireye, the World Health Organization's Edo State Coordinator, accompanies Nafissa. They arrange for an ambulance to pick up the boys and ask the family to provide the names of the deceased patients' contacts within the community.

"Contact tracing is the bedrock of infectious disease outbreak control. If contact tracing is not done, people who come into contact with Lassa fever patients stay in their homes, become symptomatic, infect more people, and make the outbreak bigger and bigger," says Faith.

Nafissa visits every identified contact of the deceased father. She records names, telephone numbers, and the date of their last encounter with the patient. She gives each a thermometer for personal temperature checks and arranges to call on the contacts daily for the next 21 days to note their temperature. If anyone is suspected of having Lassa fever, they will be taken to hospital for a confirmatory test and, if positive, provided with care in a special isolation unit.

By 18 March, 3675 contacts of the 376 confirmed Lassa fever cases in Nigeria had been identified and more than three-quarters had completed their 21 days of monitoring.

In Edo state – where the outbreak has been spreading particularly fast – WHO, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the local government are reaching out to communities with a large-scale



Gov Dickson



Gov Ambode



Gov Obiano



Ehanire

awareness raising campaign.

Sensitization sessions will aim to reach nearly 9,000 community leaders, town announcers, headmasters, herbalists, healthcare workers, clinicians, church leaders, and women who work in local markets.

The Lassa virus is transmitted to humans mainly through handling infected rats, food or household items contaminated by the rats' urine and faeces. The virus can spread between people through direct contact with the body fluids of a person infected with Lassa fever, as well as contaminated bedding and clothing.

Community members are being advised of a range of preventive measures including washing hands regularly, storing food in containers with lids, keeping their homes clean and tidy to discourage rats from entering and cooking foods thoroughly.

Garri, which is made from cassava tubers, is a staple food in this part of

Nigeria. Traditionally, families have left the crushed cassava outside in the sun to dry out. During the sensitization sessions, participants are encouraged to dry garri through frying over a hot stove, rather than in the sun.

After one awareness raising session, primary school teacher Mary Enaholo says she has learnt important hygiene lessons that she will share.

"I will take the information that I learnt today to my pupils so they will take these messages back to their homes," she says.

But changing behaviours is no easy task.

In one house, Faith and her team find a basket full of rats being kept as pets by a boy. Nearby, garri is being dried in the sun. Faith quickly advises the household to cover the food.

WHO is working with communities to deliver messages that will encourage preventive actions and ultimately save lives. WHO

2019: Nigeria's emerging political leaders

By Reuben Abati

A strong indication of both the quality and failure of politics in Nigeria, as the people look forward to the next general elections in 2019, is the manner in which virtually “every” Nigerian believes that he or she is good enough to be President of Nigeria. This may speak to a deepening of political consciousness, but it is also a reflection of the people’s anxiety and frustration about how the office and position of the President of Nigeria seems to have been mishandled and demystified. The process of that demystification has taken different shapes and tones since the return to civilian rule in 1999, but now everything seems to have gone so bad, far beyond expectation. My mechanic couldn’t have phrased this national dilemma better. He came to see me the other day, full of excitement.

“Oga, it’s you I have come to see oh.” Typical Nigerian manner of speaking: you are right in front of me, and yet you still consider it necessary to announce your presence. Anyhow, I nodded affirmatively, already working out a response to a likely solicitation for money. It is school resumption time, and it is usual for people to go soliciting for help to pay children’s school fees in a country where basic education is so unaffordable.

“Oga, I have come to inform you that I am thinking of running for President.” I thought the guy was talking about the Presidency of the Mechanics Village Association. So, I brightened up. No, he meant President of Nigeria. I removed my eyeglasses and dropped my pen.

“President of Nigeria? How? Look, have you been drinking?”

“Oga, you know I am a Christian. I don’t drink. I am serious oh. I have been thinking about it for a while. I can do a better job. The way these people are running Nigeria, some of us have good ideas about what can be done. If we leave this Nigeria to these politicians, they will finish



Buhari

all of us. Anybody that likes this country should get involved.”

I paid attention to him.

“Oga, look at me, I can do it. We can do it. I have worked it out. By the grace of God, I will be the next President of Nigeria.”

I had known this mechanic for a while, but I never suspected he had very tall ambitions. I had not yet given him my honest opinion; he had already conscripted me. “We can do it”. We? Every Nigerian politician is an optimist, and the most optimistic are often the ones who don’t even stand a chance at the polls.

I pretended to be interested all the same; so he continued with his campaign.

“Oga, you know me. Am I a lazy man? No. I am not.” When people insist on answering their own questions the best you can do in the

circumstance is to listen.

“What this country needs now is a mechanic, somebody who can take a look at a vehicle that is having problems, and fix it. We mechanics do that every day. When they bring a car to you, first you diagnose. What is wrong with the car? Why is it not functioning well, and then you go straight to the problem and fix it. Why can’t people fix Nigeria? If we mechanics were to behave like politicians, this whole country will be littered with broken down vehicles. In the hands of these politicians, Nigeria is broken. E be like say Nigeria don knock engine sef. I am the man who will fix that engine.”

“But nobody will give you any chance. Everybody will laugh and think you are joking.”

“I am not joking, Oga. What does it take to be President? I have done my homework. The only thing they



Odigie-Oyegun



Secondus

are asking for is a WAEC certificate. I have my certificate ready and I can produce it to prove that I completed secondary school."

"How many credits?", I asked, trying to humour him.

"INEC does not ask for five credits. Even F9 parallel sef can be President of Nigeria. No be Nigeria?"

"But you don't have the resources. You'd need a lot of money."

"Oga, it is not about money. And if it is money, God will provide. Our Pastor in our church has been praying for me and God is speaking to us. When I become President, I will declare free education, free health and there will no lazy youth in Nigeria again!"

"Why don't you start at a lower level. may be local government chairman, gain some experience."

"Ha. Oga, Experience has shown that in Nigerian politics you don't need experience. Who has experience helped? All those former Governors in the National Assembly, what kind of experience do they have? In fact, let me just say a lot of them go there to sleep and collect free money, travel free. I have seen their pictures. They go there to sleep. When some thugs stormed the place to steal the Mace, not one

of them could stand up and protect the Mace. Lazy Senators. Only a woman, a sergeant at arms was courageous enough to challenge the Mace thieves. When I am President, nobody will dare steal the Mace. It won't happen."

I felt like telling him that there has been too much drama over the significance of the Mace in our legislatures. It is at best a ceremonial symbol. For a session of the legislature to be valid under the 1999 Constitution what is required is a quorum as defined under Section 54, but of course the kind of criminal conduct that was put up at the Senate, last week, is condemnable and should be investigated and all authors of that act of impunity must be sanctioned accordingly. I didn't say anything to him along these lines, rather I was more impressed by his passion, his determination to save Nigeria and arrest the drift. I was also struck by the fact that he is not the only Nigerian with such passion. There have been many of his kind, now active on social media, promoting a vision of Nigeria and insisting that they would be better materials for 2019.

The number of these aspiring Presidents keeps increasing everyday and while I consider some

of their posters a bit curious and the candidates a bit unusual, taken together, the shared anxiety about the Presidency and who is best fit to lead Nigeria beyond 2019 says a lot about public expectations. There are online, video-tapes of a certain Auntie Monica, for example. She is based in Europe and she wants to come home to be President, to bring investment and tourism to the country, and she says she has "ideas in her head." I have also seen such banners as "Vote Iya Bayo for president, Aunti Ramota for Vice President", and "PFANN: A new refreshing wind blowing over the nation. Get ready. Elishama 2019."

The names of a popular Fuji musician, Wasiu Alabi Pasuma, and that of the legendary footballer, Kanu Nwankwo have also been mentioned as potential Presidents of Nigeria. Neither Pasuma nor Kanu has confirmed their interest in the job. But the social media is the forum where many ideas are hatched, and many of such ideas also die on social media, but what is said about public reality should not be ignored. Nigerians want what is now referred to as the #realchange. They are disappointed. They are angry. There is also a growing resentment to the repeated claim by the ruling All Progressives

OPINION

Congress (APC) and President Buhari's handlers that there is no alternative to Buhari. In a most recent article, Garba Shehu, a Presidential spokesperson asks what he considers "an important question" - "who do you have that is better?". Then he answers it himself; "...certainly there is no face (other than Buhari) that can be called the President of Nigeria." Garba Shehu even scoffs at the Coalition Movement that started a protest against the two leading political parties in Nigeria - APC and PDP, and asked for a one-term Buhari Presidency. He says "a so-called Third Force has failed to gain political traction since its birth."

My mechanic, Auntie Monica, Iya Bayo, Auntie Ramota, and Elishama - these are ordinary Nigerians - certainly disagree that only one man's face is good for the Nigerian Presidency. They in fact believe that they will do a much better job. But perhaps the more significant development is the emergence of new faces on the political scene who are also keenly interested in rescuing Nigeria and whose declared starting point is the Presidency. I once described them as products of the Trudeau-Macron effect. Justin Trudeau, 46, became Prime Minister of Canada in 2015. Emmanuel Macron, 39 assumed office as President of France in 2017. There is also the current Chancellor of Austria, Sebastian Kurz - he is the youngest President in the world. He is 31. An emerging group of Nigerian political leaders falls into this category: they are challenging current political orthodoxies; they are educated, they are internationally exposed, they can think out of the box and above all, they are united in their resolve that President Muhammadu Buhari is replaceable in 2019. They equally pose a challenge to the traditional political elite, which so far is yet to make up its mind about presidential candidates or alternative platforms for the 2019 Presidential and general elections. The usual tendency is to dismiss them as "noise makers and attention seekers", but they probably constitute the real "Third Force" that will produce the traction that the Presidency is yet to see.

One newspaper has identified up to about 24 of these emerging "game changers". There is Bukunyi Olateru-Olagbegi, 27 who has

“

If we mechanics were to behave like politicians, this whole country will be littered with broken down vehicles. In the hands of these politicians, Nigeria is broken. E be like say Nigeria don knock engine sef. I am the man who will fix that engine

registered a political party - the Modern Democratic Party (MDP). He is not running for President but the MDP could become a useful platform for youth mobilization and conscientization.

There is also Omoyele Sowore, 47, former students' union leader, civil rights activist and founder of Sahara Reporters, an online newspaper. For the past month or so, Sowore has been on the campaign trail, addressing students and civil society groups. He has also appeared on radio and television. His main message is that Nigerian youth should "take back Nigeria" from those who have destroyed it. He has in particular been very critical of the Buhari government. "I can run Nigeria better than Buhari in my sleep", he says. When a serving Minister, Adebayo Shittu told Sowore to go and start as a councilor, during a radio programme, Sowore held his ground. Kingsley Moghalu, 55, former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN),

an author and a scholar, has also declared his interest in the Nigerian Presidency. He is offering Nigeria, "bold and decisive leadership ... something different ... by a capable, experienced technocrat." Like Sowore, Moghalu means business.

You also have Fela Durotoye, 47, a Presidential aspirant on the platform of the Alliance for New Nigeria (ANN). Durotoye wants to rebuild Nigeria through visionary and inspirational leadership. Alistair Soyode is the founder of BEN TV in the United Kingdom. For years, he has been reporting Nigerian stories to the world and to Africans in diaspora. Like Sowore, he has also decided to become directly involved in Nigerian politics. Other emerging aspirants include Professor Funmilayo Adesanya-Davies, 55 who says "power must go to women and the youth"; Sam Nwanti, an international detective, and a member of the Labour party, who wants to "fight crime and corruption". Others include US-based Omololu Omotosho, Lewis Omiye, a filmmaker and photographer, Dr. Thomas-Wilson Ikubese, 47, of the National Conscience Party, and 35-year old Adamu Garba II.

The temptation is to dismiss this category of aspirants as Minister Shittu has done, in part because they do not preach the message of religion, ethnicity and money, and they do not seem to have any Godfathers who can offer them existing structures in exchange for conditions of service.

Many of them may even throw in the towel before the actual race begins. The old brigade of Nigerian politics is not in a hurry to retire, change tactics or yield space. People don't become Presidents in Nigeria by merely pasting posters and social media messages or through sheer idealism. IN 2011, Dele Momodu, 51 at the time, tried to run for President. He has many stories to tell. The Trudeau-Macron effect in our politics may still take a few more years. But it would be wrong to ignore what the new faces represent: a more deep-seated yearning for change among the youth and the middle class, and at least two of them: Sowore and Durotoye are already exercising much influence among the Nigerian youth, not just on social media but also across the educational institutions and the streets.

Rashida and Murtala

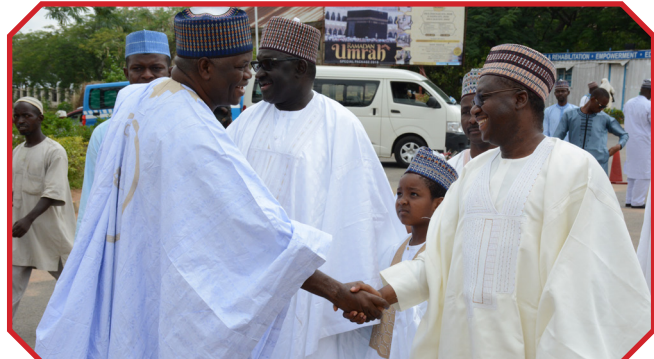
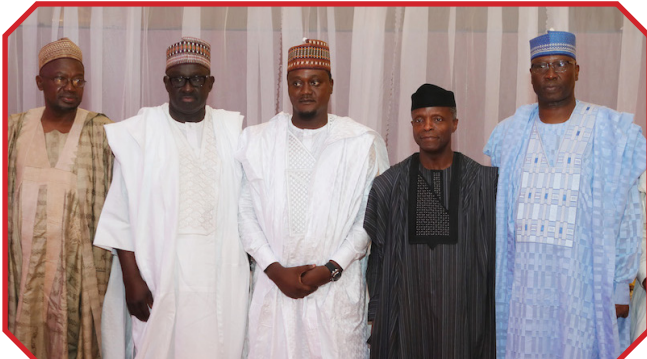
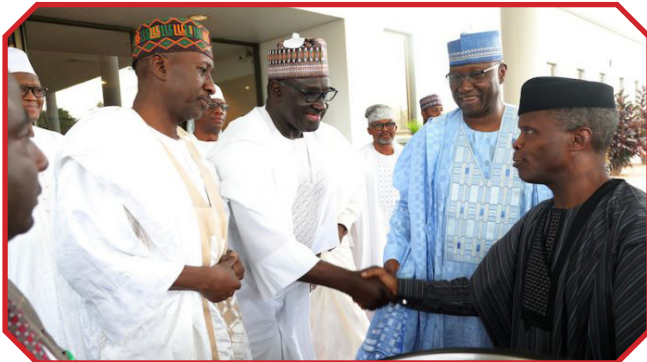
When elegance and style meet



PHOTOSPEAK

On Friday, May 11, 2018, Murtala Abdullahi and Rashida were joined as husband and wife according to Islamic injunctions by the Chief Imam of Annur Mosque in Wuse II, Abuja. Rashida is the daughter of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Domestic and Social Matters, Malam Sarki Abba.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Yakubu Dogara; Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha; National Security Adviser (NSA), Mr. Babagana Monguno; and Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Dr Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, were among the thousands of dignitaries and guests that attended the wedding Fatiha and reception. Photo Credit: Sunday Aghaeze and @BIGHWEDDINGS.



PHOTOSPEAK



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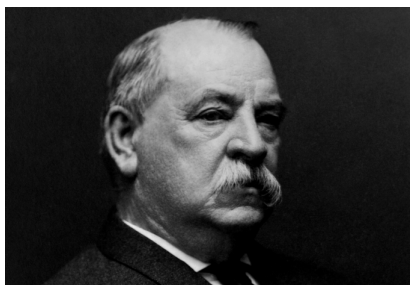
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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

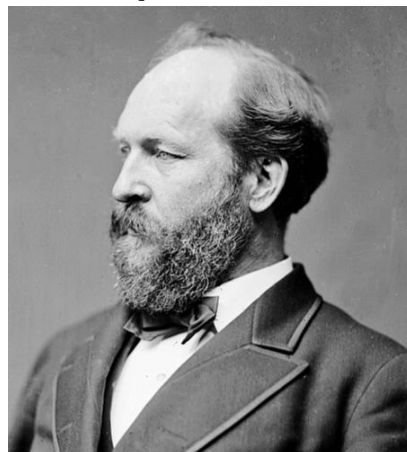


July 1, 1863 - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.

July 1, 1893 - President Grover Cleveland underwent secret cancer surgery aboard a yacht owned by his friend, Commodore E.C. Benedict. The surgery was performed on a cancerous growth in his mouth. The entire left side of his jaw was removed along with a small portion of his soft palate. A second, smaller operation was performed on July 17th. Cleveland was then fitted with a rubber prosthesis which he wore until his death in 1908. The secrecy was intended to prevent panic among the public during the economic depression of 1893.



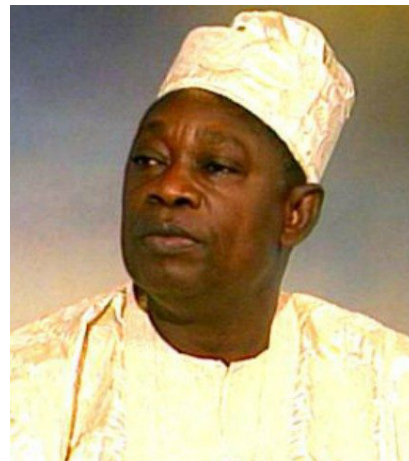
July 2, 1881 - President James A. Garfield was shot and mortally wounded as he entered a railway station in Washington, D.C. He died on September 19th.



July 3, 1976 - The raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda occurred as an Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages on a hijacked Air France airliner. The jet had been en route from Tel Aviv to Paris when it was hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas. Three hostages, seven hijackers and twenty Ugandan

soldiers were killed during the rescue.

July 7, 1998 - The winner of the historic June 12, 1993 Presidential election in Nigeria, Chief MKO Abiola, died in detention after refusing to renounce his mandate.



July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.

July 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

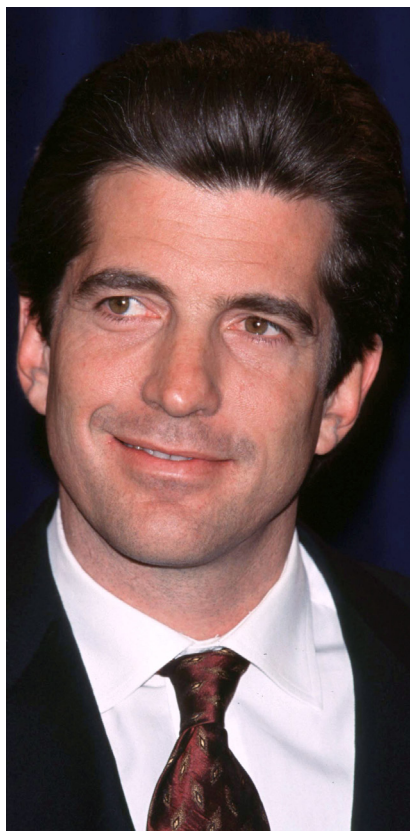
July 16, 1945 - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.

July 16, 1969 - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.



LIFE

July 16, 1999 - A small plane piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. took off at 8:38 p.m. from Fairfield, New Jersey, heading toward Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. His wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren were passengers on the 200 mile trip. The plane was expected to arrive about 10 p.m. but disappeared off radar at 9:40 p.m. Five days later, July 21, following an extensive search, the bodies were recovered from the plane wreckage in 116 feet of water roughly 7 miles off Martha's Vineyard. The next day, following an autopsy, the cremated remains of John F. Kennedy, 38, his wife Carolyn, 33, and her sister Lauren, 34, were scattered at sea from a U.S. Navy ship, with family members present, not far from where the plane had crashed.



July 18, 1947 - President Harry Truman signed an Executive Order determining the line of succession if the president becomes incapacitated or dies in office. Following the vice president, the speaker of the house and president of the Senate are next in succession. This became the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified on February 10, 1967.



July 20, 1715 - The Riot Act took effect in Britain. If a dozen or more persons were disturbing the peace, an authority was required to command silence and read the following, "Our sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the king." Any persons who failed to obey within one hour were to be arrested.

July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.

July 23, 1952 - Egyptian army officers launched a revolution changing Egypt from a monarchy to a republic.



July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government

was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote their own constitution and elected a non-voting commissioner to represent them in Washington.

July 25, 1909 - The world's first international overseas airplane flight was achieved by Louis Bleriot in a small monoplane. After asking, "Where is England?" he took off from France and landed in England near Dover, where he was greeted by British police.

July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.



July 26, 1953 - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.

July 28, 1943 - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 civilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.

Quotable Quotes

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."

- Williams Shakespeare
(1564 – 1616)

"There are three methods to gaining wisdom. The first is reflection, which is the highest. The second is imitation, which is the easiest. The third is experience, which is the bitterest."

- Confucius
(551-471 BC)

"Violence never settles anything right: apart from injuring your own soul, it injures the best cause. It lingers on long after the object of hate has disappeared from the scene to plague the lives of those who have employed it against their foes."

- Obafemi Awolowo
(1909 - 1987)

I don't know any other way to live but to wake up everyday armed with my convictions, not yielding them to the threat of danger and to the power and force of people who might despise me.

- Wole Soyinka

"The trouble with Nigeria is simply and squarely a failure of leadership. There is nothing basically wrong with the Nigerian land or climate or water or air or anything else. The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness or inability of its leaders to rise to the responsibility, to the challenge of personal example which are the hallmarks of true leadership."

- Chinua Achebe
(1930 – 2013)

Birthdays This Month



Soyinka

Akinwande Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka is one of Nigeria's most celebrated citizens and a global icon. A professor of comparative literature, firebrand social critic, playwright and poet, he was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature, the first African and first black man to be so honoured. He was also prominent among the democracy activists who helped the nation wrestle power from the military in the 90s and has been a consistent good governance advocate over the decades. He is a cousin to the late Afro beat legend, Fela Anikulapo Kuti. The renowned dramatist wrote popular works like *Lion of the Jewel*, *Trial of Brother Jero*, *The Ake Days*, *The Man Died*, *Madmen and Specialists*, *The Beautification of Area Boy*, *Death and The King's Horseman* among many others. On the 13th of July, the Abeokuta, Ogun State- born distinguished academic will turn 84.

Ogbeh



A u d u Innocent Ogbeh is presently the minister of agriculture and former National Chairman of the People's Democratic Party. He was also onetime Deputy Speaker of the Benue State House of Assembly. A passionate and cerebral farmer, Ogbeh was educated at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (where he also lectured briefly) and University of Toulouse. He turns 70 on the 28th of July.

Odemwingie

Peter Osaze Odemwingie is a Soviet-born Nigerian footballer who plays club football for Madura United in the Indonesian league. His father hails from Edo state, Nigeria while the mother is a Russian. He made his debut for the Nigeria national football team in 2002 and has represented the country over 60 times, including at two World Cups and four Africa Cup of Nations, as well as winning silver at the 2008 Olympics. He will turn 37 on 15th July.



LIFE



Dominic

Rita Uchenna Nkem Dominic Waturuocha is one of Nigeria's most sought after screen goddess. In 2012, she won the Africa Movie Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role. A member of the Royal Waturuocha family of Aboh Mbaïse local government area in Imo State, Rita won the City People Awards in 2004 as the Most Outstanding Actress. She has starred in over 100 Nollywood productions. The University of Port Harcourt Theatre Arts graduate turns 43 on the 12th of July.



Emenalo

Michael Kevin Emenalo is a former Super Eagles star who is presently the technical director at Chelsea football club in England. In his playing days, Club football took him to Germany, USA, Spain, Belgium and Israel. Emenalo starred in the 1994 World Cup, which was Nigeria's first experience. Emenalo, who hails from Aba in Abia state, turns 53 on 4th of July.

Richard

Richard Mofe Damijo is a successful thespian turned politician. He won the African Movie Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role in 2005. Born in Warri, Delta State, he was Commissioner for Culture and Tourism in the state for many years. At different times, he studied Law and Theatre Arts at University of Benin. RMD, as he is fondly called, will turn 57 on 6th of July.



Peter

Peter Obi is a foremost businessman and politician. The immediate past governor of Anambra state read Philosophy at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and graduated in 1980. He was a member of the Economic Management Team in the immediate past administration of Dr Goodluck Jonathan. He was also the board chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission. He will turn 57 on 19th of July.



LIFE



Udeze

Ifeanyi Udeze is another ex-international who played left back for the Super Eagles at the 2002 World Cup. He also featured for Nigeria at the Africa Cup of Nations in 2002 and 2004. At the 2002 Africa Cup of Nations held in Mali, he was selected among the CAF Team of the Tournament. He played club football mostly in Ukraine, Greece and England. He will be 38 on the 21st of July.



Ikedia

Pius Nelson Ikedia is that diminutive Nigerian winger who was famous for his pace and dribbling skills on the touchline in his playing days for the country. Ikedia has 15 caps and one goal for Nigeria, for whom he debuted in 1997. He played at the 2002 FIFA World Cup and the 2000 Summer Olympics. Club football has taken him to Holland, Ukraine and other countries. He will turn 38 on the 11th of July.

Yerima

Alhaji Ahmed Rufai Sani Yerima is a retired top civil servant and politician. After two terms in office as governor of Zamfara State which was notable for the full implementation of the Shariah legal code, he became a Senator representing Zamfara West in 2007 and has remained in the National Assembly till date. He read Economics up to Master's level at Bayero University, Kano. He will turn 58 on the 22nd of July.



LIFE



Omonigbo

Temile Omonigbo was one of the youthful talents who dazzled the world while representing Nigeria at the U17 World Youth Championship in Trinidad and Tobago in 2001 where the team lost to France in the final. He has played professional football in Belgium, Ukraine, Bulgaria and other countries. He will turn 34 on the 16th of July.



Agu

Aloysius Uzoma Agu is a former Super Eagles goalkeeper who had 28 caps for the national team. He participated in the US 94 World Cup and the Tunisia 94 Cup of Nations mostly as second choice to Peter Rufai. He has served as the goalkeeping coach for Enyimba and in April 2008 was named goalkeeper coach for the national team. He will turn 51 on the 12th of July.

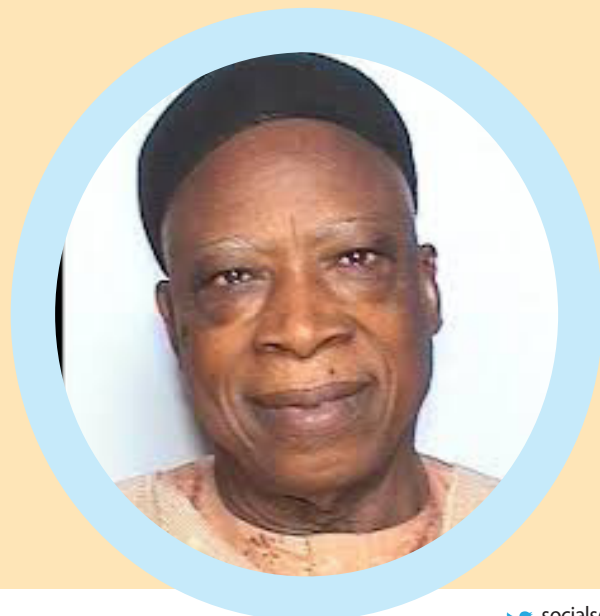


Vanzekin

Ambruse Vanzekin is a veteran of youth championships. As a goalkeeper, he was a member of the silver winning Nigeria U-23 team at the 2008 Summer Olympics. He is a member of both the U-17 team at 2003 FIFA U-17 World Championship and the U-20 team at 2005 FIFA World Youth Championship, where they were runners-up. He turns 32 on the 14th of July.

Adamu

Abdullahi Adamu is a former two term governor of Nasarawa state who is presently a Senator. He was educated up to HND level at Kaduna Polytechnic and also studied law at University of Jos. He was one-time Minister of State for Works and Housing under the regime of late Gen Sani Abacha. He turns 71 on the 23rd of July.



Turaki

Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki is a former governor of Jigawa state and former Senator. He read Actuarial Science at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and graduated in 1985. He turns 55 on 14th of July.



LIFE



Imasuen

Lancelot Oduwa Imasuen, aka 'The Governor' is an ace Nollywood producer and director with several hit-productions and awards to his name. His films feature aspects of the African experience including tribalism, witchcraft, crime, poverty, religion, and folk beliefs. He turns 47 on the 21st of July.



Fasuba

Olusoji Adetokunbo Fasuba is a Nigerian sprinter who specializes in the 100 metres. He is the current African record holder in the event with 9.85 seconds. He was a member of the Nigerian bronze medal winning team in the 4 x 100 metres relay at the 2004 Olympic Games. The same year he won the African Championships on 100 metres. He won the silver medal at the 2006 Commonwealth Games behind Asafa Powell and was the indoor world champion over 60 metres in 2008, becoming the first African to complete the feat. He turns 34 on the 9th of July.



Okiro

Mike Mbiama Okiro is one of Nigeria's most successful cops who rose to the position of Inspector General Police. He hails from Iguata, Imo State and he is the Agunchemba I of Egbema. He was educated at the University of Ibadan and University of Jos. In June 2009, Okiro released a book titled "Policing Nigeria in a Democracy". He is currently the Chairman of Police Service Commission. He turns 68 on the 24th of July.

Akeredolu

Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, is presently the governor of Ondo state, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) who became president of the Nigerian Bar Association in 2008. He was one time chairman, Legal Aid Council and also onetime Attorney General of Ondo state. He studied law at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. He turns 62 on the 21st of July.



Jakande

Lateef Kayode Jakande is an ace journalist and politician and one of the best governors in the history of Lagos State. He was Editor-in-chief of Nigerian Tribune and former president of Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN). Jakande also served as Minister of Works under Late Gen Sani Abacha. He turns 89 on the 29th of July.



LIFE



Uwak

Cynthia Uwak is a Nigerian striker who currently plays for Åland United in the Women's League in Finland. Uwak who hails from Akwa Ibom state represented Nigeria at the 2008 Summer Olympics and the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup. She turns 32 on the 15th of July.

Sylva

Timipre Sylva is a former member Bayelsa state House of Assembly and former governor of the state. He served as the chairman of the APC transition committee that ushered in the government of President Muhammadu Buhari in 2015. He turns 54 on the 7th of July.



Godwin

Satty Davies Godwin was a Senator who once represented Plateau Central. He studied at the University of Jos. He turns 68 on the 28th of July.



Ekaette

Eme Ufot Ekaette was a Senator who represented Akwa Ibom South in the Upper Chamber. She read Pharmacy at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and graduated in 1970. She turns 62 on the 22nd of July.



Clarion

Clarion Nneka Oluwatoyin Folashade Chukwurah is a famous thespian and humanitarian. She was recognized as a United Nations peace ambassador for her charity work across Africa. She was the first Nigerian to win the Best Actress category at the 1982 FESPACO film festival in Burkina-Faso. Clarion as she prefers to be called hails from Anambra state and studied at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. She was at different times married to late business mogul politician, MKO Abiola and also iconic juju singer, Shina Peters. She is the mother of famous Hip Hop song producer, Clarion. She turns 55 on the 25th of July.



LIFE

12 habits of unhappy people

I am determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may find myself. For I have learned that the greater part of our misery or unhappiness is determined not by our circumstance but by our disposition.”
– Martha Washington, wife of 1st U.S. President George Washington

Happiness is something we all strive to attain. As such, we can accept the fact that: (a) life is short, and (b) unhappiness makes our lives difficult. Our habits greatly impact

the quality of life that we live. Specifically, our habits directly impact our happiness, or lack thereof.

A strong difference exists between clinical depression and chronic unhappiness. Depression involves a chemical imbalance in the brain, while being unhappy is a disposition often acquired through how we choose to face our circumstances. Similar to depression, however, unhappiness can be diagnosed and treated.

HERE ARE 12 HABITS THAT CAN CAUSE

YOU TO BE UNHAPPY, ALL OF WHICH CAN BE AVOIDED:

1. CHRONIC COMPLAINING

Happy people do not complain much, nor do successful people. On the other side, chronic complainers generally have something negative to say ... even when those around them are happy! The bottom line: we all have different circumstances in this lifetime, but in the end, these circumstances are ours. Fair or unfair, wanted or unwanted, we must own them.

LIFE

exists for a reason. Seek joy in something that doesn't involve whipping out a piece of plastic – exercise, reading, sightseeing, etc. Seek satisfaction without an accompanying debt.

4. NEGATIVE ADDICTIONS

Most things are good in moderation – food, a drink or two, entertainment. Only when these things take center stage in our lives do they become a problem. Unfortunately, many good people have met their end through addictive habits, especially through dependence on alcohol and drugs. Prevent and remedy these by finding and living your passions to the greatest extent possible (see #8).

5. REGRETTING THE PAST

Regret is not only useless, but it can also be extremely harmful. Research continues to show that repetitive, negative thoughts about decisions made in the past often precedes chronic stress and depression. According to Psychology Today, there are four ways to cope with regret: (1) learn from mistakes but don't dwell on them; (2) if nothing can be changed about the situation, let it go; (3) make sure you're not assigning too much blame to yourself; and (4) reframe the situation more positively.

6. WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE

We only have so much say about what our future holds. This is not meant to disempower; quite the opposite, it is stating a simple truth. What we can do is live in the present while fully exercising our God-given abilities and talents. This enables and empowers us to live a happier existence. There's that phrase again: living in the present. Face difficulties as they arise, and

then let them go. Enjoy the beautiful things in life and experience them fully ... be present.

7. BEING DRIVEN BY FEAR

Yes, fear can cause you to be unhappy. To fully understand this, we must again return to being present. Quite simply, we can't allow fear of the unknown (and/or the unavoidable) to cripple our quality of life. Fear is a negative thought process that is often on autopilot. Remember: you are not the sum total of our negative thoughts. You are not fear, worry, anxiety, or any other negative thought process.

8. DELAYING GOALS AND DREAMS

It requires no effort to get caught up in the routine of life: working, eating, sleeping, maybe a day or two of doing something fun or relaxing. But here's the thing: by not directing our talents and passions toward a positive and tangible goal, we potentially discard something great before its realization. The hardest part of living our goals and dreams is taking the first step. After building a game plan and taking that first step, only then can we see the possibilities.

9. GOSSIPING

Nothing exudes insecurity more than negative small talk about someone else. After all, why would a happy, confident person engage in something that is of no benefit? They wouldn't. Leave gossip to the kids at recess. It does not belong to adults attempting to make their lives (and others!) better.

10. HOLDING GRUDGES

Similar to other negative emotions, animosity is a needless weight on our backs. We are all witness to the negative behaviors of other people and can become (sometimes justifiably) angered as a result. But remember: this isn't about their ignorant behavior; it's about your happiness. Either forgive, forget, or ignore... and move on with your life.

11. EATING POORLY

Ingesting nutritionally-bankrupt food is all about immediate gratification. It's certainly not about feeling good long-term. Eating poorly can result in bad health, weight gain, depression, lack of energy, and decreased productivity, while having a well-balanced diet bears the opposite effect. If you want more energy, a healthy weight, mental alertness, and increased productivity, eat right. Not only will you look great, but you will also feel great.

12. EXPANDING OUR PROBLEMS

When we find ourselves unhappy and discontent, our first reaction is almost entirely emotional. In other words, we blow things completely out of proportion. After all, we still have that darned "lizard brain" (amygdala) – the epicenter of negative emotions. Instead, just take a step back, look at the problem objectively (with minimal emotion), and focus on a solution!

If you believe you gained awareness into any of these habits, you can keep them at bay by following the advice mentioned above.

Join the discussion: What negative habits do you try to avoid?

SOURCE: powerofpositivity.com



Asun

By ENE ABDUL

Asun is a Yoruba delicacy, it is simply grilled/barbecued goat meat with lots of pepper.

Asun is also made using just Scotch Bonnet peppers (Atarodo). No owambe party is complete without Asun. The good thing is that you no longer have to wait to attend parties to enjoy this meal. You can now enjoy it in the comfort of your home.

Ingredients for Asun

- 1.2kg (2.6 lbs) goat meat (cut with the skin)
- 2 habanero peppers (or to your taste)
- 1 medium onion
- 3 big stock cubes
- 1 teaspoon thyme

Salt (to taste)

1 cooking spoon vegetable oil

Black pepper (optional)

To garnish

1 medium onion

1 small green bell pepper

1 small red bell pepper

How To Prepare Asun

Before you make Asun cut the goat meat into big chunks. Make sure you cut the chunks with the goat skin. If the skin is not there, it won't be the real deal Asun. Wash and put the goat meat chunks in a bowl.

Add the thyme and black pepper; crush and add the stock cubes. Feel free to add other spices and ingredients that you use to marinate meat.

Mix the spices and the goat meat by gently rubbing with your hands.

Cover the bowl with a thin film. Put in the fridge and leave to marinate for about 1 hour.

Pound or blitz the habanero (scotch bonnet) peppers and set aside.

Cut 1 onion into 4 big chunks.

After about 1 hour or the number of hours you chose to marinate the goat meat, put the meat in a pot. Use a pressure cooker if you have one because goat meat is quite tough and you will save lots of gas and electricity.

Pour water to just half of the level of the goat meat, add the big chunks of onion and start cooking at medium heat. You do not need a lot of water. When the goat meat is well done, remove the big chunks of onions and add salt to taste.

Increase the heat to high and stir constantly till all the remaining liquid in the pot is absorbed. You don't want to lose any flavour by pouring away the goat meat stock.

Lay the goat meat flat on your oven rack.

Grill/Broil in the oven at 180°C or 350°F till the meat is brown all over. You will need to turn them from time to time. The meat should not be dry. This takes a maximum of 15 minutes with my oven.

While you are grilling the meat, wash, cut and thread the green bell pepper, red bell pepper and the remaining onion on toothpicks.

When the meat is well grilled/broiled, heat the vegetable oil in a dry clean pot.

Add the pepper and the thick stock from cooking the meat (if any) and fry for a bit.

Add the grilled goat meat.

Stir very well till the pepper is evenly distributed on the goat meat. The vegetable oil ensures that this happens and gives the Asun a nice glow.

Serve with the threaded vegetables.



8 tips for naturally beautiful nails

By Falmata Zanna

Get gorgeous nails all the time without all the nasty chemicals. You don't have to visit the salon on a regular basis in order to have beautiful nails. The combination of a well-balanced diet, a thoughtful beauty regimen, and good personal hygiene can give you salon-worthy nails at a fraction of the cost and chemical burden.

1. Use moisturizer

When rubbing lotion or oil into your hands, make sure you work it into the cuticles and nails, too. Regular handwashing or use of hand sanitizer can dry out the skin and nail bed quickly, so try to moisturize after every wash, if possible. Coconut oil is excellent for rubbing into your nails and cuticles.

2. Care for your cuticles

Avoid having your cuticles trimmed during a manicure. Cuticles are meant to be a barrier for bacteria, and cutting them can lead to painful infections. You can moisten and push them back with a cuticle pusher, and trim away only dead pieces of skin.

If you're planning on having a conventional manicure done, then at least protect your cuticles by dabbing with olive oil or almond oil prior, in order to reduce the amount of chemical that soaks in from the polish.

3. Avoid using harsh polish

Nail polish typically contains very toxic chemicals such as toluene, dibutyl phthalate, dimethyl and diethyl phthalates, camphor, and formaldehyde. Fortunately, companies such as OPI, Orly, Sally Hansen, and Revlon make some polishes that do not contain these chemicals, but make sure you read the label carefully before purchasing. You can also buy water-based polishes, which don't last as long but are the safest option out there.

4. Seek out alternatives

There are companies now making less toxic polishes and removers. Check out the following list and take your favorite color along when you go to the salon for your next pedicure.

5. Buff instead of color

It may not be as fancy or eye-catching as color, but a bit of buffing can go a long ways. Take the time to trim, file, and buff your nails properly and you'll be pleasantly surprised at how great they can look.

Take note Never saw back and forth with a file because that can weaken your nails. Always file from the outside edge of the nail



inward.

6. Choose a good remover

You can get acetone-free remover almost anywhere, which is less harsh on your nails. Priti sells a remover made entirely from soy and corn, and No-Miss has one called Almost Natural that contains fruit acids and vanilla.

7. Make a natural nail-strengthening treatment

Castor oil, salt and wheat germ oil can work a magic. Get 2 tsp castor oil, 2 tsp salt, 1 tsp wheat

germ oil. Mix and keep in a sealed bottle. Rub a small amount onto your nails. Leave for 3 to 5 minutes. Wipe off. Makes enough for 20 to 30 applications.

8. Eat well

Diet is very important to maintaining healthy nails. Protein is crucial, as are omega-3 fatty acids. Eating foods with vitamin B reduces brittleness; zinc gets rid of white spots; iron prevents ridges from forming; calcium keeps them strong; vitamins A and C prevents dullness and drying. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

7 Powerful Home Remedies For Stretch Marks That Really Work

By Falmata Zanna

Human skin is made up of 'elastin', this soft tissue is elastic in nature. But it has its own cutoff point. When an extra pressure is set on the skin, for instance – sudden weight loss, weight gain, pregnancy or the adolescent transformations that reflect on your body, all this leads to stretch marks. At times, exercise also leads to pick up those off-colored stripes on your body. The lines appear to be red or purple color in the beginning and as days pass by it fades away and becomes white or silver in color.

Taking off the stretch marks from your body cannot be done in a day you will have to put in more efforts to make the stretch marks fade away from your body.

Powerful Home Remedies For Stretch Marks:

1. Lemon Juice for Stretch Marks:

Lemon is renowned for its natural bleaching property. It is rich in alpha-hydroxy acids and vitamin C, with the help of which it will remove the dead skin cells from the body and make the stretch marks vanish fast.

You'll Need:

- Ripe Lemon – 1
- Luke Warm water – to rinse off

How to do:

- Split the lemon into 2 parts.
- Grab a half piece and rub it on the stretch marks.
- Repeat this process for 10 minutes.
- Wash the area with warm water.

2. Potato for Stretch Marks:

This is one of the economical home remedies for stretch marks. Potato has many essential components like – fatty



acids, polyphenols and carotenoids. So, it has always been a super food. It also has heaps of minerals and vitamins especially, B-complex, magnesium, phosphorus, Vitamin-C and zinc. Potato has the ability to energize and refresh the process of elastin and stimulate the collagens. It can also rejuvenate the skin cells successfully and make the stretch marks fade away.

You'll Need:

- Medium sized potato – 1
- Luke Warm water – to rinse off

How to do:

- Slice the potato into thick pieces.
- Take a piece and rub it over the stretch marks.
- Make sure that the juice spreads over the marks.

- Repeat this process for 10 minutes.
- Wash the area with warm water.

3. Aloe Vera for Stretch Marks:

Aloe Vera can also be termed as the miracle herb, as it can do wonders on your skin. It can skillfully repair your skin with the help of the collagens present in it. It is better to use, the gel taken from fresh Aloe Vera instead of the packed gel.

Ingredients:

- Aloe Vera Leaf – 1
- Lukewarm water – to rinse off

How To Use:

- Remove the thorns from the Aloe Vera leaf.
- Split the leaf symmetrically into two equal halves.
- Scoop out gel with the help of a spoon.
- Apply this fresh gel on the stretch marks.
- Let it rest on the skin for 2 hours.
- Wash the area with warm water after two hours.

4. Egg Whites to Get Rid of Stretch Marks:

The whites of egg are a rich in protein. It also contains amino acids which is helpful in confiscating the stretch marks.

Ingredients:

- Egg – 2
- Fork – 1
- Make up brush – 1 (not mandatory)
- Olive Oil – 1 table spoon
- Cold Water – to rinse

How to do:

- Take the whites of the two eggs and whip it gently with the fork.
- Clean the skin with stretch marks and apply the egg whites in thick layer with the help of makeup brush.
- Let the egg whites dry totally.
- Wash the area with cold water after it dries up.
- Wipe the water thoroughly with a dry cloth.
- Apply some olive oil over the skin to maintain the moisture.

BEAUTY TIPS

- Repeat the process and check out the positive results.

5. Apricot Scrub for Stretch Marks:

Apricots can be used as a scrub for speedy removal of stretch marks from the skin. How? Check out!

Ingredients you Required:

- Apricots – 2nos
- Lukewarm Water – to rinse

How to do:

- Split the apricots and remove the seeds.
- Grind the fruit together and make it into a paste.
- Apply this paste on the stretch marks.
- Let it rest on your skin for 20 minutes.
- Wash it off with hand-hot water.
- Repeat the process every day and watch astounding results in a month.

6. Sugar Scrub for Stretch Marks:

You might be surprised! But yes, Sugar is one of the natural exfoliators. It plays a great role in getting rid of stretch marks.

You'll Need:

- Sugar – 1 tablespoon
- Almond oil – few drops
- Lemon Juice – few drops
- Lukewarm Water – to rinse

How to do:

- Mix sugar, almond oil and lemon juice.
- Blend well.
- Apply it on the areas with stretch marks.
- Follow this every day, before taking a shower and see marvels in a month's time.

7. Alfalfa Leaves For Stretch Marks:

These leaves are rich in amino acids. They are effective for maintaining good health of the skin. It is very rich in Proteins, vitamin E and K. They help in improving the body's skin tone. The anti-fungal agents of the skin, helps in the detoxification process.

Ingredients:

- Powdered Alfalfa leaves – 1 tablespoon
- Chamomile oil – few drops

- Lukewarm Water – to rinse

How to do:

- Mix the powdered Alfalfa leaves with Chamomile oil and blend it well.
- Apply this paste on the stretch marks.
- Let it remain on the skin for 15 minutes.
- Rinse it off with cold water.
- Repeat this process 3 times a day and see astonishing results in few days.

Simple Tips to Prevent Stretch Marks:

To make all the above mentioned ideas work, you must keep your skin hydrated and supple at all times. Also, you must take in nutritious food, as the healthy foods provide more nutrients to your external skin than the external masks.

- Drink abundant water. At least 10 glasses of water should be taken in. This will keep the body hydrated also it will restore the skin's elasticity.
- Consume protein rich foods daily. Eat fish, yogurt, nuts, and beans.
- Taken in foods that is plush in Vitamin C and E. As these vitamins promote the growth of tissues in the skin. Viz., guavas, Peppers, broccoli, gooseberries, oranges, papaya and strawberries are rich in Vitamin C and wheat, papaya, kiwi, spinach are rich source of Vitamin E.
- When you are pregnant, never miss to take in foods rich in zinc, this will help in toning your skin well.
- Try to avoid foods that will end up in obesity, as it will gift you with horrible stretch marks.



David

wins BET award, urges Africa collaboration

Nigerian superstar David Adeleke, popularly called Davido, won Best International Act at the 2018 BET Awards and urged greater collaborations between US and African musicians.

The BET Awards, established by Black Entertainment Television to recognize the best in African American culture, maintains an international category for black music from outside the United States.

Davido, 25, thanked his listeners in Nigeria and said that Africa as a continent "has been so blessed."

"I'm telling you guys — come to Africa, eat the food, wear the clothes," he told the audience full of African American A-list celebrities.

"Let's collaborate, everybody. Let's collaborate, man," he said.

Davido, the US-educated son of a wealthy business mogul, is one of the leading forces in the Afrobeats movement that has swept the continent's music scene.

Not to be confused with the funky Afrobeats of the 1970s, Afrobeats — with an "s" — brings together sounds from across the continent to create a danceable, pan-African music.



Celebrities mourn with Dbanj over son's death

The senator representing Bayelsa East constituency, Ben Murray Bruce, has joined other celebrities to sympathise with the Koko Master, Dapo Oyeibanjo, popularly known as D'banj, who lost his one-year-old son, Daniel Oyeibanjo III on Sunday.

The toddler reportedly died at the singer's residence in Ikoyi, Lagos State.

Aside the cryptic message on his Instagram page, "Trying Times. But my God is Always and Forever Faithful", the Koko Master is yet to confirm the death of his son.

But close friends and associates have taken to the social media to commiserate with him and his family over the loss of Daniel III who celebrated his first birthday a month ago.

Ben Murray wrote, "@iamdbanj I am really sad to read about the death of your lovely son. Death of a child is the saddest thing for any parent. On behalf of my family and I, please do accept our sincerest sympathy."

Other celebrities have also taken to the social media to commiserate with the pop star:



New movie, 'Fantastic Numbers' hits Nigerian cinemas

A new Nigerian movie, 'Fantastic Numbers,' has been released to the cinemas across Nigeria.

Addressing journalists, the Executive Producer, Yakubu Mohammed, said that the movie would address cases of children who were abandoned by their parents because they became a burden.

He added, "Those children become orphans and are left all alone to survive. Also, there are relationships that go wrong because of the couples. We see women suffering because the men in their lives are

their only hope for survival; so, they keep quite and swallow their bitter pill. I don't want to give our everything before seeing it, but the movie tells us about these and more."

A production of Zeffect Pictures and distributed by Blue Pictures, the movie tells the story of a set of twins separated at birth. They bump into each other in a dramatic circumstance and become enemies.

Produced by Uzee Usman and directed by Paul Apel Papel, 'Fantastic Numbers' features actors such as Ivie Okujaye, Sani Danja, Sambasa Nzeribe, Funny Mallam and Rahama Sadau.

Nigeria's Segun Odugbemi becomes member of Oscar voting academy

Nigerian producer and filmmaker, Femi Odugbemi, has been formally invited into the voting membership of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the United States of America.

The academy organises and decides the nominations for the universally-acclaimed Oscars award for motion pictures.

It is a world recognised movie-related organisation, comprising more than 8000 accomplished men and women working in cinema.

Academy membership is limited to film artists working in the production of theatrically-released motion pictures.

The academy has 17 branches ranging from actors, writers and two categories that involve members-at-large and associates to accommodate individuals who have no defined branches in motion picture.

Elated Odugbemi shared the news of his invitation to the Oscars on his Instagram page @femiodugbemi on Monday.

He wrote: "so today, I received a formal invitation to become a voting member

of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the United States. Honoured! #Oscars #Vote4bestfilm."

Odugbemi, who studied Film and Television at The Montana State University, scripted, directed and produced numerous documentaries, short films and drama.

He produced Tinsel, a widely acclaimed soap opera that started airing in August 2008 and celebrated as a successful drama on Nigerian television.

The producer's filmmaking credits include 'Gidi Blues', 'Battleground', 'Maroko' and 'Bariga Boy'.

Odugbemi was the President of the Independent Television Producers Association of Nigeria in 2002, a tenure that ended in 2006.

In 2008, he produced 'Abobaku', a short film directed by Niji Akanni. The film won the Most Outstanding Short Film at the Zuma Film Festival held in 2010.

It also won Best Costume at the 6th Africa Movie Academy Awards held on April 10, 2010 at the Gloryland Cultural Centre in Bayelsa.

In 2013, Odugbemi scripted, produced and

BET Awards 2018: Nigeria's Tobe Nwigwe rocks Super Eagles jersey to perform

Nigerian-American musician, Tobe Nwigwe, showed solidarity with the Nigerian Super Eagles when he performed wearing the Nike designed jersey at the 2018 BET awards.

Nwigwe and his crew of dancers rocked the awards stage with the critically acclaimed jerseys and tracksuits to the admiration of the crowd.

Nwigwe became the first artist signed on to ETA Records as an

edutainer—essentially an artist who uses entertainment as a means to educate their audience on a particular subject.

The edutainer is well known for his nonprofit organization 'TeamGINI', a name derived from "Gini Bu Nkpa Gi?"—Igbo for "What's your purpose?" which thrives to help people discover their life purpose.

Reminiscing on the show, he took to his twitter handle on Monday @TobeNwigwe to thank Nike for gifting the World Cup kits

to his crew.

He wrote, "We murdered the @bet stage. Shout out to @Nike (for) blessing the squad with the @ng_supereagles fits.

"Shout out to the entire @betmusicofficial staff!! Shout out to everyone that made this moment possible! We love you all!!

"#Staytuned for video footage from the performance. #Naijastandup #Swatstandup," Nwigwe said.



Australian rockers end Jay-Z, Beyonce No. 1 debut streak

Australian pop band 5 Seconds of Summer stunned Beyonce and Jay-Z by opening Sunday at the top of the US album chart, with the couple's surprise collaboration ending the superstars' streak of number one debuts.

5 Seconds of Summer had stepped up promotion of their album "Youngblood" after Jay-Z and Beyonce dropped "Everything Is Love," with the Australians telling fans they

were in a close race for number one and encouraging listeners over social media to stream their songs continuously to drive up their totals.

"Youngblood" wound up selling 142,000 copies or the equivalent in downloads and streams in the week through Thursday, edging out "Everything Is Love" which clocked up 123,000 copies, tracking service Nielsen Music said.

5 Seconds of Summer, who emerged in 2011 as YouTube sensations when the then students in Sydney uploaded covers of popular songs, becomes the first Australian act to top the Billboard 200, the benchmark US chart, with three different albums.

Jay-Z and Beyonce, two of the biggest names in US pop culture, put out "Everything Is Love" with no warning on June 16 after a concert in London.



Michael Jackson's dad, Joe, dies at 89

Joe Jackson, the patriarch of the Jackson family, has died at the age of 89.

The elder Jackson died two days after the ninth anniversary of the demise of his megastar son, Michael, who died on June 25, 2009 at the age of 50.

Family sources told news outlets that Joe passed away at 3:30 AM on Wednesday in Los Angeles.

Joe was hospitalised in June with terminal cancer. His family had been flocking to his bedside since. His wife, Katherine, had been at his bedside as were some of Joe's children and grandchildren.

"Joe had been battling health problems for some time now. He was hospitalised back in 2016 after coming down with a high fever. But, he bounced back not long after and was seen partying in Vegas.

"His health was also fragile after a stroke and three heart attacks back in 2015. Doctors implanted a pacemaker."

Joe may have been the most successful parent managing his children in the history of music. He, with a little help from Diana Ross, engineered the careers of The Jackson 5, and then Michael and Janet Jackson as solo artists.

Freed Meek Mill takes on police brutality at BET Awards

Rapper Meek Mill, free after a controversial jail sentence, returned to the stage with a vigorous attack on police brutality as he premiered a song at the BET Awards.

The awards of Black Entertainment Television, broadcast live from Los Angeles, recognize the best of African American music and film and the blockbuster "Black Panther" won Best Movie

Mill was one of the night's most memorable performers as he debuted his song "Stay Woke." The 31-year-old rapper in April won his freedom five months after a judge jailed him over violations of probation stemming from a 2008 arrest, a decision that triggered protests charging that it was overly harsh and racially biased.

Mill performed "Stay Woke" on a set designed as a street scene in his native Philadelphia — a neighborhood that is unkempt yet also full of life with children playing.

Police swarm onto the scene with force and a shot is heard. The song pauses and a little girl who was jumping rope is revealed to have been killed, her body then draped with an American flag.

"How can I pledge allegiance to the flag / When they killing all our sons and dads?" Mill raps. The singer Miguel contributes the chorus, which says, "Though it was designed for us to lose / Nothing, nothing, nothing's impossible / Believe it, we're still undefeated."

Nicki Minaj put on the raciest and perhaps most physically grueling performance of the night as she sported a skin-tight latex red dress, emerging with a dancing squad from a smoke-filled Chinese archway for her martial arts-themed song "Chun-Li."

She crawled while twerking on stage and spread her legs to the sky in a medley that transitioned to her song "Rich Sex" and also featured YG, 2 Chainz and Big Sean.

While many of the music awards were presented off camera, hard-living trap trio Migos won Best Group and the R&B singer and emerging feminist icon SZA took Best New Artist.

— Honoring 'Spiderman,' young activist

The BET Awards presented a special "humanitarian heroes" award to six people including Mamoudou Gassama, the Malian migrant in Paris who saved a child hanging off a balcony by scaling an

apartment block with his bare hands.

Gassama, who smiled and saluted the crowd in Los Angeles, was nicknamed "Spiderman" and awarded French residency even though he was in the country illegally.

Other award recipients included Naomi Wilder, the 11-year-old who gained wide attention with her poised speech before the March for Our Lives in Washington urging more attention to violence against women of color, and Anthony Borges, the high school student

in Parkland, Florida who took five bullets as he rescued 20 classmates during the February massacre.

Award presenter John Legend, the singer known for his left-wing activism, contrasted the winners' actions with the politics of President Donald Trump's administration including separations of migrant children from arrested parents.

"We honor these heroes and thank them for giving us hope and reminding us that everyone has an opportunity to do something extraordinary," Legend said.



ENTERTAINMENT

Davido, Wizkid, Simi shine at Headies Awards

By Bologi M. Maikudi

Rave-making superstar, David Adeleke, popularly called 'Davido', has won the Artist of the Year award at the 12th edition of the Headies Awards held at the Eko Convention Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos State.

The 'Fia' crooner also won the Best Pop Single of the Year as well as Song of the Year awards.

His long term rival, Ayodeji Ibrahim Balogun, famously called 'Wizkid', won two awards in different categories comprising; Viewers Choice, Best Music Video and Best R&B and Pop Album awards.

Simi was not left out in the big moment as she also bagged awards in the category of Best R&B Single, Best Recording of the Year and Album of the

Full list of winners

Song of the year – Davido

Album of the year – Simi

Artist of the year – Davido

Rookie Award – Teni

Best Single Rap award – Mi Abaga

Best Street Hip Hop Artist – Small Doctor

Best Pop Single of the year – Davido

Best R&B single – Simi

Best Recording of the year- Simi

Hip Hop World – Reekado Banks

Next Rated Award – Mayokun

Best Collabo of the year – Tiwa Savage

Best Alternative Song – Aramide

African Artist of the year – Nasty C

Viewers Choice – Wizkid

Best Music Video – Wizkid

Best R&B and PoP album – Wizkid

Best Female Vocal Performance – Omawunmi

Best Vocal Performance male- Praiz

Best Rap Album – Reminisce





FASHION & Style

Most Nigerian's fashion businesses not properly set up – Taffiri

Creative Director of EAT, Ejiro Amos Taffiri, a formidable player and business at the forefront of the global fashion market speaks with **ENE ABDUL** about her SS18 collections and the challenges in the Nigerian Fashion among others.

What is it about SS18 collections?

My spring summer 2018 collection was inspired by the life of birds and being set free. Birds are free animals that are meant to be free but sometimes they are caged or restricted. When they're

let loose, they fly out with so much joy. This collection is about freedom, being set free, coming into one's own identity and being confident in it. It is refusing to be held back by whatever held you back previously, be it society, culture, family

or even ideology. Basically, having that woman come into her own identity and be free to be who she wants to be.

What is your take on fashion weekends in Nigeria and the resultant benefits?

It is worth it to showcase in such platforms in Nigeria because in my opinion it gives one an opportunity to benchmark oneself with their peers and the world at large. It gives more visibility especially as the world is a global village. When you have such a



FASHION & Style

platform that Vogue, Marie Claire and a lot of international bloggers and prominent fashion magazines attend, it's great to be among the names they call. For instance, we were mentioned by CNN as one of the designers to watch out for and it's a huge deal. A lot of people around the world watch CNN. Thus, if you are global player or serious player in the industry who wants to build a fashion brand and empire not just a dressmaker, you should want to take advantage of the opportunity to showcase in such platforms that celebrate and showcase who we are. It also gives you an opportunity to show what you have to your existing and future clients. My clients are very happy to wear the EAT clothing because we are generally represented at such platforms. It gives some sought of recognition and confidence to the woman wearing the brand.

What is the motive behind the creation of EAT Fashion School and its ultimate purpose or aim?

I opened the school not for financial gain or because it's now a fad amongst fashioner designers. I got lots of mail on social media training and internship. At one point I had about 15 interns and that wasn't great for productivity or learning due to several constrains. Hence, I thought of a self-sustaining product (school) where anyone who wants to know how the EAT brand has been able to position and sustain itself as a business or how we as a home-grown brand can be competitive in the international market can come in and learn for a fee. I went to Yabatech and did a proper five years course the same as any reputable fashion school around the world though we may not have upgraded the syllabus. What I learned from school, I have been able to use to compete favourably with global players. What I have done to take that, with my experience and come up with a syllabus that I think works and will help people to break in easily into the Nigerian fashion industry and market. Though sometimes our industry is filled with upcoming designers who are all about the fame; I am hoping to breed designers who will be all about the passion, the way it feels to me.

With expansion comes the challenge of quality control. What are the measures put in place to ensure the quality of the EAT clothing?

The only way around it is to keep looking for and hiring the right team members who believe in your dream not those that want to be there because of the fame or money. I have done a lot of restructuring in the past one year in terms of team members and removed sentiments from the running of my business. Standards have been elevated even higher and processes documented and adhered to.

On the challenge of funding for fashion businesses in Nigeria.

Figures for fashion businesses in Nigeria are not readily available because most fashion businesses are not proper. We don't have proper books and bank properly and it is usually a hobby for most people thus it's not treated like a business. People open poultry and treat it formerly but most fashion businesses are treated very casually by the owners, hence the lack of figures. Most funding organisations like to look at numbers, for instance farmers can readily access funds because they have the numbers. I am a recipient of a United Nation grant about two years ago and that really helped boost the business and make our growth plans reality. It's not impossible to get funding for the fashion businesses in Nigeria but the designer has to be able to show that he is not just a creative but a business person with a plan, structure, documentation and processes to sustain its consistent growth and productivity. There is also the Bank of Industry (B O I) who has funding fashion

designers can access. The funny thing is, most popular designers can't access these funding schemes because they don't have structures, in terms of administration. Other people who are into fashion items production get ready access to these funding because they have proper documentation.

Photo Credit: BeckyLu Photography



MakeUp Trend: Dark & bold lippies

BY ENE ABDUL

Bold and vampy lips are the rage this season with the usual eternally trendy red and nude lips giving way a bit ungraciously to the new dark and bold lips trend. Popularized by Rhianna and kylie's pouty bold lip kits in primary shades, currently galvanizing fashion lovers mad rush for all things dark brown, green, navy blue, deep purple or marsella.

Beauty brands, Zaron Cosmetics, Beyond Beauty and Kylie's kit seems to be in the lead in Nigeria, with their 24hrs long lasting lip matte/gloss topping the demand chart. The trick to wearing this lip trend flawlessly, is to Exfoliate and moisturize your lips, before using your lipstick of choice, in order to avoid chapped, or flaky lips. Naturally your teeth must be as near to white, as possible or the contrast would be memorable, to the unlucky individual you happen to smile at.

Photo Credits: DimmaUmeh of thatigbochick.com



Bright Hues for the Ultra Stylish man

By ENE ABDUL

Men's fashion is no longer about being a conservative tweed, boring grey fashion killjoy or wallflower. Bold colors, Pastels, Bright combos and statement suits in strong primary colors are now the vogue look to rock for men. A common thread in the new male fashion forward movement, is the love for pop colors incorporated into the everyday looks including the high street, ethnic, sport-man, geek, rock-edge or casual look.

The stylish male with a passion for style, is no longer afraid of colors and now enthusiastically, wear it liberally in his style ensembles. From Mai Atafo, Kola Kuddus print pants, Orange Culture to Taylor Gabriels bespoke bright hues suits, pastel shirts and tribal print pants, bright clothing, and pop colored accessorizing, for the metro man is

here to stay.

Our Nigerian style celebrities are definitely, not too shy to rock the trend, as the likes of Noble Igwe, Mai Atafo, Ebuka, Alex Ebudo, Praise, Dayo Ephiram, JJCskillz, Tinie Tempah, Emmy Collins and lots more, have already been spotted rocking the trend at various red carpet functions and events..

Tip: An easy way to get the look, without worrying yourself sick, is to stick a bright hue staple to a general nude ensemble. For instance, pairing a canary (sunny yellow) wide-bow tie to your navy suit and accessorizing with the same colored socks. Ensure the hem of your trouser is not too long, so as not to defeat the purpose of the look.





7 amazing health benefits of banana peel

By ENE ABDUL

Banana peel, which is the flesh of the banana is rich in many nutrients and carbohydrates. It's high in vitamins B6, B12, magnesium and potassium. A Banana peel also called banana skin is the outer covering of the banana fruit. Unknown to many, the banana peel is rich in nutrients and help save more.

Amazing Benefits Of Banana Peel.

1. Sparkling Teeth: Rub the banana peel every day for a week on your teeth for about a minute. This makes the teeth shine and white.
2. Cures Pimples: just massage banana peels on your face and body for 5 minutes every day to cure pimples. The result will be visible within a week and the acne will disappear.
3. Reduces Wrinkles: The banana peel helps to keep your skin hydrated. Add an egg yolk to a mashed banana peel, apply this mixture on your face and leave it for 5 minutes. Wash after 5 minutes.
4. Pain Reliever: Apply the banana peel directly on the painful area, leave it for 30 minutes till the pain is gone. A mixture of vegetable oil and banana peel also helps in pain relief.
5. Heals Psoriasis: Apply the peel on the

psoriasis affected areas, the banana peel has moisturising properties and also reduces itchiness it will quickly heal and will see noticeable results within no time.

6. Heals Bites and Bugs: massage the peel on the mosquito bites to get instant relief from the itching pain.
7. Natural Polish: rub a banana peel on o shoe, leather and silver articles to make them shine brighter. A fresh banana peel should be used for immediate results.



Tassels and Feathers!

By ENE ABDUL

For a while, Tassels and Feathers took a middle sit in trendy cloths design charts, content to secure front row sit on accessories. Now they are back with a bang and it looks like they aren't given up their space anytime soon. Featured heavily by most designers both home and aboard on their creations, as seen by their presence at the just concluded Arise Fashion Week, fashion bluffs can now spot them in multiples, at any highbrow carpeted event globally.

Though now trendy, it's necessary to have the know-how, to wear them, so as to look glamorous and sophisticated, not clownish or weird. The trick is, not to go overboard with your tassels and features.

- Buy dresses where T&F designs are placed strategically on the shoulder, knees to hemline, or train.
- Never buy fashion staples with T&F on the torso or middle of the garment especially if you are big of built.
- Keep your accessories simple, minimal and classy, while yet making a statement.

Photo Credits: FAMOUS ISAACS



Purple Royalty!

BY ENE ABDUL

If you are thinking of a colour for your aso-ebi or that perfect colour to pull-off for your next outing, then you may need to consider purple. The colour purple isn't only unique, it represents royalty and it is easy to

pull-off in different fabric types, be it lace, Ankara, or any other fabric.

For that perfect aso-ebi look, you can either do a purple monotone (from head to toe) or mix it with other colours like lilac, champagne gold or silver.

Here are purple aso-ebi inspirations from our celebrities



Fabulous fashion crowd at arise fashion week 2018!

By **ENE ABDUL**

Last weekend, the city of Lagos played host to the biggest fashion event in Africa, **ARISE FASHION WEEK 2018** and fashionistas brought their A-game to play.

From the quirky, to the raunchy, weird and normal, Lagos continental hotel witnessed it all.

Showcasing the very best of global Africa fashion designer's collection to an appreciative audience, the Arise Fashion Week 2018 comeback is one

for the books.

Below are our top picks from the stylish crowd at the three day event.





Nigeria's record breaker, Musa's metamorphosis

By Elvis Ogah

After that masterful display against Iceland, Nigeria's sensational striker, Ahmed Musa, suddenly became the darling of sports-loving Nigerians all over the world. Since that Friday afternoon when his second half brace sealed the first victory for the Super Eagles in Russia, his pictures have adorned all parts of the country, including the social media with some over-excited fans suggesting that he contests for president in 2019.

Musa was the first Nigerian to score more than once in a FIFA World Cup match, after scoring twice against Argentina in the 2014 FIFA World Cup

in Brazil. He is also the first Nigerian to score in two FIFA World Cup competitions, after scoring twice against Iceland in the group stage of the ongoing 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. He is as well the country's all-time top scorer in World Cup history with 4 goals.

Musa did not drop from heaven and his star-status was not made overnight. He has come a long way in his bid to rise to the peak of his club and international career.

Early career and sign of greatness

In September 2007, a local publication in Jos, Nigeria had featured Musa on its 'Undiscovered Talent' column. The following year, he was loaned to JUTH F.C. where

he played 18 games, scoring four goals in his first two professional seasons for the Healers. He was subsequently loaned to Kano Pillars F.C., in the 2009-10 season where he set the league record scoring multiple crucial goals as Pillars finished second.

Musa is not a stranger to setting records and leaving landmarks. He once held the record for the highest goals ever scored in one season in the history of the Nigeria Premier League until November 2011, when Jude Aneke of Kaduna United F.C. set a new record of 20 goals.

VVV-Venlo

He transferred to Dutch club VVV-Venlo in summer 2010,

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2010, but the move was held up because he was only 17 years of age and therefore not eligible for an ITC in accordance with the current FIFA rules. He was officially eligible to play for VVV-Venlo on 14 October 2010 when he eventually turned 18 years of age.

Less than a week after arriving at the club, Musa made his debut for VVV-Venlo against FC Groningen on 30 October. He started the game for VVV-Venlo, was fouled in the 50th minute and received a penalty kick.

Musa was rated by Goal.com amongst



Hotel,
Port
Harcourt,
Rivers State. The event had
in attendance, BBC African
Footballer of the Year winner,
Ghanaian Asamoah Gyan
and the top officials from the
Nigerian football federation
including the president Aminu
Maigari

In April, Venlo's football
director Mario Captien
said that representatives
of Tottenham Hotspur had
visited the club regarding the
player, also Ajax scout Tijani
Babangida said that Ajax were
interested in Musa but that the
outcome would be decided at
the end of the season.

On 1 May 2011, Musa hit a
brace to sink Feyenoord 3-2
and end any lingering fears of
automatic relegation from the
Eredivisie.

In August 2011, after
returning from the 2011
FIFA U-20 World Cup in

the
Hot
100
young
football
stars in
the world
to watch in
2011. Lolade
Adewuyi of the
same medium had
also put him on the
list of Top Ten Nigerian
International Players of 2010.
He was once included in the
International Federation of
Football History and Statistics
(IFFHS) list of the best 140
players in the world.

On 8 March 2011, Ahmed
Musa won the AIT footballer
of the year award (national).
The ceremony was held
at the Presidential

Colombia, Musa made his first appearance of the 2011–12 season at home against AFC Ajax and scored two goals.

In September VVV-Venlo chairman Hai Berden disclosed on Eredivisie Live that VVV-Venlo had turned down a last minute bid of €10 million euros for Musa from the Bundesliga. The name of the Bundesliga club was not disclosed.

CSKA Moscow

On 7 January 2012, Musa signed for Russian side CSKA Moscow for an undisclosed fee.

On 17 September 2014, he scored an 82nd minute consolation goal in a 5–1 UEFA Champions League away rout to A.S. Roma. On 1 June 2015, Musa signed a new four-year contract with CSKA until the end of the 2018–19 season.[23] He finished the 2015–16 Russian Premier League season as the 5th highest scorer, becoming one of only seven players aged 23 or younger to reach double figures for goals in each of the past two seasons in Europe's top seven leagues.

Leicester City

On 8 July 2016,
M u s a

moved to Leicester City for a club record £16.6 million. He scored his first goals with the club in a friendly against Barcelona in the 2016 International Champions Cup which ended in a 4–2 loss. He made his Premier League debut on 13 August 2016 in the club's opening day 2–1 defeat to Hull City. He scored his first Premier League with the opening goal in a 3–1 victory over Crystal Palace on 22 October 2016.

By January 2017, Musa was yet to register an assist for the club, contributing an average of 0.5 key passes, 0.3 crosses and 1.2 successful dribbles per game.

Loan to CSKA Moscow

On 30 January 2018, Musa returned to CSKA Moscow on loan for the remainder of the 2017–18 season.

International career

In April 2010 under Coach Lars Lagerbäck, he was called up to join the Nigeria national football team camp prior to the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa after helping the Nigerian team win in the 2010 WAFU Nations Cup where he scored a goal against Benin. In the same tournament against Burkina Faso, Musa's goal deep into extra-time shot Nigeria into the final of the tournament in Abeokuta. He was however forced out of the Super Eagles' 30-man World Cup roster due to an ankle injury.

On 5 August 2010, at the age of 17, Musa made his debut for the Nigeria senior team in a qualification match for the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations against Madagascar, where he came on as a substitute for John Obi Mikel in a 2–0 win. Musa scored his first goal for the Super Eagles in a March 2011 friendly against Kenya.

In April 2011, Musa was included in the Nigerian national under-20 football team squad to represent the nation in the 2011 African Youth

to the Netherlands.

In August 2011, Musa represented Nigeria U20 in the 2011 FIFA U-20 World Cup held in Colombia, where he scored three goals in five matches. Musa was included by FIFA in shortlist of 10 candidates for the Adidas Golden Ball, which was awarded to the most outstanding player of the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

On 7 December 2011, Ahmed Musa was one of the four nominees named for the Confederation of African Football Most Promising Talent Award, however the award went to Côte d'Ivoire's Souleymane Coulibaly.

Musa was called up to Nigeria's 23-man squad for the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations. He scored in a 4–1 semi-final defeat of Mali and appeared as a substitute against Burkina Faso in the final, as the Super Eagles won their third continental title. Overall, he appeared in five of the team's six matches. At the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup, he started in all three of the team's matches as they were eliminated in the group stage.

After appearing in all of Nigeria's qualifying matches, Musa was named in Stephen Keshi's squad for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. He scored two goals in the team's final Group F match, a 3–2 defeat to Argentina.

In May 2018 he was named in Nigeria's preliminary 30-man squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia and subsequently in the final 23-man squad for the tournament.

He didn't start for the Eagles on the 16th of June when they lost 2–0 to Croatia in their first outing. But On 22 June, Musa was in the starting line-up and scored twice in a 2–0 victory over Iceland in their second match.

The teeming Nigerian fans will be looking up to the talisman for other eye-catching performances in Russia 2018 and in future national assignments.

Championship

qualifiers, even though VVV Venlo had declared him unavailable for the tournament due to club commitments. After some intense negotiations with the Nigerian Federation, VVV Venlo and Musa's representatives it was agreed that Musa will shuttle between the Netherlands and South Africa to participate in the tournament with the national team. After the opening game against defending champions Ghana, Musa won the most valuable player award and boarded the next flight back

'Mo Salah's amazing year'

I'm putting on the tin hat before suggesting this but Mo Salah surely deserves to be in the -running for the Ballon d'Or.

I'm not saying he's going to win it, in fact I'm pretty sure he won't the way the whole thing is structured.

But I am saying – passionately – that it's time to look beyond the almost knee-jerk leaning towards Ronaldo or Messi.

Don't get me wrong, they are two of the greatest players the game has ever seen.

People get misty eyed over the pair of them, and quite rightly. They have both had good years, and with a World Cup, both have the chance for an -outstanding

one.

Yet so far, Salah has matched them, no doubt.

He's probably got more chance of -winning the Best FIFA Men's Player award, -because that is -in part selected by -international coaches. The Ballon d'Or votes are by journalists.

Even if you put what Mo has done at Liverpool to one side, he's been astonishing. He has gone from being an -exciting, quality player, to a truly world-class one for Jurgen Klopp.

But it is his incredible role with Egypt that has caught my attention.

More so than Ronaldo or Messi, he has lifted an entire nation.

He scored two goals to take his country to the World Cup finals for only the third time in their history. Scotland have been there more often than that!

Salah is a hero back home. He has put Egypt back on the map.

I think international coaches will understand the magnitude of that better than -journalists who are working outside Africa.

For what he has achieved in terms of promoting -African football as a whole, he deserves to be in contention.

This is a vital demographic for the world game that gets cruelly overlooked – -despite producing incredible talent year after year.

Salah has been out of this world. That's not me just being a rose-tinted Liverpool idiot (though yeah, I'm that too), that's a striker recognising class in front of goal.

You can see exactly how good he is in the goals he scores. Look at the two City games. He was relatively quiet in both, yet in both matches, he scored the goal that turned the whole tie on its

head. That's what truly great players do. That's why they are great players.

They do nothing for 80 minutes, and
t h e n

produce
something
-sublime at the
most suffocating
pressure moment of the
entire game. Consistently. Salah
has done that.

As a striker if I analyse the goal he scored at the Etihad, then it tells me he's gone to a different level. It was chaos in that penalty area, probably a penalty. Panic and -bodies everywhere.

Yet his composure in knowing where the ball would end up, and then exactly how Nicolas Otamendi would try to block, and lifting it delicately over him, was just mind-blowing.

I'd compare him to Luis Suarez, in that when he arrived, yes he missed chances. Scored plenty but missed more. Now, he doesn't seem to miss any. That's all about -confidence and -belief in yourself.

People questioned his fee, for





Sport

someone who was dumped by Chelsea. Perhaps that made him anxious, snatching at chances? The fee doesn't seem so much now, does it?

Remember his goal against Porto, where he flicked it up then volleyed it in? The truly great strikers can slow things down to read what will happen around them. See all the angles quicker, better than anyone else.

It's a gift. And a very rare one. So why shouldn't he be named in the same golden breath as Ronaldo and Messi for this season?

Culled from Mirror (UK)



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FULL LIST OF APC NATIONAL OFFICIALS

The two-day national convention of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) held on Saturday, June 23, 2018, produced 21 National Working Committee (NWC) officials and 39 non- National Working Committee officials to pilot the affairs of the party.

The convention, held at the Eagle Square, Abuja, brought together party leaders and about 6800 delegates drawn from the 774 local governments across the country that elected the following officials of the party at national level:

NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE (NWC) MEMBERS

1. Comrade Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole – National Chairman
2. Lawali Shuaibu – Deputy National Chairman (North)
3. Otunba Niyi Adebayo – Deputy National Chairman (South)
4. Mai Mala Buni – National Secretary
5. Victor Giadom – Deputy National Secretary
6. Mustapha Salihu – National Vice Chairman (North East)
7. Inuwa Abdul-Kadir, Esq – National Vice Chairman (North West)
8. Ahmed Wambai Suleiman – National Vice Chairman (North Central)
9. Hilliard Etogbo Eta – National Vice Chairman (South-South)
10. Emma Eneukwu – National Vice Chairman (South East)
11. Bankole Oluwajana – Nat. Vice Chairman (South West)
12. Emma Ibediro – National Organizing Secretary
13. Babatunde Ogala, Esq – National Legal Adviser
14. Tajudeen Bello – National Financial Secretary
15. Ibrahim K. Masari – National Welfare Secretary
16. Adamu Fanda – National Treasurer
17. Bolaji Abdullahi – National Publicity Secretary
18. George Moghalu – National Auditor
19. Salamatu Baiwa – National Women Leader
20. Sadiq S. Abubakar – National Youth Leader
21. Misbau Lawal Didi – Disabled Leader

NON-NATIONAL WORKING COMMITTEE (NWC) MEMBERS

1. Sunday Jacob Chukwu – Deputy National Financial Secretary
2. Mohammed Sani – Deputy Organising Secretary
3. E. I. Adoh-Ogbuta – Deputy National Legal Adviser
4. Mohammed Tanko Zakari – Deputy National Treasurer
5. Jock Alamba – Deputy Welfare Secretary
6. Nabena Yekini – Deputy Nat Pub Secretary
7. Isa Modu Chul – Deputy National Auditor
8. Ihuoma Onyebuchukwu – Deputy National Women Leader
9. Hafiz Bolaji – Deputy National Youth Leader

10. Tukur Abdulkadir Gusau – Zonal Secretary (North West)
11. John Uwaede – Zonal Secretary (South East)
12. Zakari Mohammed – Zonal Secretary (North Central)
13. Ayo Afolabi – Zonal Secretary (South West)
14. Dave Okumgba – Zonal Secretary (South South)
15. Abuabkar S. Ajiya – Zonal Secretary (North East)
16. Onyeka Olisemeka – Zonal Youth Leader (South East)
17. Kashim Bello Maigari – Zonal Youth Leader (North East)
18. Terver Aginde – Zonal Youth Leader (North Central)
19. Lanre Olarewaju – Zonal Youth Leader (South West)
20. Koteteh Ibadan – Zonal Youth Leader (South South)
21. Abubakar Saadu – Zonal Youth Leader (North West)
22. Abdulmanaf Muhammad – Zonal Organising Secretary (North West)
23. Timothy Amah – Zonal Organising Secretary (South East)
24. Ibrahim makun Abdul – Zonal Organising Secretary (North Central)
25. Ferdinand Adie Atsu – Zonal Organising Secretary (South South)
26. David Olufemi Egbedeyi – Zonal Organising Secretary (South West)
27. Shuaibu AbdulRahman – Zonal Organising Secretary (North East)
28. Amina Manga – Zonal Woman Leader (North East)
29. Yahanasu Buba Ahmed – Zonal Woman Leader (North West)
30. Olukemi Nelson – Zonal Woman Leader (South West)
31. Rachael Akpabio – Zonal Woman Leader (South South)
32. Hassana Abdullahi – Zonal Woman Leader (North Central)
33. Blessing Onugha – Zonal Woman Leader (South East)
34. Koteteh Ibadan – Ex-Officio (South South)
35. Omolaoye O. Akintola – Ex-Officio (South West)
36. Nelson Alapa – Ex-Officio (North Central)
37. Nduka Anyanwu – Ex-Officio (South East)
38. Mamman Isah Azare – Ex-Officio (North East)
39. Nasiru Danu – Ex-Officio (North West)



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