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WEEKEND



Jonathan

As Goodluck Jonathan makes his 2027 presidential comeback under the PDP

- Jonathan will contest the 2027 presidential election - Insider confirms
- APC has officially endorsed Tinubu to run for re-election in 2027

BY GIFT LUCKSON
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A senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter, told *Neptune Prime* exclusively on Friday, August 8, 2025, that former President Goodluck Jonathan will contest the 2027

presidential election under the party's banner. 2027 Election: A Defining & Highly Contested Race The 2027 election is expected to be Nigeria's highly contested presidential race, capturing the key dynamics and major players. Regional dynamics, especially how southern gains and northern grievances play out,

will greatly influence election outcomes. However, challenges like security, economic hardship, and democratic trust will remain central to campaign narratives and voter sentiment. Speculation and Political Mobilisation Northern power brokers' insistence on drafting Jonathan to run in 2027 hinges on the fact

that he's eligible under the 1999 Constitution for a second four-year term, having served from 2011 to 2015. This push is seen as a move to derail President Bola Tinubu's re-election bid. The PDP has never failed to mention Jonathan's historical significance to the party's legacy. Incumbent & Ruling Party: Bola Tinubu (APC)

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has officially endorsed President Bola Tinubu to run for re-election in 2027, positioning him as the party's sole candidate.

His administration's economic reforms, such as subsidy removal, currency

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THREE YOBE TEENS JOIN THE RANKS OF GLOBAL NIGERIAN ACHIEVERS

BY SHALOM KASIM

If you only go by the headlines, Nigeria's story sounds like a broken record: scams, bad economy, politicians fighting on live TV, etc. That is the picture most people see, but look a little closer and you will notice that Nigerians are quietly making waves all over the world. In just the first eight months of 2025, we have seen it all, from Grammy wins, world records, historic appointments, and groundbreaking research.

From sports to music, science and diplomacy, Nigerians are turning up in places that matter and leaving their mark. These wins are proof that there is more to our story than the drama on the front page. And honestly, it is about time we gave these people their flowers.

Yobe Teens: Nafisa, Rukayya and Hadiza

At the 2025 TeenEagle Global English Championship held in London, three Nigerian students from Yobe State emerged as top performers among more than 20,000 participants representing 69 countries. Competing under the banner of Nigerian Tulip International College (NTIC), Yobe, the all-female team earned global recognition for their individual achievements in English language proficiency and debate. Seventeen-year-old Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu was named Overall Best in English, while Rukayya Muhammad Fema, 15, won the Best in Debate category. Hadiza Kashim Kalli received the Outstanding Talent Award (Gold), further underscoring the team's strong showing on the international stage. The success of the three students attracted widespread national attention and praise.

Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu commended the team, describing them as symbols of the country's intellectual potential and a testament to the importance of investing in girls' education. Similarly, renowned diplomat

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Tems

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THE KANURI TRIBE: FROM A 9TH-CENTURY LOOSELY HELD PAGAN GROUP TO BEING AN EPITOME OF STATECRAFT



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EDUCATION AND OTHER ESSENTIAL THINGS WERE FREE DURING OUR TIME - FORMER TEACHER, ISA CHIROMARI



Neptune World

The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page

Augustine of Hippo

To be a person is to belong to a community, and to fulfil one's role in that community

Segun Gbadegesin

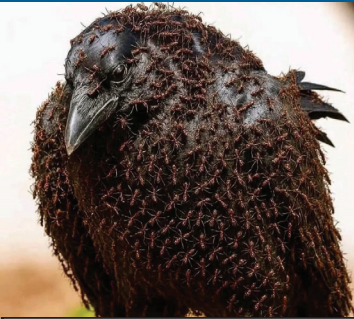
PICTURE OF THE DAY

Maryam Bukar Hassan (born 25 December 1996) is a Nigerian poet, spoken word artist, storytelling consultant, social entrepreneur, digital content creator, and the first UN Global Advocate for Peace and Security. She is from Borno State. As the first UN Global Advocate for Peace and Security, Maryam carries with her the hopes and voices of millions, especially young people who often bear the weight of conflict and crisis.

Hassan is an advocate for United Nations peacekeeping, campaign co-ordinator at change.org in Nigeria, and a Gates Foundation representative. She uses her voice for social change and justice, especially on issues such as peace and maternal mortality.



UP&DOWN



Why crows look for ants when they get sick

It may sound strange at first glance, but it's true: realising they're sick or annoyed by parasites, crows have a surprising instinctive behaviour, they approach the ants, land there for a while, spread their wings, and stay still, allowing the ants to climb all over the place, especially between the feathers.

This curious ritual has a vital function. Ants release formic acid, a natural substance with antimicrobial and antiparasitic effects. When being "invaded" by ants, the crow receives a type of natural treatment, almost like a therapeutic bath, that fights fungi, bacteria and parasites that mainly affect its skin and feathers. This phenomenon is known in science as "anting," and it doesn't just happen to crows. Many birds use this strategy as a form of self-medication - a true example of how animals can use the natural resources around them to stay healthy, without any human intervention.



Betty Lou Williams: Born with a parasitic twin, dies after years of pain, misery

Betty Lou Williams was born in 1932 in Georgia with a rare and deeply misunderstood condition: a parasitic twin. Unlike conjoined twins, where both bodies are partially functional and share vital organs, a parasitic twin is incomplete and entirely dependent on the host twin for survival. In Betty Lou's case, the underdeveloped twin was attached at her pelvis and consisted of a second pair of legs and a small, malformed arm. There was no head, brain, or functioning organs — just a lifeless appendage that made her body a medical curiosity in an era ill-equipped to treat such conditions with empathy or understanding. Doctors quickly realised that surgical removal was not an option. The twins shared significant blood vessels and pelvic structures, making the risk of death from surgery too high. With limited support and no real alternatives, Betty Lou's life followed a path that was common for people with highly visible physical anomalies in the early 20th century: she became part of the sideshow circuit. Travelling the country with carnivals and exhibitions, Betty Lou was presented to paying audiences, often under exaggerated or dehumanising labels. While these performances provided a livelihood, they also subjected her to a life of objectification and isolation, where people stared not out of concern or compassion, but out of morbid fascination.

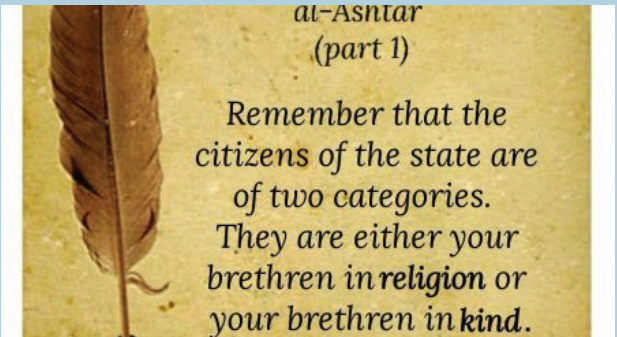
RANDOM FACTS

Imam Ali's Letter to Malik Al Ashtar (1)

Malik_al_Ashtar was one of the especial companions of Imam_Ali a.s and one of the powerful leaders of Iraq. He was one of the commanders of the army of Imam 'Ali (a) who was forethoughtful in politics and strong in battle. He participated in the Battle of Jamal and the Battle of Siffin and eventually he was appointed by Imam 'Ali (pbuh) as governor... general in Egypt. However, he was martyred before arriving to Egypt. The famous treaty of Malik al-Ashtar is a letter that Imam 'Ali wrote to him while he was in Egypt.

Part 1
Be it known to you, O, Malik, that I am sending you as Governor to a country which in the past has experienced both just and unjust rule. Men will scrutinize your actions with a searching eye, even as you used to scrutinise the actions of those before you, and speak of you even as you did speak of them.
The fact is that the public speak well of only those who do good. It is they who furnish the proof of your actions. Hence the richest treasure that you may covet would be the treasure of good deeds.
Keep your desires under control and deny yourself that which you have been prohibited from, for, by such abstinence alone, you will be able to distinguish between what is good to them and what is not.
Develop in your heart the feeling of love for your people and let it be the source of kindness and blessing to them. Do not behave with them like a barbarian, and do not appropriate to yourself that which belongs to them. Remember that the citizens of the state are of two categories. They are either your brethren in religion or your brethren in kind. They are subject to infirmities and liable to commit mistakes.
Some indeed do commit mistakes. But forgive them even as you would like God to forgive you. Bear in mind that you are placed over them, even as I am placed over you. And then there is God even above him who has given you the position of a Governor in order that you may look after those under you and to be sufficient unto them. And you will be judged by what you do for them.

To be continued...



al-Ashtar
(part 1)

Remember that the citizens of the state are of two categories. They are either your brethren in religion or your brethren in kind.



FUN PUZZLE

Find The Hidden Words

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

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NEWS

As Goodluck Jonathan makes his 2027 presidential comeback under the PDP

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liberalisation, and monetary policy tightening, have earned criticism, especially due to the accompanying inflation and the rising hardship.

The APC-led government also faces growing pressure due to worsening insecurity, particularly widespread rural violence in different regions, which has eroded confidence in its leadership.

Opposition Coalition: The ADC Alliance

In a move echoing the 2015 coalition that unseated the PDP, key opposition leaders, including Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi, formed the Africa Democratic Congress (ADC) coalition, signalling a united front against Tinubu and APC dominance.

The coalition is crafting a policy-driven campaign centred on security, job creation, youth engagement, and infrastructural development. They aim to present a unified presidential candidate by mid-2026 to maximise electoral impact.

Regional Power Plays & Political Realignments

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) emphasises that the North's demographics and unified voice will be decisive in the 2027 outcome.

Tinubu is actively working to expand the APC's southern presence and to gain control in additional southern states via defections and electoral gains.

However, northern dissatisfaction persists, critics charge that Tinubu's administration has marginalised the region in terms of appointments and development, leading some northern elites to reconsider their support.

Defections and a one-party state

Defections from opposition ranks and promises to governors and lawmakers by the APC raise concerns over growing one-party dominance and the erosion of political plurality.

Jonathan vs. Obi

There are reports that the PDP is deeply divided over whether to back Peter Obi, a former Labour Party candidate, or to bring back former President Goodluck Jonathan. A faction of top PDP insiders is actively trying to coax Jonathan into running, with promises of an automatic ticket, due to uncertainties around Obi's commitment to rejoining the party.

Supporters of Jonathan argue that, unlike Obi's one-term pledge, the constitution ensures Jonathan can serve only one more term, a feature many

northern stakeholders view as a strength, reinforcing trust in his term-limited candidacy.

Offers and Accusations

According to Dumei Kachikwu of the ADC, Jonathan reportedly offered Obi the position of Coordinating Minister of the Economy, allegedly as a plot to sideline Obi's presidential ambition and weaken southern influence. Obi, for his part, has yet to publicly comment on this claim.

Obi's Stance: Coalition First, Ego Later

Obi emphasises that his priority is unity and credibility, not personal ambition. He insists he's part of a broader opposition coalition working to coalesce behind the strongest candidate, whoever that may be, rather than pushing for himself.

He has rejected the notion of aligning himself solely with power, stating his focus remains on national issues like security, agriculture, and ensuring that votes count.

For many PDP insiders and northern elites, Jonathan represents a predictable and legally constrained option, aligned with desires for power rotation and reducing uncertainty.

Obi's one-term promise is



Jonathan, Obi

seen by some as negotiable or politically vague.

Obi, however, brings consistent public support, especially from younger, reform-minded voters. His insistence on coalition

building and democratic transparency enhances his appeal to those wary of old-party politics.

While PDP insiders lean toward Jonathan for stability and

legal certainty, Obi remains a formidable contender with a message that resonates across generations and speaks to the future of democratic accountability.

Three Yobe Teens Join the Ranks of Global Nigerian Achievers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and lawyer Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, awarded each student N500,000 and a new laptop in recognition of their accomplishments. In Yobe State, Governor Mai Mala Buni approved an official reception to honour the students and reaffirmed his administration's commitment to educational development, particularly in promoting access and excellence in girls' education.

Music

At the 67th Grammy Awards which took place in February this year, Nigerian singer-songwriter Tems made history by clinching the inaugural Best African Music Performance award, a new category introduced to spotlight contemporary sounds from the continent. Her winning track, Love Me Jeje is a nostalgic reimagining of Seyi Sodimu's 1990s classic. Other songs nominated in the same category include Tomorrow by Yemi Alade, MMS by Asake and Wizkid, Higher by Burna Boy, and Sensational by Chris Brown featuring Davido and Lojay. It was a landmark night for the Lagos-born artist who, with this win, became the first Nigerian to take home the award since its creation.

Diplomacy

In June, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, was elected Chairperson of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Council, becoming the first Nigerian to hold the position in the history of the global body. The election, which took place during the WCO's annual

Council sessions in Brussels, places Nigeria for the first time at the forefront of the international customs policymaking landscape. Adeniyi's one-year term officially commenced on July 1, 2025, and will see him preside over the deliberations of the WCO Council, which comprises the heads of customs administrations from 186 member countries. The Council serves as the highest decision-making body within the organisation, responsible for setting strategic priorities and adopting instruments that guide global customs operations. His appointment comes at a time when the WCO is focused on issues such as trade facilitation, digital transformation, and enhanced cross-border cooperation, particularly in the context of global supply chain resilience and the rise of e-commerce. Adeniyi's election follows a period of increased visibility for the Nigeria Customs Service on the global stage, driven by reforms and modernisation initiatives under his leadership since his confirmation as Comptroller-General in October 2023.

Sports

In July 2025, Nigeria's senior women's basketball team, D'Tigress, secured their fifth consecutive FIBA Women's AfroBasket championship. The tournament, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, concluded with Nigeria defeating Senegal in the final, marking their seventh overall AfroBasket title. In recognition of their achievement, each player was conferred with the national honour of Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON),

alongside a monetary award of \$100,000 and a gift of a three-bedroom apartment. Coaches and technical personnel also received national honours and financial compensation, according to the Nigerian Ministry of Information. The championship win adds to a growing legacy for D'Tigress, whose back-to-back titles from 2017 to 2025 have brought renewed attention to the development of the sport within the country.

In July 2024, Nigeria's national women's football team, the Super Falcons, secured their tenth Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) title with a dramatic 3-2 victory in Rabat, Morocco. The final, which saw the Falcons come from two goals down to defeat South Africa, marked one of the most remarkable comebacks in the history of the tournament. Trailing 2-0 in the first half, the Nigerian side rallied with three unanswered goals in the second, displaying tactical discipline and individual brilliance under pressure. The victory reaffirmed Nigeria's longstanding dominance in African women's football, with the team now holding ten WAFCON titles, more than any other nation.

At the 2025 NCAA East Preliminary meet in Florida, Nigerian sprinter Tima Godbless delivered a career-defining performance, clocking 10.91 seconds in the women's 100 metres, setting a new personal best and recording the fastest time in the world so far this year. The 20-year-old Louisiana State University



Nafisa, Rukayya, Hadiza

athlete's feat placed her fourth on Nigeria's all-time list, behind legends Blessing Okagbare, Rosemary Chukwuma, and Glory Alozie. Her dominance led a broader wave of Nigerian excellence across events at the preliminaries: in the men's 400 metres, Edidiong Udo and Samuel Ogazi both won their heats with strong times, while three Nigerians (Kanyinsola Ajayi, Fakorede Nicholas, and Sunday Israel Okon) progressed in the men's 100 metres. Over in the West Prelims in Texas, Ezekiel Nathaniel, reigning African Games champion, cruised through his 400 metres hurdles heat in 49.37 seconds, and Charles Godfred topped the men's long jump qualifiers with a season's best of 8.10 metres,

extending his unbeaten run in 2025.

During the 2024-25 season, Victor Osimhen's career took a dramatic turn as he was loaned from Napoli to Galatasaray following failed transfer negotiations with Al-Ahli and Chelsea, and after being excluded from Napoli's Serie A squad. Officially joining the Turkish club on 4 September 2024, Osimhen quickly made an explosive impact, scoring his first goals for Galatasaray with a brace against Kasimpa a and following up with a sensational double against Tottenham Hotspur in the Europa League. His prolific form continued throughout the season, including a memorable hat-trick against Antalyaspor and a brace in the Turkish Cup final

versus Trabzonspor, where he was named player of the match. That final marked his 35th goal in 39 games, breaking Mario Jardel's record for most goals in a single season by a foreign player in Turkey. Osimhen capped off his dominant season by scoring 26 goals in the Süper Lig to finish as the league's top scorer and help Galatasaray secure both the league title and the domestic cup. His bicycle kick against Antalyaspor was later voted Süper Lig Goal of the Season. Following his record-setting loan spell, Galatasaray secured Osimhen on a permanent four-year deal on 31 July 2025 for a Turkish record transfer fee of €75 million, making him the most expensive signing in Turkish football history.

NEWS

BY SALIM SANI



Prisoner

Prison inmates may soon get voting rights – INEC

The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Mahmood Yakubu, has confirmed that discussions are underway with the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) to grant voting rights to prison inmates.

The Controller General of NCoS, Sylvester Ndidi Nwakuche Ofori,

during his first official visit to INEC headquarters in Abuja, called for the inclusion of over 81,000 inmates in the electoral process, noting that more than 66% are awaiting trial and therefore legally innocent.

He stressed that incarceration should not strip citizens of their fundamental rights, including the right to vote. Yakubu welcomed the proposal,

noting that countries like Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa already allow inmates to participate in elections.

He cited court rulings from 2014 and 2018 affirming the voting rights of certain inmate groups, especially those awaiting trial, and said the next step is to work with the National Assembly to provide clear legal backing through electoral reforms.

FG pays second wage arrears to civil servants

President Bola Tinubu's administration has released the second instalment of the N35,000 wage award arrears to federal civil servants.

This was disclosed in a statement issued on Friday by the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF).

FG had previously settled one month out of the five months in outstanding arrears.

Meanwhile, with the latest payment, three more tranches remain to be cleared.

The statement, which was

signed by the Director of Press and Public Relations, Bawa Mokwa, clarified that the administration has not defaulted on the promised payments.

"Contrary to insinuations in some quarters, the Federal Government had not reneged on payment of the wage award arrears," the OAGF noted, assuring that payments would continue in monthly instalments of ₦35,000 until the entire backlog is fully paid".



Tinubu

Tumsah provides N200,000 cash support to accident victim in Yobe

Renowned diplomat and lawyer, Barrister Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, has donated N200,000 to Muazu Mohammad Bukar, an accident victim receiving treatment for significant injuries, including hand fractures, at Yobe State University Teaching Hospital (YSUTH) in Damaturu.

Muazu was involved in an accident in Benin, Edo State, while sleeping under a stationary trailer. Unaware of his presence, the driver crushed the victim's right side as the vehicle started moving. The victim's mother, Zara Abdullahi (Aunt Yana), received the assistance on behalf of her son through Dr. Hassan Gimba, the Publisher/CEO of *Neptune Prime Network*.

The cash was delivered to the victim's family in YSUTH by Sa'adatu Maina, Yobe State editor of *Neptune Prime Newspaper*.

Zara explained that Muazu had travelled to Benin to seek green pastures before the unfortunate accident.

She added, "He was brought back to Potiskum for medical treatment last month July. I spent all I had and could not afford his second surgery, so I reached out to Dr Gimba for help. Alhamdulillah, we have now received support from Tumsah."

"I deeply appreciate this generosity. I pray Almighty Allah rewards all those who have helped my son and me," Zara stated.

It is worth noting that Barrister Kashim Musa Tumsah recently sponsored a major healthcare intervention under the Light Up Yobe Initiative.

The Kashim Musa Tumsah Medical Outreach, organised by the Yobe State Medical Students Association (YOMSA), provided free medical care to 600 residents of Dikumari Ward in Damaturu.



Bukar

OUR HEART

The outstanding feat of three girls from Yobe State

Penultimate week, Nigeria was again the focal point of world attention as a result of the outstanding feat of three radiant teenage girls: 17-year-old Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu, 15-year-old Ruqayya Muhammad Fema, and Hadiza Kashim Kalli. All indigenes of Yobe state, the three girls came top in the various aspects of the finals of a global competition, TeenEagle Global competition, which was held in London, United Kingdom, between July 27th and August 3rd, 2025. They surpassed 20,000 other competitors drawn from sixty-nine countries. Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu emerged as the best in the mastery of the English language, which was a vigorous competition in diverse facets of English language proficiency and communication. It is pertinent to note that Nafisa competed with some participants from countries where English is the native language. Hadiza Kashim Kalli was garlanded with the gold medal for the overall best in debate, while Ruqayya Muhammad Fema went away with the star prize of the Outstanding Talent Award. The spectacular performances of Nafisa, Ruqayya and Hadiza speak to both their individual intellect and academic prowess as well as the high standards of their school. All three, are students of the Nigerian Tulip International College, Mamudo in Potiskum local government area of Yobe State. We at *Neptune Prime* join all those who appreciate the young girls for the tremendous pride and honour they have brought to themselves, their parents, their school, as well as Yobe State and the country in general. We are particularly excited by the vision and the bold policy decisions in the recent past that have made it possible for the nurturing and manifestation of the likes of Nafisa, Ruqayya and Hadiza. Yobe State had, for a long period, the uncomplimentary identity as one of the nation's most backwards in terms of Western education. The situation was such that a former Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB, Professor Bello Salim had at several fora, loudly bemoaned the appalling condition while appealing to the elites of the state to wake up to the calamity. That appeal, which was made about three decades ago, was apparently not heeded until recently. Thanks to the advent of democracy, which compels elected leaders to be more responsive to the yearnings and needs of the people, Yobe State has been making very remarkable progress in the educational sector. With several new primary and secondary schools established since the commencement of the Fourth Republic, the state today has a thriving university in addition to several other tertiary institutions. These, no doubt, have impacted on the standards of education in the state. There is no gainsaying the fact that the present administration in the state under Governor Mai Mala Buni stands out as an administrator whose single-minded and sustained commitment has drastically raised the Yobe educational sector to its present glorious heights. It has been somewhat of a revolutionary transformation. In the circumstance of the trio of the stellar girls we are celebrating: Nafisa, Ruqayya and Hadiza, it should be noted that their school, the Nigerian Tulip International College, Potiskum, though a private venture, is substantially funded by the Yobe state government under Mai Mala Buni. For instance, in 2024, Governor Buni approved the sum of N2.225 billion as scholarship for 890 students of the college. Thus, the girls, like the majority of students of the college, are on the state scholarship programme. A cross-section of Nigerians has been celebrating the young Yobe girls. Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, while announcing a personal scholarship for the girls after their secondary school education, pointed out that the feat of Nafisa and others is a testament to “the limitless potential of the Nigerian girl-child when provided with quality education and a supportive environment.” In his message of congratulations, former Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Professor Isa Ali Pantami, strongly recommends that Nafisa be honoured and rewarded the same way that the nation's female football and basketball teams were recently rewarded for winning the gold medals. “In addition, her English teacher deserves a reward similar to the one given to the coaching and technical team of the football and basketball players. We must continue to take education very seriously and reward the efforts of our citizens.” Governor Buni has approved a grand ceremony to honour the girls. A statement signed by the Director General of Press and Media Affairs to the Governor, Mamman Muhammad, said Buni will host and celebrate the three students — Nafisa, Rukayya, and Hadiza — who are beneficiaries of his scholarship programme.

“Governor Buni described the outstanding performances as a great honour to the state and country. These are great feats that make us proud and justify the government's investments in education.”

In his message, a renowned diplomat and lawyer in the state, Kashim

Musa Tumsah, MFR, extolled the “outstanding achievements of the three brilliant young students from Yobe State, Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu, Rukayya Muhammad Fema, and Hadiza Kashim Kalli, who have brought honour to Nigeria at the TeenEagle Global English Championship held in London. He offered a cash reward of N500,000 each and brand new laptops to the girls. He said, “Emerging victorious among over 20,000 participants from 69 countries, these students have not only demonstrated academic excellence and discipline but have also highlighted the immense potential of Nigerian youth, particularly from the North-East region. Their success reflects the growing impact of continued investments in education under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Governor Mai Mala Buni, whose commitment to creating an enabling learning environment is yielding truly exceptional results.” Indeed, all patriotic Nigerians must rejoice in the triumphs of the Yobe girls. We at *Neptune Prime* share with all who are celebrating the phenomenal milestones. Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu, Ruqayya Muhammad Fema and Hadiza Kashim Kalli deserve all the accolades and show of appreciation that a grateful country should accord their heroes and heroines, who have earned honour and glory, in the eyes of the rest of the world. Furthermore, we are calling on the other states, particularly those in the north of the country, to take a cue from Yobe state by adopting visionary and honestly pursued programmes aimed at mitigating the perilous state of education in the region. The three girls have demonstrated once again, our female children in this part of the country are not congenitally intellectually deficient.

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Pertinent issues in strike actions by nurses

Considered objectively, the declaration by the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), for a seven-day warning strike on July 30, 2025, was, in truth, a clarion call for help, as well as, sounding an alarm bell for a collapsing health system that has, for far too long, survived on the goodwill of overworked professionals. In the preceding decade, nurses across the country have been struggling with the burdens of meagre and delayed salaries, unsafe working conditions. Therefore, the decision to strike was not taken lightly. It was, in fact, a last resort in the face of the government's indifference and systemic neglect. Nigeria's healthcare system has long relied on the heroic sacrifices of individual professionals. By the strike action, it is grossly inappropriate to say that the Nurses willfully and rashly abandoned their posts out of pique. Before the strike, several rounds of negotiations had been initiated in an attempt to address the concerns of the nurses' union, but a particularly telling moment came during a key meeting in Abuja where, shockingly, neither the Minister of Health nor other top-level government functionaries were present. That was a poignant signal that the Nigerian government was not prepared to take the concerns of nurses seriously. Beyond the immediate dynamics of this and other strikes, there is a deeper, and far more dangerous trend: the steady exodus of Nigerian health workers. Between 2022 and 2024, a staggering 42,000 nurses reportedly resigned from their posts and migrated abroad. The United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS) has been a primary destination, benefiting from this highly skilled labour while Nigeria bleeds its workforce dry. This statistic speaks to a larger truth where health workers are not just leaving because they want to, but because they have to. This is the result of the deplorable conditions under which they work, such as overcrowded wards, scarce medical supplies, poor and delayed salaries, among others. Results of a 2022 survey indicated that nearly 50% of nurses and close to 90% of doctors in Nigeria said they would leave the country if working conditions did not improve. Not enough has been done by the government in response. The 2025 budget presented by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu allocated about ₦ 2.48 trillion to the health sector. While this might appear substantial at first glance, it represents only around 5% of the total national budget and falls significantly short of the 15% health funding benchmark set by the 2001 Abuja Declaration, which Nigeria itself signed alongside other African nations. In this context, the nurses' strike was not only predictable. It was inevitable. Happily, the strike was called off days later. It ended not because the government fully met the nurses' demands, but because it offered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that promised concrete implementation timelines, including the assurance that no nurse would be penalised for participating in the strike. The MoU includes the long-overdue gazetting of the 2016 Nurses' Revised Scheme of Service, as well as commitments to review allowances, streamline recruitment processes, centralise postings, and improve nurses' representation in policy discussions. But the real problem runs deeper than that. The issues facing nurses are not merely administrative or economic, they are systemic. A healthcare system cannot thrive when its primary caregivers are underpaid, overworked, and consistently disrespected. It cannot survive when its best-trained staff feel they must flee the country to survive. Nigeria is the most populous country on the African continent. It faces multiple simultaneous public health threats, from infectious disease outbreaks to maternal mortality, childhood malnutrition, and a growing burden of non-communicable diseases. Without a robust and motivated nursing workforce, we do not stand a chance. And that is no exaggeration. It must also be said that the strike, though now suspended, is not a sign of resolution. The nurses returned to work not because they had won the fight, but because they chose to extend a hand one more time. Therefore it is pertinent to caution the government not to mistake temporary peace for lasting resolution. NANNM has made it clear that if the commitments in the MoU are not met within the stipulated timeframe, further action will be taken, and this time, the consequences could be far more severe. To avoid this, the Nigerian government must do three things urgently. First, it must fulfil every clause in the MoU, beginning with the gazetting of the Nurses' Scheme of Service and the immediate adjustment of allowances. These actions are measurable and implementable within weeks. Delay will only worsen tensions. Second, it must take steps to improve the working conditions of nurses across the country. This includes adequate staffing levels, better infrastructure, safety in workplaces, and access to essential medical supplies. Nurses must no longer be expected to perform miracles in dilapidated facilities. Third, the government must radically increase its investment in healthcare. A healthy population is a productive population.

NORTH-EAST

BY GIFT LUCKSON
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Rukayya, Hadiza, Nafisa

Gov. Buni, Tumsah honour Yobe students for global triumph in London

Yobe State Governor, Hon. (Dr) Mai Mala Buni, CON, COMN, and renowned diplomat and lawyer, Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, have honoured three exceptional students from Yobe State for their outstanding performance at the 2025 TeenEagle Global English Championship in London, United Kingdom. *Neptune Prime* reports that 17-year-old Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu, 15-year-old Rukayya Muhammad Fema, and Hadiza Kashim Kalli represented Nigeria at the prestigious competition, defeating over

20,000 participants from 69 countries to win top awards in English language skills, debate, and creativity. Nafisa emerged Overall Best in English Language Skills, Rukayya was crowned Overall Best in Debate, while Hadiza received the Outstanding Talent Award for her exceptional presence and creativity. The trio are students of the Nigerian Tulip International College and beneficiaries of Governor Buni's scholarship programme, which covers full tuition for 890 students. After their victories, Governor Buni approved a

grand ceremony in their honour, describing their success as "a great feat that makes us proud and justifies the government's investment in education." He reiterated his administration's commitment to subsidising education, reconstructing insurgency-damaged schools, providing learning materials, and employing more qualified teachers. Currently, about 40,000 Yobe students are on government scholarships in Nigeria and abroad. In separate gesture, Tumsah announced a personal reward of N500,000 and a brand-new laptop for each student to support their educational pursuits. He praised their achievements as a

source of pride for Yobe State and Nigeria, commending Governor Buni's role in fostering an enabling environment for learning. Tumsah, known for his educational and humanitarian interventions, has previously funded JAMB forms for underprivileged candidates, rewarded top scorers in national exams, and executed community projects such as a pedestrian bridge in Potiskum and emergency relief for disaster victims. Observers say the students' success is a testament to the transformative impact of sustained educational investment and a powerful inspiration for youths across the country.

Bauchi LG moves to ban women, girls from going to farm

Shira local government council in Bauchi State is developing a legal framework prohibiting women and teenage girls from going to farms, citing cultural and safety concerns. Chairman of the council, Babangida Maliya, said this in an interview with newsmen. He said the measure aimed to protect women, especially girls and mothers, from potential risks and cultural deviations. Maliya lamented that many women in the area spend long hours on farmlands, often returning late at night, a situation he described as both unsafe and culturally inappropriate. "Neither Islam nor our Hausa-Fulani tradition permits women and young girls to toil in the fields. "This initiative seeks to align our practices with our values while ensuring the



Farmers

safety of our mothers and daughters," he said. Maliya said consultations were ongoing with legal experts, councillors and traditional leaders to build a comprehensive and enforceable framework.

He called on Fulani leaders to mobilise children, especially girls, for school enrollment and adult literacy programmes for mothers, which he said would offer them better alternatives to farm labour.

Responding, a woman leader, Hajiya Inno Mohammed, applauded the proposed policy. She pledged to mobilise support among fellow women for the council's move, describing it as a step in the right direction toward protecting their dignity and encouraging education.

Grenade explosion kills 3 children in Borno

Tragedy struck in Pulka town of Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State on Thursday afternoon, when a grenade explosion claimed the lives of three children.

The victims were identified as Fati Dahiru, Aisha Ibrahim, and Fati Yakubu.

Counter-insurgency expert, Zagazola Makama disclosed that a member of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Buba Yaga, revealed that the children were playing with a grenade suspected to have been abandoned by Boko Haram insurgents when it exploded around 2:20 p.m.

A combined team of Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD-CBRN), troops of Operation Hadin Kai, CJTF, and local hunters visited the scene thereafter, cordoned off the area and conducted a sweep for other devices. Subsequently, no other dangerous items were found, and the area was declared safe.

The injured children were rushed to the General Hospital, Gwoza, where doctors confirmed them dead. Their bodies have been released to their families for burial in line with Islamic rites.

Authorities urged residents to immediately report suspicious objects to security agencies to prevent similar tragedies.



Explosion

NORTH-EAST

BY IBRAHEEM EL-TAFSEER

Transforming Lives, One Village at a Time: Tumsah sponsors free medical outreach for 600 residents in Damaturu

In a major healthcare intervention under the Light Up Yobe Initiative, hundreds of residents in Dikumari Ward of Damaturu, capital of Yobe State benefited from a free medical outreach sponsored by renowned diplomat and lawyer, Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR., Organised by the Yobe State Medical Students Association (YOMSA), the outreach was conducted under the banner of the Light Up Yobe Initiative. It was officially titled the Kashim Musa Tumsah Medical Outreach.

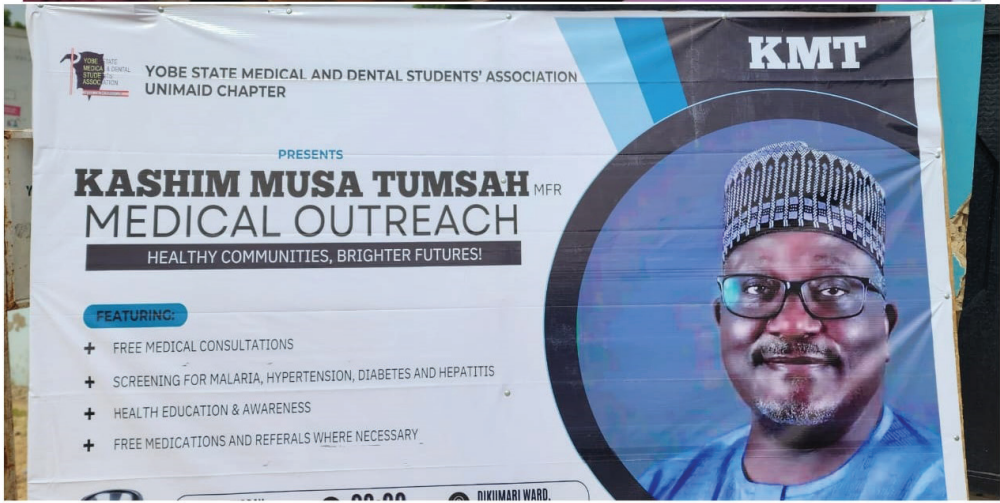
The programme was funded through the support of Tumsah and was organised and executed by members of YOMSA, with assistance from professional doctors and pharmacists with ties to the state.

The event was initially designed to serve around 400 people. Still, by the end of the day, the team had attended to over 600 individuals, making it one of the largest single-day community medical outreaches in the area in recent years.

The outreach featured free consultations, screenings for malaria, hypertension, and diabetes, and the provision of free medications for identified conditions. In cases requiring more specialised care, patients were issued referrals to appropriate facilities.

One of the beneficiaries, who spoke to *Neptune Prime*, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the initiative. “We are very grateful for the assistance he has given to us. Some of the drugs we need, we could not get them, because they are very expensive. But now, we have gotten this intervention, we are very happy.”

Another beneficiary remarked, “I even thought it was the government that sponsored it, but it turned out to be from just one individual who has us in mind.”



Medical outreach

The medical team was composed of 30 personnel, including 15 members of the Yobe State Medical Students Association (YOMSA), 10 medical doctors, most of whom are graduates of the University of Maiduguri, and 5 pharmacists who managed the distribution of drugs and dosage information.

Drugs administered included antimalarials, antihypertensives, antibiotics, and anti-parasitic medications for deworming. These drugs were selected to meet the common public health concerns in the area.

Organisers of the outreach

say there are plans to replicate similar medical interventions in other parts of the state, especially in more remote communities where access to basic healthcare remains out of reach.

While details of future dates are yet to be confirmed, the success of the Dikumari Ward event has provided a blueprint for scalable, citizen-led healthcare delivery that combines local volunteerism with philanthropic sponsorship.

Philanthropic Endeavours of Kashim Musa Tumsah

This medical outreach is part of a broader track

record of philanthropic and developmental efforts associated with Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, a lawyer, former diplomat, oil and gas executive, and public-spirited citizen of Yobe State.

Tumsah’s contributions to development in Yobe have spanned various sectors. In recent years, he has initiated and funded the Operation Light Up Yobe project, which has led to the installation of solar-powered streetlights across more than 30 towns and villages, including Dapchi, Turbangida, Matti, Umarari, Goniri, Mangari, Bayamari, and others.

Atiku’s Foundation grants full scholarships to Nafisa, Rukayya, Hadiza

Three Nigerian students who emerged global winners at the 2025 TeenEagle finals have been awarded full educational scholarships by the Atiku Abubakar Foundation (AAF), marking a significant investment in female education and youth empowerment.

The recipients, Nafisa Abdullahi, Rukaiya Mohammed Fema, and Hadiza Kashim Kalli, were celebrated for their outstanding academic performance at the international competition.

In recognition of their excellence, the AAF has committed to funding their education from the remainder of secondary school through university. According to a letter from the foundation to the beneficiaries, the scholarship covers all educational expenses up to the completion of their university studies, irrespective of the institution they choose to attend.

The Atiku Abubakar Foundation, founded by Nigeria’s former Vice President, has maintained a consistent focus on education, with a particular emphasis on expanding access for girls and disadvantaged communities.

“This is more than just a reward for academic achievement,” the foundation said in its communication.

“It is a reaffirmation of our belief in the transformative power of education, and a commitment to supporting young Nigerians, especially girls, who are working hard to realise their dreams.”

The scholarship follows the foundation’s broader efforts to bridge educational inequality in Nigeria.

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has frequently championed girl-child education as a strategic tool for national development.

“When you invest in the education of a girl child, you are invariably investing in the education of a prospective family and community,” Atiku said in reaffirming his commitment to the cause.

With the latest support from the Atiku Abubakar Foundation, the three girls are expected to continue their academic journeys without financial obstacles, further positioning them as role models for young people across the country.



Victims



Troops rescue 7 kidnapped victims in Taraba forest

Troops of the 6 Brigade Nigerian Army/ Sector 3 Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) have rescued seven victims abducted along the Chinkai-Kente-Wukari road in the Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The victims were abducted on August 3 by suspected kidnappers.

During the operation, troops engaged the kidnappers in a gun fight and overwhelmed them, forcing the assailants to abandon the victims and flee.

Four victims were found unharmed in Chinkai Forest on 5 August, while the remaining three female victims were rescued on 6 August in Owedi

Community, Wukari Local Government Area.

The spokesman of the 6 Brigade, Lieutenant Umar Muhammad, disclosed the safe recovery of all seven victims, highlighting the Nigerian Army’s commitment and professionalism in combating kidnapping and ensuring the security of Taraba State residents.

The Commander 6 Brigade NA/Sector 3 OPWS, Brigadier General Kingsley Uwa, commended the troops for their dedication, describing the operation as a major success in the fight against criminality. He reaffirmed the Brigade’s resolve to sustain aggressive operations to curb kidnapping and safeguard lives and property across the state.



Atiku

CUSTOMS & NEMA

BY MARYAM SULAIMAN
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Customs unveils renewable energy handbook, strengthens EU-Germany-GIZ partnership

The Comptroller-General of Customs (CGC), Adewale Adeniyi, has reaffirmed the Nigeria Customs Service's (NCS) commitment to facilitating responsible trade and improving compliance in the renewable energy sector, following the formal launch of a new Handbook on Import and Export Procedures for Renewable Energy Equipment.

The event, which held on Monday, 29 July 2025, at the NCS Headquarters in Abuja, marked the culmination of a collaborative initiative between the NCS, the European Union (EU), the German Embassy, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The initiative aims to simplify Customs processes related to the import and export of renewable energy equipment, in line with Nigeria's national energy transition goals.

The CGC described the handbook as a "living document" that will be regularly updated to reflect evolving technologies, international best practices, and government policies. "With Nigeria's increasing investment in renewable energy infrastructure, Customs has a responsibility to ensure that legitimate trade in this sector is facilitated efficiently and securely," Adeniyi said. "This handbook addresses past classification and clearance challenges, offering clarity to importers, exporters, and officers." He noted that the move also supports the Federal Government's broader



CG Adeniyi

objectives under the Nigeria Energy Transition Plan (ETP), which seeks to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060 while improving energy access for millions of Nigerians.

The CGC further acknowledged the technical and financial support of international partners, describing the collaboration as a "model of institutional synergy that benefits both trade and the environment."

Customs Boss reiterated the Service's readiness to embrace reforms that foster transparency, stimulate

investment, and support national development priorities.

"This is more than a Customs document; it's a strategic tool for economic transformation," he concluded.

Inga Stefanowicz, Head of the Green and Digital Economy at the EU Delegation to Nigeria, applauded the Service's dedication to reforms and compliance. She stated that the EU was proud to support Customs in promoting sustainable trade and circular economy principles.

"We are especially encouraged by the rising involvement of women in the Nigeria Customs Service, a sign of inclusiveness that strengthens institutional resilience," she added.

Also speaking, Karin Jansen, Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy, highlighted Germany's continued interest in strengthening bilateral cooperation with Nigeria, particularly in areas of green energy and trade facilitation.

Marcus Wagner, Country Director of GIZ Nigeria

and ECOWAS, praised the CGC's leadership and extended congratulations on his recent election as Chairperson of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) Council.

"That appointment is not only a personal achievement but a global recognition of Nigeria's growing leadership in Customs modernisation and reform," he remarked. The new handbook is expected to serve as a vital reference for Customs officers, freight forwarders, renewable energy companies,

and other stakeholders operating across Nigeria's borders. It provides step-by-step guidance on documentation, tariff classifications, exemptions, valuation, and procedures specific to solar panels, batteries, inverters, wind turbines, and other clean energy components.

The initiative aligns with global commitments such as the Paris Agreement and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), positioning Nigeria as a regional hub for green trade and sustainable logistics.

2025 Flood: 165 dead, 82 missing, 119,791 affected in 19 states – NEMA

The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, has revealed that women and children are the most affected victims in this year's flooding in the 19 affected states.

The agency's data dashboard explained that five states have the highest number of persons affected in the flooding, namely Imo, Rivers, Abia, Borno and

Kaduna States.

The data explained that more than 165 persons died, 82 are missing and 119,791 others were affected in the flooding.

NEMA revealed this in its data dashboard on Friday. The agency stated, "138 persons sustained various degrees of injuries, 43,936 displaced, 8,594 houses affected and 8,278 farmlands

destroyed across 43 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 19 States."

It also explained that those affected as a result of the flood are 53,314 children, 36,573 women, 24,600 men, 5,304 elderly, and 1,863 disabled persons.

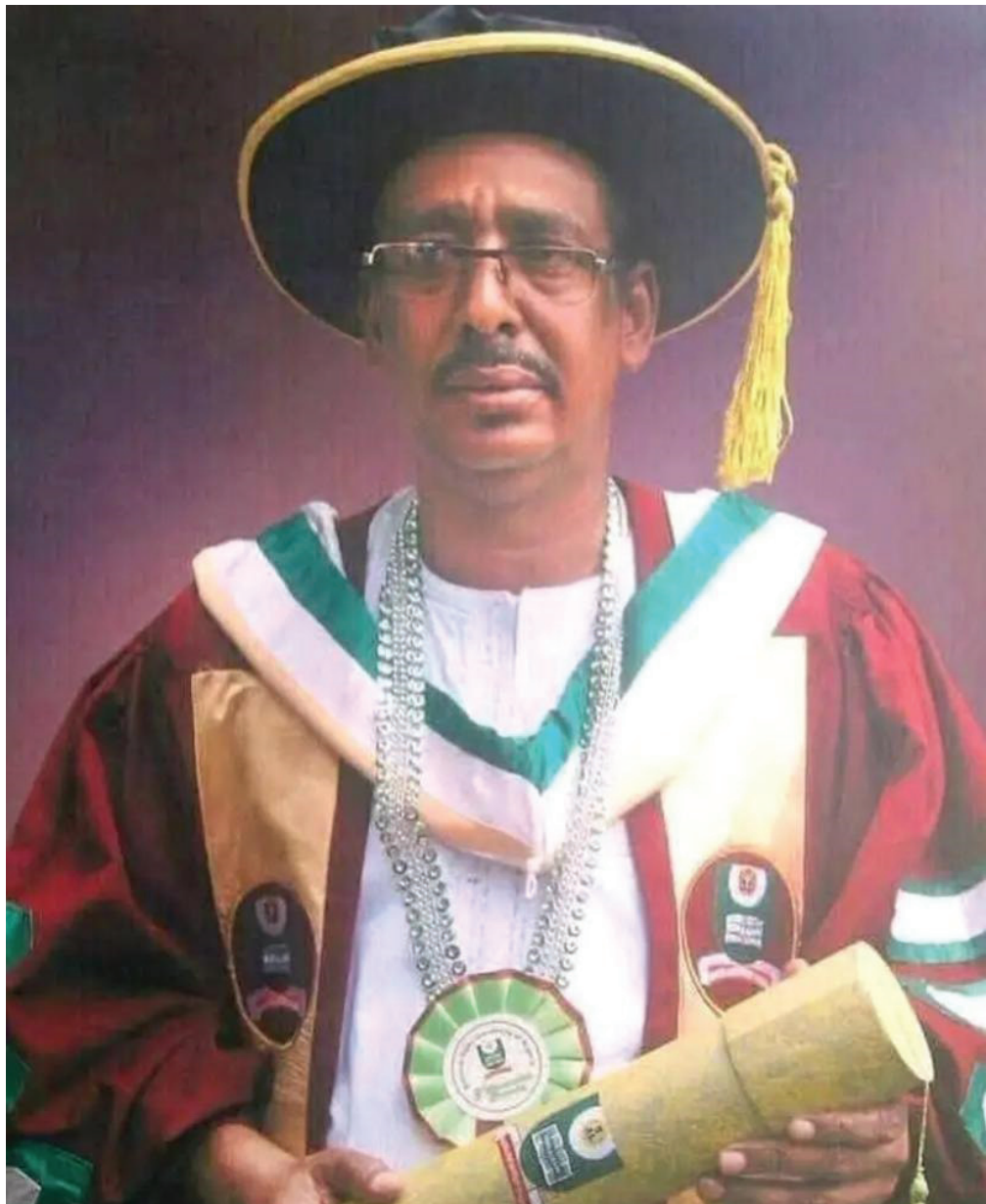
It stated that Abia, FCT, Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Borno, Edo, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa,



Flood

PRIME PHOTOS

By Maryam Umar
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Ali Kwara is considered a hero. As a young man, he sacrificed his life while fighting armed robbers. He didn't rely on the government but bravely jumped into the bushes arresting robbers and handing them over to authorities



Nigeria's longest-serving Inspector General of Police was Kam Selem from Borno. He was the Nigerian Inspector General of Police for about 9 years (1966 to 1975). Kam Selem hailed from the Bama LGA of Borno State.



Professor Mohammed Bukar is the current Provost, College of Medical Sciences, University of Maiduguri. He is considered one of the most educated Nigerians with academic titles such as MBBS, CERTS, GCC, MFTS, D&ICT, CLIN. EPID, SYST. REV. & META, EPID.PAND & OUTBREAKS, GCP, IOTA, FETAL DOPPLER, MNIM, PGDS(OBGY) MHPM, FWACS, FMCOG, FICS, FIMC, FIMS, FCP, CMC, CMS



Zaki Biam Yam Market is the largest yam market in the world. It is an open-air market located in Zaki Biam, a town in the Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. The market specialises in selling and distributing yams, a staple crop in the region

PRIME10MENT

BY ALIYU ASKIRA

Diddy seeks pardon from Trump ahead of October sentencing

Embattled music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs who is set to be sentenced in October for his conviction on prostitution-related charges, is pursuing a pardon from United States President Donald Trump, according to a statement from one of his lawyers on Tuesday.

"It's my understanding that we've reached out and had conversations about a pardon," Nicole Westmoreland told CNN in an interview.

Trump has, however, indicated bluntly that he is unlikely to grant a pardon to the 55-year-old Combs.

"I was very friendly with him. I got along with him great and he seemed like a nice guy," Trump said in an interview on Friday with Newsmax.

"I didn't know him well, but when I ran for office, he was very hostile.

"If that meant he was not inclined to pardon Combs, Trump said, "I would say so, yeah."

A New York jury found Combs guilty last month of two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

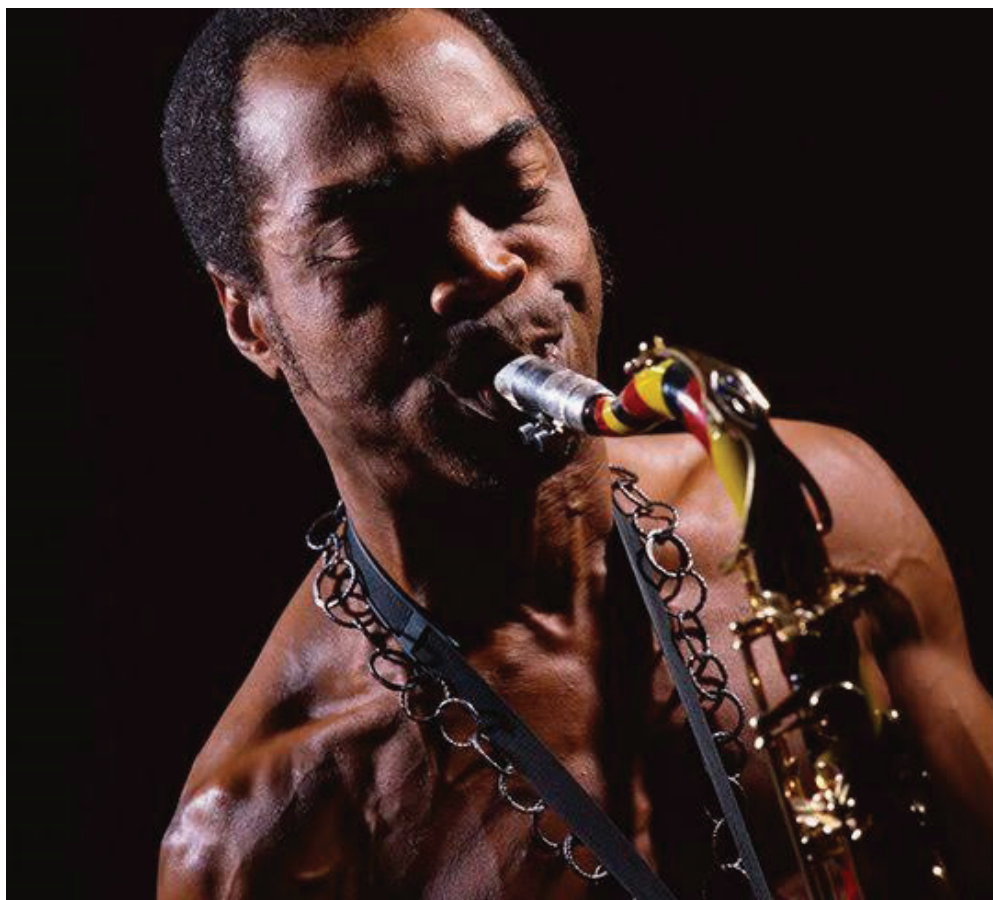
However, Combs was acquitted of racketeering and sex trafficking charges after a marathon trial in which he was accused of harrowing abuse.

Sentencing has been set for October 3.



Diddy

"My grandfather died a poor man" - Fela Kuti's grandson



Fela Kuti

Nigerian afrobeat multi-instrumentalist Omorinmade Anikulapo Kuti, known professionally as Made Kuti, has opened up about the complicated weight of legacy, privilege, and personal purpose as he continues the musical dynasty of his grandfather, Fela Anikulapo Kuti.

"Music is one of the worst professions where nepotism can succeed, because it's brutally honest. If you see me perform and it's not good, you'll know. You can't fake it."

In a recent appearance on the Tea With Tay podcast

hosted by Taymesan on the 2nd of August, Made spoke candidly about what it means to be a Kuti in today's music industry, and why his path, though paved with name recognition, isn't as effortless as many assume.

Taymesan posed a thoughtful question about whether Made's ability to pursue music he truly believes in comes from a place of privilege.

Made didn't deny it.

"I would never say or deny the fact that I, as a Kuti, have opened a lot of doors for myself in the industry. A lot of musicians who discovered

and pioneered original music didn't come from privileged backgrounds," he said.

"Punk, blues, jazz, rock music, even hip-hop, they came from struggle. People used art to evoke the trauma they were experiencing. Fela did that. Every time he was beaten, every time he was jailed, he came back with a stronger song. After they beat him, came Zombie, Suffering and Smiling. That was how he dealt with pain. That was his weapon."

Made acknowledges the platform his surname provides, but insists his commitment to the craft

must speak louder than his bloodline.

Despite Fela's global reputation as the father of Afrobeat and a fearless critic of tyranny, Made revealed that his grandfather died poor. "He was broke. Fela died poor," he said.

"He made the kind of money that could have bought a whole street. But when he came back from shows, he'd open a box of cash and say, 'Anybody that needs, take.' His house was an open house. Anybody could walk in."

"His children were not allowed to call him dad or father or any kind of honorific because he didn't want any special treatment for them, because everybody was equal in Kalakuta. He didn't like that, though. I think they lived it. I believe truly that my father and my aunt need therapy. They watched Fela rise, fall, and die without ever being treated differently."

Despite being more appreciated internationally during his lifetime, Fela was largely rejected at home in his final years. It wasn't until after his death on August 2, 1997, that the magnitude of his impact fully hit.

"By '96, '97, people weren't speaking positively about him anymore. His popularity had faded in the media and public opinion."

"They took him to Tafawa Balewa Square and were told, 'Nobody's coming.' Then millions showed up. They carried him back to Kalakuta. It was aired on TV."

Now, with Made carrying the torch into a new generation, the Kuti name continues to stand for truth, resistance, and unflinching honesty, no matter the privilege, no matter the pain.

NCAA places KWAM1 on 6-month flight ban over altercation at Abuja airport

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has announced a six-month flight ban on Fuji legend Wasiu Ayinde Marshal, popularly known as KWAM1, following a recent altercation with officials of Value Jet at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The Fuji icon had allegedly poured alcohol on aviation personnel when they attempted to verify

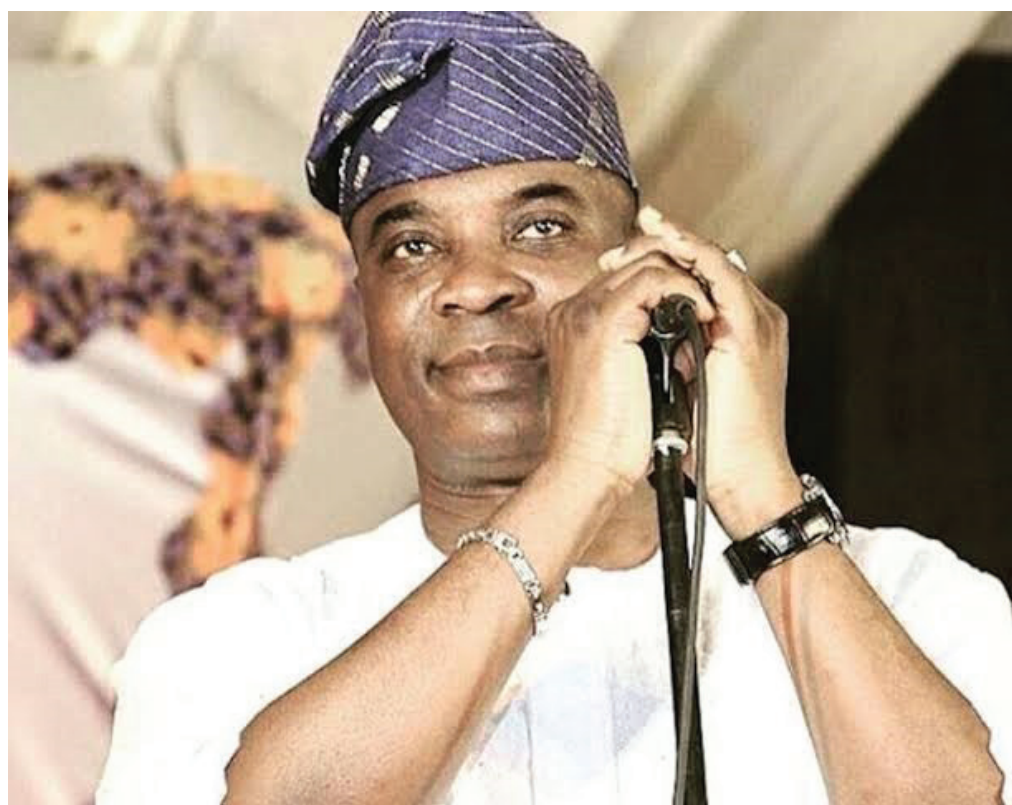
the contents of a flask he wanted to bring on board a flight.

Speaking at a press briefing on Thursday, August 7, Michael Achimugu, Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at the NCAA, confirmed that disciplinary actions were underway against the musician.

"What I must assure the general public is that everybody involved in this will be brought to book," Achimugu declared.

He emphasised that aviation regulations are universal and not to be flouted by any individual, regardless of status.

"As we speak, the passenger is going to be blacklisted for the next six months from flying in Nigeria. Aviation rules are made for everybody, for the protection of everybody. These rules are global. There is nothing about the rules that is to antagonise any passenger," he



KWAM1

NEPTUNE PRIME BUSINESS

MARKET SURVEY

Food prices drop at Ngelzarma Market of Yobe

BY KASIM ISA MUHAMMAD,
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Residents of Ngelzarma town in Fune Local Government Area of Yobe State are experiencing a wave of relief as prices of major food commodities, particularly grains, have seen a noticeable decline, easing the strain on household budgets.

The Ngelzarma grains market, widely regarded as one of the most important trading hubs in the region, recorded significant drops this week in the prices of maize, millet, sorghum, beans, and several other staple food items.

A market survey conducted on Thursday, 7th August 2025, revealed that a standard bag of maize, which had been selling at higher rates earlier in the month, now goes for between N39,000 and N40,000. Millet, another key staple for many households, has dropped to between N40,000 and N39,000 per bag.

For consumers of beans, there is also a welcome respite. A bag of white beans is now priced at N60,000 to N66,000, while the large red beans variety has fallen to between N67,000 and 70,000.

The downward trend extends beyond the most common grains. The price of dried roselle flower, popularly known as zobo, is now N20,000 to

N21,000 per bag. Melon seeds, depending on the variety, are selling for N44,000 to N45,000 for one type, and N33,000 to N35,000 for another. Sorghum prices have also eased, with a bag currently going for between N40,000 and N41,000.

While polished rice prices have remained relatively stable at around N125,000 per bag, locally processed or broken rice continues to vary depending on quality. Groundnuts are currently being sold at N130,000 to N135,000 per bag.

Some women traders dealing in beans and groundnuts told this newspaper that prices had fallen by N2,000 to N3,000 within just a few days.

They attributed the drop mainly to large consignments arriving from surrounding farming communities such as Damagum and Nangere. However, they noted that steady demand from buyers in southern Nigeria still influences market behaviour, particularly for beans and groundnuts, which remain highly sought after outside the state.

For local families, this reduction in prices could not have come at a better time. With the rainy season underway, a period when food consumption typically rises, many households say the market adjustment will help them stretch their income further and plan better for the months ahead.

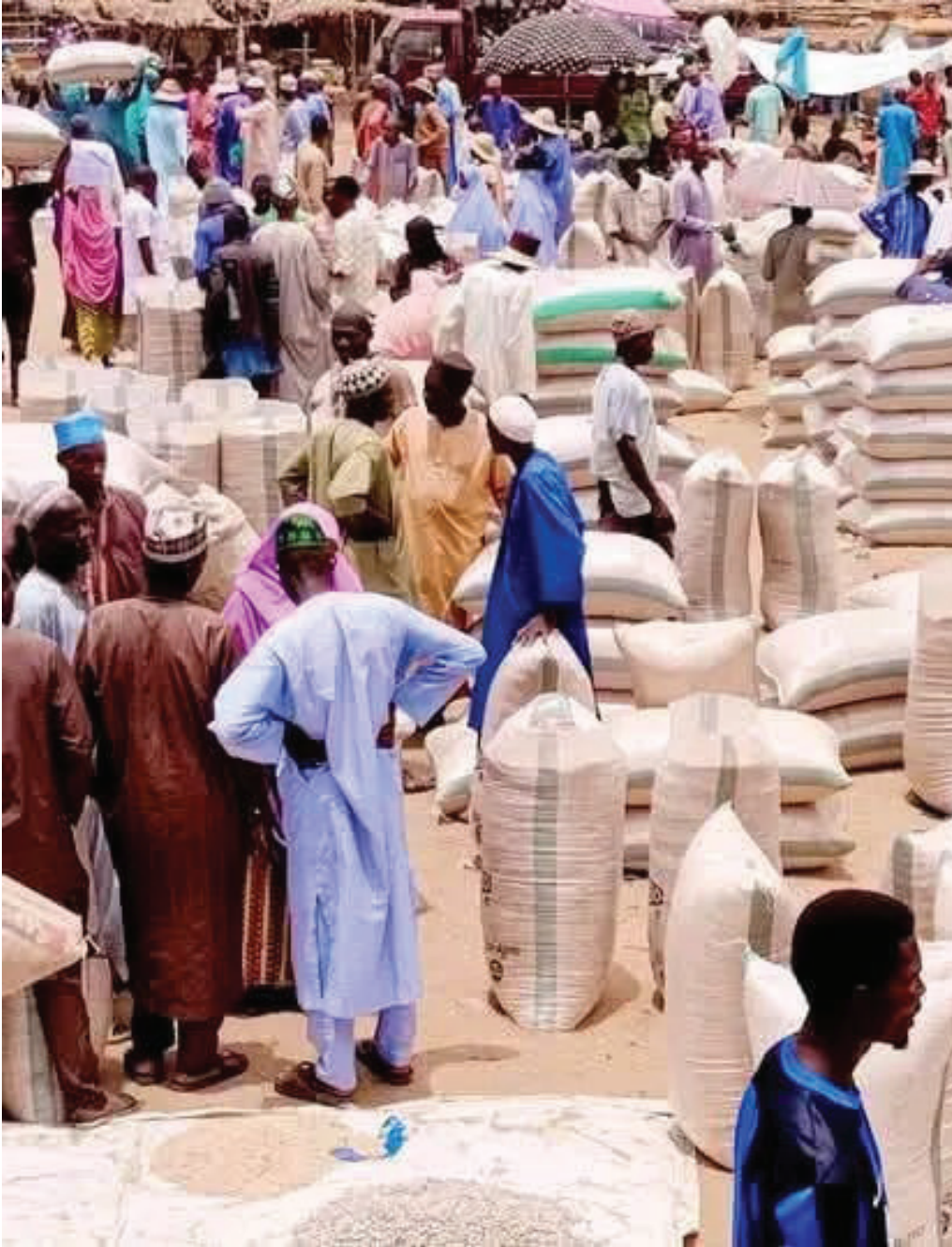


"This is good news for us," said one resident. "Feeding the family has been difficult, but with these new prices, at least

we can buy more and prepare for the coming weeks." The Ngelzarma market, known for connecting farmers and

traders from neighbouring towns and villages, remains a critical lifeline for food supply in the area. Residents hope the

downward trend in prices will be sustained, allowing them some breathing space amid broader economic challenges.



MILESTONE

BY MARYAM SULAIMAN
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Rukayya and Nafisa with other winners

Yobe teenagers Nafisa, Rukayya, Hadiza emerge victorious at global competition in London

In a display of intelligence, dedication, discipline, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence, three Yobe teenagers, 17-year-old Nafisa Abdullahi Aminu, 15-year-old Rukayya Muhammad Fema, and Hadiza Kashim Kalli, were crowned World Champions in English language communication skills and debate at the 2025 TeenEagle Global finals competition in London, United Kingdom. Nafisa was named the Overall Best in English language skills, while Rukayya emerged as the Best in debate. Hadiza was honoured with the Outstanding Talent Award (Gold Medal).

The three girls are students of the Nigerian Tulip International College (NTIC), a Turkish school located in Mamudo, Potiskum Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The final TeenEagle competition took place from July 27th to August 3rd at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom.



Rukayya

Over 900 students from 46 countries participated, and the three students from NTIC's Yobe State Campus were among the

shining stars, bringing pride to their school, state, and country. The global competition tested both receptive skills



L-R: Nafisa, Rukayya, Principal Jogi, and Hadiza at the TeenEagle 2025 competition in London

(reading and listening) and productive skills (writing and speaking).

The Principal of NTIC Yobe State, Mr. Haseebullah Jogi, who accompanied the students to London, said the competition began with an online round that led to the prestigious global stage. He explained that eight

students represented Nigeria: five from NTIC Abuja and three from NTIC Yobe. They were accompanied by him, one parent, a teacher, and the Principal of NTIC Abuja. "A huge congratulations to our brilliant students and their dedicated teachers for these remarkable achievements. We are very proud of them, and we are

planning to celebrate them in our own way," he said. Last year, Yobe State Governor Mai Mala Buni approved a scholarship worth over N2.2 billion for 890 NTIC students. The groundbreaking initiative, valued at N2.225 billion, spans six years, from JSS1 through SS3, and provides full educational support for the selected students.

HERITAGE

BY A.G.ABUBAKAR
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The Kanuri Tribe: From a 9th-century loosely held pagan group to being an epitome of statecraft

The crystallisation of the Kanuri identity goes back to the conquest of the cluster of semi-nomadic pagan tribes around the Northeast part of the Lake Chad basin, by one Saif ibn Dhi Yazid, a Yemeni warrior, in the 9th century.

The tribes include the Zagawa, Tubu, Kanembu, and Bulala, among others. The Kanuri as a tribe or culture was then too nascent to be visible. Yazid is believed to be a marauding slave merchant seeking to establish control over the slave route that connected the central part of Africa to its Magrib region, notably Fezzan of Morocco and Tripoli in present-day Libya.

The establishment of formal control over the then amorphous groups set the process of state formation in motion. Before then, life among the various groups was characterised by both intra and inter tribal wars, reminiscent of life in the state of nature which the English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, in his seminal work, the Leviathan referred to as “nasty, brutish and short” where people or tribes engage in “war of all against all” (bellum omnium contra omnes).

The arrival of Saif Yazid on the scene and the subsequent introduction of Islam marked the beginning of the creation of both individual and group identities under the unifying banner of the light of Islam. According to Henrich Barch and R. Palmer's “Sudanese Memoirs” (A Royal Chronicle, Girgam), which was uncovered in 1851, it was asserted that Saif ibn Yazid conquered and united the various groups under his leadership.

This experience changed a hitherto pagan disposition to a collective and individual Islamic outlook under the central authority of a single leader, Saif Yazid. It is from the word Saif that the Saifawa Dynasty of the later-day Kanuri rulers called Mai was born. The Mai Dabalemi is one of the most prominent.

This development is consistent with one of the theories of state formation called the “crisis (conquest, war) theory,” which posits that a community/society is formed through the imposition of a stronger power over smaller ones. Or a greater civilisation over a weaker one. Scholars like Charles Tilly hold the view that “war made the state, and the state made wars.” In the same vein, Herbert Spencer believes war and conquest play a huge role in state formation like the Kanem Empire. The other concepts include the evolutionary process of state formation as espoused by Emile Durkheim's The Division of Labour (1893), R. Spencer (1874) and Bala Usman (c.2006).

These scholars posit that societies/states evolve through a process of division of labour and specialisation among a kinship group, over time. In the case of the Kanuri, it was the arrival of the Yemeni Yazid (850 AD) that set the ball rolling, similar to the advent of Bayajida from Baghdad, Iraq, in the Hausaland. This is not discarding a 7th century Jewish references to “the existence of some strange

races/people, around a huge Lake” in “Qummra” a corrupted version of Sub-saharan territory being ruled by Saif ibn Yazid, a man of Judaic extraction.

The history, historicity and historiography of most African societies are suspect, because they were written by “outsiders”, including those about the Kanuri. For one, the legend of the Saif ibn Dhi Yazid can't be reconciled because history tells that he existed and ruled Yemen from 571 to 575. The name Saif (sword) is believed to be an epithet for his bravery with the sword in battles, while the patronymic Dhi Yazid is about the elite ruling tribe of Yemen of the time. His actual birth name was Ma'dikarib ibn Abu Murrah al-Fayyad (Tabari, Ibn Hisham, in Tarikh Tabarani). It is, therefore unlikely that the founder of the Kanem Empire in the 9th or 10th century was the same Yemani personality given over 300 years gap between the two Saifs.

The most probable explanation could be one of the two: his later-day scion or a local warrior who may have fancied his name and valour, and adopted it. For instance, it was fashionable in the 80s and 90s for individuals to pick a nickname, Gaddafi or Saddam, in reverence for the late Libyan and Iraqi leaders. History may have yet to unravel the two Saifs puzzle.

The question is, at what point did the Kanuri identity manifest in linguistic and cultural terms? Obviously, it was with the arrival of the Saifawa leadership. Before that, it was the Kanembu, Toubou (Tubu), Zagawa, Bulala, and Sau (to the west of Lake Chad). The language being spoken, Kanuri, is thus an amalgam of elements of these various languages. The proof of the assertion was that despite the people's close affinity with the Arabs, the Kanuri language belongs to the Nilo-Saharan branch, along with the Luo of Kenya, the Dinka of South Sudan and the Songhai languages of Niger and Mali. This is unlike the Arabic, Hausa, Hebrew, Oromo and Amharic of Ethiopia, the Babur (Pabir), Bole (Bolewa), Hindi, etc that belonged to the Afro-Asiatic group. The Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo are of the Niger-Congo (Greenberg, J. 1963). Just like the Kanuri language, the ethnicity is equally a later creation going by what scholars posit in terms of meaning and evolutionary time. There are two popular schools of thought on the name. One, “the stick carrier,” implying “nomadism.” For “ka” is believed to mean stick, while “noor” means light, as in light-skin. Thus, the word Kanuri loosely means stick-carrying light-skinned person (s). This is similar to later-day Kanuri reference to Hausa as Afuno (leather-wearing people). And the Hausa referring to the Igbo as Nyem miri (give me water), signifying a new group coming into a new environment seeking water to drink after a long, exhausting journey.

The second school of thought believed that Kanuri means those who have “seen the light” presumably the light (noor, nur)



of Islam. Whichever of the two theories holds true, the Kanuri identity came after the arrival of Saif Yazid, certainly preceded by the Kanembu, Bulala, Bagirmi, Bulala etc. Its history can not, as such, be claimed to be as deep or “more original.” Besides, the phenomenon of “seeing the light” was open to all the existing groups at the time, which made the emergent identity a syncretical one. After about a millennium, the Kanuri identity tradition had certainly endured. But just like its name, the driving forces have been alien. The first dynasty that ruled traced its roots to Yemen. The second and current dynasty is of Kanembu origin through Muhammad El-Kanemi. The question here is, where is the leadership that is indigenous to the Kanuri? The one that held sway before the people “saw the light.” The leadership of that band of pagan minority tribes living among

the Zagawa, Tubu, Bulala, Bagirmi, and Kanembu in the 9th century? Equally checkered has been the Kanuri road to “greatness.” Having been forged from different contending forces and influences, stability had been a real issue in Kanuri history. It all started when the scattered pagan groups around the eastern Chad basin were cobbled into an empire by one of the well-known Saifawa leaders, Mai Dunama Diblelemi, in the 13th century, though there had been smaller points of power before then, precisely by the 10th century AD. Before then, according to Henrich Barch, the Diguwa dynasty of the Zagawa exercised great influence over the other groups. Njimi became the capital of the fledgling Saifawa's Kanem empire until it was abandoned in 1380. The site is now part of the present-day Republic of Chad. After a period of glorious growth, Kanem was sucked into the Bulala

in a series of wars between 1380 and 1390, under what scholars believe was the leadership of Idris Dunama III, after suffering internal decay and struggle for power. A surviving splinter group moved westwards to Ngazargamo and established the Kanem-Borno in 1472 by Mai Ali Gaji. The portmanteau of the name is a way of paying tribute to the original Kanem Empire. Before arriving at Ngazargamo, the group stayed at many locations according to records. They also met and mingled with many autochthonous communities that mutually enriched others' culture and lexicon. These groups include the Sau, the Marghi, Badawa, Babur (around Gujba), Mandara, Chibok, Wula, Gamargu, etc. The Empire prospered for a couple of centuries before the power struggle set in.

The Empire's conflicts with the

Jukun (1644-1680), Mandara (1781), and neighbouring Hausa city-states took a heavy toll on it. According to Kyari Tijjani in “Meme, Pre-colonial Borno” (1993), the Mandara forces under Mai Bukar inflicted a heavy defeat on the Kanem-Borno army from which they never fully recovered till the Fulani jihadist sympathisers completed the routing.

The Empire was attacked by forces sympathetic to the Dan Fodio, Fulani Jihad. Goni Muktar led the attack on Ngazargamo in 1808. He couldn't take over the Empire but was able to dislodge the seat of power, Ngazargamo. It was actually the forces of the Biu Kingdom under Mari Watirwa (1793-1870 AD) that cut off part of the reinforcement supply routes being provided by Buba Yero, Gombe, that saved the day (Buba Yero, Mari Watirwa, ref; britannica.com).



HISTORICITY

BY MERCY ADAJE
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Persepolis, Iran: The ancient Persian city of culture, civilisation

Persepolis was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (c. 550–330 BCE), founded by King Darius I around 518 BCE. Located near present-day Shiraz in southern Iran, it served as a grand centre for receptions, festivals, and celebrations, especially Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Key facts

It is built on a massive stone terrace with impressive palaces, audience halls, and intricate bas-relief carvings depicting envoys from across the empire.

Cultural significance: Showcased the empire's wealth, diversity, and power.
Destruction: Burned by Alexander the Great in 330 BCE, possibly as an act of revenge against the Persians for earlier invasions of Greece.

Recognition

Today, it is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of ancient Persian civilisation.

There are numerous attractions in Shiraz, such as the Nasir al-Mulk Mosque of Shiraz and Hafziyah.

Persepolis has long served as a symbol of civilisation and culture. To explore this region, many tourists visit Shiraz each year.

Shiraz is known for Parse, Persepolis, Forty Minars, Hazar Seton, and ultimately as the illustrious capital of the Empire of Iran.

Persepolis City is one of the greatest ancient sites and tourist attractions in Iran. This

stunning historical structure belonged to the Achaemenid Empire and has a long history of being a hub for rites and festivals.

Iran's Persepolis History

The city's remote location kept it a secret from the outside world, and it became the safest city in the Persian Empire for storing art, artefacts, archives, and the royal treasury.

The Greeks had no idea the city existed until it was sacked and plundered by Alexander the Great (l. 356-323 BCE) in 330 BCE, who burned it and carried off its vast treasures.

The ruins lay buried until the 17th century CE when they were identified as the once-great royal city of Persepolis, but professional excavation did not begin until 1931 CE, with work continuing since.

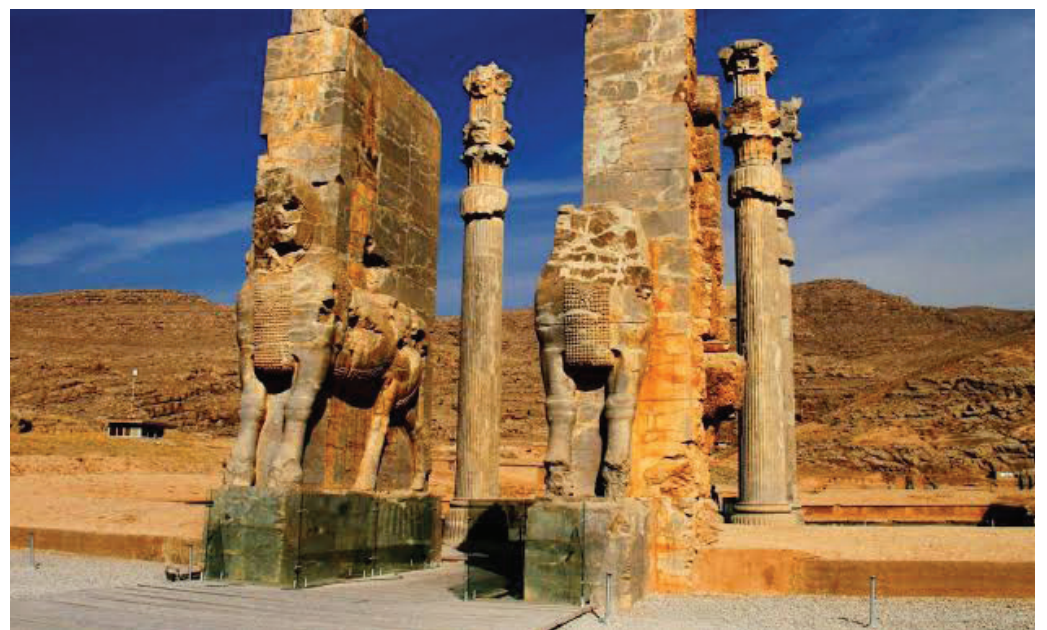
Construction

Limestone and mud-brick were the main building materials used at Persepolis. After natural rock had been levelled on the plain and the depressions filled in, tunnels for sewage were dug underground through the rock, and the platform began to rise.

A large elevated cistern was carved at the eastern foot of the mountain behind the platform to catch rainwater for drinking and bathing. The complex was partly cut out of the Mountain Kuh-e Rahmet ("the Mountain of Mercy"). To create the level terrace, large depressions were filled with soil and heavy rocks,



which were then fastened together with metal clips; upon this ground, the first palace at Persepolis slowly grew.



ROOTS

BY GIFT LUCKSON
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Juan Latino: From Slavery to the First African Professor in a European University

Juan Latino (1518 – 1594) was one of the most remarkable African-born figures in Renaissance Europe.

Early Life

Born around 1518, likely in Ethiopia or West Africa, and brought to Spain as a child slave. He grew up in Granada in the household of Luis Fernández de Córdoba, a Spanish nobleman and governor of the Alhambra.

The young Juan was originally a servant to the nobleman's son, but because of his intelligence, he was allowed to attend classes with his master's children.

Education & Career

Juan studied Latin, grammar, and classical literature, excelling to the point of outshining many native Spaniards, hence the nickname "Latino".

In 1556, he earned a degree in Arts and Philosophy from the University of Granada.

He became a professor of Latin grammar at the same university,

making him the first known African to hold a professorship at a European university.

Academic Excellence

Latino excelled in classical languages and music and studied with the famous grammarian Pedro de Mota. The Duke himself commented on his dexterity, calling him: "rara avis in terra corbo simillima nigro" (in English: "a rare bird, black like a crow").

In 1545, in the presence of the Archbishop, the listener of the Real Chancery, Conde de Tendilla, and many other gentlemen, Latino, aged 28 years old, received a Bachelor's degree.

On 31 December 1556, in Granada, Latino received the chair of grammar and Latin language of the cathedral which he held for 20 years.

Works

Juan Latino wrote poetry in Latin, often praising the Spanish crown and chronicling events like the 1569–1571 Morisco Revolt.

His most famous work is Austria's Carmen, a long Latin poem honouring King Philip II's military campaigns.

He has been hailed as one of the first writers to have used signifying.

Legacy and Death

No verified portrait of Juan Latino is known to survive, though his academic contributions remain well documented. Latino retired in 1586 and died between 1594 and 1597. He was buried in the church of Santa Ana de Granada, whose archive from that time has since been burned.

His life was immortalised in a 17th-century play, La comedia famosa de Juan Latino, by Diego Jiménez de Enciso.

Juan Latino stands as a symbol of how intellectual ability could overcome the strict racial and social barriers of 16th-century Europe.

He lived as a free man, married a wealthy Spanish woman, and was celebrated for his scholarship in his lifetime.



OLDIES

BY KASIM ISA MUHAMMAD

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Education and other essential things were free during our time - Former teacher, Isa Chiromari

Isa Galadima Chiromari, a retired Principal Registrar at the Yobe State Judiciary and a former teacher disclosed how life was easy and education was affordable in Nigeria. In this exclusive and insightful interview with Neptune Prime, he shares his life experiences, thoughts on Nigeria's past, present, and future, and offers advice to younger generations, while also reflecting on the country's transition from colonial rule to independence. He also spoke on the impact of the economic downturn, and the role of education in national development.

Neptune Prime (NP): Can you please introduce yourself and tell us a little about your background?

My name is Isa Galadima Chiromari. I was born in 1954 in the Chiromari community of the Nangere Local Government Area of Yobe State. I attended primary school in Kukuri, also in the Nangere LGA, and completed my studies in 1969. After finishing primary school, I enrolled in a teachers' college in the Potiskum Local Government Area and graduated in 1974. Subsequently, I began teaching at a primary school, and later, I worked with Leadway Assurance Company Limited for 14 years. Following that, I pursued a diploma and secured a job with the Yobe State Judiciary, where I eventually retired as a principal registrar after working for over 27 years.

NP: What was your childhood like growing up in Nigeria?

When I was growing up, Nigeria was very peaceful, and there was no insecurity. The economy was also good. What fascinates me is that I spent no money throughout my education; everything was free – our meals, textbooks, and other aspects of our educational journey. Unlike now that Nigerians have to pay school fees and other expenses. The government was very supportive of education, and every child had access to quality education. We also had a strong sense of community, and people looked out for one another. It was a very different time, and I feel fortunate to have grown up in such a peaceful and supportive environment.

NP: How can you compare Nigeria of today and of former years?

It's incomparable. Nigeria is now facing a lot of challenges, ranging from economic downturn, insecurity, militancy, bribery, and corruption. But in the past, the economy was relatively good, there was no insecurity like now, and there was also no unemployment. The day

I graduated was the day I received my appointment letter. So, you cannot compare the situations, as now people are even paying to secure jobs. I have over four graduates in my family, and none of them is working with the government. This is to tell you that everything has changed. The country has regressed in many areas, and it's sad to see the state of affairs in Nigeria today.

NP: What kind of education did you receive, and how did it prepare you for your career?

I only had a diploma, but I can tell you that I can deliver work more than many graduates. We received the best education; we underwent rigorous training, and the government was very serious about education at that time. Our education system was designed to produce well-rounded individuals who could contribute to the development of the country. We were taught important values such as hard work, discipline, and integrity. These values have stayed with me throughout my career and have helped me to become the person I am today.

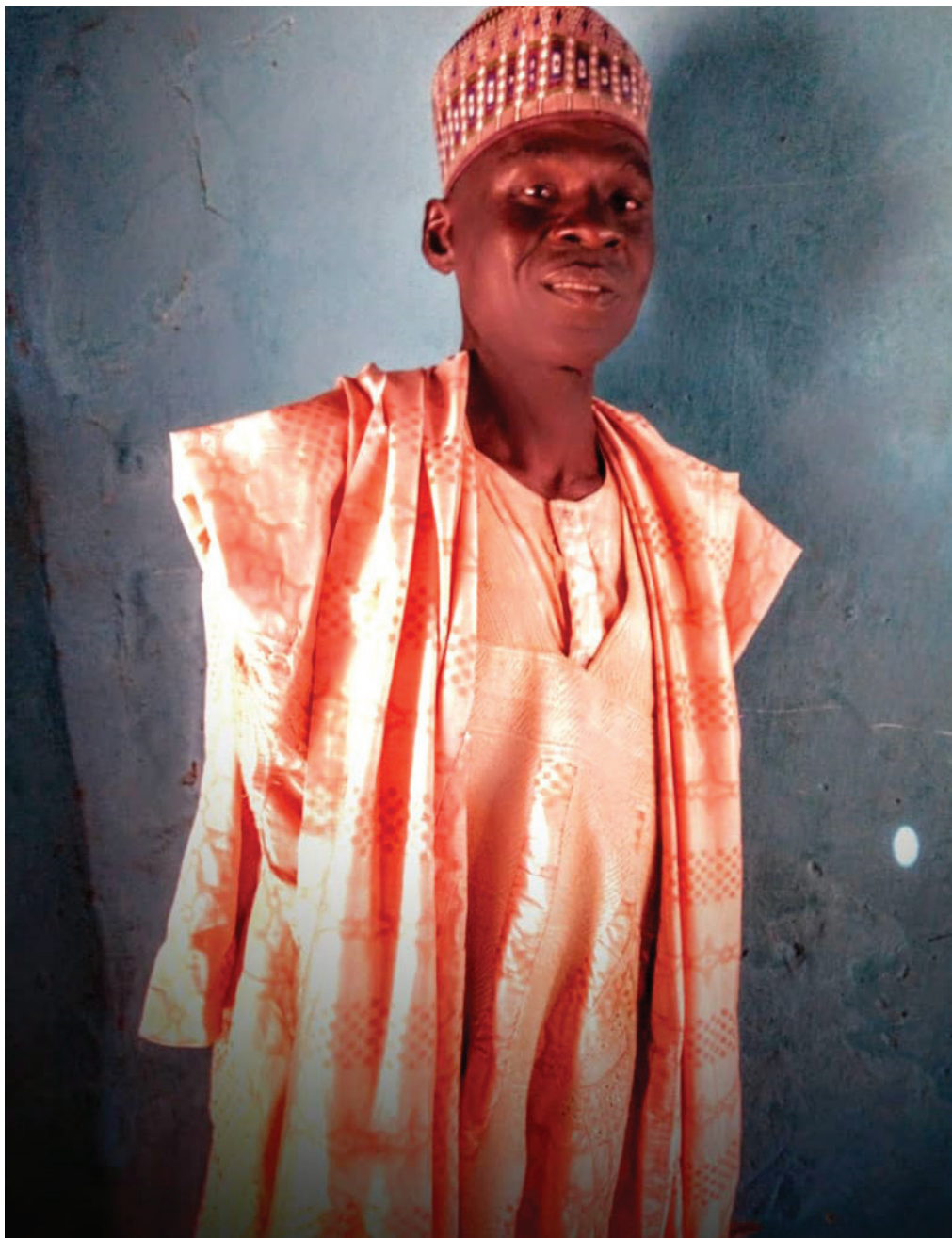
NP: What was Nigeria like when you were growing up, and how has it changed over the years?

Nigeria was a very different country when I was growing up. It was a peaceful and prosperous nation with a strong sense of community. People were friendly and welcoming, and there was a sense of optimism in the air. Over the years, however, the country has undergone significant changes, many of which have been negative. The economy has declined, insecurity has increased, and corruption has become widespread. These changes have had a profound impact on the lives of Nigerians, and it's sad to see the country in its current state.

NP: How did you experience the country's transition from colonial rule to independence?

I was very young when Nigeria gained independence, but I remember the excitement and sense of optimism that filled the air. People were hopeful about the future and the possibilities that independence would bring. As I grew older, however, I began to realise that independence was not a magic solution to all of Nigeria's problems. The country faced many challenges, including poverty, inequality, and a lack of infrastructure. Despite these challenges, however, Nigerians remained hopeful and resilient, and the country continued to make progress.

NP: What were some of the major events or issues that affected Nigeria during your



Isa Chiromari

lifetime?

There have been many significant events and issues that have affected Nigeria during my lifetime. One of the most notable was the Biafran War, which had a profound impact on the country and its people. Other significant events include the oil boom of the 1970s, which brought significant wealth to the country but also created new challenges and inequalities. More recently, the country has faced significant security challenges, including the Boko Haram insurgency, which has had a devastating impact on many communities.

NP: How do you think Nigeria has progressed or regressed over the years?

Nigeria has regressed in many areas over the years. The country has faced many challenges, including poverty, inequality, and a lack of infrastructure. The country has made progress in some areas, such as infrastructure and entrepreneurship, but these gains have been overshadowed by the many challenges facing the country.

on the current state of the country?

The current state of the country is worrisome. The economy is in shambles, insecurity is rampant, and corruption is widespread. The government seems to be struggling to address these challenges, and many Nigerians are losing hope. It's very sad to see the country in this state, especially considering the many opportunities and resources that Nigeria has.

NP: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I also like to read and listen to the radio. I find these activities to be relaxing and enjoyable.

NP: Do you have any hobbies or interests that you're passionate about?

I am passionate about farming and reading. I find it relaxing and fulfilling to work with the land and grow my own food. It's also a great way to stay active and healthy.

NP: How do you stay active and healthy at your age?

I try to stay active by engaging in physical activities like

walking and gardening. I also eat a balanced diet and get enough rest. I believe that taking care of one's health is fundamental, especially as one gets older.

NP: What role does family play in your life, and how have you maintained relationships over the years?

Family is very important to me. I have maintained relationships with my family members through regular communication and visits. I also make it a point to attend important family events and gatherings.

NP: What advice would you give to younger generations based on your life experiences?

My advice to young people is that they should work hard, be patient, and persevere. They should also prioritise

education and personal development. It is also important to be honest, respectful, and kind to others.

NP: Looking back on your life, what are some of the most important lessons you've learned?

One of the most important lessons I've learned is the importance of hard work, patience, and perseverance. I have also learned that education is key to personal and national development. Meanwhile, I have learned that honesty, respect, and kindness are values that should guide one's interactions with others.

NP: What advice would you give to someone who is just starting their career or life journey?

My advice is to set clear goals, work hard, and be patient. One should also go to school and be open to learning from others. It's also important to be honest, respectful, and kind to others, and to always strive to do one's best.

NP: How do you think Nigeria can improve or overcome its current challenges?

Nigeria can improve or overcome its current challenges by addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality. The government should work hard to improve education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. Corruption should also be tackled relentlessly, and the government should be more transparent and accountable to its citizens.

NP: What message would you like to share with the world based on your life experiences?

My message is that hard work, patience, and perseverance are essential for personal and national development. Education is also key to revealing our full potential.

NP: Finally, is there anything else you'd like to share or any final thoughts you'd like to leave us with?

I would like to emphasise the importance of education and personal development. I also want to encourage Nigerians to be more patriotic and to work towards the development of the country. Finally, I'd like to leave you with a message of hope and optimism. Despite the many challenges facing Nigeria, I believe that the country has the potential to become a great nation.

What fascinates me is that I spent no money throughout my education; everything was free – our meals, textbooks, and other aspects of our educational journey.

HUMANIST

BY KASIM ISA MUHAMMAD
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Nangere residents seek intervention over dilapidated hospital building

The first thing visitors notice is the silence. It is not the calm, healing kind but the uneasy quiet of an abandoned place still pretending to function.

The hospital buildings in Nangere Local Government Area stand tired and weary, their walls bruised by time and their roofs threatening to give way. Once, this facility was the pride of the community, painted in bright colours and smelling faintly of antiseptic. Today, paint peels in long strips, revealing patches of bare cement beneath. The ceilings are warped from years of roof leaks, and in some wards, the wooden window frames have rotted away completely. "Look at this," says Abdullahi Mohammed, a petty trader, pointing to a crack that runs from the floor to the ceiling in one of the consulting rooms.

"When it rains, water comes in through here. Patients have to move

to the corner to avoid getting wet."

In the maternity ward, the floor tiles are chipped and uneven, making it hard to push wheeled stretchers.

The walls are stained, not just from age but from years of neglect. Hajara Adamu, a cleaner who has worked here for more than a decade, says even basic maintenance has stopped.

"We used to have repairs every few years. Now, nothing is done. We use buckets to catch rainwater when it leaks from the roof."

The outpatient department, which is the busiest part of the hospital, is no better. Long benches are cracked, with nails sticking out dangerously. The entrance door hangs loosely on rusted hinges, creaking loudly each time it is pushed open.

"This place does not feel like a hospital anymore," says Musa Haruna, a farmer from a nearby village.



"When you walk in, you feel like you are entering an abandoned school."

Electricity is unreliable, but even when the lights come on, the weak bulbs do little to brighten the gloom of the ageing wards. Ceiling fans wobble dangerously when they spin, and some have already fallen off, forcing staff to remove others before they become a hazard. Residents say they

have written petitions, met with local officials, and even raised small community funds for minor repairs, but the scale of the problem is far beyond their capacity.

"We are not asking for a brand-new hospital," says Amina Ibrahim, a community health volunteer. "We just want this one fixed so it can serve us properly. If the government repairs the walls, replaces the roof, and improves the



lighting, it will make a huge difference." Neptune Prime gathered that the hospital remains a shell of

what it used to be, a structure fighting to stay useful while the people it serves fight to be heard.

FEATURES



Dr Duru

Use of gender-based laws for political persecution and social manipulation (3)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

By Duru Sandra Chidinma, PhD

Review
Official policy documents, court judgments, government publications, media articles, NGO reports, and parliamentary records will be reviewed. Particular focus will be placed on documented false accusations and administrative actions that demonstrate misuse of gender-based policy.

Observation and Case Monitoring
Where possible, the researcher will attend public hearings, panel sittings, or legal proceedings involving gender-related cases to observe administrative procedures, media coverage, and public responses.

Instrumentation
Data collection will involve the following instruments:

- Interview Guides tailored to each respondent group.
- Document Analysis Protocols to review legal and policy texts.

- Field Notes and Observation Checklists for triangulation and consistency. All instruments will be validated through expert review and pilot testing with selected participants to ensure clarity and reliability.
- Data Analysis Techniques**
Data collected will be analyzed using Thematic Analysis, which allows the identification of recurring patterns and themes across interviews and documents. The following steps will be employed:
 1. Transcription of audio-recorded interviews.
 2. Coding using manual and software-supported tools (e.g., NVivo).
 3. Theme identification, focusing on key categories such as:
 - False accusations and reputational damage.
 - Administrative bias and silence.
 - Media framing of gender-based cases.
 - Public perception of male victimhood.
 - Policy response and institutional neglect.

Findings will be presented narratively with direct quotations to give voice to affected individuals and stakeholders.

Reliability and Validity
To ensure credibility and trustworthiness:

- Triangulation will be used by comparing findings from interviews, document reviews, and observations.
- Member checking will be done by sharing summaries with key respondents to confirm the accuracy of representation.
- Peer debriefing and expert reviews will be conducted to test the robustness of emerging themes.

Ethical Considerations
This study will strictly adhere to ethical research standards:

- Informed consent will be obtained from all participants.
- Anonymity and confidentiality will be assured through the use of pseudonyms and secure data storage.
- Voluntary participation will be emphasized, and participants will retain the right

to withdraw at any stage.

- Ethical clearance will be sought from the relevant academic institution's Ethics Review Committee.

Special care will be taken to ensure that no participant is exposed to further harm, re-victimization, or legal risk due to their involvement in the study. This study acknowledges the following limitations:

- Reluctance of participants to share sensitive experiences due to stigma or legal implications.
- Potential bias in self-reported experiences and media reports.
- Limited documentation of false accusation cases in formal legal archives.
- Scope constraints, as the study focuses on Nigeria with limited extrapolation to other African contexts.

Despite these limitations, the triangulated and purposive design ensures that the study remains robust, relevant, and capable of informing future policy interventions.

DATA PRESENTATION

AND ANALYSIS
This research presents and analyzes the data collected through interviews, document reviews, and observational case tracking. The findings are thematically organized and interpreted within the framework of gender-policy weaponization and the absence of administrative structures for male protection. Pseudonyms are used to protect the identities of interviewees, and the analysis aligns with the theoretical lenses of Critical Legal Theory, Masculinist Theory, and Policy Weaponization Theory introduced in Chapter Two.

Overview of Respondents
A total of 28 participants were interviewed across five stakeholder categories. The breakdown is as follows:

Category	No. of Respondents
Falsely Accused Men	7
Legal Experts	5
Public Administrators	4
NGO Advocates	6
Media Analysts	6

All respondents contributed to at least one thematic focus area. Their perspectives provide a multidimensional view of how gender laws have been interpreted, misused, and institutionalized.

The Reality of False Accusations and Legal Injustice
Several male respondents shared deeply traumatic experiences of being falsely accused of sexual assault, domestic violence, or harassment, often in contexts involving political rivalry, romantic fallout, or workplace disputes.

"I was suspended from work the very day the allegation was made, without any hearing. It took over 14 months to prove I was innocent. But by then, my marriage had ended, and my reputation was destroyed."

— "David," a senior civil servant.

Court records and case summaries reviewed indicated that while some accusers later recanted or were discredited by evidence, no formal apologies or restorative steps were offered to the wrongly accused. Some lost jobs, political appointments, or mental health stability.

Key Pattern: Presumption of guilt based on accusation alone, often amplified by media narratives and administrative overreaction.

Administrative Bias and the Silence of Institutions
Public administrators interviewed admitted that in gender-based cases, "internal directives" often suggest immediate suspension or distancing from the accused to "avoid reputational damage to the agency," regardless of investigation outcomes.

"We're under pressure to appear supportive of women's rights. But sometimes that turns into institutional silence when men are harmed. No one wants to be accused of victim-blaming, even if the accused is the real victim."

— **A Director in a Federal Ministry (anonymous).**

In 4 of the 7 male cases reviewed, government institutions had no protocol for assisting the accused, even after exoneration. None had a designated grievance mechanism for wrongful accusations by women.

Key Pattern: Gender policies are

implemented in an asymmetrical way, offering support only to presumed female victims.

Media Framing and Public Stigmatization
Media analysts noted that stories of women accusing men generate more immediate engagement and outrage, while stories of exoneration or falsehoods are rarely reported with equal prominence.

"It's not about truth anymore, it's about what goes viral. A man accused of rape gets dragged within hours. But when it turns out he was innocent? That barely makes the news."

— **Investigative Journalist, Abuja.**

In reviewed cases, initial news headlines labeled accused men as perpetrators, but even when proven false, follow-up reporting was either nonexistent or relegated to obscure sections of media platforms.

Key Pattern: Media narratives create long-term reputational harm, often immune to legal vindication.

Psychological and Societal Consequences for Male Victims
Interviews revealed a range of emotional and psychological consequences among falsely accused men:

- Severe anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.
- Social isolation and loss of familial support.
- Withdrawal from public and professional life.

"I was never charged. But I was treated like a criminal. Even today, people whisper when I walk past in church. My children changed schools. My wife left."

— "Samuel," a former lecturer falsely accused of harassment.

No respondent reported receiving institutional psychological support. Most turned to religious organizations, family, or personal therapy, which is unaffordable for many.

Key Pattern: No trauma-response system exists for male victims of policy misuse.

Gender Advocacy Imbalance and the Demand for Policy Reform
Gender-focused NGOs acknowledged that while their work was primarily female-centric due to the volume of cases, there is growing recognition of male victimization.

"We're beginning to see the other side, men whose lives were ruined by false accusations. But we don't have structures in place to help them. And most funding is for women's protection only."

— **NGO Gender Program Officer, Lagos.**


Several legal experts and administrators supported the establishment of a Federal Ministry of Men's Affairs to address this imbalance. They argued that men need access to:

- Legal aid against false accusations.
- Mental health services.
- Public sensitization campaigns.
- Rehabilitation and reputation-cleansing mechanisms.

Key Pattern: There is institutional recognition of the gap, but no formal structures exist yet to address it.

Dr DURU Sandra Chidinma, a Nigerian Scholar.

TO BE CONTINUED...



SPORTS

BY MUHAMMAD KUKURI,
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Partey

Ex-Arsenal star, Thomas Partey, granted bail on multiple rape charges

Former Arsenal footballer Thomas Partey was granted conditional bail after appearing in a London court on Tuesday to face charges of rape and sexual assault. The 32-year-old Ghana international is charged with five counts of rape against two women and one count of sexual assault against a third woman. The alleged offences took place between 2021 and 2022, while he was still a player for Arsenal. Partey was charged on July 4, shortly after his contract with the club expired at the end of June. Appearing in Westminster Magistrates' Court, Partey stood in the dock in a black jumper with his arms behind his back. He showed

no reaction as the charges were read and was not asked to enter any pleas. His lawyer, Jenny Wiltshire, had previously stated that Partey "denies all the charges against him" and "welcomed the opportunity to finally clear his name." As part of his bail conditions, Partey is prohibited from contacting any of the three women and must inform police of any changes to his address or international travel plans. During the discussion of bail conditions, Chief Magistrate Paul Goldspring noted, "I understand he's no longer employed in this country and playing in Spain now," a reference to recent reports linking Partey with a move to Spanish club Villarreal.

Partey is scheduled to appear at London's Old Bailey court on September 2. A spokesperson for the group Arsenal Supporters Against Sexual Violence expressed "profound disappointment" with the club's handling of the situation. Honor Barber told the PA news agency, "We never wanted to be in a situation where the club that we love and the club that has values that we believe in was playing, week-in, week-out, a player who is now facing court appearances on six counts of sexual violence." Barber stated the group had protested "outside almost every home game last season because we wanted to disrupt the wall of silence that the club has put up around this issue."

She added that the group wants the club to publish its sexual violence policies, "suspend anyone under investigation for sexual offences," and "properly support the survivors." British police confirmed they first received reports of an allegation of rape in February 2022. Partey joined Arsenal for £45 million from Atletico Madrid in October 2020. He played 52 games for the Gunners last season, scoring four goals, and has 51 caps for Ghana. An Arsenal spokesman previously commented, "The player's contract ended on June 30. Due to ongoing legal proceedings, the club is unable to comment on the case."

Jen Pawol makes history as first female baseball referee



Pawol

Jen Pawol is set to make history this Saturday as the first woman to umpire a regular-season Major League Baseball game. Major League Benjamin Sesko leans towards Man United over rival bidders Newcastle Manchester United are advancing in talks with RB Leipzig over a deal to sign Benjamin Sesko, after making an offer worth an initial £65m plus £8.9m in add-ons. Sky Sports News understands there is now a growing feeling that Sesko wants to join Manchester United over rival bidders Newcastle. There is no full agreement yet, but discussions are heading in a positive direction. Newcastle have also been working on a deal for Sesko, and earlier on Tuesday made a second bid of £69.7m plus add-ons, which was higher than Manchester United's - after an initial offer of just under £70m (£80m) plus add-ons. However, Manchester United have moved their base fee closer to £69.6m (£80m), plus possible add-ons, in talks with Leipzig, Sky Germany report. The structure of the offer is still being discussed so Leipzig have not yet accepted Manchester United's current bid. Sky Germany believes it would need further improvement, while Newcastle's offer of a guaranteed £69.6m (£80m), plus add-ons, meets the requirements. Personal terms are not expected to be an issue with either club - but there is a growing feeling that Sesko wants to go to Old Trafford. The 22-year-old was absent from RB Leipzig's pre-season friendly loss to Atalanta on Saturday due to his expected departure from the club.

Benjamin Sesko leans towards Man United over rival bidders Newcastle

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Sesko

leaving, trained indoors away from the team at Leipzig's training complex on Tuesday. Sesko has a great relationship with RB Leipzig and is being totally respectful to them. He wants to ensure that if he leaves, he does so on good terms. He is ready to fly to the UK once an agreement is struck. Manchester United's bid for Sesko could have ramifications for Newcastle striker Alexander Isak. Newcastle will only let Isak leave St James' Park if they can bring in a ready-made replacement. Liverpool had a bid of £110m plus add-ons rejected by the Magpies. Newcastle are also interested in Yoane Wissa, who was not part of Brentford's squad for their friendly against QPR on Saturday as he pushes for a move.

Nigeria's Chiamaka Nnadozie bags nomination for 2025 Ballon d'Or Yachine Trophy

Nigeria's Chiamaka Nnadozie has been named among the top female goalkeepers in the world as a nominee for the 2025 Ballon d'Or Yachine Trophy. The Falcons star, on Thursday, was listed alongside Cata Coll (Barcelona), Ann-Katrin Berger (Germany), Hannah Hampton (England), and Daphne van Domselaar (Netherlands). Nnadozie's commanding presence in goal during the Women's African Cup of Nations and the league earned her global acclaim. Her nomination marks another major milestone for Nigerian women's football on the world stage.



FAMILY DYNAMICS

• WITH

• AISHA AUYO,
• AishaAuyo@Neptuneprime.com.ng

Finding peace and improving behaviour amidst life's challenges

Dear sis Eesher

"Please I seriously need your advice. The problem I have is that I encounter many problems in my life. Starting from my family members, my coworkers and my relationships. Even if I try not to cause problems, it seems like problems are always pursuing me.

My family seems to not like or support me, and I don't know how to explain it. People in my workplace certainly have problems with me, and I don't know what I did to them.

If I start a new relationship, at first, it will go smoothly, and later, I will have problems again. I don't know what I will do to solve all these problems. I am confused and depressed now."

Dear Anonymous

I'm deeply sorry to hear about the challenges you're facing. Feeling surrounded by strife in your family, workplace, and relationships is overwhelming, but it's important to remember that you're not alone, and things can improve with time and effort. Here are some steps to help you navigate through these difficulties:

1. Self-Reflection

Take some time to reflect on your interactions and patterns. Ask yourself:

- Are there any recurring behaviours or situations that might contribute to misunderstandings?

- Do you often feel misunderstood, or do others misinterpret your intentions?

- This reflection is not about blaming yourself but about gaining clarity.

2. Family Dynamics

- Families can sometimes be complex and challenging. If your family isn't supportive or you feel isolated, consider:

- Communicating your feelings: Choose a calm moment to express how you feel. Use "I" statements like, "I feel unsupported when..." to avoid sounding accusatory.

- Setting boundaries: If certain family behaviours hurt you, it's okay to create emotional boundaries to protect your well-being.

- Remember, you don't need everyone's approval to find peace.

3. Workplace Challenges

In workplaces, misunderstandings or conflicts can arise due to differences in personalities or expectations. To address this:

- Build rapport: Try to foster neutral, respectful relationships. Simple gestures like being kind, listening, or even asking about their day can help.

- Seek feedback: If possible, talk to a trusted colleague or supervisor to gain insight into how you're perceived and if there's something you could improve.

4. Relationships

Relationships often start smoothly but require effort and understanding as they evolve. Consider:

- Taking things slowly: Allow rela-



tionships to develop naturally and ensure mutual understanding and communication.

- Setting expectations early: Be clear about your values, needs, and what you can offer in a relationship.

5. Coping with Depression and Stress

- It's normal to feel overwhelmed in your situation. To cope:

- Talk to someone: Share your feelings with a trusted friend or a counsellor. Sometimes, an outside perspective can help.

- Focus on self-care Engage in activities that bring you joy or peace, such as prayer, journaling, exercise, or pursuing a hobby.

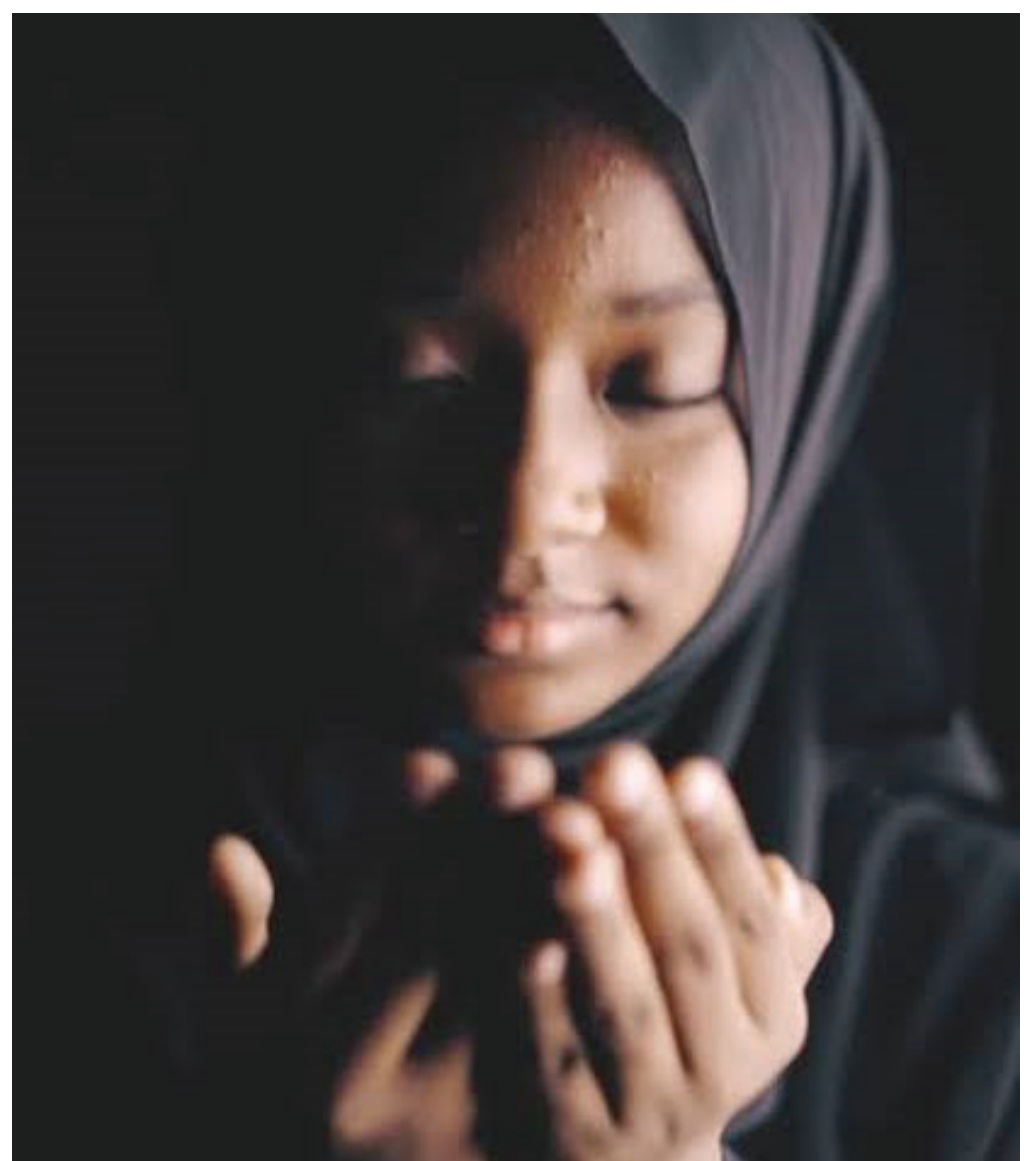
- Practice gratitude: Write down a few things you're thankful for daily, no matter how small. This can shift your mindset over time.

6. Seek Support

- If these problems persist, consider reaching out to a professional therapist or counsellor. They can help you explore the deeper reasons behind these conflicts and equip you with strategies to handle them.

Remember:

You are valuable, and your struggles don't define your worth. It's okay to feel confused and hurt but take small steps to regain control of your life. Focus on building inner strength and clarity, and gradually, you'll see changes in your relationships and environment.



SOCIALS/FASHION

BY SUSAN MBAMAH

QUICK
STATISTICS
ON FASHION

99%
Of Women are not aware of underskirt or patroning such!

45%
of Women avoid bras due to advanced methods of sewing blouses

23%
Nigerians women replaces panties with tight!

78%
of Nigerians patronise native attires

78%
patronise nature attires

79%
of Nigerians can't live without jeans

84%
of Nigerians still patronise fairly used cloths, bags and shoes

79%
of Nigerians patronise can't dress without jeans

Beyond Beauty: African Hair as Culture and Fashion Statement

African hairstyles are deeply tied to tribal identity, social status, spirituality, and tradition. Long before colonialism, styles like cornrows, bantu knots, and dreadlocks carried powerful meanings that cannot be overlooked. To diminish these styles is to erase centuries of African heritage. African women have used their hair to communicate identity, tribe, status, age, and mood. In many African societies, hair was and still is a vital part of ceremonies, from birth and initiation to marriage and mourning. African female hair connects generations and carries stories, something not many hairstyles can claim.

Versatility and Creativity
No hair texture is more versatile than the African hair. From afros and puffs to braids, twists, and locs, it allows for endless creativity. Its ability to defy gravity and be moulded into intricate designs is something to celebrate, not suppress, whether styled into elegant braids, thick afros, intricate cornrows, sleek twists, or regal locs, African hair offers a range of options that no other hair type can match.

Biological Uniqueness
Just like straight or wavy hair, African

hair is a natural expression of genetics. Its unique curl pattern makes it stand out, adding depth and diversity to the global human appearance. It is built to withstand harsh environments, protect the scalp, and retain heat. With proper care, African hair grows beautifully and thrives in protective styles.

Combating Discrimination
Across the globe, people of African descent have faced discrimination for wearing their natural hair. Equal appreciation is not just about beauty; it's about justice, dignity, and freedom from bias. African hair should no longer be an afterthought but a centerpiece of modern beauty and style.

Empowerment Through Visibility
Seeing African hair styles in mainstream media, fashion shows, and corporate settings helps dismantle stereotypes and affirms the confidence of young African girls and

women. The rise of the Natural Hair Movement has helped millions reject damaging chemical relaxers and instead focus on hair health, identity, and self-acceptance.

Influence of Celebrities
Celebrities like Lupita Nyong'o, Tems, Viola Davis, and Yemi Alade proudly wear their natural hair on global stages. Fashion runways are beginning to feature natural textures, and social media influencers are showcasing tutorials, routines, and cultural insights tied to African hair. Growing your natural hair as an African person always attracts so much attention, both at home and in foreign lands, and certain styles are seen as serving a deeply rebellious or creative purpose. It reveals the African optimistic side, a testament to the gracious beauty of resilience, courage and adaptability.



TO FEATURE ON OUR FASHION/SOCIAL PAGE!
You can send your pictures to neptuneprime2233@gmail.com

TECHWORLD

BY MUHAMMAD KUKURI
MuhammadKukuri@neptuneprime.com.ng

GAMESCIENE

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

GADGETADDICT

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

web update

Nigerian girl unveils digital platform to provide tech mentorship for African girls

SPARK Tech Africa, a new digital platform designed to support passionate Africans through relationships, knowledge, and tech, has officially launched in Lagos, offering a bold new model for connecting young African girls with global tech mentorship and learning opportunities.

SPARK Tech Africa is built to connect thousands of African girls to world-class mentors in Silicon Valley and beyond, helping them gain the skills, guidance, and exposure needed to pursue careers in technology. The initiative aims to bridge the mentorship and knowledge gap by pairing young women with experienced professionals who can guide them through hands-on project work and personal development.

The teenage founder of SPARK, Camille Ananyi, at the launch in Lagos, said, "SPARK Tech Africa is more than a programme. I know what it's like to grow up without a mentor. Not everyone gets that guidance early, and I've seen firsthand how that gap can limit potential. I was fortunate to live in the US, where I had access to mentors who steered me and built my confidence.

"SPARK is my way of creating that same opportunity for others, building a bridge between the dreams of African girls and the possibilities in global tech. Through mentorship, learning, and collaboration, we're setting a new standard for inclusive innovation."

Camille, who attended The Learning Place, Lekki and Corona School, Victoria Island, both in Nigeria, is currently a student at Menlo School in Silicon Valley, California.

She began learning how to code with Scratch at the CoCreation Hub's Summer of Code in Lagos, furthered her tech training with ID Tech at Stanford University, and completed the Data Science & Machine Learning programme with Summer Springboard at the University of California, Berkeley. She is also an alumna of the highly selective MAGIC (More Active Girls In Computing) Mentee Programme in Silicon Valley, an experience that reinforced her passion for mentorship and tech inclusion.

The SPARK portal offers a range of features designed to support learning and mentorship. The Learn Page is a curated library of resources that teaches mentees how to code and build real-world tech projects.

The Matching Page uses smart functionality to pair mentees with mentors based on shared interests, skills, and goals.

A dedicated section called Women's Stories showcases inspiring video interviews from mentors who share their journeys and lessons. The Progress Page tracks each mentee's growth and project milestones while sending weekly reports to mentors and programme managers.



Ananyi

WhatsApp bans over 6.8 million accounts linked to scammers

Popular messaging service platform, WhatsApp, has banned over 6.8 million accounts tied to criminal scam activities that target people worldwide.

The Meta-owned platform equally said it had introduced a set of safety features designed to help users spot and avoid scams in both group and individual chats. According to WhatsApp, the new features were intended to give users more context before they engage, particularly when they are added to groups or begin conversations with people who are not in their contacts.

"In the first six months of this year, as part of our ongoing proactive work to protect people from scams, WhatsApp detected and banned over 6.8 million accounts linked to scam centres. "Based on our investigative insights into the latest enforcement efforts, we proactively detected and took

down accounts before scam centres were able to operationalise them," the tech firm's website showed.

The company also described a coordinated enforcement action, undertaken with OpenAI, that disrupted scam activity traced to a fraud operation in Cambodia. Further on safety, it explained that it would introduce a safety overview that would appear when someone outside one's contacts adds you to a group you don't recognise.

WhatsApp said the measure was designed to reduce surprise additions to large or malicious groups and to limit the spread of fraudulent links or social engineering attempts through mass invites.

On individual chats, WhatsApp said scammers often begin conversations elsewhere on the Internet and then move targets to private messaging.



WhatsApp

Airtel earmarks \$120 million for data centre in Nigeria



Airtel

Airtel Nigeria says it is investing more than \$120 million in building a data centre with a capacity of 38 megawatts.

On May 8, Airtel Nigeria said it is doubling its capital investment to boost digital inclusion, expand rural connectivity, and deliver enhanced service quality to Nigerians.

Highlighting its investment strategy, the company said it has accelerated the rollout of 5G technology across its sites nationwide, installed high-capacity radios, and built extensive fibre infrastructure. Airtel added that it is building

a new, state-of-the-art data centre to support its growing customer base and enhance data management capabilities.

Speaking at a media briefing on Tuesday, Dinesh Balsingh, the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), said the facility will be designed to handle large-scale operations.

"We are investing over \$120 million. That is the kind of investment that is going on in our data centre," Balsingh said. He said that while cloud storage will be part of the offering, the main driver for such a high-capacity facility is AI.

"When you're building massive capacity, you can always allocate something for cloud storage. But data centres are actually for artificial intelligence," he said. Balsingh did not give a specific completion date but said the facility will be launched next year.

The announcement comes weeks after MTN Nigeria unveiled its own data centre, said to be the largest prefabricated commercial facility in West Africa, with an estimated investment of \$255 million.

Balsingh also addressed Nigeria's low 5G adoption, attributing it to

the limited availability and high cost of devices. He said Airtel expects 5G coverage to expand rapidly in the coming months, particularly in major cities, but stressed that consumer access to affordable devices remains critical.

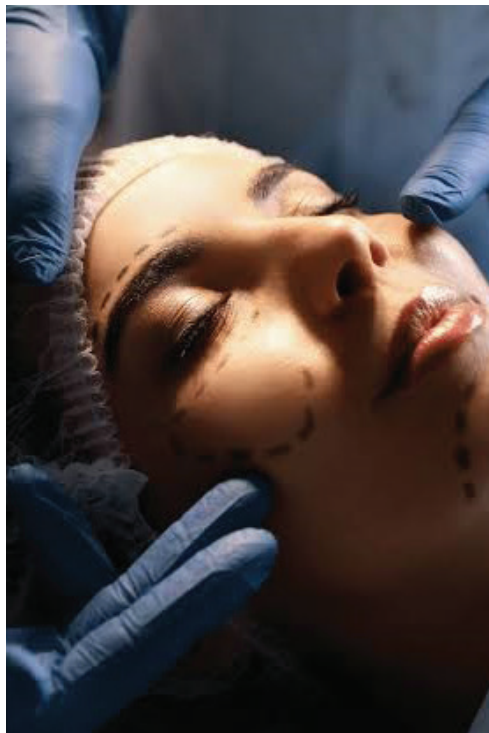
"Over the next few months, you will see 5G network rolling out much more rapidly," the Airtel boss said.

"Getting devices into the market and ensuring that consumers have 5G devices is one very important aspect. Because the network is available and rolling out the network is something that we can even do further."

Balsingh said Airtel is in talks with device manufacturers to explore ways of reducing costs, including redesigning components and forming partnerships to make 5G devices more accessible.

WORLD NEWS

BY MERCY ADAJE
MercyAdaje@neptuneprime.com.ng



Cosmetic surgery

UK tightens rules on cosmetic procedures, BBL

Authorities in the UK on Thursday announced plans to tighten rules on high-risk cosmetic procedures such as so-called Brazilian Butt Lifts (BBL) amid a surge in such treatments. The health department said in a statement that “tough new measures” would “crack down on cowboy cosmetic procedures that have left people maimed, injured and in need of urgent” care. They include mandating that only qualified health professionals who are registered with the care regulator can carry out procedures like buttock enhancement surgery or the injection of fillers into breasts and genitals. Clinics offering lower-risk treatments like Botox and lip fillers would need to meet certain standards to obtain a licence from their local authority, the Department of Health and Social Care added. The government said the measures “follow growing alarm over unqualified individuals performing invasive treatments in unsafe environments — including homes, hotels, and pop-up clinics”. Many of these procedures are marketed as non-surgical but, in reality, are invasive and carry serious risks,” said the health department’s statement. The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons recorded almost 27,500 surgical procedures in 2024, a five per cent increase from the year before. The health department added that there had been several incidents where people had received such treatments from providers “with little or no medical training, leading to dangerous complications, permanent scarring and even death”. Last month, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute warned that fat injections, buttock enhancement surgery, Botox and fillers were being offered by untrained people in places such as public toilets. The Save Face charity said it had supported more than 750 women who have suffered unsafe procedures. Junior health minister Karin Smyth said the proposed measures would give patients “peace of mind” and reduce the cost to the state-run National Health Service of fixing botched procedures. Under the plans, which will first go to a consultation next year, under-18s will be restricted from cosmetic procedures deemed risky, unless authorised by a health professional. That will prevent children from “dangerous beauty trends on social media”, the department said. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has said 41 people have suffered adverse reactions following cosmetic procedures involving botulinum toxin since early June. Symptoms included difficulty swallowing, slurred speech and breathing problems, the agency said.



Shoprite

Currency Volatility, Inflation: Shoprite moves to sell stores in Ghana, Malawi

Shoprite Holdings, Africa’s largest food retailer, says it is selling its operations in Ghana and Malawi. According to Reuters on Tuesday, the move marks another step towards consolidating Shoprite’s activities across Africa to focus more on its core market in South Africa. The supermarket retailer had expanded extensively in Africa, surpassing rivals such as Pick n Pay and Walmart-owned Massmart to become the continent’s leading food retailer in about 15 countries. But its ventures in markets such as Angola and Nigeria were hindered by currency volatility, high inflation, and import duties, according to the publication. Reuters said Shoprite in Malawi signed an agreement on June 6 to sell five stores, subject to approval from the Competition and Fair Trading Commission and the Reserve Bank of Malawi. “In Ghana, the group received a binding offer in June for seven trading stores and one warehouse. The sale is deemed highly probable,” the report said. Reuters added that the company had also restricted capital allocations to its supermarkets outside South Africa. The planned sales add to Shoprite’s earlier exits from Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Madagascar.



Trump

Trump’s tariffs take effect in over 90 countries

US President Donald Trump’s sweeping new tariffs on more than 90 countries around the world have come into effect. Moments before his deadline passed for countries to negotiate US trade deals, Trump posted on his Truth Social platform that billions of dollars were now flowing into his country as a result of his import taxes. Trump is using tariffs to encourage jobs and manufacturing industries to return to America, among other political goals. Separately on Wednesday, he threatened to raise the tariff on imports from India to 50%, unless that country stopped buying Russian oil. He also threatened a 100% tariff on foreign-made computer chips, to push tech firms to invest more in the US. Trump’s trade policies have been broadly aimed at reshaping the global trading system, which he sees as treating the US unfairly. One of his key pledges as he returned to the White House in January was to cut the trade deficit, the shortfall between what America buys and what it sells. His tariffs work by charging US importers a tax on goods they buy from other countries. Those importers may pass some or all of the extra cost on to customers. Trump has also been accused of throwing the global economy into turmoil in recent months, though markets have recently been more stable. The overall average US tariff rate is at its highest in almost a century, thanks to a range of other industry-specific taxes affecting products such as vehicles and steel. The duties that came into effect on Thursday were first announced in April. Many were later paused amid market turbulence, and to give other countries time to strike new trade deals with the US. A patchwork of rates was set for different countries, and were adjusted over time by Trump, who ultimately set a negotiating deadline of 7 August. Export-dependent economies in Southeast Asia are among the hardest hit. Manufacturing-focused Laos and Myanmar face some of the highest levies at 40%. Some experts said Trump appears to have targeted countries with close trade ties with China. But after more than four months of uncertainty, markets in Asia seemed to take the news in their stride on Thursday.

DID YOU KNOW?

BY VIVIAN OKAFOR

Babies have more bones than adults

Adults typically have 206 bones, while newborns have around 270-300 bones. These extra bones gradually fuse together as the baby grows, resulting in the lower adult bone count.

Many of a baby's bones are made of cartilage, a flexible connective tissue that gradually hardens into bone through ossification. As babies grow, some of their smaller bones fuse together, reducing the total number of bones. Some bones, particularly in the skull, are separated at birth to allow for the baby's head to navigate the birth canal. These bones then fuse together after birth.

The flexibility of a baby's bones also allows for easier movement and adaptation to falls and tumbles as they learn to crawl and walk.

At birth, many babies' bones are made entirely of cartilage, a type of connective tissue that is tough but flexible. Some of these little ones' bones are partly made of cartilage to help keep the baby nice and malleable.

That flexibility is necessary so that growing babies can curl up in the confined space of the womb before birth. It also makes it easier for mom and baby when it's time for the baby to make the exciting journey through the birth canal during delivery.

As the baby grows into childhood, much of that cartilage will be replaced by actual bone. But some-

thing else happens, which explains why 300 bones at birth become 206 bones by adulthood.

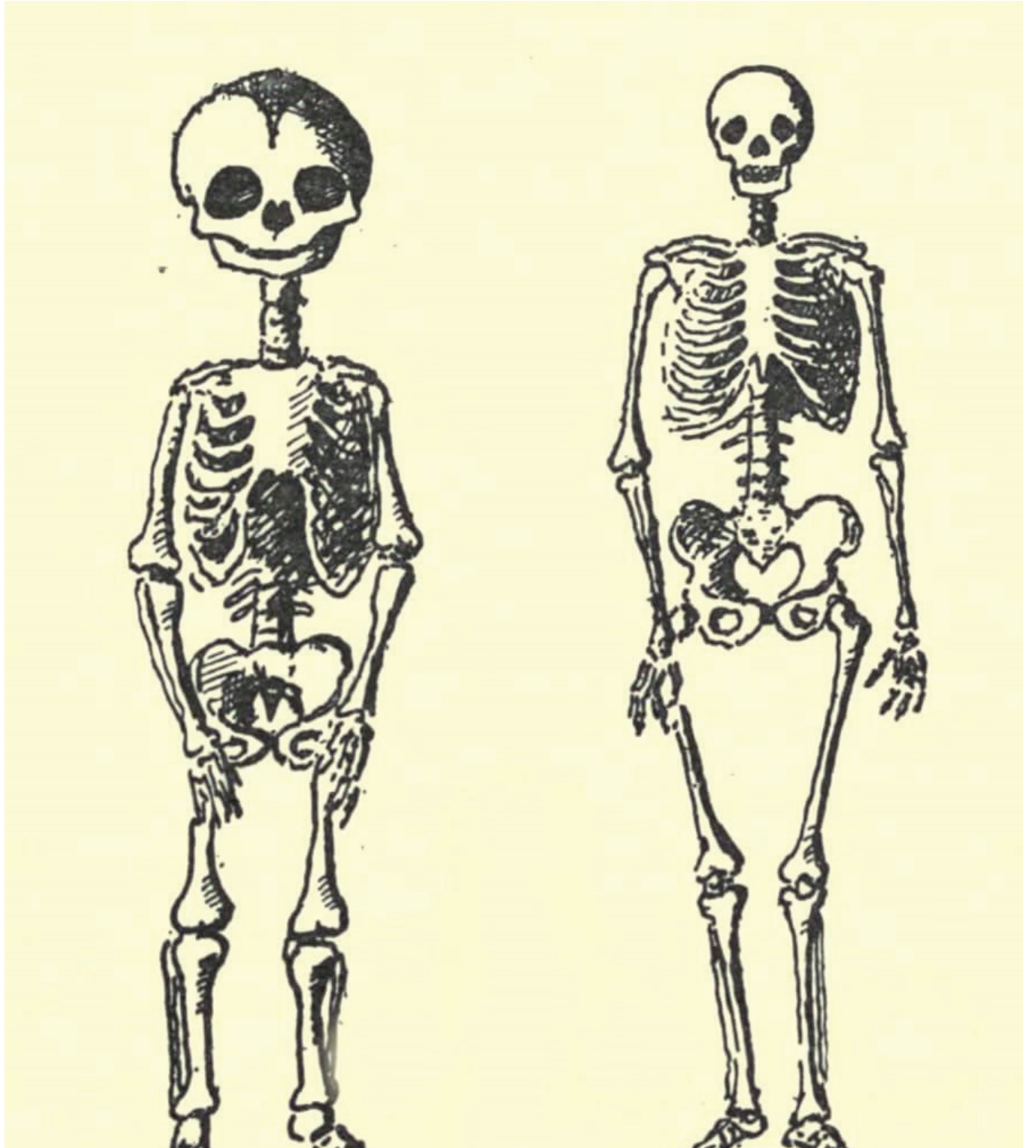
Many of the baby's bones will fuse together, which means the actual number of bones will decrease. The space that separates the ends of two bones that eventually fuse is also cartilage, like the tissue on the tip of the nose.

The fusing of bones occurs throughout the body. You may notice that there is one or more soft spaces in between the bones in a baby's skull. These "soft spots" are perfectly normal. They're called fontanelles, and they'll eventually close as bones grow together.

Replacing cartilage with fused bone begins when tiny blood vessels called capillaries, deliver nutrient-rich blood to osteoblasts, the cells that form bones. Osteoblasts create bone that covers cartilage at first and then ultimately replaces it.

Then, bone growth in children occurs at the ends of many bones, which have growth plates. The growing tissue in each plate determines the final size and shape of the bone. When a person stops growing, the growth plates close.

Growth plates are weaker than other parts of a child's skeleton and are therefore more susceptible to fractures and other injuries. This is why a fall off a bicycle may land a kid in a cast, whereas you can take a similar fall and just have a bruise.



The Banna people of Ethiopia walk comfortably on stilts



The Banna people of Ethiopia's Omo Valley are known for their stilt-walking tradition, which is both a practical skill and a cultural practice. While the stilts are used for traversing swampy areas and tall grasses, they also play a significant role in ceremonies and rites of passage.

Ethiopia is a cultural melting pot, and a sweet tale is told about the Banna tribe's stilts. This is the reason behind the 'air walking' concept that the tribesmen from this community are known for.

Their bloodline traces to the Omotic ethnic group that inhabits the Lower Omo Valley, especially between the Weyto and Omo Rivers. Some people identify this tribe as 'Banya', 'Bena' or 'Benna'.

There are over 47,000 Banna people whose main economic activity is hunting, pastoralism, and low-scale farming. Some of the people profess the Islamic faith while others are Christians, and a monarch governs the community.

The stilts help the Banna people, especially young boys and men herding livestock, to navigate the challenging terrain of the Omo Valley, which includes swamps and tall grasses.

Stilt-walking is a key part of becoming a man in Banna society, representing a transition from boyhood to adulthood and demonstrating maturity, courage, and resilience.

The stilts are also used in ceremonies and festivals, with participants often decorating their bodies with white patterns.

Banna men, particularly young boys, practice stilt-walking from a young age, developing the bal-

ance, strength, and skill needed to walk on stilts that can be several meters high, according to FurtherAfrica.

While the practice originated as a way to protect against wild animals and snakes in the marshy areas, it has evolved into a cultural performance and a symbol of identity.

Stilts-walking is a long-standing cultural tradition among community members. Unmarried young men are the carriers of this popular tradition during community festivals and rituals. A rule for the Banna tribe's stilts walking during a ceremony is the painting of bodies in white strips.

A stilt can be several meters high, and moving them requires a great deal of expertise, balance, and physical strength. Amazingly, young men pull it off with amazing elegance and dexterity which is a show of strength and physical aptitude. They captivate the audience with their dexterous movements as they perform complicated footwork, dance-like motions, and acrobatic performances. Essentially, the Banna tribe's stilt-walking custom has numerous cultural and societal significances. For young males, it represents a transition from youth to maturity and is a rite of passage.

Striking a balance on the poles and walking gracefully sends a strong message to the tribe that the boy is responsible, independent-minded, strong-willed and is confident to take on life with the temerity of a lion. Moreover, these shows help to preserve cultural history while fostering a sense of pride and identity among the tribe.

LIVING LEGENDS

BY ZARA AHMED

Olajumoke Adenowo: Renowned Architect, Entrepreneur

Olajumoke Adenowo was born in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, to academic parents. Her father taught history and her mother criminology. She lived on the Obafemi Awolowo University campus between 1962 and 1972. Living on the campus and trips to Paris and the Palais de Versailles as a young child impressed Adenowo, influencing her decision to study architecture. At 14, she enrolled in Obafemi Awolowo University. She graduated at 19, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Architecture with Honours. She won the prize for Best Student Design as an undergraduate. She continued graduate studies there, earning a Master's Degree in Architecture with distinction in 1991. Adenowo studied at the Lagos Business School's Chief Executive Programme (2002), the IESE Business School at the University of Navarra in Barcelona, Spain (2005). She also graduated from the Yale School of Management (2016) and the Harvard Kennedy School (2019). Adenowo's design philosophy, "NeoHeritage Architecture", leverages her experiential understanding of heritage design to define contemporary African architecture of global relevance. After graduating from university, Adenowo was hired as an Assistant Architect at Towry Coker Associates. She then practised as an architect in Lagos at Femi Majekodunmi Associates. She worked on the Federal Ministry of Finance project in Abuja at the age of 23. In 1994, at the age of 25, Adenowo founded her boutique architecture and interior design firm, AD Consulting. Since its inception, AD Consulting has been involved in designing and constructing more than 114 projects. These include Institutional buildings, Office Building Complexes, mixed-use developments, auditoria, private residences, healthcare facilities, industrial campuses and master plans. AD's clients span national and multi-national clients, including Coca-Cola, L'Oreal, Access Bank plc and Guaranty Trust Bank. Adenowo has been profiled by CNN, which referred to her as "Africa's Starchitect. In 2018, she was recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) among notable women in architecture. In 2019, Adenowo was appointed as a visiting professor at the Technische Universität München (TUM) in Germany. She was honoured as a Laureate and Guest Scientist at the Chair of Theory, History of Architecture and Art & Design arms of the university's Department of Architecture. This programme was established in collaboration with the Bavarian Ministry of Education. Her Monograph "Neo Heri-

tage; Defining Contemporary African Architecture" is the first work by a black Architect to be published by Rizzoli, the leading Art, Architecture and Design Publisher. Recognised as a thought leader on Architecture, the Arts, Leadership, Youth and Women's Empowerment, she regularly speaks at international summits and conferences. She has spoken at the McKenzie Executive leadership platform, Harvard Business School (African Business Club), SOLVE at MIT, Haust Der Kunst (Munich), the Institute of Directors, the Global Women's Forum, Cambridge University African Society and many other platforms. Since 2011, she has hosted a syndicated radio show and podcast on leadership, "Voice of Change". She has been featured by international media outlets such as CNN and Fortune. **Notable Recognitions** Dezeen Awards - Judge 2025. Cartier Women's Initiative Awards - Jury Member - 2018. Vocational Training and Professional Development Academy (VPDA), Director - 2018 British School of Lome, Member Board of Governors - 2012 Fountain Holdings Limited, Director - 2011 Purple Girl Foundation, Trustee - 2018 Rebuild Lagos Trust Fund, Member Technical Committee - 2021 In 1999, Adenowo established the Awesome Treasures Foundation (ATF), a faith-based non-governmental organisation focused on developing transformational leaders for

peace and societal advancement. Recognised by the United Nations and the United States Congress, the foundation operates through a global network of volunteers and partners across six continents. ATF aims to raise 1,000 leaders by 2030, with a special focus on empowering women and youth. **Awards** United States Congress in 2023 for her impact on Leadership and Philanthropy. Forbes Woman Africa Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 Forbes Africa 50 Most Powerful Women in Africa 2020 Forbes Africa 50 Over 50 Most Powerful Women in Africa 2023 New African Woman in Business Award 2016 Africa's Most Inspiring Business Woman by the La Batisseurs Des Economie De L'Afrique 2017. Featured in the Hall of Fame of people of Black ancestry at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Featured on the Wall of Fame, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife 2021 Included in the "Who Will Be Who in The 21st Century" by the International Biographical Centre in Cambridge, UK 1991 The International Alliance for Women World of Difference 100 Award The Ekiti State Merit Awards, 2014 Ambassador of Excellence for outstanding achievements in architecture and women's development, Obafemi Awolowo University 2018.



Adenowo



Amusan

Tobi Amusan, World Record-Holding Athlete

Tobi Amusan is a Nigerian track and field athlete specialising in the 100-meter hurdles. She was born on April 23, 1997, in Ijebu Ode, Nigeria. Amusan is known for her exceptional speed and has achieved numerous accolades, including winning the 2022 World Athletics Championships and setting a world record in the 100m hurdles. Born to schoolteacher parents in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, Nigeria, Tobi is the youngest of three children. She attended Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School in Ijebu Ode and earned a Master of Arts degree in Leadership Studies and Sports Management from the University of Texas at El Paso. Amusan began her athletics journey early, achieving success at the African Youth Championships and African Junior Athletics Championships. She won gold in the 100m hurdles at the 2015 African Junior Athletics Championships. Amusan made her All-Africa Games debut in 2015, winning gold in the 100m hurdles.

She won the 2018 Commonwealth and African championships in the 100m hurdles. She won the Diamond League Trophy in Zurich in 2021. In 2022, she won the World Athletics Championships in the 100m hurdles, setting a world record of 12.12 seconds in the semi-final and a wind-assisted 12.06 seconds in the final. Amusan defended her Commonwealth Games title in 2022 with a games record of 12.30 seconds, she helped Nigeria's women's 4x100m relay team to a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. In 2024, she achieved a hat-trick of African Games triumphs in Accra, also anchoring Nigeria to women's 4x100m relay gold, according to Olympics.com. Amusan is the first Nigerian to win a World Athletics Championships gold medal (2022). She is the world record holder in the 100m hurdles (12.12 seconds) and a two-time African Games champion in the 100m hurdles.

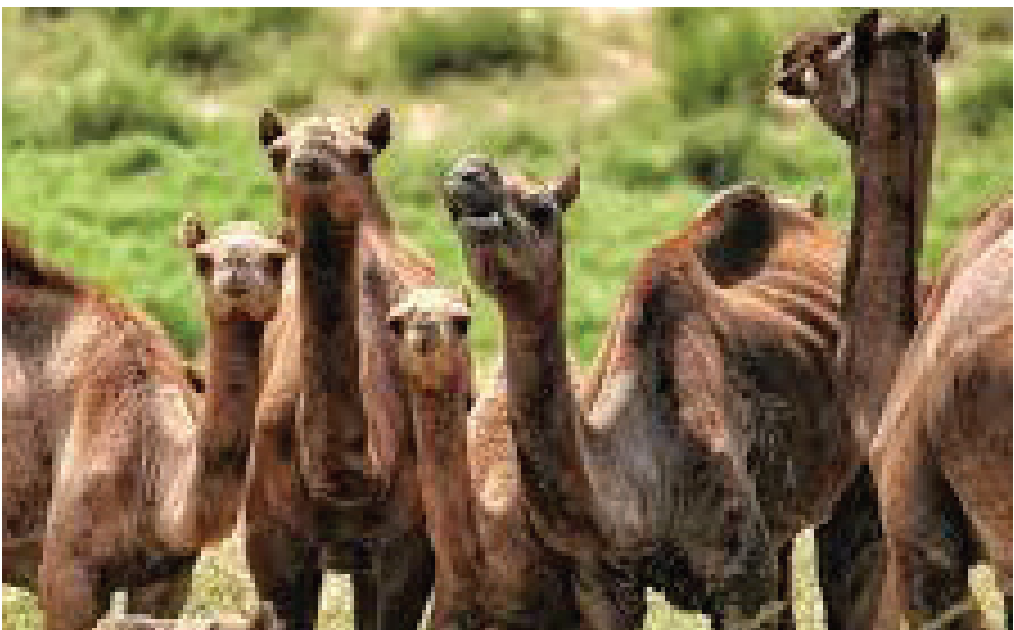


The Bactrian Camel: Nature’s rugged, all-terrain powerhouse

Meet the mighty Bactrian Camel, nature’s ultimate off-road vehicle, perfectly built for the brutal climates of Central Asia’s deserts and mountains! Unlike its one-humped cousin, the Bactrian camel sports two humps, which store fat (not water!) that it converts

into energy during long, food-scarce journeys. It thrives where few animals can—from scorching summers to freezing winters, thanks to its thick woolly coat, tough feet, and ability to drink up to 30 gallons of water in one sitting when it finds it.

It grazes on dry shrubs, salty plants, and thorny vegetation that most animals would avoid. Bactrian camels can even close their nostrils and have long eyelashes to protect against blowing sand. Domesticated for over 4,000 years, they’ve been essential to Silk Road traders, carrying goods across inhospitable terrain. Wild Bactrian camels still roam the Gobi Desert but are critically endangered, making every sighting a precious moment in nature.



BOOKS

BY SERGENILUS

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion (4)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

5. The people have raised a howl about the necessity of settling the question of Socialism by way of an international agreement. DIVISION INTO FRACTIONAL PARTIES HAS GIVEN THEM INTO OUR HANDS, FOR, IN ORDER TO CARRY ON A CONTESTED STRUGGLE ONE MUST HAVE MONEY, AND THE MONEY IS ALL IN OUR HANDS.

6. We might have reason to apprehend a union between the "clear-sighted" force of the GOY kings on their thrones and the "blind" force of the GOY mobs, but we have taken all the needful measure against any such possibility: between the one and the other force we have erected a bulwark in the shape of a mutual terror between them. In this way the blind force of the people remains our support and we, and we only, shall provide them with a leader and, of course, direct them along the road that leads to our goal.

7. In order that the hand of the blind mob may not free itself from our guiding hand, we must every now and then enter into close communion with it, if not actually in person, at any rate through some of the most trusty of our brethren. When we are acknowledged as the only authority we shall discuss with the people personally on the market, places, and we shall instruct them on questings of the political in such wise as may turn them in the direction that suits us.

8. Who is going to verify what is taught in the village schools? But what an envoy of the government or a king on his throne himself may say cannot but become immediately known to the whole State, for it will be spread abroad by the voice of the people.

9. In order to annihilate the institutions of the GOYIM before it is time we have touched them with craft and delicacy, and have taken hold of the ends of the springs which move their mechanism. These springs lay in a strict but just sense of order; we have replaced them by the chaotic license of liberalism. We have got our hands into the administration of the law, into the conduct of elections, into the press, into liberty of the person, BUT PRINCIPALLY INTO EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS BEING THE CORNERSTONES OF A FREE EXISTENCE.

CHRISTIAN YOUTH DESTROYED

10. WE HAVE FOOLED, BEMUSED AND CORRUPTED THE YOUTH OF THE "GOYIM" BY REARING THEM IN PRINCIPLES AND THEORIES WHICH ARE KNOWN TO US TO BE FALSE ALTHOUGH IT IS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN

INCULCATED.

11. Above the existing laws without substantially altering them, and by merely twisting them into contradictions of interpretations, we have erected something grandiose in the way of results. These results found expression in the fact that the INTERPRETATIONS MASKED THE LAW: afterwards they entirely hid them from the eyes of the governments owing to the impossibility of making anything out of the tangled web of legislation.

12. This is the origin of the theory of course of arbitration.

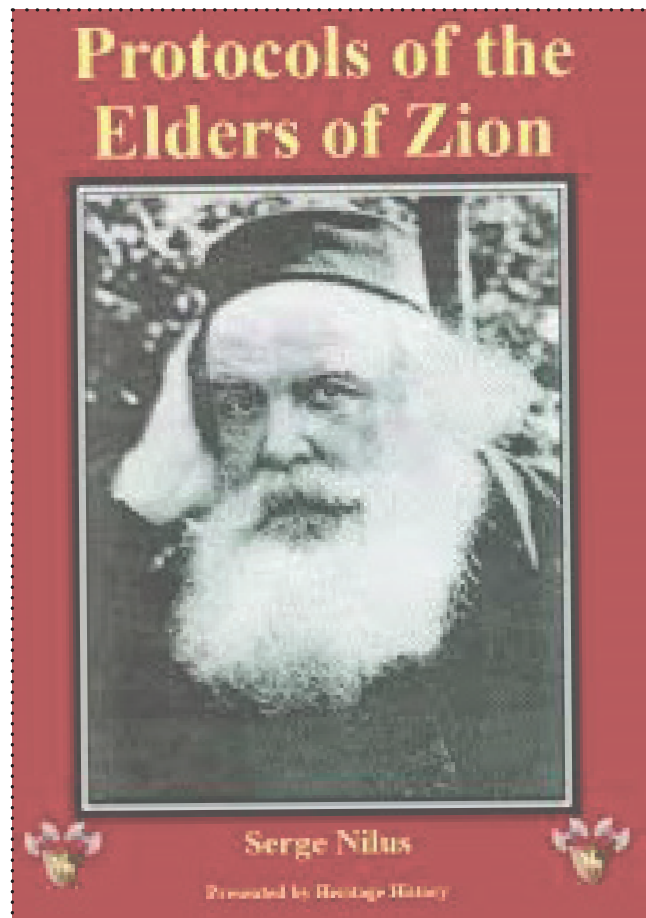
13. You may say that the GOYIM will rise upon us, arms in hand, if they guess what is going on before the time comes; but in the West we have against this a manoeuvre of such appalling terror that the very stoutest hearts quail — the undergrounds, metropolitans, those subterranean corridors which, before the time comes, will be driven under all the capitals and from whence those capitals will be blown into the air with all their organizations and archives.

Protocol No. 10: Preparing for Power

1. To-day I begin with a repetition of what I said before, and I BEG YOU TO BEAR IN MIND THAT GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE ARE CONTENT IN THE POLITICAL WITH OUTSIDE APPEARANCES. And how, indeed, are the GOYIM to perceive the underlying meaning of things when their representatives give the best of their energies to enjoying themselves? For our policy it is of the greatest importance to take cognizance of this detail; it will be of assistance to us when we come to consider the division of authority of property, of the dwelling, of taxation, of the reflex force of the laws. All these questions are such as ought not to be touched upon directly and openly before the people. In cases where it is indispensable to touch upon them they must not be categorically named, it must merely be declared without detailed exposition that the principles of contemporary law are acknowledged by us. The reason of keeping silence in this respect is that by not naming a principle we leave ourselves freedom of action, to drop this or that out of it without attracting notice; if they were all categorically named they would all appear to have been already given.

2. The mob cherishes a special affection and respect for the geniuses of political power and accepts all their deeds of violence with the admiring response: "rascally, well, yes, it is rascally, but it's clever! . . . a trick, if you like, but how craftily played, how magnificently done, what impudent audacity!" . . .

OUR GOAL — WORLD POWER



3. We count upon attracting all nations to the task of erecting the new fundamental structure, the project for which has been drawn up by us. This is why, before everything, it is indispensable for us to arm ourselves and to store up in ourselves that absolutely reckless audacity and irresistible might of the spirit which in the person of our active workers will break down all hindrances on our way.

4. WHEN WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR COUP D'ETAT WE SHALL SAY THEN TO THE VARIOUS PEOPLES: "EVERYTHING HAS GONE TERRIBLY BADLY, ALL HAVE BEEN WORN OUT WITH SUFFERING. WE ARE DESTROYING THE CAUSES OF YOUR TORMENT — NATIONALITIES, FRONTIERS, DIFFERENCES OF COINAGES. YOU ARE AT LIBERTY, OF COURSE, TO PRONOUNCE SENTENCE UPON US, BUT CAN IT POSSIBLY BE A JUST ONE IF IT IS CONFIRMED BY YOU BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY TRIAL OF WHAT WE ARE OFFERING YOU." . . .

THEN WILL THE MOB EXALT US AND BEAR US UP IN THEIR HANDS IN A UNANIMOUS TRIUMPH OF HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS. VOTING, WHICH WE HAVE MADE THE INSTRUMENT WHICH WILL SET US ON THE THRONE OF THE WORLD BY TEACHING EVEN THE VERY SMALLEST UNITS OF MEMBERS OF THE HUMAN RACE TO VOTE BY MEANS OF MEETINGS AND AGREEMENTS BY GROUPS, WILL THEN HAVE SERVED ITS PURPOSES AND WILL

PLAY ITS PART THEN FOR THE LAST TIME BY A UNANIMITY OF DESIRE TO MAKE CLOSE ACQUAINTANCE WITH US BEFORE CONDEMNING US.

5. TO SECURE THIS WE MUST HAVE EVERYBODY VOTE WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF CLASSES AND QUALIFICATIONS, in order to establish an absolute majority, which cannot be got from the educated propertied classes. In this way, by inculcating in all a sense of self-importance, we shall destroy among the GOYIM the importance of the family and its educational value and remove the possibility of individual minds splitting off, for the mob, handled by us, will not let them come to the front nor even give them a hearing; it is accustomed to listen to us only who pay it for obedience and attention. In this way we shall create a blind, mighty force which will never be in a position to move in any direction without the guidance of our agents set at its head by us as leaders of the mob. The people will submit to this regime because it will know that upon these leaders will depend its earnings, gratifications and the receipt of all kinds of benefits.

6. A scheme of government should come ready made from one brain, because it will never be clinched firmly if it is allowed to be split into fractional parts in the minds of many. It is allowable, therefore, for us to have cognizance of the scheme of action but not to discuss it lest we disturb its artfulness, the interdependence of its component parts, the practical force of the secret meaning of each clause. To discuss and make alterations in a labor of this kind by

means of numerous votings is to impress upon it the stamp of all ratiocinations and misunderstandings which have failed to penetrate the depth and nexus of its plottings. We want our schemes to be forcible and suitably concocted. Therefore WE OUGHT NOT TO FLING THE WORK OF GENIUS OF OUR GUIDE to the fangs of the mob or even of a select company.

7. These schemes will not turn existing institutions upside down just yet. They will only effect changes in their economy and consequently in the whole combined movement of their progress, which will thus be directed along the paths laid down in our schemes.

POISON OF LIBERALISM

8. Under various names there exists in all countries approximately one and the same thing. Representation, Ministry, Senate, State Council, Legislative and Executive Corps. I need not explain to you the mechanism of the relation of these institutions to one another, because you are aware of all that; only take note of the fact that each of the above-named institutions corresponds to some important function of the State, and I would beg you to remark that the word "important" I apply not to the institution but to the function, consequently it is not the institutions which are important but their functions. These institutions have divided up among themselves all the functions of government — administrative, legislative, executive, wherefore they have come to operate as do the organs in the human body. If we injure one part in the machinery of State, the State falls sick, like a human body, and . . . will die.

9. When we introduced into the State organism the poison of Liberalism its whole political complexion underwent a change. States have been seized with a mortal illness — blood poisoning. All that remains is to await the end of their death agony.

10. Liberalism produced Constitutional States, which took the place of what was the only safeguard of the GOYIM, namely, Despotism; and A CONSTITUTION, AS YOU WELL KNOW, IS NOTHING ELSE BUT A SCHOOL OF DISCORDS, misunderstandings, quarrels, disagreements, fruitless party agitations, party whims — in a word, a school of everything that serves to destroy the personality of State activity. THE TRIBUNE OF THE "TALKERIES" HAS, NO LESS EFFECTIVELY THAN THE PRESS, CONDEMNED THE RULERS TO INACTIVITY AND IMPOTENCE, and thereby rendered them useless and superfluous, for which reason indeed they have been

in many countries deposed. THEN IT WAS THAT THE ERA OF REPUBLICS BECAME POSSIBLE OF REALIZATION; AND THEN IT WAS THAT WE REPLACED THE RULER BY A CARICATURE OF A GOVERNMENT — BY A PRESIDENT, TAKEN FROM THE MOB, FROM THE MIDST OF OUR PUPPET CREATURES, OR SLAVES. This was the foundation of the mine which we have laid under the GOY people, I should rather say, under the GOY peoples.

WE NAME PRESIDENTS

11. In the near future we shall establish the responsibility of presidents.

12. By that time we shall be in a position to disregard forms in carrying through matters for which our impersonal puppet will be responsible. What do we care if the ranks of those striving for power should be thinned, if there should arise a deadlock from the impossibility of finding presidents, a deadlock which will finally disorganize the country?

13. In order that our scheme may produce this result we shall arrange elections in favor of such presidents as have in their past some dark, undiscovered stain, some "Panama" or other — then they will be trustworthy agents for the accomplishment of our plans out of fear of revelations and from the natural desire of everyone who has attained power, namely, the retention of the privileges, advantages and honor connected with the office of president. The chamber of deputies will provide cover for, will protect, will elect presidents, but we shall take from it the right to propose new, or make changes in existing laws, for this right will be given by us to the responsible president, a puppet in our hands. Naturally, the authority of the presidents will then become a target for every possible form of attack, but we shall provide him with a means of self-defense in the right of an appeal to the people, for the decision of the people over the heads of their representatives, that is to say, an appeal to that same blind slave of ours — the majority of the mob. Independently of this we shall invest the president with the right of declaring a state of war. We shall justify this last right on the ground that the president as chief of the whole army of the country must have it at his disposal, in case of need for the defense of the new republican constitution, the right to defend which will belong to him as the responsible representative of this constitution.

14. It is easy to understand that in these conditions the key of the shrine will lie in our hands, and no one outside ourselves will any longer direct the force of legislation.

TO BE CONTINUED

SPORTS: BEHIND THE SCENES

BY MARYAM UMAR

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Boxing

Criticism from trusted friends motivated my victory - LeBron James

The "secret motivation" of LeBron James during the 2015 NBA Finals was finally revealed, and it wasn't about being counted out or battling a depleted roster. After Game 7, LeBron told ESPN that what truly drove him was the painful criticism he received from people he had trusted in Miami.

According to LeBron, "When I decided to leave Miami, I'm not going to name any names, but there were some people that I trusted and built relationships with in those four years (who) told me I was making the biggest mistake of my career. And that hurt me.

The criticisms provided an extra layer of motivation for James, especially when returning to Cleveland.

He used it as fuel to prove them wrong and demonstrate his decision was the right one.

While James has always been driven by a desire to be the best and win championships, this specific experience added a personal element to his motivation, particularly during his second stint with the Cavaliers.



James

Top 10 boxing clashes of all time

We take a look at the top ten fights in professional boxing history.

If you're a lover of film, you may be familiar with Letterboxd.

Essentially, it's an app - a home for movie fans - where they can create lists of films they've watched and rate or review them accordingly.

The Letterboxd team has taken the idea to red carpets across America, asking various cast members to pick their four favourite films of all time, an impossible task!

If you're a serious boxing connoisseur, then you'll know just how difficult it is to whittle down the greatest fights, which there have been many, to just 10.

These selections may not necessarily be the greatest fights ever to take place in a ring, but they are must-watch, thrilling spectacles that you'll find hard to take your eyes off.

No. 1 - Marvin Hagler vs Thomas Hearns
April 15, 1985 - Caesars

Palace, Las Vegas

The term "war" is overused to describe toe-to-toe action, but no fight suits the word better than the several minutes of mayhem, chaos, and destruction that Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns brought to Caesars Palace.

The ultimate fight to hook someone looking to get into boxing.

No. 2 - Arturo Gatti vs Micky Ward I

May 18, 2002 - Mohegan Sun Casino, Uncasville

A 30-minute Rocky movie featuring two 10-stone men. Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward created a rivalry so glorious, respectful, and violent that it bonded them for the rest of their lives.

Jaws is still being picked up 23 years later.

No. 3 - Muhammad Ali vs Joe Frazier III

October 1, 1975 - Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City

Four years after discovering everything about one another in the ring, two of boxing's most revered figures went to war once

again.

This was not so much about skill as survival - and about how far each man was willing to go to beat his greatest rival.

The third instalment of Muhammad Ali versus Joe Frazier was a true fight for the ages.

No. 4 - Sugar Ray Leonard vs Thomas Hearns
September 16, 1981 - Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

The poise and panache of Sugar Ray Leonard against the venom and violence of Thomas Hearns.

That was not just edge-of-the-seat thrilling but also one of the highest calibre.

Two of the very best meetings at the right time.

No. 5 - Muhammad Ali vs Joe Frazier I

March 8, 1971 - Madison Square Garden, New York

The first chapter of one of boxing's greatest rivalries. Like Leonard vs Hearns, this wasn't just a slugfest - it was the greatest boxer in the world taking on the man determined to knock him off his perch.

No. 6 - Diego Corrales vs Jose Luis Castillo, May 7, 2005 - Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas

Boxing is the theatre of the unexpected, and this jaw-dropping lightweight unification fight proves exactly why.

Just when you think you know what will happen, the script is flipped - and then ripped.

Do all you can to dig out the highlights of Diego Corrales vs Jose Luis Castillo, you won't be disappointed!

No. 7 - George Foreman vs Ron Lyle, January 24, 1976 - Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

The heavyweight equivalent of Hagler vs Hearns. The 1976 Ring Magazine Fight of the Year was a punishing, rock 'em sock 'em back-and-forth thriller that has to be seen to be believed.

No. 8 - Riddick Bowe vs Evander Holyfield I,

November 13, 1992 - Thomas & Mack Centre, Las Vegas

The frustrating yet undeniable talent of Riddick 'Big Daddy' Bowe met the superhuman resolve of Evander 'The Real Deal' Holyfield.

How Muhammad Ali defeated Liston with closed eyes

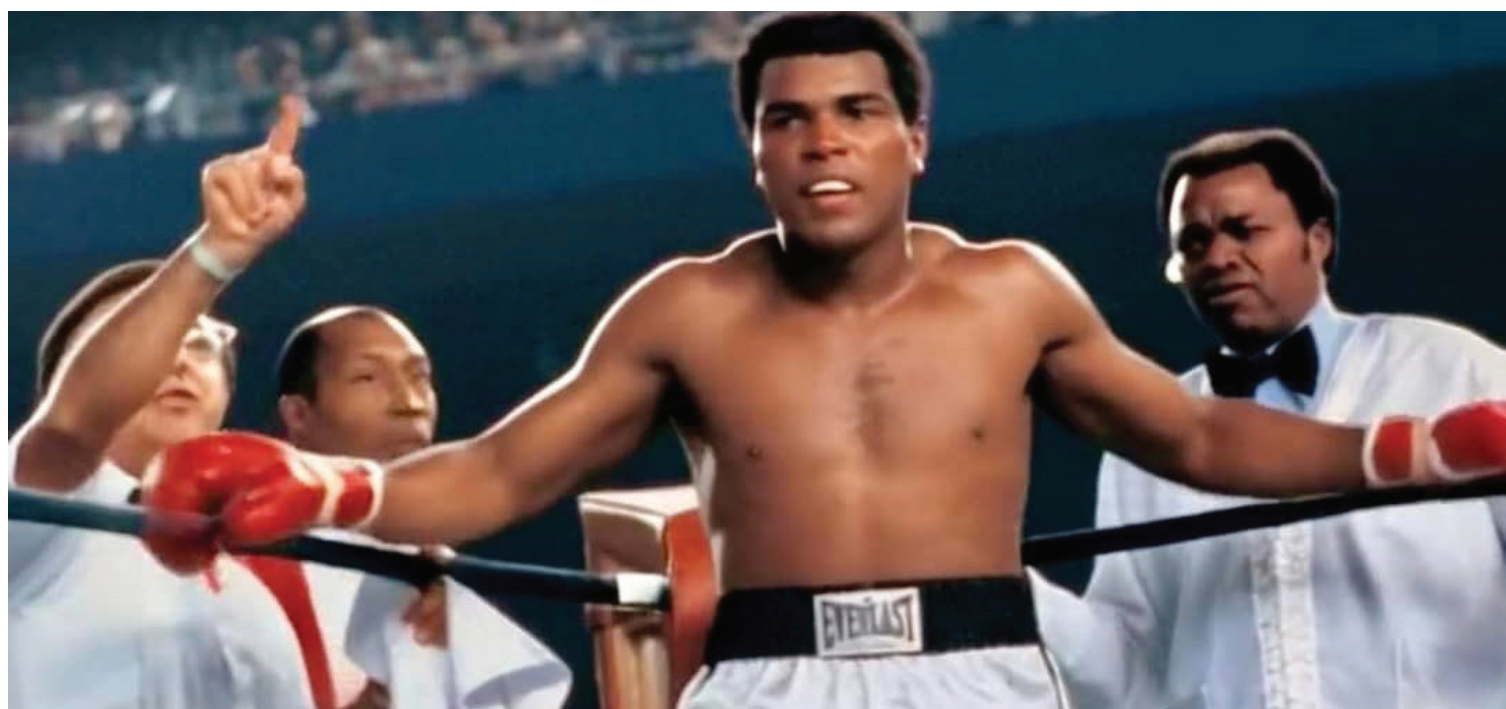
In their 1964 fight, Muhammad Ali claimed he was blinded in the fifth round by a substance on Sonny Liston's gloves.

Many suspected Liston's corner had applied liniment or another irritant to deliberately impair Ali's vision, a tactic linked to dirty boxing tricks of the era. It was never proven. Angelo Dundee: "They say Ali was ready to quit in the 5th round of that first fight with Liston when he couldn't see - and a lot of people were ready to brand him a coward.

"But it was just frustration. To this day, I don't know what got in his eye. It could have been the salve they used on Sonny's eye or liniment from his body, but it blinded Ali.

"He didn't want to fight as a blind man, and when he came back to the corner, he was screaming, 'It's foul play...' I told him: 'Forget all this bullbleep, this is your chance to win the title.

"Just go out, run around until your eyes clear. I pushed him out of the corner, but his eye cleared up, and two rounds later, Liston threw in the towel."



Ali

The Arbiter

BY HASSAN GIMBA



Buhari: May our subsequent leaders die at home (3)

Yes, indeed, the late Muhammadu Buhari was perhaps the best politician of the Fourth Republic. He knew what he was doing when he spoke of Sharia in Sokoto, which caused him problems with the South and Northern Christians. But that solidified his Northern Muslim base and assured him of a solid 12 million votes. His kare jini, biri jini mantra further caused more schisms that made him the ultimate "champion" at home to be projected and defended at all costs.

But perhaps the single most incredible view of himself that he deliberately courted and promoted, which made him "vulnerable" and "fragile" and to be worked for, was the impression he gave of not being a politician. That, in itself, was a masterstroke.

You see, the average Nigerian has a negative perception of politicians. A politician is seen as a rogue, a liar, a cheat — someone who never keeps a promise, whose word is not his bond, and who puts himself first before country and everyone else; hence, not to be trusted.

And so Buhari extricated himself from that definition because he made it known that he was not a politician. It enhanced his image as that of a serious man of integrity. And since he was not one of them politicians, therefore, he must be trustworthy. But that narrative was expanded by the majority of his base to cover Nigerians. He was seen as the only "upright man of integrity" in whose hands Nigeria's wealth must be safe. And the price of that was being poor!

And to underline his theory of lack of funds, he told us that he had to borrow money from his bankers to buy the forms for the 2015 election. No one questioned the bank's interest in purchasing

tickets for politicians, or how they would benefit from such "investments". This act, of course, was condemned by many right-thinking Nigerians, including Femi Falana, SAN, who said: "That action of taking a bank loan is indefensible. I have condemned it, and political parties should take action against it. If you are obtaining loans for forms, what about elections? Elections cost billions in Nigeria, and that should be discouraged." But trust the times — he was roundly insulted by a

horde of Buharideens for airing his views. But Falana should not have worried because that problem was solvable. And so money was donated to him — money that no one knew how much, except him, because it was sent into his account. To give people confidence, he even told donors that he was the only signatory. This put their minds at rest — that the money was in safe hands. To his base, he did not need to account or declare how much it was to anyone; of course, and he owed no one any explanation.

Ironically, Buhari later condemned politicians who collect bank loans for political purposes as people who would have to source funds from the government to pay back the loans. Anyway, people eagerly and proudly worked for Buhari's emergence in 2015. It was not out of place to hear people making statements like, "Buhari is not a politician", and so they sacrificed their time and resources to campaign for him, since he was thought to be different. It also allowed him to talk as he wanted; any untoward statements were laughed away with the refrain, "You know General is not a politician."

No politician in Nigeria



Dr Gimba

has positioned himself to be carried shoulder-high to cross the tape and win like him. It was no small political manoeuvre. The way he had the nation in 2015, where he was seen generally as a man the country was waiting for to come and clean the Augean Stable, Buhari's party could have set Nigeria on the path to moral rebirth, inspiring good governance in the process. There would not have been the need

to fight Senator Bukola Saraki's election as Senate President because of corruption allegations, because Buhari could have insisted that no one with a suspicious or questionable past would be allowed to contest the election. But once you frolicked with him, accepted his contributions and allowed him to contest, you have lost the moral right to deny him becoming whatever he would become in

the Chamber. If he was qualified to contest the election for a senatorial seat, he was qualified to contest for the office of the Senate President.

Likewise, Buhari could have insisted on not allowing the Kano State Governor, who was facing allegations of receiving dollar bribes from a contractor, to recontest in 2019 on the platform of his party, but he didn't.

Yet the man had an immense following. Twelve million solid base of voters. Diehards who ask no questions. Nor motives: a politician's delight, because any politician craves such unquestioning assets. But now the question on many lips is: who will inherit those 12 million voters? People can only hazard guesses, but we may not see that inheritor because the factors that shaped Buhari are no longer there. No individual has those factors working for them in the North.

Right now, only Peter Obi in the South has cultivated such a persona of honesty — like Buhari — and boasts of some vociferous following among young Nigerians who, like Buharideens, will insult the living daylights out of anybody who has the temerity to criticise.

However, beyond all we have said so far in this trilogy, our leaders must gear up and provide the needed services to the nation. The National Hospital in Abuja will remain in the glory of the late General Sani Abacha. Unconfirmed reports had it that his wife, Maryam, went to a hospital in Germany that specialised in women and children's issues and, on return, informed the late dark-goggles-wearing dictator, who dispatched experts to go and study the German facility, which impressed his wife, from structure to

operation.

Irrespective of the reports, the hospital — initially named the National Hospital for Women and Children — was founded under the Family Support Programme initiative, a pet project of his wife, and formally established by Decree 36 of 1999. The hospital was commissioned on 22 May 1999 by then Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, and renamed as the National Hospital by President Olusegun Obasanjo's government on 10 May 2000.

READ The PDP will not return to power, the APC has lost it ...and Nigeria is the loser!, by Hassan Gimba (Written in 2023) The beauty of it was that all state governments, under the Family Support Programme chaired by military administrators' wives, built family support hospitals which specialised in maternity and paediatric matters. The plan was to replicate this in all the nation's 774 local government areas.

You see, that was a significant step towards self-dependence in the health sector. Imagine the race for education in various health courses that would have ensued, the related research institutions that could have sprung up, and the employment opportunities that would have been opened up. Nigeria would have been a centre for health care excellence by now. And Nigerian leaders would have stopped leaving the country as vegetables, returning as cargo in the belly of foreign aeroplanes. And our prayer, "May our subsequent leaders die at home," would not have arisen in the first place.

Hassan Gimba, anipr, is the CEO/Publisher of Neptune Prime.

CONCLUDED