

**HUMANIST** "IT'S NOT JUST A BRIDGE, IT IS A SECOND CHANCE FOR US,"YOBE

**COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE** TUMSAH'S HUMANITARIAN **GESTURE** 

#### HISTORICITI

WHY GAO-MALI IS THE MOST IMPORTANT **ANCIENT CITY IN WEST AFRICA** > 14

#### **MILESTONE**

**FEMALE AMAZONS OF** THE NORTH EAST: DR FARIDA A. KERA TAKES **HELM AS DEAN OF** LAW AT GOMBE STATE UNIVERSITY >12



# NBPIUN

26-27:07:2025

Vol. 1 No.32

www.neptuneprime.com.ng

## WEEKEND

FROM HELP TO HARM: LOAN **APPS EXPLOIT** 

TO DEFRAUD,

BY GIFT LUCKSON

**HARASS NIGERIANS** 

industry.

**ECONOMIC CRISIS** 

GiftLuckson@neptuneprime.com.ng

The proliferation of loan apps in Nigeria has brought with it a quick, accessible way for people to borrow money. Still, it has also introduced outrageous, exploitative practices in the form of high interest rates. Loan apps are gaining momentum as desperate Nigerians turn to them for quick cash because of the challenging financial situation and minimal access to other means of

financing.
Unemployment, inflation and the cost of living have all risen sharply in recent years in Nigeria, fuelling a burgeoning quick – or payday – loan

In typical cases, Nigerians requested loans to cover basic things like food, transport costs and medical bills.

Palmpay, Fair Money, and Palm Credit, among many others, are some of the examples of digital

lending platforms that have become places of choice for many Nigerians. Filling out forms, verifying physical

addresses, and providing customer identities are all mandatory steps in loan application procedures in commercial and microfinance banks.

However, the emergence of digital lending platforms has changed all that, making loan applications much

Adverts for quick loans have

appeared at bus stops, street corners,

websites, messaging and social

Loan apps offer outrageous interest

Loan Sharks are having a field day in

Nigeria, enjoying high Interest Rates

and operating in a system with Gross

For example, some loan apps offer a borrower a loan of N70,200 for a

60-day term with the agreement to

repay N95,472, an outrageous fee of

easier, simpler and faster.

Unfortunately, most of application process worked "like a death trap", and for many people outstanding debts of as little as 500 naira quickly ran to thousands of

...redefining journalism for development

Natasha arrives NASS complex, Tuesday, 22 July 2025

## **Senator Natasha vs The Senate: Power, Politics, and Tension**

## Senate goes for annual recess, Natasha to serve out suspension "Akpabio cannot be greater than the Nigerian Constitution" - Natasha

#### BY SHALOM KASIM

A mild drama unfolded on Tuesday, 22 July 2025, when the Senator representing Kogi Central, Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, decided to make good on her promise by showing up at the gates of the National Assembly to reclaim her seat.

Natasha, who is currently on a six-month suspension for "gross misconduct", arrived at the national assembly complex alongside popular activist Aisha Yesufu and other bold supporters.

However, she could not go far before her convoy was stopped by security personnel at the National Assembly premises. This made the senator and her team alight from their vehicles and march into the NASS complex on foot.

Speaking to journalists moments later, Natasha called the actions of the Senate under President Godswill Akpabio a clear disregard for the court.

She said "Akpabio cannot be greater than the Nigerian Constitution. I want Nigerians to know that the Office of the Senate President doesn't give

me legitimacy as a senator. I got my legitimacy as a senator from the people of Kogi who voted me into office as senator. she said.

"That I've been denied entrance to the National Assembly is a statement being made. It's on record that the National Assembly under Akpabio has decided to be in contempt of the court's decision, and it's quite ironic that they are lawmakers, she added.

Asked what would come next, she signalled that the battle would move from the chambers' locked gates back

into the courts. "Going forward, I will have a meeting with my legal team so they can proceed to the appellate court to seek an interpretation of what just happened. I'm a law-abiding citizen."

#### What happened

On 6 March 2025, the Nigerian Senate formally suspended Senator Natasha for six months. The official reason was "acts of misconduct," specifically that she allegedly defied standing orders by refusing to sit in her assigned seat, speaking without recognition, and making allegations that the Senate

leadership claimed were false and damaging to its integrity.

This decision came immediately after she submitted petition accusing the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, sexual harassment. The petition was first rejected because she signed it herself, which violated the Senate's rule that such motions must be sponsored or co-signed by

CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

N25,272. CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

naira.

rates

media apps.

Under-regulation.



#### HERITAGE >>13

THE KILBA/HOBA PEOPLE OF ADAMAWA: CUSTODIANS OF REMARKABLE CULTURE, HISTORY





#### OLDIES >>16

NIGERIA WAS WONDERFUL YEARS BACK, I PAID ONLY N3,000 FOR HAJJ

- ALHAJI ISA



You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no result Mahatma Gandhi

corruption will kill Nigeria

If Nigeria does not kill corruption,

Muhammadu Buhari



#### **RANDOM FACTS**

#### Why closing the toilet lid while flushing is a good health decision (2)

In most of our bathrooms, the toilet is just a few steps or even inches from the sink, your toothbrush holder and your skincare stash. Experts warn that spray from a flush can land on the very

things you put in your mouth or on your face. Studies have found toothbrush holders and taps are among the germiest spots in the home, partly thanks to bacteria kicked up by flushing with an open lid. Closing the lid before you flush (and storing personal items a little further from the toilet or buying a lid for your toothbrush) helps reduce the risk. It's not foolproof, but it's a simple habit that makes a real difference. If your cat or dog loves sneaking a sip from the toilet, it's time to put a stop to it. Bowl water can contain traces of waste, cleaning chemicals or even harmful germs, none of which are good for your furry friend. In fact, pet experts warn that dropin cleaners and in-cistern tablets can irritate or even poison pets. The easiest fix is to keep that lid down so they stick to their water bowl.

Toddlers are top-heavy and curious, which is a risky combo everywhere in the home but especially around a toilet. UK child-safety groups, including the Child Accident Prevention Trust, list closing the toilet lid and using a childproof toilet lock where needed as part of indoor drowning prevention. While it may seem far-fetched, a young child can topple and get stuck head-first in the bowl in seconds. Lid-down also helps keep little hands out of germy water or splash residue after someone's been ill, so it's good practice for keeping little ones safe all round.

Although lids aren't airtight, closing them before flushing can damp down the initial waft of foul stinky air that may or may not arise from toilet waste. It's best to contain smells at the source, alongside ventilating and cleaning, to keep your bathroom smelling fresh, not funky.

Lid-down flushing not only reduces bacteria in your bathroom but also physical grime, making it much easier for you to clean over time. Splash-out droplets caused by 'reckless flushing' contribute to the sticky biofilm that forms on the outside of the bowl, the floor and surrounding fixtures.

The CIPHE campaign urges lid-down fl ushing as part of broader hygiene to cut down on the spread of 'nasties' in family

bathrooms and busy public loos.

Flushing with the lid down helps minimise the dispersal of contaminated droplets that otherwise land on hard-to-clean nooks and crannies around the base of the toilet and the rest of the room. Over time, that means less grime and fewer deep-clean sessions.

FOR ADVERT **PLACEMENT AND ENQUIRIES CONTACT US AT:**  Lilian - +2348032442889 Office line - +234909 966 7777

Sa'adatu - +2348038319950 El-Tafseer - +234 803 207 6472

**KANO** 

Jamil - +234 803 499 2220 Shafa'atu - +234 701 956 4511

#### **UP&DOWN**



#### Mike Tyson initiates his boxing prowess to save homeless man

In 1991, Mike Tyson taught two thieves a lesson they'll never forget. Tyson was walking down a New York street when he spotted an old homeless man sitting on the sidewalk, shivering in the cold. Without hesitation, Tyson reached into his pocket and handed him some cash. The old man's eyes welled up with tears of gratitude. But just as Tyson turned to leave, two guys lurking nearby rushed over and tried to snatch the money from the old man's hands. Tyson spun around and intervened with a display of his boxing prowess, in the blink of an eye, BOOM! BOOM! Two of his signature punches sent the wannabe thieves scrambling for their lives. They didn't stick around to see if there'd be a third. Tvson then bent down, picked up the money, and returned it to the old man. With a firm yet gentle voice, he said, "Nobody"s taking what's yours today.'



#### With no formal education, bees are nature's excellent embalmers

If a small animal like a mouse or any curious creature wanders into a beehive, drawn by the irresistible scent of honey, it quickly learns the price of trespassing. Bees are fiercely territorial, and when their home is threatened, they respond with swift and relentless

Dozens, if not hundreds of stings follow until the intruder is neutralised. But once the danger is gone, a new problem arises: the body. And this is where bees display a surprising kind of genius. If the animal is too large to drag out of the hive, the bees don't leave it to rot. That would be dangerous introducing bacteria, foul odour, and disease into their tightly regulated environment. Instead, the bees tap into their evolutionary toolkit and begin a process that seems almost ritualistic: . they embalm the intruder. Using a substance called propolis, a sticky, resin-like material collected from tree sap and botanical sources, the bees begin to coat the corpse. Propolis is nature's disinfectant, antibacterial, antifungal, moistureresistant which blocks odours. Layer by layer, they seal the body in propolis and wax, effectively mummifying it. Over time, the intruder dries out, leaving behind a harmless, preserved skeleton completely sealed off from the living hive.

## NEWS

### Senator Natasha vs The Senate: Power, Politics, and Tension

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

another senator or a group of constituents.

Akpoti-Uduaghan resubmitted the petition with signatures from her constituents, insisting that her claim deserved a formal investigation under Senate ethics rules.

The Senate's Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions, however, moved to recommend that she be barred from the chamber for half a year. The Senate adopted the recommendation in full, suspending her allowances, legislative entitlements, and official security detail.

Her removal reduced the number of women in Nigeria's 109-member Senate to just four. After her suspension, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan immediately took her fight to the courts.

In late March 2025, she filed a lawsuit at the Federal High Court in Abuja, asking the court to declare her six-month suspension unconstitutional. Her argument was that the Nigerian Senate does not have absolute power to suspend an elected senator for raising allegations or for speaking out, and that her suspension effectively denied the people of Kogi Central representation.

As Natasha's legal fight stretched through the courts, her opponents back home in Kogi Central tried the recall clause weapon. Under Section 69 of Nigeria's Constitution, a senator can be recalled if more than half of all registered voters in their district sign a valid petition demanding it, and if INEC verifies every name before conducting a referendum.

In late March 2025, a group styling as the Concerned Kogi Youths and Women announced it had launched a drive to remove Natasha. By the end of April, the group claimed to have collected



Akpabio, Natasha

208,132 signatures/thumbprints, citing her "self-inflicted absence" and "disrespect for the Senate" as justification.

However, INEC responded by saying that the total number of registered voters in the Kogi Central Senatorial District is 474,554; therefore, more than one-half of this figure (i.e. 50%+1) is needed to pass this condition. The 208,132 signatures collected fell short by 29,146. Consequently, the petition was dropped.

On 4 July 2025, the Federal High Court in Abuja delivered its ruling. The court ruled that the six-month suspension was excessive and violated her constituents' right to representation, ordering that she be reinstated immediately.

However, the court also found that Natasha had breached a gag order by publicly discussing certain details of the proceedings

while the case was active. For that, the judge convicted her of contempt of court and imposed a N5 million fine.

In response, she declared that the reinstatement confirmed that the Senate had acted outside the law and reaffirmed her right to resume her seat immediately. "I have pretty much two months more before the six months expire. However, I have written to the Senate again telling them that I'm resuming on the 22nd, which is on Tuesday, by the special grace of God," the senator said.

However, the Senate leadership countered that it had not formally received the certified judgment and insisted that the chamber would appeal the ruling if necessary. They also warned that any attempt by her to force her way onto the floor without due procedure could lead to further disciplinary measures.

Natasha's political, legal battles

This is not the first time Senator Natasha has found herself at the doorstep of an institution that did not want her inside.

Just over a year earlier, she had clawed her way into the Senate through a legal battle that overturned the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) initial declaration of her opponent, Senator Abubakar Ohere as the winner of the Kogi Central Senatorial District election. A tribunal, and later the Court of Appeal, affirmed her victory in October 2023, making her the first woman to ever represent Kogi Central in Nigeria's Senate.

Born on December 9, 1979, Natasha Hadiza Akpoti-Uduaghan has spent most of her adult life orbiting power but rarely seated comfortably within it. Her father, Dr. Jimoh Abdul Akpoti, was an influential figure in his own right, a community leader, philanthropist, and founder of Ajaokuta Steel Company's host community's first hospital.

She earned her law degree from the University of Abuja in 2004, then called to the Nigerian Bar in 2005, and went on to get a master's degree in gas and oil law from the University of Dundee in Scotland.

In 2015, she burst into the national conversation when she authored an investigative report on corruption and inefficiency at the Ajaokuta Steel Company. Her presentation at the National Assembly that year was a rare spectacle for a young, unelected standing woman lawmakers. It earned her equal parts admiration and enemies. By 2018, the lawyer-turnedactivist declared to run for governor of Kogi State under the Social Democratic Party (SDP), but she lost.

In 2019, she ran again, this time for Senate. She lost narrowly to Smart Adeyemi of the All Progressives Congress (APC). In 2023, she came back swinging. Backed by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and a swelling base of voters, Natasha ran for the Kogi Central Senatorial seat against Abubakar Ohere of the APC.

The contest was fierce and marred by violence and allegations of vote-rigging. When the Independent National Electoral Commission declared Ohere the winner, she went to court. The tribunal agreed with her, and later the Court of Appeal, in October 2023, affirmed it; the seat was hers.

The gender factor

Nigeria's National Assembly has never crossed 5% female representation since 1999 (lower than Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, or even South Sudan). In the 10th Senate, it is about 3.6%: four women out of 109 men.

The constitutional questions First, the basics: Under Section 68(1) of the Constitution, a senator's seat can become vacant if they resign in writing, switch parties without cause, are recalled by constituents, are convicted of certain crimes, or if they die, among other conditions. Nowhere does the Constitution explicitly say that the National Assembly can suspend a member so completely that they can't represent their district for half

In 2018, in the Melaye v. National Assembly case, the court ruled that while the National Assembly can punish disorderly conduct, it cannot suspend an elected legislator for so long that it effectively deprives an entire constituency of representation. Courts have repeatedly held that the right to representation belongs to the

### From Help to Harm: Loan Apps Exploit Economic Crisis to Defraud, Harass Nigerians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

These loan apps operate with greed in an unregulated, unchecked setting, making life harder for already struggling

monthly or daily, with a minimum of 9 per cent and a maximum of 48 per cent

Interest rates for loans in some cases may vary depending on loan amounts, repayment periods, and borrowers' credit

For Palmcredit, interest rate ranges from 14 per cent to 24 per cent monthly, while they go from 2 per cent to 30 per cent every month for Carbon. Similarly, Palmpay goes between 0.60 per cent and 18 per cent monthly, while Aella charges 6 per cent to 20 per cent every month.

These apps deploy users' smartphone data to verify lenders' eligibility and create personalised loan offers. They assess interests based on a set of different criteria.

As struggling Nigerians continue to grapple with this menace and fall victim to their high interest rates and harassment daily, regulatory bodies such Central Bank of Nigeria These interest rates can be and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission have been urged to step up and check the excesses of these fintech companies.

The lacuna in oversight has emboldened loan apps to charge interest rates as high as 30-50% within short durations, a fact that has seen many borrowers, unable to take the heat, deliberately defaulting on their loans in some sort of protest against such exploitative tendencies.

Nigerians have called on regulators to rise to the challenge by making such loan apps a lifeline and not a noose to Nigerians. By fostering transparency, fairness, and ethical practices.

#### **Advanced Harassment**

Threatening and demeaning messages are sent to the contacts of the borrower in an attempt to harass and shame those who are struggling with debt repayment. As a condition for a loan, the application process required access to the client's contacts, social media accounts and details of family and friends, where they worked, worshipped and lived.

In case of any delay in repaying a debt, the loan company agent will constantly call and send texts and WhatsApp broadcast messages which later turn to sinister threats to the borrower's phone contacts.

În January of 2025, a loan app, Delinquent Loans, sparked controversy after sharing photos of 87 debtors online in a bold attempt to recover unpaid loans. The incident came to light through a series of TikTok videos posted by the app.

Across three separate videos, the platform uploaded pictures of the debtors, each captioned, "Please settle your loans," as a public reminder to repay their debts. The videos drew widespread

attention and mixed reactions

Financial credit from social media users. The loan app's public shaming strategy has sparked a debate about privacy, ethics, and the legality of such practices. While some support the need for debt

> individual rights. government The adopts curtailing measures

method as an infringement on



In 2023, the Nigerian government delisted 37 illegal loan apps from the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The delisting comes after recovery, others criticise the

persistent harassment of Nigerians by the lenders, and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) shook up the digital money lending

industry.

The commission claims that Google permanently removed delisted loan apps from the Play

The delisted apps were found to engage in illegal activities such as charging exorbitant interest rates, collecting late payment fees, and using abusive language with borrowers.

# Congrathalathan

to Governor Buni, A Leader Known for Excellence



n behalf of the teeming youth constituency, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency (Dr.) Mai Mala Buni, CON, COMN, the Executive Governor of Yobe State, for receiving another prestigious national recognition, an Award of Excellence from Blueprint Newspaper.

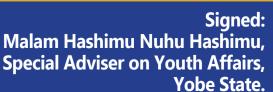
This recognition stands as a testament to your unprecedented dedication and remarkable service to Yobe State and Nigeria as a whole. Your consistent pursuit of progress and your ability to inspire through purposeful governance have not gone unnoticed.

Under your visionary leadership, Yobe State has witnessed groundbreaking achievements across key sectors. From youth empowerment and inclusive policies to advancements in healthcare, urban development, education, and general welfare, your administration continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of many.

As a leader we dearly admire and emulate, we remain inspired by your commitment and clarity of purpose. Your style of leadership provides a beacon for today's youth and a roadmap for tomorrow's leaders to follow with pride and conviction.

Ode to the future that beckons.

HIS EXCELLENCY
GOVERNOR MAI MALA BUNI
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, YOBE STATE





## OUR HEART

### Enough of the tragicomedy playing out in the Senate

For a while now, precisely, since the 28th of well as apologise to the court, published in two February 2025, the Nigerian Senate has been embroiled in a putative drama series that does not send out a lofty image of a dignified and venerable institution composed of "distinguished" senior

Initially like a speck of fire, common in legislative houses which would die off as soon, the shenanigans over the protest of Senator Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan over the relocation of her seat, have been lingering, meandering and cascading beyond the turf of the Red Chambers, through to the courts of law and even to the global stage. It has assumed the proportion of an intricate and scorching scandal that has been gathering more momentum as it progresses with time. A tragicomedy, yet a storm in a teacup.

It can be recalled that the sad, shameful saga began with a somewhat virulent protest by Senator Natasha while the Senate was in plenary over the relocation of her seat. According to her, relocating her to a seat in an obscure position in the chamber was, "intentionally done to blight my visibility." The Sergeant at Arms was asked to walk her out of the chamber. Before she exited, tacitly but clearly referring to the Senate President, she made a portentous statement: "I know the reasons behind my persecution...But this will not stand."

From that point, the situation began to swirl in a flux. On the 25th of February, the obviously enraged Senate President Godswill Akpabio referred the case to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Code of Conduct. It was ostensibly meant to look into a case of Natasha's unruly behaviour deemed to have breached the Senate rules of conduct. It was however, clear that the committee was embarked on a hatchet job for Akpabio.

The Senator Neda Imasuem-led committee recommended a six-month suspension, withdrawal of security details, every accoutrement and entitlement due to her as a Senator. The Senate, in plenary on 6th March, 2025, overwhelmingly ratified the committee's recommendations with slight modifications.

Natasha was, apparently, prepared for it. She took up the gauntlet by first going to court to challenge what she saw as the faulty procedures and recommendations of the committee. That was after she had taken the battle a notch higher by alleging that she was a victim of sexual harassment; that she was being persecuted by the Senate President because she had rebuffed his several sexual advances. A shattering bomb shell that has triggered far-reaching chain reactions.

The embattled female lawmaker was next seen addressing a session of the International Parliamentary Union, IPU, in New York on the 11th of March. The entire nation was shaken by the political leadership of the country, visibly rattled. No one had expected that detour. Particularly perturbing were the issues she raised in her presentation to the IPU:

"I came here to seek help for the women of Nigeria.

"I was suspended as a Senator illegally because I submitted a petition of sexual harassment against the President of the Nigerian Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio.

"This is a clear case of political victimisation, punishment for speaking out against impunity, corruption and gender-based violence."

When it appeared that Natasha could win the case challenging her suspension, the Senate protested the neutrality of the presiding judge, Justice Obiora Egwuatu, who accordingly recused himself.

On the 4th of July, Justice Binta Murtala Nyako, who took over the case gave a landmark judgment. She described the Senate rules under which she was suspended as "excessive" and "unconstitutional." She accordingly ruled that she should be recalled. Additionally, Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan was found guilty of contempt of the court, for which she was asked to pay a fine of 5 million Naira as

national dailies and on her Facebook page.

Senator Godswill Akpabio has not hidden his anger and craving to extract his pound of flesh. The latest show of his resentment towards Natasha could be seen in his appeal against Justice Nyako's judgment and her replacement with Senator Aniete Bassey as the chairman of the committee on NGOs.

Earlier, not a few observers saw the hands of Senator Akpabio in the failed attempt to "recall her" through the electorate in her constituency. Similarly, the Senate President was seen by many as complicit in the futile efforts of the Kogi state government's institutional obstacles to thwart her planned rally in her home town of Ihima on the 13th of April, 2025.

Despite a court ruling that ordered the lifting of her suspension, security agents were deployed to obstruct her entrance into the Senate chambers when she attempted to resume on Tuesday, 22 July 2025, days later, on Thursday, Natasha was briefly detained at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport and almost prevented from boarding a flight to London, because, the Senate had directed inclusion of her name in the nation's watch list of persons classified as, 'flight security risk."

While Senator Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan has been trouncing Senator Akpabio in all their bouts so far, it is very palpable that the embattled Senate President is not about throwing in the towel. That is, even as the debacle lingers, the battering to the image of himself and the institution of the Senate increases.

#### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

Dr Hassan Gimba - CEO/Publisher Ayanda Ngwane - Biz Development Mgr Gift Luckson - Editor-in-Chief Aisha Auyo - Director Content Barr. Hafsat A. Muye - Company Secretary Ayuba Ahmad - Rewrite Shalom Kasim - Rewrite Ibrahim Sabo - Editor Hausa Maryam Sulaiman - Deputy Editor (Weekly) Maryam Umar - Deputy Editor (Weekend) Muhammad Kukuri - Social Media Mgr Vivian Okafor - Assistant Social Media Mgr Muhammad Al-Amin Yahaya - Assistant Social media manager Sa'adatu Maina - North East Bureau Chief Idris Umar - Reporter (Kaduna) Askira Aliyu - Reporter (Kaduna) Kasim Isa - Reporter (Yobe) Shafa'atu Dauda - Reporter (Kano) Jamil Yakasai - Reporter (Kano) Salim Sani - Reporter Adamu Nasiru - Reporter Abba Nasiru - Reporter Yahaya Ahmed Goni - Reporter Ibrahim Yahaya - Reporter Ummusalma Abubakar - Intern Maryam Saleh Isa - Intern Haruna Ibrahim - Intern Lilian Hosea - Head of Admin Mercy Adaie - Office Assistant Adayi Juliet - Graphic Designer Zarah Ahmed-Marketer Aisha Shuaibu - Office Assistant (Yobe)

Dauda Muhammad - Security (Yobe)

Neptune Prime believes, like most candid opinions by several eminent personalities, that the Akpabio-Uduaghan shenanigans have been allowed, avoidably, to fester for too long. A more mature and statesmanlike approach would have nipped the crisis in the bud. It is not too late.

Neptune Prime believes that all stakeholders in the stability of the polity should be playing the role of peace makers. We view the decision of the executive branch of government to join the fray by instituting criminal cases against Senator

Natasha, as unhealthy.

The posture of the Senate leadership and now the federal government appears to be one of desperation to get at the female Senator at all costs. What do the forces against Natasha stand to gain if, at the end of the day, they have their way by getting her jailed? The eventuality of Natasha going to jail will be counterproductive and indeed, ruinous to the human rights records of the country. It will amount to a pyrrhic victory because of the heavy collateral damage to the integrity of the country in the global fora.

Senator Natasha has consistently maintained that she possesses incontrovertible facts to buttress her claims of sexual harassment against the Senate President. What if at the end of the day, she is

pushed to bring out the sordid details?

She has been saying that most of those against her among the senators ought to be in jail. Who are some of these senators and what becomes of the reputation of these senators, the entire institution and the country, if she should reveal the identities of such senators and the nature of their crimes? On the final note, our advice is: enough of the tragicomedy. Let all the

actors come down from their high horses and embrace the olive branch of peace. So many times,

it is wisest to let the sleeping dog lie.

In light of the call for a peaceful resolution, the National Civil Society Council of Nigeria (NCSCN) recently appealed for an amicable and out-of-court resolution to the legal standoff between Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, describing the litigation as an unnecessary drain on both time and public resources.

Addressing journalists in Abuja, the Council's Executive Director, Blessing Akinlosotu, called for calm and urged all parties involved to avoid actions or rhetoric that could escalate the situation, which has drawn widespread public and media attention. Akinlosotu stressed that since the case is already before the courts, it is imperative to allow the legal process to unfold without interference or prejudicial commentary, which could influence public opinion or judicial proceedings.

The Council also urged influential leaders and national stakeholders to steer clear of provocative comments that could inflame tensions, while encouraging civil society organisations to focus on nation-building and not be weaponised for

political battles.

In the same vein, a cleric, the Archbishop of Dominion Chapel International Churches, Archbishop John Praise Daniel, called for a peaceful resolution to the dispute between Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan.

The Archbishop urged both leaders to amicably settle their differences, cautioning that their public feud could derail national unity and progress.

Archbishop Praise disclosed this in Abuja, during a conference on promoting male champions for gender justice, organised by the All Africa Conference of Churches in partnership with the Ecumenism For Development & Peace Initiative

He explained that the conference was convened to advocate for gender justice and to mobilise men as ambassadors against gender-based violence, particularly violence against women and children. He also emphasised the importance of forgiveness and patience in resolving conflicts.

# Three teenage boys drown while swimming in Bauchi river

A heartbreaking incident occurred in Jinkiri Village, located in Tirwun, a suburb of Bauchi metropolis, where three teenage boys drowned while swimming in a river.

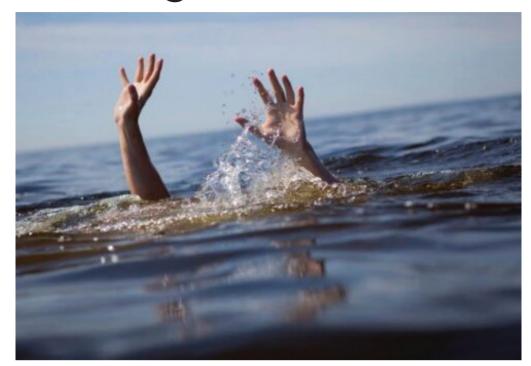
Earlier in May, four workers from the Gubi Water Treatment Plant lost their lives during a maintenance operation in Bauchi State.

In a statement, the spokesperson for the Bauchi State Police Command, SP Ahmed Wakil, confirmed the identities of the victims as Habibu Mohammed and Abubakar Mohammed, both aged 16, and 14-year-old Zailani Sule, all residents of Durum village.

"The teenagers drowned while swimming in the river after engaging in mining work," Wakil said.

He noted that the incident happened at about 1:00 p.m., and all rescue efforts were unsuccessful, as the victims were pronounced dead at the hospital.

"Preliminary investigations suggest the boys went



**Boy drowning** 

swimming shortly after mining.

"The Bauchi State Police Command under Commissioner of Police, CP Sani-Omolori Aliyu, extends heartfelt condolences to

the bereaved families and emphasises the need for greater caution around water bodies, especially during adverse weather conditions,' he added.

Police confirmed that the

bodies were handed over to the families for burial after medical examination at the Bauchi State Specialist Hospital. Police operatives

commenced investigations into the incident.

# Hundreds of APC youths, elders endorse Kashim Musa Tumsah for Yobe governorship race

A massive gathering for the endorsement. of the All Progressives Congress youths and elders from Yobe State's 17 Areas has endorsed Alhaji Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, as their gubernatorial candidate for the 2027 general elections.

The event, organised by the "Yobe APC Youths and Elders Supporters' Forum," aimed to demonstrate unified Areas of the state, support for Tumsah's showcasing a unified candidacy.

of the Forum, Hauwa The endorsement is highlighted Tumsah's past achievements and gestures to the masses, contender for the 2027 citing these as reasons

Other speakers, (APC) including the Director General of the Kashim Musa Tumsah Government movement and major stakeholders, praised Tumsah's humility and kindness, asserting that he deserves to be the next governor of Yobe State.

The gathering was attended by prominent personalities from the 17 Local Government voice in support of The State Coordinator Tumsah's candidacy. Kalallawa, seen as a significant step in positioning Tumsah as a strong governorship elections.

### Yobe woman kills husband over food



Suspect

A 35-year-old woman Garin from Abba village in Fika Local Government Area of Yobe State has allegedly killed her husband during a domestic dispute over food.

The suspect, identified as Hadiza Mamuda. reportedly struck her husband with a piece of wood during a heated

exchange, which led to his death.

Confirming the incident on Wednesday, the spokesperson for the Yobe State Police Command, SP Dungus Abdulkarim, said investigations are ongoing and the suspect will soon face charges in court.

"Investigation underway, and suspect will be arraigned in court subsequently.

"The victim, polygamous husband with two wives and five children, including the accused, leaves behind a grieving family," the statement read.

The State Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Ado, expressed concern over rising domestic violence

cases and stressed the importance of proactive community efforts to address such incidents. He called on religious and

community leaders to step up awareness campaigns against domestic abuse.

"The Command remains committed to maintaining security and safety for all citizens," the commissioner added.



Tumsah

### **NORTH-EAST**

BY GIFT LUCKSON GIFTLUCKSON@NEPTUNEPRIME.COM.NG

### Gov. Buni presides over state security meeting, vows to tackle crime, restore peace

Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni, on Tuesday presided over the state security meeting and pledged to address rising tension between farmers and herders amongst other criminal activities threatening the peace of the state.

Buni, who was represented at the meeting by his deputy, Alhaji Idi Barde Gubana, emphasised the need for proactive strategies to safeguard citizens and curb violence.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, the governor's adviser on security matters, Brigadier General Dahiru Abdulsalam (Rtd.), said the meeting reviewed the security situation in the state and acknowledged that there have been some remarkable improvements at the moment.

He noted how weeks back some weekly markets in the state were shut down due to security concerns regarding public safety, and revealed that presently, two out of the three markets have resumed operations.

Abdulsalam acknowledged that the development is a demonstration that the security situation has significantly improved in the state.

Regarding the farmerherder conflicts, he stated that the security



Buni

stakeholders held a strategic engagement about two weeks ago with leaders of farmers' and herders' associations.

out certain strategies that are now yielding results and leading to a reduction in clashes between the two groups.

During the security meeting, He said they have mapped filing stations were given operating hours pending when the security situation improves.

Abdulsalam appealed to members of the state's traders association to relocate to the new Modern Market Damaturu.

### 19-year-old girl murders 2 young girls, steals infant in Bauchi

Pandemonium broke out in Tulu, a community in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State, when a 19-year-old girl, Esther Gambo, allegedly murdered two young girls and abducted a newborn baby.

The suspect, said to be a native of Lemoro village, reportedly lured the victims, seven-yearolds Khadija Sama'ila and A'isha Dahiru, from Unguwan Sarkin Yaki to a nearby maize

There, she allegedly hacked them to death with a machete before fleeing with a newborn belonging to one Nafisa Dahiru. Following a swift manhunt by operatives of the Bauchi State Police Command, working alongside local vigilantes, Gambo was arrested and the stolen infant recovered. The lifeless bodies of the two girls were also found at the scene.

The gruesome incident triggered violent protests across the largely Muslim community, with enraged youths burning down several churches and attempting to set the Divisional Police Headquarters in Tulu ablaze.

Police spokesperson Ahmed Wakil confirmed the incident and the ensuing violence,



Suspect

stating that reinforcements were deployed from the Area Command in Toro and neighbouring divisions to restore peace.

He said sixteen suspects have been arrested in connection with the attacks.

Commissioner of Police Auwal Sani-Omolori Aliyu, who visited the scene, strongly condemned both the killings and the reprisal attacks. He urged residents to remain calm and allow justice to take its course.

"The murder of the girls and

the abduction of a baby is a horrific crime, and while the suspect is in custody, we will not tolerate any form of jungle justice or destruction of public and private property," he said.

The police have confirmed that normalcy has been restored in Tulu as investigations continue into both the murder and the arson attacks.

#### Court sentences 3 men to death by hanging in Gombe

A Gombe State High Court has sentenced three men to death by hanging after finding them guilty of criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide over the killing of one Ibrahim Yahaya in 2022.

Presiding over the case, Justice Haruna Kereng of High Court 3 handed down the ruling against Dauda Mohammed Abubakar (also known as Agenda), Kabiru Abubakar (Gwarei), and Ibrahim Suleiman, declaring that the prosecution had proven its case beyond a reasonable

The three men were convicted for their role in a violent attack that took place on April 22, 2022, at the Herwagana Quarters in Gombe Local Government

According to court proceedings, the assailants, armed with cutlasses, knives, and daggers, brutally assaulted the deceased and inflicted serious injuries on two other victims, Ahmed Abubakar and Muhammad Ahmed Lawan, during the same incident in the Dawaki Quarters. Kereng said, "The evidence presented was overwhelming and credible.

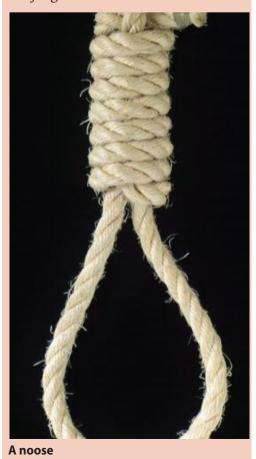
"The prosecution has established without a shred of doubt that the defendants acted in concert and deliberately took the life of the deceased.

The defendants were initially arraigned on November 17, 2022, and faced three separate charges. While the court found them guilty on two counts, criminal conspiracy under Section 97 and culpable homicide punishable by death under Section 221 of the Penal Code, the third count was struck out.

"Each and all of you shall be hanged by the neck until you are pronounced and certified dead by a medical practitioner," Justice Kereng pronounced, reading from the judgment.

He further explained that the law does not allow the court to exercise discretion in cases involving capital punishment.

"The sentence for culpable homicide under Section 221 is mandatory. Therefore, this court is not empowered to reduce or alter the punishment. For that reason, I will not entertain any plea for leniency or allocutus from the convicts,' the judge clarified.



## CUSTOMS & NEMARYAM SULAIMAN Maryam Sulaiman@neptuneprime.com.ng

# Customs, NAFDAC, strengthen inter-agency ties with landmark N20.5bn drug bust in Onne

Barely weeks after the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) set up a committee to implement the 2024 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at deepening regulatory collaboration, the two agencies alongside other security outfits, have recorded a major breakthrough with the interception of 16 containers loaded with illicit pharmaceutical products, valued at over 20.5 billion, at the Port Harcourt II Area Command, Onne.

The Comptroller-General of Customs, Adewale Adeniyi, announced the seizure during a press briefing held at the Command's headquarters in Onne, Rivers State, on Friday, 18 July 2025. He attributed the successful operation intelligence-driven enforcement and the renewed synergy among national security regulatory bodies.

anti-smuggling "Our operations align with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's policy on border security, public health, and national safety. We remain committed to ensuring that Nigeria's borders are not exploited by criminal elements," the CGC stated. He explained that the

smugglers attempted to disguise the illicit drugs as regular imports such as tomato paste, ceiling fans, and plumbing materials, employing what he described as "sophisticated concealment tactics."

Items seized from the 16 containers include: 1.3 million bottles of Codeine syrup (100ml each), 9.3 million tablets of Really Extra Diclofenac. Others include 12.6 million tablets of Royal Tramadol (225mg), Other unregistered and dangerous pharmaceuticals, including Trodol, Hyergra, Bisoveu, and Bassuka.

"This seizure sends a clear message to criminal networks: the Nigeria Customs Service, in partnership with our enforcement counterparts, maintains zero tolerance for smuggling. We will bring the full weight of the law to bear on all perpetrators," Adeniyi warned.

The intercepted containers were officially handed over to Professor Mojisola Adeyeye, the Director-General of NAFDAC, for regulatory action in accordance with due process.

În her remarks, Professor Adeyeye commended the vigilance of the Customs Service and its partner agencies, stressing the public health threat posed by the illicit consignment.



CG Adeniyi

"Frankly, it was shocking. These products could destroy lives: Codeine, Tramadol, and counterfeit painkillers. The fact that some were hidden in tomato paste shows clear criminal intent. This isn't business; this is murder for profit," she said.

confirmed

all seized items would undergo comprehensive procedures, regulatory including laboratory testing, documentation, and destruction.

"We are WHO-certified, with internationalstandard laboratories and These products will never or

make it into the Nigerian market," she affirmed. Professor Adeyeye warned

importers of falsified medicines, branding them "merchants of death" and reiterating that Nigeria would not serve as a dumping well-trained personnel. ground for substandard

pharmaceutical products. În his welcome address, Customs Controller (CAC) of PH II Onne Command, Comptroller Muhammed Babandede, described the event as brief but historic. He highlighted the critical role of institutional collaboration in achieving the seizure, particularly the contributions of NDLEA, NAFDAC, the Department of State Services (DSS), and the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA). "The seizure involved eleven 40-foot containers of illicit medicines, four micro containers of bottled water, and one container of salt. This success reflects the strength of our collaboration, which aligns with the Service's policy of unity through cooperation, consolidation, innovation," Babandede stated.

The Onne interception comes shortly after a separate major seizure at Apapa Port last week, where 25 containers of substandard medical devices were impounded. Reaffirming their joint commitment, all pledged agencies intelligenceenhance sharing, surveillance, and enforcement operations in line with national security objectives and global best

### NEMA rescues 294 Nigerians from Niger Republic

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), through its Kano Operations Office, has facilitated the return of 294 Nigerian migrant returnees from Agadez, Niger Republic.

The agency, in a statement released on Saturday, disclosed that the repatriation operation took place on Monday.

The returnees were safely transported to Nigeria aboard two chartered flights landing at Malam Aminu Kano International Airport.

The first flight, operated by Sky Mali, landed in Nigeria with 148 returnees, while the second flight arrived with the remaining 146 individuals.

Upon arrival, the returnees were transported to the Hajj Camp Terminal in Kano, where NEMA and its partners conducted profiling, documentation, and other necessary processes.

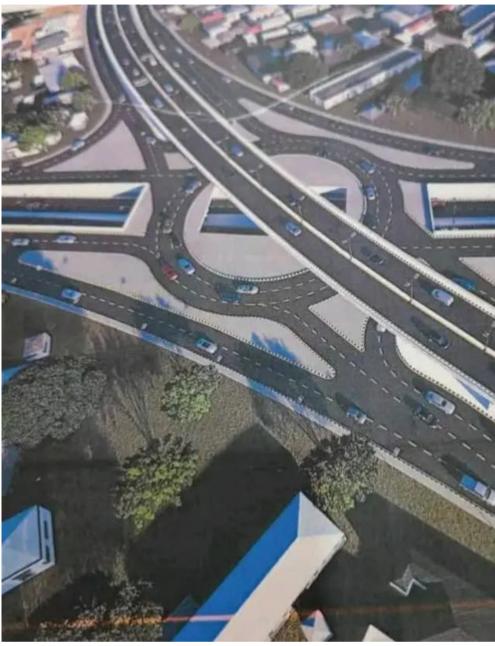


**NEMA officials with the returnees** 

## PRIME PHOTOS By Maryam Umar Maryam Umar@neptuneprime.com.ng



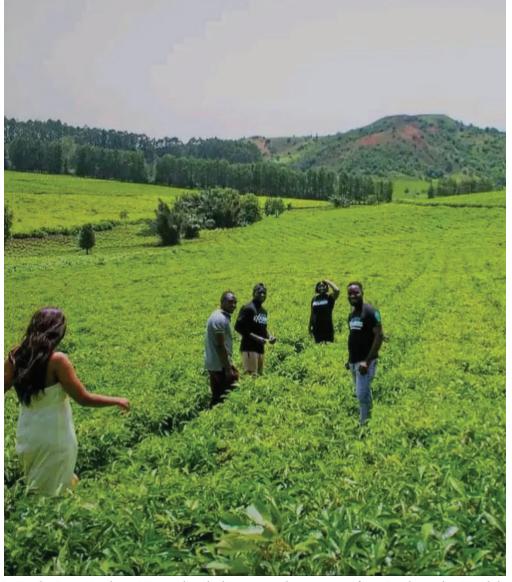
Bauchi State Government launched the construction of a new, state-of-the-art Bauchi State House of Assembly (BAHA) complex



Significant progress has been made in the ongoing construction of the flyover and underpass bridge in Damaturu under the administration of Yobe Governor Mai Mala Buni



This 50MW Gas Power Plant was established by the late President Muhammadu Buhari's administration in Borno State



In Taraba State, Northeast Nigeria, lies the biggest tea plantation in Africa. It is located at Mambila Taraba and was first planted by the Late President Buhari in 1985 when he was Head of State

## PRIME1OMENT

#### BY ALIYU ASKIRA

### Rising singer, Ayo Maff, faces legal charges for breach of contract

Ayo Maff, a fast-rising Nigerian singer, is embroiled in a legal dispute with his record label, TunesBid Limited, over alleged violations of their recording agreement.

In a statement via their social media pages, TunesBid accused Maff and his management team of breaching the contract signed in December 2023.

The label claimed it invested heavily in the singer's career, funding singles like 'Street Anthem,' '7 Days,' and 'Dealer,' and securing a distribution deal with Empire Distribution.

According to TunesBid, Maff and his management — Oyefeso Oluwamayowa Olumide, Okolie Amobi Chiedu, and Oyefeso Ayotunde — "acted in bad faith by secretly negotiating with Empire behind the label's back and later refusing to honour their contractual obligations".

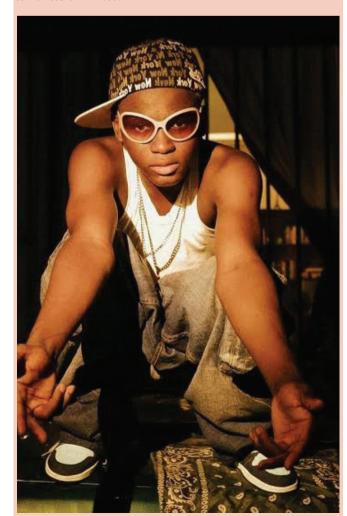
The label disclosed that despite attempts at mediation, the dispute escalated, forcing them to pursue legal action.

They emphasised that Ayo Maff remains under contract and warned third parties against engaging with him or his management, OceanStreet Creative Limited, without their approval.

"Tunesbid Limited, following a series of discussions, entered into an Exclusive Recording Agreement with three Nigerians, Ayofela Ayodele, who performs under the stage name 'Ayo Maff' (hereinafter referred to as 'The Artiste'). The contract, which commenced on December 3, 2023, was made between Tunesbid Limited and the Artist, with the Artist's professionals legal team—Oyefeso Oluwamayowa Olumide, Okolie Amobi Chiedu, and Oyefeso Ayotunde—representing the Entity, OceansTreasure Limited," the statement reads.

"The contract had a stipulated period agreed upon by both parties, under which the artiste was required to deliver a certain number of projects (EPS and LP Albums) as commitment delivery. Tunesbid Limited completed significant resources—both financial and otherwise—to promote the artist's music and brand image. This included the release of singles such as 'Street Anthem', '7 Days' and 'Dealer' all fully funded by Tunesbid Limited within the first 7 months of the agreement.

"And throughout this period, the label always invested her resources to promote the artists to the level, which successfully moved the artists from relative obscurity to prominence in the Nigerian music industry within the six months. These efforts attracted the attention of a major music distribution Company, Empire Distribution, which subsequently offered a deal to distribute two EPs for the artist, with an option for an LP album. As part of this agreement, Empire Distribution also agreed to provide an upfront payment to Tunesbid Limited.



Ayo Maff

## Yemi Alade accommodated me when I was homeless at 17 - Nancy Isime



Nancy, Yemi

Nollywood actress, Nancy Isime, has opened up about her difficult early career days and the support she got from singer Yemi Alade.

In a recent Instagram photo

featuring the two in matching outfits, Isime recounted her struggles as a 17-year-old usher and model in Lagos. Nancy disclosed that she was often stranded after late-night jobs with no way to return to her family home in Ikorodu. The 33-year-old actress described how she would sometimes sleep on makeshift beds of joined chairs or event venue rugs when co-workers couldn't host her.

"I've told this story before and I'm sure Yemi is probably rolling her eyes right now but Yemi, I meant it when I said I'll tell this story every chance I get," she wrote.

"As I was saying. As a lot of you might already know, I started working at 17 and as an usher/model whose parents lived all the way in İkorodu while most of her jobs were in town, it was difficult to go home most days when we closed too late for me to find a bus or bike to take me home. "I'd have to ask any of my coworkers then if it was okay to crash at theirs till morning, and when enough people are staying back with me at the venue, I'd sleep on chairs joined together or the ground/ rugged area till it was bright enough to get a bus home.

"The ages 17-19 was basically me struggling for a place to sleep when I worked too late to go home.

"Sometimes I'd brave it back home to Ikorodu at 2/3am in the morning, trekking with my koin koin shoe with my dad worried calling me every 3minutes and my brothers in the streets trying to meet up with me. Let's just say I'm destined to live long.

"Yes, my family were worried especially my dad but I am a dangerous girl and it's best to let me figure out life my way, else!

"The rebellion is quite rebellious I must confess I'm a full blooded Esan Woman, our stubbornness is from above."

She said the tide turned when she, then an acquaintance of Alade through a mutual friend, asked if she could stay in her off-campus apartment. Isime added that Yemi welcomed her in, allowing her to stay for weeks.

"Now comes Yemi, who I had met through a mutual friend and had become an acquaintance," she wrote.

"I asked her over the phone one day if it was okay to stay at her off campus accommodation for a bit and she immediately said Yes!

"Fam, I stayed for weeks and this woman NEVER EVER complained! Infact the peace was too much, I had to leave when I wasn't ready to.

"Shortly after, I could afford my own space in her building as I gained university admission and the friendship and kindness continued. Yemi became my kind neighbour. My padi, I dey for you for life," she said.

## Nollywood actress Shirley Igwe suspended over assault

The Actors Guild of Nigeria (AGN) has suspended actress Shirley Igwe indefinitely over the assault of a crew member on a film set in Lagos.

AGN made this known in a letter signed by the national president, Emeka Rollas, on behalf of the filmmaking regulatory body, the office of the Inspector General of Police and the Lagos state governor. According to the letter, Shirley, who served as a principal protocol officer to the former Imo state governor, Rochas Okorocha, physically assaulted a crew member during a production in Lagos, and an altercation occurred.

This led to her slapping the crew member.

The actress is best known for being "Adaora" in the popular film, 'Mercy the Bus Driver' (2012). Since coming to Nollywood in the early 2010s, Shirley has featured in 'The King's Search' (2017), 'Stormy Hearts' (2017), 'Love and Shadows' (2019) and 'Blackout' (2025).

Meanwhile, in the letter suspending the actress, AGN stated that its decision was made after an investigation into the case, which left the regulatory body no choice but to suspend the actress indefinitely.

"Following our preliminary investigations into the allegation of violence levelled against actress Shirley Igwe on a film set in Lagos, the National Executive Council



Shirley Igwe

(NEC) has resolved to place her on indefinite suspension," the letter stated

Explaining its decision further, AGN stated that the actress's misconduct contravened the group's code of conduct and was liable to discredit the acting profession.

"This suspension is due to her professional misconduct, violence, and indiscipline, actions capable of discrediting the acting profession. These offences contravene the actors' code of conduct and are punishable by constitutional provisions," the letter added.

The AGN, however, advised,

film production involving her." Shirley is the second actress AGN would suspend since 18 October 2024, when Halima Abubakar was suspended for alleged defamation of her colleagues. The actress is yet to respond to the decision.

"Members are hereby directed to

refrain from participating in any

### NEPTUNE PRIME BUSINESS

#### **MARKET SURVEY**

# Traders, consumers express optimism as food prices drop in Dawasa Market, Yobe

BY KASIM ISA MUHAMMAD, KasimIsa@neptuneprime.com.ng

Consumers and traders in Dawasa Town, Yobe State, have heaved a sigh of relief as the prices of several essential grains dropped drastically in recent weeks.

The latest market survey conducted at the Dawasa Grain Market on Friday, July 18, shows that staple food items such as millet, beans, sorghum, and maize are now selling at considerably reduced rates compared to previous weeks.

According to market observations, maize is currently being sold between N46,000 and N48,000 per bag.

Millet is priced within a similar range, with traders offering it for N45,000 to N48,000 depending on size and quality.

Beans, another vital household staple, have also seen changes in pricing. White beans, both large and small sizes, now go for between N70,000 and N74,000

Meanwhile, large red beans are slightly more expensive, selling from N80,000 to N84,000.

Roselle, popularly known as dried Zobo flower, remains affordable, priced at N20,000 to N21,000 per bag. This is good

news for local beverage vendors and households who rely on Zobo as a refreshing traditional drink

A bag of melon is obtained in two price variants. The regular type goes for N44,000 and N45,000, while a higher-quality variant is selling for N50,000 to N52,000.

Rice, a major staple, remains relatively costly. Polished rice is being sold for N125,000 per bag. The price of broken or processed rice, however, varies across vendors and depends on processing levels and source.

Groundnut prices remain on the high side, with a bag selling between N130,000 and N135,000. Sorghum, on the other hand, remains one of the most affordable grains with a price range of N40,000 to N41,000.

Many traders and customers at the market expressed gratitude for the downward trend in prices, especially as food inflation has been a major concern in recent months across Nigeria.

As residents of Dawasa and surrounding communities continue to troop into the market in search of affordable food items, many are hopeful that prices will continue to reduce. "May Allah continue to



ease our affairs," said one trader. Authorities and market stakeholders are encouraged to maintain favourable conditions for both farmers and traders to ensure sustained food security and stable market prices across Yobe State.

### Food prices crash in Dambatta Market, Kano

Dambatta

BY SHAFAATU DAUDA shafaatudauda@neptuneprime.com.ng

Grain prices in Dambatta

Market, Kano State, on Wednesday 23rd July, 2025, have plummeted, bringing much-needed relief to buyers.

According to the

Secretary Ibrahim Aminu Ilu, prices of staples like white beans, soya beans, millet, and cassava have significantly reduced this week.

Market

A bag of maize is currently being sold between N48,000 and N50,000,

while a bag of millet goes for N51,000 and N52,000. Similarly, the price of white beans dropped from N88,000 to N90,000, while soya beans are obtained at N85,000.

The price of wheat is N75,000 per bag, while cassava is N35,000 per bag.





# Maryam Sulaiman@neptuneprime.com.ng

# Emir of Bade confers 'Dan Majen Bade' title on Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Tumsah

The Emir of Bade, His Royal Highness Alhaji Abubakar Umar Suleiman, OON, has officially conferred the prestigious traditional title of Dan Majen Bade on Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Tumsah, a seasoned financial administrator and respected indigene of Yobe State.

In a colourful ceremony held in Gashua, the historic headquarters of both the Bade Emirate Council and Bade Local Government Area, Alhaji Ibrahim Tumsah was joined by family members, friends, well-wishers, and prominent dignitaries to express his deep gratitude and pay a thank-you visit to the royal palace.

Among those accompanied him were notable personalities such as Alhaji Tijjani Musa Tumsah, Alhaji Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, Alhaji Usman Musa Tumsah, Alhaji Aji Saleh Yarima, Alhaji Salisu Jibrin, Alhaji Auwal Hamza, Alhaji Sule Alhassan, Alhaji Idi Ali Maiwada (Magma) and Alhaji Adamu D. Muhammad.

Others are Alhaji Wakil Adamu, Alhaji Ahmed Ardo, Alhaji Ibrahim Grema, Alhaji Hayatundeen Musa, Alhaji Salihu A. Bala Ji'kamshi, Alhaji Abdu Usman, and Alhaji Bulama Lamba, amongst other guests too numerous to mention who graced the occasion in celebration of this significant milestone.

The new Dan Maje Bade, in an emotionally laden speech, expressed his gratitude to the

Emir and the entire members of the Emirate for finding him worthy of this exalted title. He pledged to use this title to uphold the dignity of the Emirate and its people.

To those who travelled from far and near, Dan Maje prayed for Allah to return all to their various homes and destinations safely and also prayed for Allah to reward all abundantly.

Brief Biography of Dan Majen Bade,

Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Tumsah Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Tumsah hails from Bursari Local Government Area of Yobe State. Born on August 12, 1961, he holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accountancy from the University of Maiduguri. He is a Certified Public Accountant of

Nigeria (CPAN) and a Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN). He began his career in the old Borno State and Yobe State and later transferred to the Federal Civil Service in 1995 as Assistant Director (Accounts).

Assistant Director (Accounts).

Over the years, he served in multiple key capacities across various federal ministries, including the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Ministry of Internal Affairs, The Presidency, Ministry of Delice Affairs, and the Office of Solid Ministry of Delice Affairs, and the Office of Solid Ministry of Delice Affairs, and the Office of Solid Ministry of Delice Affairs, and the Office of Solid Ministry of Delice Affairs and the Office of Ministry of Delice Ministry of Delice Ministry of Ministry of Delice Ministry of Police Affairs, and the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation.

Alhaji Tumsah rose through the ranks to become Deputy Director (Accounts) in 2004, and by 2008, he was appointed as Director (Accounts). He was posted to the Federal Ministry of Works as Director, Finance and Accounts.

A widely travelled and highly respected public servant, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Tumsah is known for his dedication, humility, and service to the nation.

He is happily married and blessed with children. Outside his professional



Turbaning ceremony

#### Female Amazons of the North East: Dr Farida A. Kera Takes Helm as Dean of Law at Gombe State University

Permit me to reintroduce you to a mother, a mentor, and a definition of hope to law students and the general community.

and once Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law at ABU Zaria, now as the Dean of Law Faculty at Gombe State University.

Congratulations to our amiable mother.

It's a moment of immense pride not just for Northern Nigeria, but for the entire legal academic community, as Dr. Farida A. Kera, a remarkable and trailblazing scholar from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, takes on the influential role of Dean of the Faculty of Law at Gombe State University (GSU).

Known for her sharp intellect, unwavering dedication, and natural leadership, Dr. Kera arrives at this prestigious role carrying decades of rich academic and professional experience. Her impressive journey includes two stints as Head of the Department of Private Law at ABU and serving as Deputy Dean of the renowned Faculty of Law.

A Journey Forged with Grit and Excellence Born on August 12, 1965, in Zaria, Dr. Kera's academic path has been nothing short of inspiring. From Central Primary School in Gombe to Federal Government College, Kazaure, where she graduated in 1983, she displayed early on the spark of ambition and drive that would define her career.

Her love for law began at Ahmadu Bello University, a place she would call home for many years, earning Two times Head of Department, Private Law, and once Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law at (2002), and finally a Ph.D. in Law (2021).

Alongside these, she also received her Barrister at Law (B.L.) qualification from the Nigerian Law School in Abuja and strengthened her international outlook with a certificate from JICA in Pretoria, South Africa.

Milestones Along the Way

Dr. Kera's journey into academia took an unconventional path. From starting as a Chief Clerical Officer at ABU in 1987, she steadily climbed the ranks, ultimately becoming a driving force in legal education. Her academic career blossomed with roles as Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer II, Lecturer I, and eventually Head of Department, all before her recent appointment as

Her commitment to education also shines through her role as an E-Tutor at ABU's Distance Learning Centre (ABUDLC), a testament to her belief in accessible learning.

Beyond the Lecture Halls

But Dr. Kera is much more than an academic. She is a passionate advocate for justice and a vocal champion of gender equity, embodying the values she teaches. Her memberships in the Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Association of Law Teachers, and the International Federation of Women Lawyers showcase her active engagement within the legal community.



Dr Farida A. Kera

## HERITAGE BY SALIM SANI

## The Kilba/Hoba People of Adamawa: Custodians of remarkable culture, history

Found within the magnificent valleys of Adamawa State's Hong Local Government Area, the Kilba people remain one of Nigeria's most quietly fascinating ethnic

Their history is steeped in migration, their culture rooted in resilience, and their traditions beautifully alive through ritual, language, and ancient practices. For the Kilba tribe, the past is a living force that continues to shape their identity and community. Their story is a bold blend of structure and spirituality, devotion and defiance.

**History and Origin** 

The Kilba, also called Hoba, trace their ancestral roots to the Middle East and eventually the Mandara Hills before finally settling in the rugged terrain of present-day Adamawa State. These early settlers established themselves in various mountain communities, forming clan-based enclaves, each ruled by a Mountain King or Tul-Khoba.

By the mid-14th century, under the leadership of a unifier named Furkudil, the scattered mountain communities were consolidated into a centralised kingdom. The governance structure mirrored that of ancient kingdoms, with ministers responsible for justice, war, and spiritual affairs.

Despite the waves of Fulani incursions in the 19th century, the Kilba people were never conquered, a testament to their military strength and social cohesion.

**Culture and Beliefs** 

At the heart of Kilba, life is a deep reverence for tradition and ancestry. Their language, 'Huba', is more than just a tool for communication; it is a vessel for storytelling, rituals, and ancestral memory. They view the world as spiritually charged, with rulers often doubling as religious heads.

Kilba communities historically organised themselves into tightly knit villages under local leaders, with ceremonial titles and defined roles. The council of elders and the King's cabinet held sway over civil and spiritual life, ensuring that laws and customs were respected. Life revolved around farming, animal husbandry, and communal living. Each act, from planting millet to crafting a drum, was imbued with meaning.

Marriage and Attire

to taboo histories; witchcraft, murder, slavery, or poisoning. Once cleared, the process begins in

One fascinating tradition is the Hanyi Makru, whereby a bride lives for three days in the groom's family home before the marriage feast. This feast, considered the true deal of

Marriage among the Kilba people is

a rich tapestry of social negotiation

and festivity. Whether initiated

through personal courtship,

parental arrangement, every union must pass through certain cultural

Families investigate the prospective

in-laws to ensure they aren't linked

checkpoints.

marriage, involves slaughtering a hegoat and hosting a night of music, dancing, and communal blessings. Even if all the rites are paid, without this process, the marriage remains unofficial, and another man could lawfully lay claim to the bride.

Traditional attire reflects the Kilba's identity of colourfully woven garments, symbolic jewellery, and ceremonial ornaments often worn during festivals and rites of passage. **Economy and Festivals** 

Agriculture is the bedrock of Kilba's economy. Blessed with fertile lands and mountainous shelter, they have long been skilled farmers and herders, cultivating grains like

millet, guinea corn, and yams while raising cattle, goats, and poultry. Trade is also central, with Kilba markets acting as cultural melting pots, especially during agreed truce

days in history when even hostile neighbours would trade peacefully. Their most prominent cultural celebration is the Tiwe festival. Spanning 120 days, Tiwe is more than a mourning period, it is a sacred journey of ancestral remembrance and spiritual renewal. With masks, music, chants and midnight processions, the festival transforms entire communities into sites of reverence and joy. It brings together generations, fuses history with performance, and asserts the continued vibrancy of Kilba's identity in a rapidly modernising

Hence, in the hills of Adamawa, the story of the Kilba people is etched into every stone, sung in every drumbeat, and spoken in every household. More importantly, it is a story of balance between change and tradition, past and present, duty and celebration.

As Nigeria continues to evolve, the Kilba people stand as a powerful reminder that history is not just what happened—it's what is still being lived, every day, in the quiet corners of the land.









### HISTORICITI BY MERCY ADAJE MercyAdaje@neptuneprime.com.ng

# Why Gao-Mali is the most important ancient city in West Africa

West Africa. It is best known as the first capital of the powerful Songhai Empire. It played a central role in trans-Saharan trade and Islamic scholarship.

For much of its history, Gao was an important commercial centre involved in the trans-Saharan trade. External Arabic writers described Gao as an important regional power, and by the end of the 10th century, the local ruler was said to be a Muslim. Towards the end of the 13th century, Gao became part of the Mali Empire.

Situated along the Niger River, in present-day Mali, it is a strategic location for controlling trade routes across the Sahara Desert.

**Historical Timeline** 

9th Century: Gao already existed as a thriving trade town, mentioned in Arab records (e.g., Al-Yaqubi). 11th Century: Converted

to Islam under rulers who adopted the faith, attracting Muslim merchants and scholars.

15th Century – Songhai Empire: Gao became the imperial capital of the Songhai Empire, especially under rulers like:

• Sunni Ali – a powerful military leader who expanded the empire.

• Askia Muhammad (Askia the Great) – a devout Muslim who promoted education, law, and trade. 1591: Gao's influence declined after

Gao is an ancient city of learning and trade in Mali, Moroccan invasion that ended the Songhai Empire. What Made Gao Famous Capital of a Great Empire: Political and administrative centre of the Songhai Empire, one of the largest in African history.

> Trade and Wealth: Gao was a key node in the trans-Saharan trade in gold, salt, ivory, and slaves. Markets connected traders from North Africa, Europe, and other parts of West Africa. Islamic Scholarship: Like Timbuktu, Gao became a centre for Islamic learning, attracting scholars, scribes, and religious teachers.

Cultural Influence: The city's architecture, governance, and education were deeply influenced by Islamic and African traditions.

**Key Sites and Legacy** 

Tomb of Askia: Built by Askia Muhammad in the 15th century.

A pyramidal mud structure still standing today; a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Gao-Saney: Archaeological site showing Gao's site pre-Islamic past and commercial development. There is clear archaeological evidence that Gao was firmly rooted in both its local hinterland and interregional economic networks.

Pottery recovered from all levels in both mounds is generally quite similar to examples from sites throughout the region,

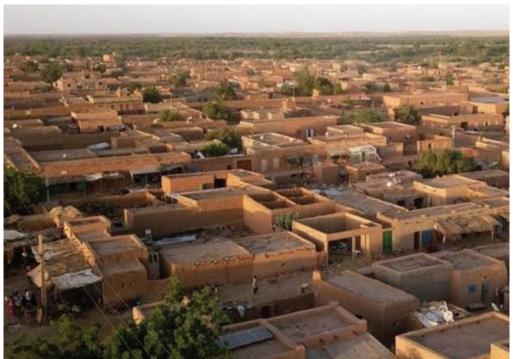


indicating that Gao was part of a regional market sphere, if not a broader cultural substrate.

Gao thus represents a form of urbanism driven largely by local urbanrural dynamics, but in a way in which local elites capitalised on and, in fact, co-opted the opportunities offered by long-distance







## ROOTS

BY GIFT LUCKSON GiftLuckson@neptuneprime.com.ng

Lucy Terry Prince (1730 – 1821) remains a remarkable figure in early American history. She is the earliest known African-American poet, a gifted orator, and a

courageous advocate for her family's rights. Lucy Terry Prince embodies resilience, intellect, and eloquence. Though she was born into bondage, she broke barriers and earned respect in colonial and early-Republic America. Early Life & Literary

Legacy She was kidnapped from West Africa as an infant and sold into slavery in Rhode Island at the age of 5. She later became the property of Ebenezer Wells in Deerfield, MA.

At age 16, she composed the ballad "Bars Fight", describing a 1746 Abenaki raid on Deerfield. This poem was passed down orally and eventually published in 1854, making it the earliest known work of African-American literature. literature.

Freedwoman, Speaker & Advocate

In 1756, Lucy married Abijah Prince, a prosperous free Black man who helped secure her freedom. They had six children and

## Lucy Terry Prince: From slavery to pioneer of African-American literature

eloquence. Her obituary noted that "the fluency

of her speech captivated all around her".

Legal Pioneer & Defender of Justice

Lucy famously defended

her family before the Governor and Council of Vermont in 1785 after racist neighbours harassed and vandalised her farm. She won the case in court.

In the 1790s, she argued before a court that included future Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase, winning a land dispute over her property against Colonel Bronson. She even made a passionate three-hour plea to Williams College to admit one of her sons, though unsuccessful, it showcased her bold advocacy using scripture and law.

Later Life & Legacy

settled on their family land in Guilford (later Sunderland), Vermont.

Recognition
She became a renowned storyteller and was extremely famous for her eloguence. Her obituary age 91.

> Her obituary in the Vermont Gazette was unusually long, praising her rare intelligence and eloquence, a rare honour for a Black woman at the time.

> At her funeral, Reverend Lemuel Haynes, the first African-American Congregational minister, preached a powerful antislavery sermon in her honour.

> She is considered a significant literary pioneer for publishing the first known African-American poetic

> work by a woman.
> Oratory & Advocacy:
> She used language and
> legal knowledge to
> defend her family. Trailblazing Role: She is one of the first Black women to argue in U.S.







## OLDIES

#### BY KASIM ISA MUHAMMAD

KasimIsa@neptuneprime.com.ng

# Nigeria was wonderful years back, I paid only N3,000 for Hajj – Alhaji Isa

Alhaji Isa Mai Mai is a businessman, a farmer, and a philanthropist. Over the course of his life, he has experienced different moments, each shaping his perspective and contributions to society. Born in 1945, Mai Mai shares thoughtful advice with younger generations, leaders, and more. In this interview, he opens up about his childhood, the challenges he has faced, and the lessons he has learned throughout

NP (Neptune Prime): Can you tell us about your childhood?

I.M.M: My name is Alhaji Isa Mai Mai, and I was born in Potiskum in the year 1945. I spent a significant part of my childhood in the Gadaka area of the Fika Local Government Area. My father hailed from the Kade area, which is also within Fika LGA. Growing up, I was so dedicated to Islamic education, which I pursued in Potiskum and some parts of Fika. During this time, I acquired a wealth of knowledge about Islam and the Holy Qur'an. My childhood was marked by simplicity and perseverance. Life was not as fast-paced as it is today, and there was an exceeding sense of togetherness among families and neighbours. We relied on one another, and the values of respect, humility, and hard work were instilled in us from a very young age. I remember playing with my peers in the evenings after school, engaging in traditional games, and listening to stories from elders, which were not only entertaining but also educational.

NP: How has life changed for you compared to when you were younger? What are some of the biggest differences you've noticed?

I.M.M: Life was truly wonderful during my younger years. Everything seemed easier, and there was a sense of stability and peace that is hard to come by these days. The economy was relatively good, and people could afford basic necessities without much struggle. There was no widespread insecurity, and communities lived in harmony. Sometimes, when I reflect on those times, I feel a gargantuan sense of nostalgia and even shed tears, remembering how peaceful and fulfilling life was. For instance, when I performed my first Hajj about fifty years ago, I spent only N3,000 for everything travel, accommodation, and other expenses. At that time, the Naira was even stronger than the dollar, and the cost of living was manageable.

However, things have changed drastically over the years. Today, life has become increasingly difficult for many people. The economy is in a terrible state, and the value of the Naira has plummeted. What troubles me the most is the issue of insecurity. People are being killed daily, and kidnappings have become widespread. The activities of Boko Haram, bandits, and other criminal elements have made life unbearable for many Nigerians. Families are living in constant fear, and the peace we once enjoyed is now a distant memory. NP: You lived through a time of military rule in our country. Can you share with us your experiences during that period? How did it affect you and your

I.M.M: I lived through all the military regimes that ruled Nigeria, and my experiences during that time were a mix of both good and bad. On one hand, there was a sense of peace and order across the country during military rule. The economy was relatively stable, and there was no widespread insecurity as we see today. I am aware of the civil war that occurred, but even during that turbulent period, the military maintained a certain level of control. In many ways, I believe that life under military rule was better than what we are experiencing under democracy today. For example, during the administration of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, many notable developments took place, including the creation of new states, the establishment of hospitals, and the construction of schools. These initiatives contributed to the development

of the country. On the other hand, military rule also had its shortcomings. The lack of political freedom and the suppression of dissent were significant issues. Nonetheless, some of the policies implemented during military rule have contributed to the challenges we face today. For instance, the mismanagement of resources and the lack of accountability have had long-term negative effects on the country. While we faced a lot of bottlenecks, I believe that Nigeria made huge progress under military rule, and I often find myself comparing the relative peace and stability of that era to the current state of affairs.

NP: What was it like transitioning from a military

government to a democratic one? Did you notice any significant changes?

I.M.M: The transition from military rule to democracy was not an easy process. It was surrounded by massive and challenges sacrifices. Many vibrant and promising folks lost their lives during this period, including the renowned businessman and politician, MKO Abiola. His death was a great loss to the nation, and it reveals the difficulties associated with the transition to democracy. However, despite the challenges, the return to democratic governance has brought about some positive changes. Democracy has given Nigerians more freedom to participate in politics, express their opinions, and contribute to national discourse. People now have the opportunity to elect their leaders and hold them accountable for their actions. This level of



Alhaji Isa

political participation was not possible under military rule.

That said, democracy has also brought its own set of problems. Corruption has thrived under democratic governments, and insecurity has become a major issue. Social problems such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality have also worsened. While democracy has its advantages, it is clear that we still have a long way to go in addressing the challenges that come with it.

NP: What has been the most challenging experience you've faced in your life, and how did

I.M.M: One of the most challenging experiences I have faced in my life is raising my children. I have 18 children, and providing for them has required so much effort and sacrifice. Raising children is not an easy task, especially in a country where the cost of living is high and resources are limited. Ensuring that each child receives a good education, proper healthcare, and moral guidance has been a daunting responsibility.

Despite the challenges, I am proud to say that more than 10 of my children are university graduates. Some of them have gone on to achieve great things in their respective fields. For example, I have a son who is a magistrate and another who works as a medical professional. Others are nurses, teachers,

and entrepreneurs. Seeing my children succeed and contribute to the development of their communities brings me immense joy and satisfaction. Alhamdulillah, I have been able to overcome these challenges through hard work, patience, and the grace of Allah.

NP: What are some of your favourite hobbies or activities to do in your free time? Have you always enjoyed them, or are they something you've developed a passion for later

I.M.M: In my free time, I enjoy listening to radio stations. Hausa, and RFI Hausa. These stations provide me with much-needed information about local and international events. I also enjoy watching the news on NTA and other television channels. Staying informed about current affairs is important to me, and it helps me stay connected to the world around me.

These hobbies have been a part of my life for many years. I have always had a keen interest in news and current events, and I find great satisfaction in staying updated on developments both within Nigeria and abroad. Listening to the radio and watching the news also allows me to reflect on the state of the world and the challenges we face as a society.

NP: What advice would you give to the younger generation

based on your life experiences? I.M.M: My advice to the younger generation is simple: prioritise education. While we are all aware of the high levels of unemployment in the country, education remains the key to success. Young people need to acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to contribute meaningfullyinstiliety. In addition to education, young people should also possess good character. They should be respectful, obedient, and humble. Respect for parents, elders, and authority figures is paramount, as it lays the foundation for a

successful and fulfilling life. I also encourage young people to be patient and persistent. Life is full of challenges, but with hard work, determination, and faith in Allah, one can overcome any obstacle. It is important to remain focused on one's goals and to never give up, even in the face of adversity.

NP: How have social norms and values changed over the course of your life? Do you think these changes have been positive or negative?

Social norms and values have changed significantly over the course of my life. When I was growing up. People looked out for one another, and neighbours were like family. It was not uncommon for someone to offer a part of their house to a stranger in need or for a neighbour to take care of another neighbour's child without expecting anything in return. There was a deep sense of trust and mutual respect among people.

However, things have changed dramatically in recent years. People have become more individualistic and materialistic. The sense of brotherhood that once defined our communities is slowly fading away. Many people are now more concerned with their own interests and less willing to help others. This shift in values is concerning, as it undermines the social fabric that holds communities together. While some changes, such as advancements in technology and education, have been positive. the erosion of traditional values is a negative development. We need to find a balance between embracing progress preserving the values that have sustained our communities for generations.

NP: What are some of your proudest accomplishments, and how did you achieve them?

I.M.M: One of my proudest accomplishments is raising my

children and providing them with a good education. As I mentioned earlier, I have 18 children, and more than 10 of them are university graduates. Some of my children have gone on to become professionals in various fields, including law, medicine, and education. Raising a large family is not easy, but I was determined to give my children the best possible start in life. I worked tirelessly to provide for them and to instill in them the values of hard work, respect, and humility. Alhamdulillah, my efforts have paid off, and I am grateful for the success of my children.

NP: What are some of the most important lessons you've learned throughout your life, and how have they shaped who you are today?

I.M.M: Throughout my life, I have learned many lessons that have shaped who I am today. One of the most important lessons is the importance of patience. Life is full of challenges, and it is easy to become frustrated or discouraged when things do not go as planned. However, I have learned that patience is key to overcoming obstacles and achieving success.

Remaining patient and trusting in Allah, I have been able to navigate difficult situations and emerge stronger.

Another important lesson I have learned is the value of hard work and consistency. Success does not come overnight; it requires dedication, perseverance, and a willingness to put in the effort. I have always believed in working hard and staying focused on my goals, even when the path ahead seems uncertain. This mindset has helped me achieve many of the things I am proud of today. Finally, I have learned the importance of being prayerful and relying on Allah in all aspects of life. No matter how hard we work, we must always remember that our success ultimately depends on the will of Allah. Staying prayerful and maintaining a strong connection with Allah, I have been able to find peace and guidance in both good times and bad.

These lessons have shaped me into the person I am today—a person who values hard work, patience, and faith. They have guided me through the challenges of life and have helped me achieve my goals. I hope that by sharing these lessons, I can inspire others to embrace these values and apply them in their own lives.



Despite the challenges, I am proud to say that more than 10 of my children are university graduates. Some of them have gone on to achieve great things in their respective fields

## HUMANIST

BY KASIM ISA MUHAMMAD KasimIsa@neptuneprime.com.ng

### "It's not just a bridge, it is a second chance for us," Yobe communities celebrate Tumsah's humanitarian gesture

For years, the people of Rugan Fulani, Dubai 1, and surrounding communities in Potiskum Local Government Area of Yobe State survived with a quiet kind of dread. Each rainy season, torrents of water would carve gaping gullies through their only connecting road, severing them from schools, markets, health centres — and from each other.

The once-simple act of crossing from one part of their town to another became a perilous journey. "I still remember that day like a nightmare," said Malam Usaini Garba, community head (Mai Unguwa) of Dubai.

"A man lost his wife. Another lost three of his children. All of them swept away trying to cross a wooden plank bridge we built ourselves. It was all we had."

But now, for the first time in years, there is a sense of

hope — and safety. That hope arrived in the form of Alhaji Kashim Musa Tumsah, MFR, a lawyer and diplomat who, moved by the community's cry for help on social media, stepped in where no one else had. Tumsah personally funded the construction of a new pedestrian bridge to reconnect long-disconnected neighbourhoods.

"It is not just a bridge," said Hassan B. Joda, chairman the community's For our children to go to school. For our women to get to the hospital. For our people to live."

recounted Mr. Joda how, before Tumsah's intervention, the community had been taxing themselves, naira by naira, in a desperate bid to fix the road. "We felt abandoned. So, we took it upon ourselves. But it was never enough. Then came one Facebook post and everything changed." The post, a heartfelt appeal highlighting the suffering of the people, caught Barrister Tumsah's attention. He not only



Rugan Fulani, Dubai 1

acknowledged it — he acted. Tumsah's gesture has touched every corner of the affected communities. Mothers, once forced to carry their children through floodwaters, now speak with relief.

Schoolchildren, who once stayed home during the rains, now walk with renewed Traders confidence. longer take the exhausting 15-kilometre detour to reach markets.

"This bridge means my construction committee. grandchildren will not face "It is a second chance. what I faced," said Hajiya Fatima, an elderly woman who lives near the site. "It means safety. It means

> Still, the work is not done. The bridge is just one part of what the communities need. Mr. Joda made an open appeal to others: "Barrister Tumsah has lit the torch. We hope others will join and carry it forward."

> But for now, there is joy — the kind that fills the air in Dubai 1 as children run across the new bridge, laughter echoing where fear once lived.

> "We are not just smiling," said Malam Usaini, eyes glistening. "We are grateful. And we will never forget."



Tumsah

## FEATURES



Dr Duru

## Use of gender-based laws for political persecution and social manipulation (1)

BY DURU SANDRA CHIDINMA, PHD

instrumental in addressing the systemic inequalities and violence historically faced by women. However, emerging evidence from political, legal, and social spheres suggests that these well-intentioned policies are increasingly vulnerable to manipulation. This thesis explores the growing trend of gender policy weaponisation, where gender-based laws are deliberately exploited to persecute, discredit, and silence men, particularly in politically charged environments.

Drawing from legal case studies, expert interviews, and policy analysis within Nigeria and selected African contexts, this research interrogates how men have become collateral damage in the gender justice

movement, often with no discourse institutional mechanisms for recourse. It critically examines the absence of In recent decades, gender-based laws have been architecture and the failure modern gender relations. The persecution, of current administrative research ultimately positions against men. frameworks to protect the men's unheard screams as a rights and dignity of falsely accused or marginalised men. This study advances a bold policy recommendation: the establishment of a Federal Ministry of Men's Affairs as a strategic intervention to ensure gender equity is not weaponised but ethically enforced. It calls for the implementation of a Gender-Accountability Neutral Framework that ensures all citizens, regardless of gender are protected against injustice, manipulation, and policy abuse.

> By challenging one-sided narratives and advocating for inclusive protection, this thesis contributes to the growing

ethica1 on governance, gender justice, and the reform of public administration systems to vital component of human rights, democratic integrity, and balanced public policy. Introduction

In the past three decades, there has been a global shift towards promoting gender equity through robust policy frameworks aimed at correcting historical injustices, especially those faced by women. These laws and administrative instruments have led to remarkable progress empowering women. amplifying their voices, and institutionalising mechanisms to protect them from genderbased violence, workplace discrimination, and sociopolitical marginalisation. However, alongside these

gains has emerged a troubling trend: the manipulation and weaponisation of genderbased laws for personal, and social particularly

In many contemporary African societies, including Nigeria, there is a growing pattern in which gendersensitive policies are coopted as tools for silencing dissent, executing political vendettas, or engineering public disgrace—often without due process. False accusations of domestic violence, sexual misconduct, or gender-based harassment have been increasingly utilised to discredit male opponents in political, academic, or corporate spaces. These incidents are often amplified by sensational media coverage, creating a presumption of guilt before investigation. The consequences for accused men are severe: reputational

trauma, social ostracisation, and, in many cases, a lifetime of stigma.

ruin, job loss, emotional

Despite this emerging crisis, public administration frameworks have largely failed to provide institutional support for male victims of gender policy abuse. The dominant gender justice narrative often excludes delegitimises male experiences of victimisation, leading to systemic bias, administrative silence, and a dangerous lack of legal recourse. This research challenges the unbalanced approach in gender policy formulation and implementation and calls for an urgent reevaluation of the frameworks that claim to protect, but sometimes persecute, under the guise of

While gender-based policies are essential for achieving equity, they are increasingly being misused as instruments of political persecution and social manipulation. Men who are falsely accused of gender-based offences often face institutionalised neglect, public defamation, and administrative bias. The existing public policy architecture in Nigeria, and much of Africa, lacks specific mechanisms to investigate, mitigate, or reverse the weaponisation of gender laws. There is no federal or state institution solely dedicated to protecting the rights and dignity of men in these contexts. This vacuum perpetuates a gender justice imbalance and creates fertile ground for policy abuse.

The problem is two-fold: first, the unchecked weaponisation of gender laws undermines the credibility and effectiveness of genuine gender justice efforts. Second, it exposes a glaring administrative gap where male voices, especially those falsely accused are rendered invisible or vilified. Without urgent intervention, this trend will erode public trust in gender-sensitive legislation and compromise the integrity of public administration systems.

The objectives of this research are:

1.To investigate how genderbased laws have been manipulated for political or personal persecution of men. 2. To explore the socio-

legal consequences of such weaponization on male victims.

3.To analyze administrative and policy gaps that allow for misuse of gender-sensitive laws.

4. To assess public perception and institutional response to male victimization in genderrelated accusations.

To propose establishment of a Federal

Ministry of Men's Affairs and a Gender-Neutral Accountability Framework that ensures justice for all, regardless of gender.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS** 

1.In what ways have genderbased laws been weaponized against men in Nigeria and Africa?

2. What are the consequences of such weaponization on individuals,

governance, and public trust? 3. Why do current public administration systems fail to address or prevent these abuses?

4. What mechanisms can be developed to ensure that gender-based laws are not misused?

5. How can the creation of a Federal Ministry of Men's Affairs promote equitable gender justice?

This study is both timely and necessary. It offers a critical lens through which the unintended consequences of gender policy implementation can be examined, especially in politically volatile or socially complex societies. By focusing on the unheard screams of men—those wrongfully accused or systemically silenced, this research confronts a taboo subject in gender policy discourse.

The study contributes to scholarly debates on policy ethics, gender equity, and institutional integrity. It provides an evidence-based argument for male-inclusive gender justice and seeks to redefine the administrative architecture of public policy in Nigeria by advocating for structural protections for all genders. The establishment of a Federal Ministry of Men's Affairs could serve as a historic corrective measure and a model for other nations struggling with policy weaponization and gender

This study is focused on Nigeria as a primary case study, with secondary reference to other African countries facing similar socio-political dynamics. It will explore documented and verified instances of policy weaponization, including false accusations and false administrative bias against men in political, academic, and legal environments. The study will rely on qualitative data through interviews, legal document analysis, and policy reviews.

Limitations include the sensitivity of the subject matter, which may affect access to victims or insiders willing to testify. Additionally, societal stigma around male victimization may limit the scope of available narratives. To be continued...

Dr DURU Sandra Chidinma, a Nigerian Scholar.

## **SPOR** はS

BY MUHAMMAD KUKURI, MuhammadKukuri@neptuneprime.com.ng



Okoye

### Super Eagles goalkeeper, Maduka Okoye, banned from football

Udinese and Super Eagles goalkeeper, Maduka Okoye, has been handed a two-month suspension by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) following a disciplinary ruling linked to a betting-related incident during the 2023/2024 Serie A season.

Okoye, 24, was found guilty of sporting misconduct after allegedly provoking a yellow card in a match against Lazio. Investigators believe

that the move was influenced by abnormal betting activity surrounding that particular moment in the game.

The FIGC's investigation, triggered by irregular betting patterns, concluded that Okoye "intentionally committed an act" aimed at manipulating the outcome of bets placed on the match.

The federation's Disciplinary Section of the National Federal Tribunal confirmed the ban in a statement released on Tuesday. "The National Federal Tribunal, Disciplinary Section, definitively ruling, imposes on Mr Maduka Okoye the sanction of two (2) months of disqualification in official matches, starting from the beginning of the first official competition of the 2025/2026 sporting season," the ruling stated.

Okoye's suspension is set to begin with Udinese's first competitive fixture of the new campaign, a Coppa Italia clash against Carrarese on August 18, and will see him miss five subsequent Serie A matches.

He is expected to return to eligibility by October 19, when Udinese travel to face Cremonese. Note that Maduka Okoye, who was once Nigeria's first-choice goalkeeper, has struggled to maintain consistency since the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations. His form has fluctuated, and this latest development could further complicate his future with both Udinese and the Nigerian national team.

## FG approves full payment of allowances, bonuses to Super Falcons

President Bola Tinubu has approved full payment of allowances and match bonuses for the Super Falcons ahead of their July 26 WAFCON final against Morocco. Shehu Dikko, Chairman of the National Sports Commission, confirmed that all entitlements for players, coaches and officials have been cleared for immediate disbursement.

Describing the decision as "policy in motion," Dikko said it ushers in a new era of timely, transparent payments – free from the delays and controversy that used to lower team morale.

The same enhanced packages will also support D'Tigress as they gear up for the 2025 FIBA Women's AfroBasket.

"This is the kind of sports administration we are building, one rooted in dignity, trust, and shared prosperity," – Dikko added.

With finances secured, the Super Falcons can now concentrate fully on bringing the trophy home.



Super Falcons

### Barcelona, Man United seal loan deal for Marcus Rashford

Spanish champions Barcelona loaned Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford on Wednesday with a future purchase option.

"Barcelona and Manchester United have reached a deal for the loan of the player Marcus Rashford until June 30, 2026," announced the La Liga champions in a statement.

"The agreement also establishes an option to buy the English forward."

Barcelona are paying around 75 percent of Rashford's £325,000-a-week wage (\$435,000) while he is at the club, with the player foregoing the rest, according to Spanish reports.

the player foregoing the rest, according to Spanish reports. The 27-year-old England international was out of favour under Man United coach Ruben Amorim and spent the final months of the 2024/25 season on loan at Aston Villa. Rashford, who made his United debut in 2015, became an

Rashford, who made his United debut in 2015, became an outcast at Old Trafford, with Amorim publically doubting his commitment and desire.

In May, Barca coach Hansi Flick said Rashford and Liverpool winger Luis Diaz were "fantastic players" amid transfer links to both, with the club keen to reinforce on the left flank.

Last season the Catalans were irresistible in attack, winning a domestic treble, but had little in the way of back-up for key wingers Raphinha and Lamine Yamal.

Rashford could also offer cover for veteran Polish striker Robert Lewandowski, who turns 37 in August.

Barcelona had hoped to sign Athletic Bilbao winger Nico Williams to play on the left wing but the Spaniard signed a new deal at the San Mames.

Rashford, who came through Manchester United's academy, last played for the Premier League club in December, scoring 138 goals in 426 appearances for the Red Devils.

At Aston Villa, he managed four goals in 17 games before a hamstring injury cut his season short in April.

Rashford was criticised by former Manchester United great Teddy Sheringham after trying to make the Barcelona switch happen in recent weeks.

"From my perspective, if you go from Manchester United to Barcelona, that's a step up that he hasn't deserved," Sheringham told SkyBet.

Manchester United want to move on several more players this summer, including Antony, Jadon Sancho and Alejandro Garnacho

Barcelona had trouble registering signings last season with La Liga, including midfielder Dani Olmo, and according to reports may need to find ways to balance the books before registering Rashford and their first summer arrival, goalkeeper Joan Garcia.

Few British players have joined Barcelona since the 1980s, when Gary Lineker, Steve Archibald and Mark Hughes all played for the club.

Current Bristol City midfielder Marcus McGuane signed for Barcelona's reserve side in 2018, appearing once for the first team as a substitute in the Catalan Super Cup, before leaving in 2019 on loan to Telstar and eventually joining Nottingham Forest.

In the summer of 2019 Louie Barry moved to Barca's youth academy from West Bromwich Albion but departed for Aston Villa in January 2020.



Rashford

### **FAMILY DYNAMICS**

AISHA AUYO,

• WITH

# The 20-Year Love Story of Ahmad and Hanan: Pure, Powerful, Yet Denied (2)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK..

"After my marriage, Allah blessed me with a baby girl. True to my promise, I named her Maryam.

Ahmad, on the other hand, returned to school and obtained his HND certificate, just as we had agreed. He got married seven years ago and now has a child. I still hear about him through his female cousin, with whom I've remained in touch.

Astagfirullah... For the 20 years of my marriage, I have never forgotten Ahmad. I tried my best to be committed—enduring, overlooking, and doing all I could to make things work (that's a story for another day). The marriage was blessed with five children—one of whom, sadly, is now late. But truth be told, the love and connection were only a façade.

Last year, I left my matrimonial home—not because of Ahmad, but due to reasons I could no longer endure. Ahmad is aware of my divorce. We communicate occasionally, though we haven't met physically to this day.

I don't know if he still truly wants to be with me. Yes, he still calls me "My Princess" and I respond with "My Love," but something inside me—my instincts—still don't see us ending up together.

The truth is, he is the only person my heart ever beat for. If I get to be with him, I'll be happy. But if not, I know I'll still survive—I'll manage my life without him.

Still, I have never stopped loving him. My heart still skips a beat when I hear his voice—even after all these years. The emotions feel as fresh as ever. And that alone has made me vow never to let my daughters marry anyone they do not love. In shaa Allah, I'm willing to sacrifice everything just to be with him.

He once said to me, "Allah yasa ba zan mutu ba sai an daura mana aure. Even if I die immediately after, I'll be content because I believe we'll live together in the Akhirah.

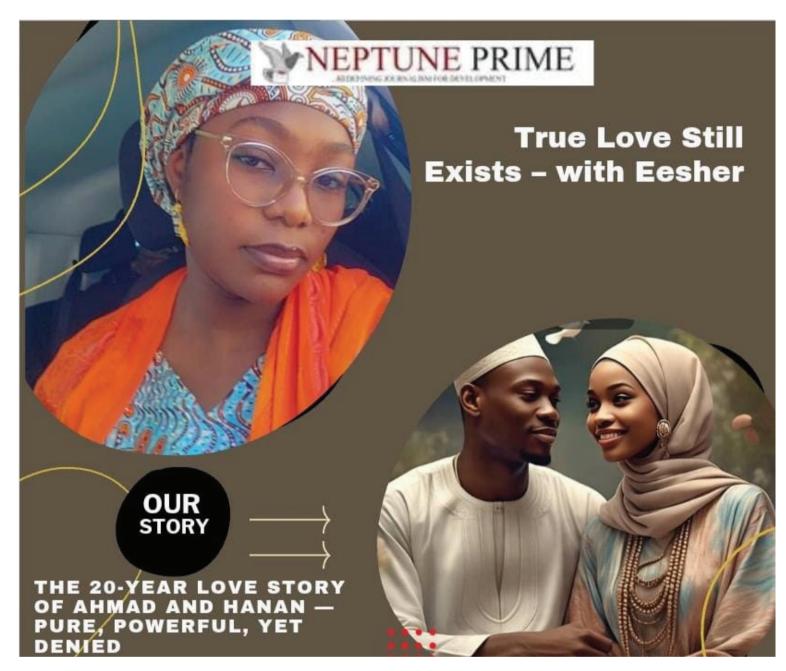
What makes our love even more special is how it grew—not through words like "I love you"—but slowly, sincerely, as friends who became lovers. He always cried whenever I had to return home after visiting him. Deep down, I know he's still afraid of how my people might react.

I just want to be sure the feelings are still mutual—then, together, we can face whatever comes and, in shaa Allah, overcome it all. Although we still communicate over the phone, Ahmad and I will be meeting in person for the first time in over 20 years next month. I still don't know what Allah has in store for us.

#### Dear Anonymous,

Your story is deeply moving. Thank you for sharing such raw, honest, and powerful emotions. Your journey is a reflection of the nature of true love—and also the quiet strength of a woman who has endured much yet still holds onto hope and dignity.

It's clear that Ahmad holds a sacred





place in your heart, and it's equally clear that you've done your part as a wife, mother, and believer. You honoured your vows, gave your best, and

bore the trials of life with remarkable patience. May Allah reward you for every tear, every sacrifice, and every act of silent endurance. As for Ahmad, love that lasts two decades—despite distance, silence, and life's many turns—is rare. The way your connection grew slowly, without theatrics, and remained intact all these years, suggests it was built on sincerity, not fantasy.

But as you already understand so well: while emotions are powerful, outcomes belong to Allah alone.

You are wise to seek clarity before proceeding and even wiser to leave the future in Allah's hands. This upcoming meeting is not just about rekindling love—it's about seeing if the bond that once tied two hearts can be revived in a way that honours your deen, your dignity, and your dreams. Whether Allah reunites you or redirects you, remember this: "You are already whole." With or without him, you have proven your heart's capacity to love, endure, and grow. And the vow you made for your daughters? That's beautiful. May they find love that is true, mutual, and halal from the very start.

May Allah guide your steps, soften what is hard, and write for you what is best—both in this world and the next.

With love and du'a, Sis Eesher

CONCLUDED

## SOCIALS/FASHION BY ZARA AHMED

QUICK STATISTICS ON FASHION

aware of underskirt or

patroning such!

of Women avoid bras due to advanced methods of sewing

Nigerians women replaces panties with tight!

of Nigerians patronise native attires

patronise nature attires

of Nigerians can't live without jeans

of Nigerians still patronise fairly used cloths, bags and shoes

of Nigerians patronise can't dress without jeans

## Tech-Enhanced Fashion: When Style Meets Innovation

Tech-enhanced fashion, also known as fashion tech or smart fashion, is a rapidly evolving intersection of clothing and technology.

It blends innovation, style, and functionality to create garments and accessories that do more than just look good; they think, respond, and connect. Here are some of the most popular and trending tech-enhanced fashion accessories that combine style with smart functionality, especially among modern and fashion-forward individuals.

Smartwatches (Advanced & Stylish) · Have remarkable features like health tracking, GPS, contactless payments, and ECG

• Swappable designer straps (leather, steel, fabric)

**Smart Rings** 

• Tracks sleep, heart rate, steps, stress • Sleek and minimal, looks like a regular

**Audio Sunglasses** 

• Have built-in speakers + microphone • Listen to music, take calls, and use voice assistants

• Has a subtle design that looks like classic eyewear

**LED Fashion Wearables** 

• Jackets, shoes, or hats with programmable LED panels

• These are popular at music festivals or night events

• Brands like Lumen Couture and Wearable X are exploring this space Smart Eyewear with AR Capabilities

Lightweight smart glasses with augmented reality features

Some project virtual screens for productivity or media viewing Bluetooth Beanies & Caps

• Fashionable winter beanies or sports caps with built-in Bluetooth headphones Ideal for listening to music or podcasts

 Washable and minimalist Wireless Charging Wallets

discreetly

• Sleek leather wallets with built-in power

banks

 Can wirelessly charge phones or AirPods

· RFID-blocking for added security

Smart Backpacks

• USB charging ports, GPS tracking, anti-theft locks

· Designed for travel, tech professionals, or students

• Brands: Tzowla, Nomatic, XD Design Bobby

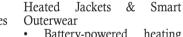
Self-Lacing or Smart Sneakers Produced with app-controlled lacing, pressure sensors, and

Battery-powered heating panels

• Temperature-controlled via

revolutionising trends. The fashion industry is undergoing a transformative evolution, driven by the fusion

Tech-enhanced fashion is no longer a futuristic concept, it's a present-day reality.















#### TECH®WORL 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.

## Africa CDC taps Al, data integration to modernise public health

To strengthen response serve as a central hub efforts, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is preparing to launch a new initiative aimed at enhancing health knowledge management across the continent.

A year into the ongoing Mpox outbreak, the number of affected African countries has risen from seven to 26, with new clades and substrains adding complexity to containment efforts.

Notably, Clade I is linked to higher mortality and severe illness, while Clade IIB — sexually transmissible — is driving cases in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda.

This move signals a pivotal shift in how Africa responds to public health threats.

The upcoming Africa Health Knowledge Management Portal will for data, research, and policy insights, facilitating access to critical public health information for stakeholders ranging from national policymakers to frontline health workers.

Dr Nebiyu Dereje, Head of Division, Knowledge Management and Editorin-Chief of the Journal of Public Health in Africa (JPHIA), underscored the importance of the initiative:

"Knowledge generated from an outbreak response in a country will critically support the preparedness and response efforts for a similar outbreak in other countries."

"The portal is designed as a multi-tiered platform spanning the continental, regional, and Member State levels, hosted by the Africa CDC and its five Regional Coordinating Centres.

"Member States will be



Africa CDC

able to host their own portals or connect directly to the continental system.

With support from the Rockefeller Foundation and Mastercard Foundation, the portal integrates AI-powered tools for multilingual translation, intelligent search, realtime document comparison, and a chatbot for user queries.

Users will also benefit from Acting Director of Science and personalised content and a mobile- Innovation, Africa CDC.

friendly interface.

"This portal is not just a knowledge repository site. It's a smart system built to evidence-based catalyse decision-making, empower national health systems, and boost regional knowledge exchange and cooperation,' says Dr Mosoka Papa Fallah,

### web update

## **ABU** Zaria gets €5 million grant to develop Al-powered microscope

Ahmadu Bello University, ABU, Zaria has secured a 5 million euros grant to develop an AI-powered microscope for parasitic diseases.

This is contained in a statement by the Director of Public Affairs, Directorate of the university, Auwalu Umar.

Umar said that the microscope would be able to detect diseases such as African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, filariasis.

He said that the grant was won through MultiplexAI, the first Horizon Euro-funded project to be hosted at ABU's Africa Centre of Excellence for Neglected Tropical Diseases and Forensic Biotechnology, ACENTDFB.
The Vice-Chancellor of the

university, Prof. Adamu Ahmed, congratulated ACENTDFB on the feat.

Ahmed also commended Dr Chechet. Gloria-Dada Scientific Project Leader of the MultiplexAI project, for the great role played in securing the grant. According to Umar, the MultiplexAI project was designed for use in rural and hard-to-reach

It said that the tool also enables health workers to accurately detect multiple infections at the point of care, using only a microscope, smartphone, and app.

### Upskill Universe, Google, HP, partner to equip 10,000 African SMEs

**Upskill** Universe launched the Skills for Business programme, a new initiative aimed at equipping 10,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria and South Africa with essential digital and business skills to drive growth and economic development.

The training will be complemented by expertled virtual workshops hosted by Google and UpSkill Universe, designed to help SMEs expand their customer reach, enhance operations, and build long-term business success.

"When small businesses thrive, entire communities thrive with them. The Skills for Business programme about empowering entrepreneurs to access the future of work," said Michele Malejki, Global Head of Social Impact at HP Inc. and Executive Director of the HP Foundation.

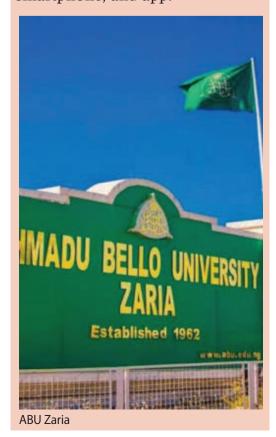


Upskill Universe

"Since 2021, HP has been working to accelerate digital equity for 150 million people by 2030, providing access to technology and digital skills content that foster

opportunity and growth. We're proud to back this high-impact programme that gives SMEs the support they need to grow, scale, and succeed."

The Skills for Business programme is set to directly train 10,000 SMEs and indirectly reach another 59,000 individuals by the end of 2025, underscoring how strategic partnerships can accelerate Africa's digital transformation and drive economic growth.



## WORLD NEWS

BY MERCY ADAJE MercyAdaje@neptuneprime.com.ng



Macron

### France will recognise the State of Palestine in September -Macron

France will officially recognise a Palestinian state in September, President Emmanuel Macron has said.

In a post on X, Macron said the formal announcement would be made at a session of the UN General Assembly in New York. "The urgent need today is for the war in Gaza to end and for the civilian population to be rescued. Peace is possible. We need an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and massive humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza," he wrote.

Palestinian officials welcomed Macron's decision, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the move "rewards terror" following Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack in Israel.

In his Thursday post on X, Macron wrote: "True to its historic commitment to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, I have decided that France will recognise the State of Palestine.

must also guarantee the "We demilitarisation of Hamas, and secure and rebuild Gaza.

"Finally, we must build the State of Palestine, ensure its viability, and ensure that by accepting its demilitarisation and fully recognising Israel, it contributes to the security of all in the Middle East. There is no alternative."

Macron also attached a letter to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas confirming his decision.

Responding to Macron's announcement, Abbas' deputy Hussein al-Sheikh said "this position reflects France's commitment to international law and its support for the Palestinian people's rights to selfdetermination and the establishment of our independent state", according to the AFP news agency.





### US to withdraw from UNESCO by 2026

(UNESCO) by the end of 2026, the government said on Tuesday, two years after rejoining the United Nations' cultural agency.

"Today, the United States informed Director-General Audrey Azoulay of the United States' decision to withdraw from UNESCO," State Department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce said in a statement.

"Continued involvement in UNESCO is not in the national interest of the United States," it added.

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a review of the country's involvement and funding in the United Nations in early February, just days after taking office for a second term.

At the time, Trump said the UN had "tremendous potential" but "it's not being well run."

UNESCO is tasked with promoting

The United States would withdraw from cooperation across those sectors and is best the UN Educational, Scientific, Cultural known for its World Heritage list, which Communication Organisation includes sites recognised for their special cultural, historical or natural significance. In the statement, the State Department accused the organisation of working 'to advance divisive social and cultural causes and maintains an outsized focus on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, a globalist, ideological agenda for international development at odds with our America First foreign policy.'

"UNESCO's decision to admit the 'State of Palestine' as a Member State is highly problematic, contrary to U.S policy, and contributed to the proliferation of anti-Israel rhetoric within the organisation."

Trump first pulled the U.S. from the cultural agency during his first term in 2018, before the country rejoined under the Biden administration in 2023.

World Heritage Sites in the United States include Yellowstone National Park, the Statue of Liberty and the 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.



Suspects

# 50 Nigerians arrested in Ghana for cybercrime, human trafficking

The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) stepped up its ongoing crackdown against crime in the country, arresting more than 50 Nigerian nationals in sweeping intelligence-led operations targeting cybercrime and suspected human trafficking syndicates at McCarthy Hills, Accra.

This was contained in a statement released Thursday by the Assistant Commissioner of Immigration and Head of Public Affairs of the GIS, M. Amoako-Atta.

According to him, the successful operation took place on Thursday, July 24, 2025, following intelligence reports that some foreign nationals were unlawfully residing in the area and may have been trafficked into the country and forced into online

"This operation follows intelligence gathered on the illegal stay of some foreign nationals in the area, some of whom were trafficked into the country and forced into cyber fraud by their facilitators," he said.

The raid, carried out in coordination with other national security agencies, resulted in the arrest of dozens of individuals and the landlord of the property, which was believed to have been used for the alleged activities.

Mr Amoako-Atta said further investigations are ongoing, and the suspects are being screened, adding that updates will be shared as the situation develops.
The McCarthy Hills operation follows

recent arrests involving cybercrime and trafficking networks operating in residential communities in Accra.

In April 2025, a joint team from the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), the Ghana Police Service, and other security agencies arrested 219 foreign nationals, including minors, during a raid at Oyarifa in the Ga East Municipality.

That operation uncovered a large-scale cyber fraud and trafficking syndicate.

### DID YOU KNOW?

BY VIVIAN OKAFOR

### The Moon is currently drifting away from Earth

The Moon is moving away from Earth because of tidal forces and the transfer of angular momentum. As the Moon orbits Earth, its gravitational pull causes tides on Earth, creating a bulge of water on the side of Earth facing the Moon and on the opposite side. This bulge is slightly offset from the direct line between the Earth and the Moon due to the Earth's rotation. The Moon's gravity pulls on this bulge, which in turn pulls the Moon forward in its orbit, causing it to move further away from Earth.

The Moon's gravity pulls on Earth's oceans, creating tidal bulges on both the near and far sides of the Earth.

Earth rotates faster than the Moon orbits, causing the tidal bulge to be slightly ahead of the Moon in its orbit.

#### Transfer of Angular

The Moon's gravity tugs on the tidal bulge, causing it to pull the Moon forward in its orbit, increasing the Moon's orbital speed and distance from Earth.

As the Moon gains angular momentum, Earth loses it, causing Earth's rotation to slow down very slightly.

The Moon is currently drifting away from Earth at a rate of about 3.8 centimetres (1.5 inches) per year, which is roughly the same rate fingernails grow. As it is drifting away from Earth, its distance is increasing by about 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) per year. This is due to tidal interactions between the Earth and the Moon, where the Moon's gravitational pull creates bulges on Earth's oceans, and these bulges, not being perfectly aligned with the Moon, exert a gravitational force that pushes the Moon further away.

This process also slows Earth's rotation, making our days slightly longer over vast periods. The Moon's gravity pulls on Earth, causing the oceans to bulge out on the side of Earth facing the Moon and on the opposite side.

Because the Earth rotates faster than the Moon orbits, these bulges are not perfectly aligned with the Moon. This misalignment means that the Moon is constantly pulling on a bulge that is slightly ahead of it in its orbit.

This interaction transfers energy from Earth to the Moon, causing the Moon to move into a higher orbit and further away from Earth.

The transfer of energy slows Earth's rotation, meaning that our days are getting slightly longer over vast periods.

While the Moon is moving further away from Earth, its orbit around the Sun remains largely unchanged. It's not moving closer to the Sun, it's just moving further away from the Earth and making a slightly larger orbit around it.

Laser ranging measurements of the change in the distance from the Earth to the Moon tell us that the Moon is moving away from the Earth at a rate of about 3.78 cm per year. Calculations of the evolution of the Earth/Moon



system tell us that with this rate of separation that in about 15 billion years, the Moon will stop moving away from the Earth. Now, our Sun is expected to enter its Red Giant phase in about 6 to 7 billion years. So it means that the Sun will engulf the inner planets as its outer layers expand during its Red Giant phase, before the Moon stops moving away from the Earth.

ing extracted from its orbit around the Earth, depends upon exactly what the mechanism was that caused it to be removed from the Earth/Moon sys-

The Moon, after be- If the moon gets far enough

from Earth, it leaves our planet's orbit completely, then there will be no tides in our oceans.

As the Moon moves away, Earth's rotation slows down, making our days slightly longer over time.

### The liver is the only organ that can regenerate itself



The liver is a unique organ in the body, being the only organ that can regenerate. With most organs, such as the heart, the damaged tissue is replaced with scar tissue, like on the skin. The liver, however, can replace damaged tissue with new cells. If up to 50 to 60 per cent of the liver cells may be killed within three to four days in an extreme case like a Tylenol overdose, the liver will repair completely after 30 days if no complications arise.

Complications of liver disease occur when regeneration is either incomplete or prevented by the progressive development of scar tissue within the liver. This occurs when the damaging agent such as a virus, a drug, alcohol, etc., continues to attack the liver and prevents complete

Once scar tissue has developed, it is very difficult to reverse that process. Severe scarring of the liver is the condition known as cirrhosis. The development of cirrhosis indicates advanced liver disease and is usually followed by the onset of complications.

Other organs can repair a few damages, but the liver has a unique ability to regrow to its original size and function after significant loss, such as from injury or surgical removal. This regenerative capacity is crucial for maintaining liver health and function.

While other organs may heal from damage

through scar tissue formation or cellular repair, the liver can actually regrow lost tissue, restoring both mass and function.

The liver achieves regeneration through the proliferation of mature liver cells (hepatocytes) rather than relying on stem cells like some other tissues. It can regenerate even after losing a large portion (up to 90%) of its mass, as long as some healthy tissues remain.

This regenerative ability is particularly important in cases of liver disease or surgical removal, where the remaining liver tissue can grow back to compensate for the lost portion.

At the core of this extraordinary feat of organ physiology lies two equally exceptional features of cell biology. First, liver regeneration is driven not by stem cells, but rather by the proliferation of the liver's differentiated cells. Second, many of these liver cells are polyploid, yet still able to execute proper cell division.

Understanding how liver cells maintain proliferative capacity as differentiated cells and how they execute mitosis faithfully in a polyploid state could offer powerful insights toward engineering regenerative capacity in other or-

The liver thus offers not only proof that mammalian organ regeneration is possible, but also a blueprint for achieving this long-standing goal of regenerative medicine.

### LIVING LEGENDS

BY ZARA AHMED

### Joke Silva: Veteran Actress, Businesswoman

Joke Silva, MFR, is a veteran Nigerian actress, director, and businesswoman. She attended Holy Child College in Lagos and is a graduate of the University of Lagos and the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Arts in London.

Silva was born in Lagos, Nigeria, into the Saro/Amaro family. Her mother, the pioneering doctor Adebimbola Silva, died in July 2015. Her father, Chief Emmanuel Afolabi Silva, was a lawyer, and her great-grand-fathers were the prominent Colonial Nigerians Charles Phillips and Samuel Herbert

**Acting Career** 

Silva began her career in film in the early 1990s. At the university, she was part of a cultural group that included the playwright Bode Osanyin and the singer Stella Monye.

She took a year off from her studies, during which she began working as an actress before relocating to England where she studied Drama at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London.

Initially, her parents were opposed to Silva's decision to go into the theatre but they soon began to support her, happy at the success she made of her career. Despite her acting career, Silva returned to school and studied English at the University of Lagos.

On 29 September 2014, Silva received recognition as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic, one of Nigeria's national honours, at the International Conference Centre in

In 1998, she had a major role starring opposite Colin Firth and Nia Long in the Brit-ish-Canadian film The Secret Laughter of Women. In 2006, she won "best actress in leading role" at the second movie academy award for her per-formance in Women's Cot, and "best actress supporting role" at the 4th Africa supporting role in 2008 for her performance as a grandmother in white waters.

Silva is married to veteran actor Olu Jacobs. The couple founded and operate the Lufodo Group, a media corporation that consists of film production, distribution assets, and the Lufodo Academy of Performing Arts, where she serves as Director of Studies. She is also the pioneer managing director of Malete Film Village, in association with Kwara State University.

In 2002, Silva starred opposite Bimbo Akindola in Keeping Faith. Akintola later cited Silva, whom she refers to as "Aunty Joke", as a major career influence, adding, "Silva has done a lot, but it's not even about the things that she did, it's about the things she didn't

realise that she did".
Also in 2002, Silva co-produced and starred in The Kingmaker with Olu Jacobs. This was followed by roles in pictures such as A Husband's Wife (2003), Shylock (2004), and A Past Came Calling (2004) (2004).

Silva has starred in numerous films and television series in both the English and Yoruba languages. One of her earliest roles was in the 1990 English television series Mind Bending. In 1993, she appeared in Owu-lorojo, followed by Violated in 1996. Author Finola Kerrigan noted that Silva stood out as an exceptional actress in the Nigerian film industry after mentioning some of her notable roles in Violated (1995), Silent Night (1996) as Mrs. Agnes Odame; Curse From Beyond (1999) as Janet's Mother and The Secret Laughter of Women (1999) as Nene.

Joke Silva and her husband, Olu Jacobs, have two children: Olusoji Jacobs and Dayo Ja-



Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu

## Bianca Olivia Odumegwu-Ojukwu: Politician, Lawyer, Diplomat

Bianca Odinakachukwu Olivia Odumeg-

wu-Ojukwu (née Onoh; born 5 August 1968) is a Nigerian politician, diplomat, lawyer, businesswoman and beauty pageant titleholder.

The widow of Biafra President Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, she is a multiple international pageant titleholder, having won Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, Miss Africa, and Miss Intercontinental Formerly a presidential advisor Intercontinental. Formerly a presidential advisor, she was the country's ambassador to Ghana and became Nigeria's Ambassador to Spain in 2012. She is also Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation. tion (UNWTO) and the incumbent Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, after being sworn in on 4 November 2024.

Bianca is the sixth child of former Anambra State Governor Christian Onoh and his wife Carol, a college principal, Bianca Onoh spent most of her childhood in rural Ngwo with her siblings. She attended Ackworth School, Pontefract, St Andrews College, Cambridge, and Cambridge Tutorial College where she obtained her A-levels. She soon began a combined honours degree in Politics. Economics and Law at the University of Buckingham, but transferred to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka after her father, a lawyer by profession, insisted she concentrate solely on Law and join the family business.

Following graduation, Odumegwu-Ojukwu attended the Nigerian Law School and was called to the Nigerian Bar.

After Law School, Bianca briefly practised the profession before quitting to divide her time between her home, her cosmetics business, Bianca Blend and her interior decorating outfit, Mirabella.

Despite her reservations regarding modelling, Bianca Onoh fronted print commercials for her brand. She also established the non-government organisation Hope House Trust, centred towards rehabilitating juvenile offenders in Enugu. She is also the chairman of the Mayrock Memorial Foundation.

In December 1988, Bianca, who had previously emerged winner at Miss Martini in her teens in England, contested in, and was crowned Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, but reigned through most of 1989. She also won the Miss Africa 1989 pageant held in Gambia before representing her country at both Miss World in Hong Kong and Miss Universe in Mexico.

She achieved greater success when she became the first African to win Miss Intercontinental that same year, and was named Miss Congeniality at Miss Charm in Russia where she was also

a semi-finalist.

In 2011, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu was appointed Senior Special Assistant on Diaspora Affairs by President Goodluck Jonathan. In 2012, she became Nigeria's Ambassador to Ghana and later Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain. In 2016, Odumegwu-Ojukwu received a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy in Spain. She also holds a Diploma in Human Rights and International Relations from the Berg Institute as well as a Diploma in Dynamics of Conflict and Cooperation from the University for Peace, Cos-

On 23 October 2024, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu reshuffled his cabinet and appointed Ojukwu as Minister of State for Foreign Af-

She was formerly a Presidential Advisor and is a principal member of the Board of Trustees of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), a political party in which her late husband was a prominent member. The party has maintained political power in Anambra State for almost 20

Beauty Contests/Marriage

In 1989, halfway through her reign as MBGN, Bianca began a relationship with Biafra President Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, her father's political associate, over thirty years her

Their controversial romance was a national talking point in the early 1990s. The immense pressure of being under the public eye became increasingly unbearable, causing her to resign as Miss Intercontinental as her main concern was completing her education as a law student. In 1994, having finally obtained her degree, she married the former Biafra President, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu in a lavish wedding ceremony held in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria.

In 2012, following the death of her husband, his will, which left most of his assets to her, generated a great deal of controversy and disaffection among several family members.

Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu appealed to her critics to allow Odumegwu-Ojukwu to "rest in peace", describing him as a man of honour and integrity whose legacy should not be obscured by rancour over inheritance issues and stating that the will was drafted in 2005, registered and placed in the custody of the State Probate Registry with the legal witnesses and executors, who were present at the time it was prepared, still living.



Joke Silva

### ANIMAL WORLD

#### BY MARYAM UMAR MaryamUmar@neptuneprime.com.ng



## What is a Honey Badger? All You Need to Know

The honey badger, also known as the ratel, is one of Africa's most intriguing and yet seldomseen creatures.

A small, fierce, and endlessly entertaining mammal well-known for its fearless attitude, a honey badger is best described it's a four-legged daredevil, an animal that seems to laugh in the face of danger.

Known for its striking black and white coat and grumpy but lovable personality, the honey badger is often compared to a "hardened bushwarrior" with an almost mythical resistance to venom, unfathomable brute strength, and clever problem-solving skills.

With its curious antics and constant scurrying about for food, the honey badger has rightfully earned its spot as a must-see on African safaris.

It's an animal of legend, adaptable to different environments, but almost always living up to its "tough guy" reputation.

What Does a Honey

Badger Look Like?The honey badger may not be large, but it packs a whole lot of personality into its slender compact frame.

Known scientifically as Mellivora capensis, honey badgers have a stocky build with a length of about 55-77 cm (22-30 inches) and a weight of up to 16 kg (around 35 pounds). This feisty animal's striking white or grey "hood" from its head to its tail gives it a bold, contrasting look.

To help you envision it a little bit better, picture a sturdy, low-to-the-ground

animal with strong, muscular legs and long claws, perfect for digging up prey like rodents, insects, and, of course, honeycombs (hence its name).

But it's not just their looks that make honey badgers unique; it's their attitude... which is seldom cuddly! Are Honey Badgers Human-Friendly? And are Honey Badgers

Aggressive? Honey badgers are not human-friendly and they are famously known for having a short and awful emper!

Honey badgers tend to prefer to keep their distance from people, so you don't have to worry about them springing out of the grass and attacking you, but know that they will defend themselves if provoked.

Honey badgers are known to fearlessly confront animals many times their size, even challenging lions and leopards if the need arises.

As for family life, they live independently or in small family units, with mothers often raising their young alone, proving that this tiny warrior spirit starts from birth.

**Interesting Facts About Honey Badgers** 

By now, you should have a pretty well-rounded idea about what makes the honey badger such an iconic and revered creature. But there is more to it than just its tough-guy nature. These are a few of the other interesting facts about the honey badger that are worth knowing. Masters of Escape – Honey badgers are famous for their Houdini-like

for their Houdini-like escape tactics. They're known to pry open cage doors, dig under fences, or even stack objects to climb out of enclosures.

Omnivorous Diet – These

little warriors eat a bit of everything; frogs, birds, honey, fruits, and even venomous snakes like cobras!

Thick, Loose Skin – Honey badgers have thick, loose skin that allows them to twist and bite attackers, even if they're caught. Their thick skin also protects them from being badly harmed by predators.

Relentless Attitude – A honey badger doesn't back down from a fight! They have been seen chasing lions off carcasses and fighting off entire packs of hyenas.

Unique Intelligence – Honey badgers are resourceful problem-solvers. They've been observed using tools, such as sticks or stones, to access hard-to-reach food.

There are very few African animals that capture the spirit of tenacity quite like the honey badger. Small yet mighty, cunning yet charming, animal embodies the rugged resilience of the African continent and experiencing a honey badger's antics in person can make any safari a truly unforgettable adventure.





### **BOOKS**

#### BY SERGE NILUS

## The Protocols of the Elders of Zion (2)

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

27. Our triumph has been rendered easier by the fact that in our relations with the men, whom we wanted, we have always worked upon the most sensitive chords of the human mind, upon the cash account, upon the cupidity, upon the insatiability for material needs of man; and each one of these human weaknesses, taken alone, is sufficient to paralyze initiative, for it hands over the will of men to the disposition of him who has bought their activities.

28. The abstraction of freedom has enabled us to persuade the mob in all countries that their government is nothing but the steward of the people who are the owners of the country, and that the steward may be replaced like a worn-out glove.

29. It is this possibility of replacing the representatives of the people which has placed at our disposal, and, as it were, given us the power of appointment.

#### Protocol No. 2: Economic Wars

1. It is indispensable for our purpose that wars, so far as possible, should not result in territorial gains: war will thus be brought on to the economic ground, where the nations will not fail to perceive in the assistance we give the strength of our predominance, and this state of things will put both sides at the mercy of our international AGENTUR; which possesses millions of eyes ever on the watch and unhampered by any limitations whatsoever. Our international rights will then wipe out national rights, in the proper sense of right, and will rule the nations precisely as the civil law of States rules the relations of their subjects among themselves.

The administrators, whom we shall choose from among the public, with strict regard to their capacities for servile not be obedience. persons trained in the arts of government, and will therefore easily become pawns in our game in the hands of men of learning and genius who will be their advisers, specialists bred and reared from early childhood to rule the affairs of the whole world. As is well known to you, these specialists of ours have been drawing to fit them for rule the information they need from our political plans from the lessons of history, from observations made of the events of every moment as it passes. The GOYIM are not guided by practical unprejudiced historical observation, but by theoretical routine without any critical regard for consequent results. We

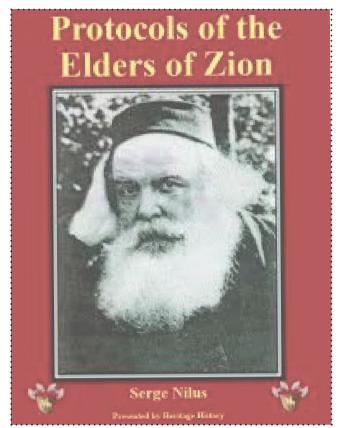
need not, therefore, take any account of them let them amuse themselves until the hour strikes, or live on hopes of new forms of enterprising pastime, or on the memories of all they have enjoyed. For them let that play the principal part which we have persuaded them to accept as the dictates of science. It is with this object in view that we are constantly, by means of our press, arousing a blind confidence in these theories. The intellectuals of the GOYIM will puff themselves up with their knowledges and without any logical verification of them will put into effect all the information available from science, which our AGENTUR specialists have cunningly pieced together for the purpose of AGENTUR educating their minds in the direction we want.

#### DESTRUCTIVE EDUCATION

3. Do not suppose for a moment that these statements are empty words: think carefully of the successes we arranged for Darwinism (Evolution), Marxism (Communism), Nietzsche-ism (Socialism). To us Jews, at any rate, it should be plain to see what a disintegrating importance these directives have had upon the minds of the GOYIM

4. It is indispensable for us to take account of the thoughts, characters, tendencies of the nations in order to avoid making slips in the political and in the direction of administrative affairs. The triumph of our system of which the component parts of the machinery may be variously disposed according to the temperament of the peoples met on our way, will fail of success if the practical application of it be not based upon a summing up of the lessons of the past in

the light of the present. 5. In the hands of the States of to-day there is a great force that creates the movement of thought in the people, and that is the Press. The part played by the Press is to keep pointing out requirements supposed to be indispensable, to give voice to the complaints of the people, to express and to create discontent. It is in the Press that the triumph of freedom of speech finds its incarnation. But the GOYIM States have not known how to make use of this force; and it has fallen into our hands. Through the Press we have gained the power to influence while remaining ourselves in the shade: thanks to the Press we have got the GOLD in our hands, notwithstanding that we have had to gather it out of the oceans of blood and tears. But it has paid us, though we have sacrificed many of our people. Each victim on our side is worth in the sight of God a



thousand GOYIM. Protocol No. 3: Methods of Conquest

1. To-day I may tell you that our goal is now only a few steps off. There remains a small space to cross and the whole long path we have trodden is ready now to close its cycle of the Symbolic Snake, by which we symbolize our people. When this ring closes, all the States of Europe will be locked in its coil as in a powerful vice.

2. The constitution scales of these days will shortly break down, for we have established them with a certain lack of accurate balance in order that they may oscillate incessantly until they wear through the pivot on which they turn. The GOYIM are under the impression that they have welded them sufficiently strong and they have all along kept on expecting that the scales would come into equilibrium. But the pivots — the kings on their thrones are hemmed in by their representatives, who play the fool, distraught with their own uncontrolled and irresponsible power. This power they owe to the terror which has been breathed into the palaces. As they have no means of getting at their people, into their very midst, the kings on their thrones are no longer able to come to terms with them and so strengthen themselves seekers against after power. We have made a gulf between the far-seeing Sovereign Power and the blind force of the people so that both have lost all meaning, for like the blind man and his stick, both are powerless apart.

3. In order to incite seekers after power to a misuse of power we have set all forces in opposition one to another, breaking up their

liberal tendencies towards independence. To this end we have stirred up every form of enterprise, we have armed all parties, we have set up authority as a target for every ambition. Of States we have made gladiatorial arenas where a lot of confused issues contend . . . A little more, and disorders and bankruptcy will be universal . . .

4. Babblers, inexhaustible, turned oratorical contests the of Parliament sittings Administrative Boards. Bold journalists unscrupulous and pamphleteers daily fall upon executive officials. Abuses of power will put the final touch in preparing all institutions for their overthrow and everything will fly skyward under the blows of the maddened mob.

#### POVERTY OUR WEAPON

5. All people are chained down to heavy toil by poverty more firmly than ever. They were chained by slavery and serfdom; from these, one way and another, they might free themselves. These could be settled with, but from want they will never get away. We have included in the constitution such rights as to the masses appear fictitious and not actual rights. All these so-called "Peoples Rights" can exist only in idea, an idea which can never be realized in practical life. What is it to the proletariat laborer, bowed double over his heavy toil, crushed by his lot in life, if talkers get the right to babble, if journalists get the right to scribble any nonsense side by side with good stuff, once the proletariat has no other profit out of the constitution save only

those pitiful crumbs which

we fling them from our table in return for their voting in favor of what we dictate, in favor of the men we place in power, the servants of our AGENTUR . . . Republican rights for a poor man are no more than a bitter piece of irony, for the necessity he is under of toiling almost all day gives him no present use of them, but the other hand robs him of all guarantee of regular and certain earnings by making him dependent on strikes by his comrades or lockouts by his masters. **SUPPORT** 

#### COMMUNISM

6. The people, under our guidance, have annihilated the aristocracy, who were their one and only defense and foster-mother for the sake of their own advantage which is inseparably bound up with the well-being of the people. Nowadays, with the destruction of the aristocracy, the people have fallen into the grips of merciless money-grinding scoundrels who have laid a pitiless and cruel yoke upon the necks of the workers.

7. We appear on the scene as alleged saviours of the worker from this oppression when we propose to him to enter the ranks of our fighting forces — Socialists, Anarchists, Communists – to whom we always give support in accordance with an alleged brotherly rule of our SOCIAL MASONRY. The aristocracy, which enjoyed by law the labor of the workers, was interested in seeing that the workers were well fed, healthy, and strong. We are interested in just the opposite — in the diminution, the KILLING OUT OF THE GOYIM. Our power is in the chronic shortness of food and physical weakness of the worker because by all that this implies he is made the slave of our will, and he will not find in his own authorities either strength or energy to set against our will. Hunger creates the right of capital to rule the worker more surely than it was given to the aristocracy by the legal authority of kings.

8. By want and the envy and hatred which it engenders we shall move the mobs and with their hands we shall wipe out all those who hinder us on our way.

9. WHEN THE HOUR STRIKES FOR OUR SOVEREIGN LORD OF ALL THE WORLD TO BE CROWNED IT IS THESE SAME HANDS WHICH WILL SWEEP AWAY EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT BE A HINDRANCE THERETO. 10. The GOYIM have lost the habit of thinking unless prompted by the suggestions of our specialists. Therefore they do not see the urgent necessity of what we, when our kingdom comes, shall adopt at once, namely this, that IT IS ESSENTIAL TO

TEACH IN NATIONAL SCHOOLS SIMPLE, TRUE PIECE KNOWLEDGE, BASIS OF ALL THE KNOWLEDGE KNOWLEDGE THE OF THE STRUCTURE OF HUMAN LIFE, OF SOCIAL EXISTENCE, **REQUIRES** DIVISION OF LABOR, AND, CONSEQUENTLY, DIVISION OF INTO CLASSES CONDITIONS. MEN ANDIt is essential for all to OWING know that TO DIFFERENCE IN OBJECTS HUMAN ACTIVITY THERE CANNOT BE ANY EQUALITY, that he, who by any act of his compromises a whole class, cannot be equally responsible before the law with him who affects no one but only his own honor. The true knowledge of the structure of society, into the secrets of which we do not admit the GOYIM, would demonstrate to all men that the positions and work must be kept within a certain circle, that they may not become a source of human suffering, arising from an education which does not correspond with the work which individuals are called upon to do. After a thorough study of this knowledge, the peoples will voluntarily submit to authority and accept such position as is appointed them in the State. In the present state of knowledge and the direction we have given to its development of the people, blindly believing things in print — cherishes — thanks to promptings intended to mislead and to its own ignorance a blind hatred towards all conditions which it considers above itself, for it has no understanding of the meaning of class and condition.

11. THIS HATRED WILL BE STILL FURTHER MAGNIFIED THE EFFECTS of an ECONOMIC CRISES, which will stop dealing on the exchanges and bring industry to a standstill. We shall create by all the secret subterranean methods open to us and with the aid of gold, which is all in our hands, A UNIVERSAL ECONOMIC CRISES WHEREBY WE SHALL THROW UPON THE STREETS WHOLE MOBS OF WORKERS SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ALL THE COUNTRIES EUROPE. mobs will rush delightedly to shed the blood of those whom, in the simplicity of their ignorance, they have envied from their cradles, and whose property they will then be able to loot.

JEWS WILL BE SAFE

TO BE CONTINUED



...redefining journalism for development www.neptuneprime.com.ng

## The Arbiter

BY HASSAN GIMBA





# Buhari: May our subsequent leaders die at home (1)

"The days of life pass away like clouds, so do good while you are alive." - Imam Ali (AS)

Many people may expect me to write about the late President Muhammadu Buhari, a retired Nigerian Army Major General who was many things to many people and different things to different people.

Alive, to a multitude of people, he was a man who could do no wrong. Dead, his wrongs must be interred with him. He was often excused; it was always the fault of others for every misstep of the government, though he was its numero uno. It was either that the National Assembly did not want him to work or that the ministers he appointed and tolerated were corrupt, while he was clean. Or, we, the ordinary folks, were not good enough for the saintly man that he was. The tendency to cut you down when you bared your mind was always there – and would remain for a long time to come.

He was a man with a cult following, venerated by millions. Has Nigeria ever had a man with the sort of intense following of Buhari? A man for whom people were willing to drink gutter water, trek hundreds of miles, and kill and be killed for? Hardly. He was elevated to an angel-like level by some of his worshipful followers, who regarded him as a deity of a kind. When he fell sick early in his first tenure, some of these followers attributed certain semi-divinity to

The man had been going to London for his medicals, as he once said, but they claimed that his sickness was a result of an out-of-this-world poison administered to him. To them, he was beyond sickness, and so, to yarn the superhuman story around his image, they claimed that that particular type of poison was so potent that only "three people", or so, had ever survived it in the history of the world – and that the man, Buhari, was that third person.

Nobody ever thought it would have been a wise and patriotic idea for Nigeria to build a worldclass hospital, even if it just specialised in treating his ailments, so that he could subsequently receive treatment there, and Nigerians cannot afford the £3,000 daily cost of the London Clinic where he died would have some succour. though Even spokesman, Mr Adesina, said the man would have since died had his health been managed in Nigeria, I think he has not heard about the patriotic sacrifice of Dr Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia.

He sacrificed his life for them when he refused to travel abroad for medical treatment related to his heart in 1989, opting to be operated upon in Malaysia.

He had this to say: "As a doctor myself, I knew the risks. I knew there was a possibility that I might not survive the operation, as it was not a common procedure."

Yet he rejected his doctors' recommendations surgery in the US.

"I had to have faith in our Malaysian doctors," he said. "If I didn't make an example of myself, no one else would have confidence in our medical service."

The surgery successful, and he went on to establish worldclass medical facilities in the then underdeveloped country, transforming it into a global hub for medical tourism.



Dr Gimba

In any case, what is abhorrent in a leader dying at home, apart from, perhaps, in a holy land related to his religion? Nelson Mandela was treated at the Mediclinic Heart Hospital in Pretoria on 8 June 2013 and passed away on 5 December 2014. Jerry Rawlings died at the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, Ghana. Undoubtedly, Nigeria can easily afford to build the best hospitals in the world, locating one in each of its six geopolitical zones, with Abuja having another one. We also have the wherewithal to attract the best brains in the world from the medical and its associated fields – a significant number of

whom are Nigerians. In 1983, when General Buhari came to power, one of the complaints about the Shagari government was that the country's hospitals had become "mere consulting clinics.'

But even if we accede that "Babangida did not allow him to turn around our health sector," no doubt, the billions spent on just the Villa Clinic during his eight years could have upgraded it to be good enough for him – and others after him.

For heaven's sake, Nigeria is 65 years old. No selfrespecting nation with Nigeria's human and natural resources will

As a doctor myself, I knew the risks. I knew there was a possibility that I might not survive the operation, as it was not a common procedure

have its leaders getting medical treatment abroad. And to think that two former Nigerian leaders, and General Buhari Abdulsalami Abubakar, were both admitted to the same London Clinic at the same time! It is a shame and a national embarrassment.

However, people will still not want to discuss what should have been, as it affects a specific person. Just as, due to sentiment, you would be asked to "pray" for the leader who was misusing the opportunity God gave him, you would now be reminded of a hadith that says, "Do not abuse the dead, for they have reached the result of what they have done." However, this hadith is a general ethical instruction from the Prophet (SAW), reminding believers to maintain dignity in their speech when discussing those who have died.

The truth is that it does not prohibit critical historical evaluation, especially when lessons must be drawn for the living. It merely warns against mockery, slander, or vengeful speech directed against the deceased.

Anyone thinks who otherwise must stop talking about the evil deeds of anyone who dies. People must also keep silent when Bello Turji dies – and even now, just pray for him to be guided, not caught and jailed. Why speak of the Pharaoh? Or Shekau? Allow the dead to rest in peace!

We must know that there is no history, secular or Islamic, that has not been kind to those who were kind. And many historians who had the fear of God instilled in their hearts have been unkind to the unkind by telling the truth about their kind. Many truths denied today will Neptune Prime.

flourish tomorrow; after all, we have come across today's truths that were vehemently shunned yesterday. Surely, surely, the truth always finds its way out.

When Mark Antony said, "The evil that men do lives after them... and the good is oft interred with their bones," in Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, he meant that negative actions or wrongdoings are often remembered and have lasting consequences, even in the afterlife, while good deeds may be forgotten.

But would the North have forgotten if the dredging of the River Niger, the Lagos-Kano railway, or the Abuja-Kano highway were completed?

One thing Nigerians will not forget in a hurry is that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a humane and considerate leader. He also accords respect and honour to those to whom they are due. Whatever one thinks of him, one must give it to him. We cannot forget that he was at the funeral parade of the late Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja. A former Chief of Army Staff, the late Lt. General Ibrahim Attahiru, who served from 28 January 2021 to 21 May 2021 and died in the 2021 NAF Beechcraft B300 King Air 350i crash near Kaduna International Airport, did not receive that privilege from President Buhari, who was a general himself. We must commend Tinubu for these gestures because General Attahiru and President Shagari deserved better. They were also leaders in their own right, parents and grandparents. And they served Nigeria meritoriously.

Hassan Gimba, anipr, is the publisher and CEO of

NEPTUNE PRIME ONLINE AND MAGAZINE are publications of Neptune Network Nig. Ltd., Suite 602C, Third Floor, Yobe Investment House, Plot 1332, Ralph Shodeinde Street, Central Area, Abuja. PHONE: 09099667777