

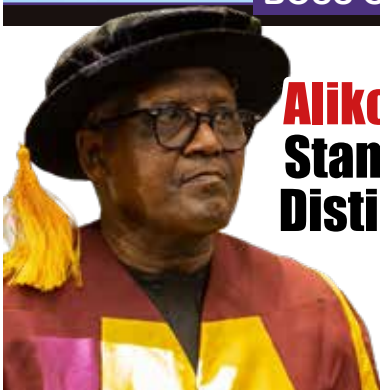


Implosion Looms at APC



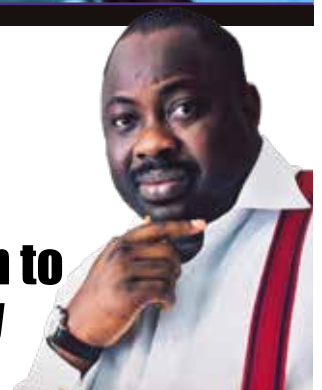
BOSS OF THE WEEK

FEATURE



Aliko Dangote
Stands Tall As
Distinguished
Fellow of
NAE

**Steward
to Icon: Dele
Momodu's
Grand Return to
OAU's Library**



Aliko Dangote Stands Tall As Distinguished Fellow of Nigerian Academy of Engineers

By Eric Elezuo

In recognition of his outstanding impact on engineering practice and development, the Nigerian Academy of Engineers (NAE) has conferred an Honorary fellowship award on the richest person in Africa, and President Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote.

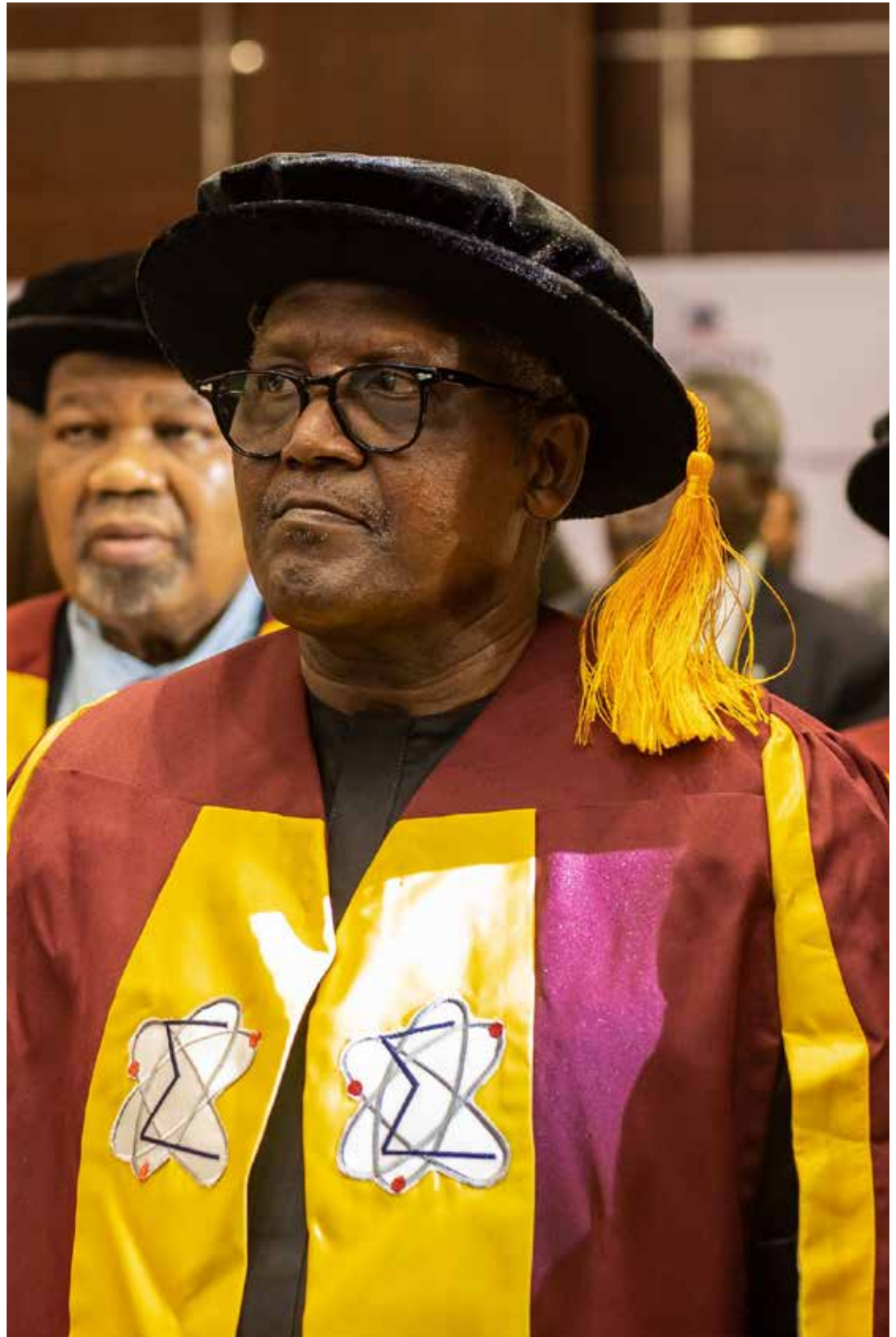
The elite-graded event, which drew eminent personalities from across the nation, including the Chairman, BUA Group, Alhaji Abdulsamad Rabi'u, was held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos.

A distinguished businessman and philanthropist, Dangote, in company of his daughters, other family members, and the management of the Dangote Group, received the Distinguished Honourary Fellow of the Academy by the President of the academy, Engr. Rahamon Bello, himself. The honour is the Academy's highest recognition of excellence to individuals.

The event, anchored by Akin Semowo, began with a procession, followed by the rendition of the national anthem.

In his address, Bello said the induction reflects Dangote's immense contributions to industrial and economic growth.

"As we induct him as



the Academy's sixth Honorary Fellow today, we acknowledge his immense contributions and formally welcome

him into our community of thought leaders and nation builders.

"On behalf of the Council and Fellows of

the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, it is my great honour to welcome you and congratulate you on this well-deserved



recognition.

“We look forward to your continued engagement with the Academy as we collectively work towards advancing engineering solutions for Nigeria’s development,” he said, acknowledging the Academy’s 29th year of

existence since 1997.

He further described the academy as an apex body committed to advancing excellence in science, engineering, technology and innovation for national development, noting that it comprises eminent Nigerian and foreign

engineering professionals who provide leadership on national engineering and technological issues.

According to him, the Academy offers a platform for experts to pool insights and advise government on policy, especially in

technology.

While acknowledging that the honour celebrates vision, resilience and commitment to advancing industrialisation, he said that Dangote’s investments span cement manufacturing, sugar refining, salt processing,



vehicle assembly and petroleum refining, just as he noted that the Dangote Refinery is Africa's largest oil refinery and a symbol of engineering excellence and innovation.

Also speaking, the Guest Speaker, Dr Mutiu Sunmonu, highlighted resilience, ethical leadership and navigating complexity as critical for modern industrialists. Sunmonu said emerging

engineering must remain central to Nigeria's development agenda, noting that Dangote's recognition underscores the need for deliberate investment in engineering capacity.

He said countries like China had shown the gains of aligning ambition with technical expertise, adding that prioritising engineering in policy, education and

can compete globally.

Dangote, in his response, expressed happiness at being considered for the honour while describing engineering as a driver of national development and global competitiveness.

"Engineering is more than a profession; it is the language of progress.

"Every bridge that connects communities, every megawatt that lights homes and every drop

graduate programmes and partnerships with the academy.

Among other personalities that attended the event were Chairman/CEO of Channels Television, Dr. John Momoh; Chairman, Titan Trust Bank, Dr. Tunde Lemo; Chairman, Ovation Media Group, Aare Dele Momodu; Senator Iyiola Omisore and Oil and Gas Expert, Dan Kunle among others.



economies must align energy infrastructure, investment flows and industrial policies to drive growth.

He stressed the need for foreign direct investment and public-private partnerships to scale energy systems and industrial capacity.

In his speech, the Group Managing Director of ARCO Group Plc, Mr Alfred Okoigun, said

industry, alongside strong institutions, is key to global competitiveness.

Special Guest of Honour, Prof. Benedict Oramah, commended Dangote's contributions to Nigeria's industrial landscape and job creation while Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos, represented by his Special Adviser on Works, Dr Adekunle Olayinka, said Dangote's efforts shows African innovation

of fuel that powers our economy begins as an engineering idea," he said.

He noted that his business journey across Africa had reinforced his belief that engineers were central to economic transformation, describing them as "the silent architects of national development."

He pledged support for mentorship, research, innovation and capacity building through expanded

Born in Kano in 1957, Dangote proudly shuttles between three wonderful tags as the richest man in Nigeria; the richest man in Africa and the richest Black man in the world. He has paid his dues, and mankind is the better for it.

Releasing impacts, Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF), the private charitable foundation of Alhaji Aliko Dangote.



Incorporated in 1994, as Dangote Foundation, is saddled with the mission to enhance opportunities for social change through strategic investments that improve health and wellbeing, promote quality education, and broaden economic empowerment opportunities. 20 years later, the Foundation has become the largest private Foundation in sub-Saharan Africa, with the largest endowment by a single African donor.

The primary focus of ADF is child nutrition, with wraparound interventions centered on health, education and empowerment, and disaster relief. The Foundation also supports stand-alone projects with the potential for significant social impact.

The Foundation works with state and national governments and

many highly reputable international and domestic charities, non-governmental organizations and international agencies to advance its humanitarian agenda.

In one of its biggest collaborations to date, Aliko Dangote

Foundation started working in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and key northern State Governments in Nigeria from 2013 to eradicate polio and strengthen routine immunization in Nigeria.

Worthy of praise is the

fact that nearly a decade, the Foundation has spent over N7 Billion in the course of feeding, clothing and the general welfare of the Internally Displaced Persons in the Northeast.

To make his host communities feel at ease, and the impact of his presence, Dangote has embarked on an initiative to provide further support to improving educational systems in Ibeju-Lekki and Epe locality. The educational support initiative is a tripartite programme consisting of scholarship, capacity building for teachers and school infrastructure projects.

In addition, Scholarships have been awarded to 52 secondary school students whilst some financial support was provided to their parents and/or guardians. Tertiary students will be included in the next batch of the





scheme. Furthermore, about 100 teachers, principals and school administrators were trained in teaching techniques for the 21st century. After which they were monitored in class on how they were using the skills acquired.

There is hardly any sector that has not felt the milk of human kindness running through Aliko Dangote; the military, media, politicians, governments across boards and more. Dangote is surely an asset to this world! As at today, there is no

space for slowing down for Dangote as he continues to trudge on, creating firsts after first for himself and for humanity. He is blessed with three wonderful daughters, who have followed the rewarding footprints of entrepreneurship.

Congratulations are in order for the African giant, and may he continue enjoy many more laurels as his footprints remain indelible in the sands of time. Sir, continue to dominate the pages of history books with your impactful strides and results!













STEP INTO DUBAI'S PROPERTY MARKET



Experience a city of vision and opportunity, offering a seamless gateway to long-term value in Dubai's property market. Where global demand continues to shape the future of investment.



LIMITED-TIME OFFERS AND BENEFITS

-  **10 Yrs Golden Visa**
 -  **Free Air Ticket**
 -  **5 Star Hotel Stay**
-  **Chauffeur from Airport to Dubai Trips**

 www.profoundrealtors.com
 info@profoundrealtors.com
 +971 4 513 9666
  +971 50 653 1232
 Office No. 1202, Tameem House, Al Barsha Heights, TECOM, Dubai, UAE

PHOTOS: Okoya's Daughter Weds Gobir's Son in Lagos





Glo-Sponsored African Voices Spotlights Ejatu Shaw

This week, African Voices, the Globacom-sponsored magazine programme on CNN International, turns its searchlight on Ejatu Shaw the London-based photographer and multidisciplinary artist whose work continues to refract heritage into striking visual poetry. Born in 1996, Shaw is a graduate of University of Westminster, where she earned a Master's degree in Photography Arts in 2020. Yet the true genesis of her craft predates the academy. It was during a 2013 family sojourn to Sierra Leone that her creative awakening first flickered—like light finding its way through a narrow aperture—setting her on a path of introspective exploration. Her oeuvre is a delicate tapestry, interweaving strands of Islamic faith with the vibrant textures of African heritage. Echoes of the great studio photographers of the 1960s and 1970s—such as Malick Sidibé, Sory Sanlé, and Omar Yahia Barram—resonate subtly within her compositions, like ancestral voices carried on a visual wind. From these influences, Shaw has cultivated a practice rooted in memory and self-inquiry. Through self-portraiture and conceptually layered projects, she transforms personal recollections



into images that speak with both intimacy and universality—mirrors in which the past and present quietly converge. Her ascent has been both swift and assured. In 2025, the British Fashion Council named her a New Wave Creative, affirming her place among a new generation of cultural vanguards. In the same

year, her lens captured figures of global renown, including Angela Bassett for EBONY, Cynthia Erivo for The Guardian, Sunday Times and Vogue, and Usain Bolt for Puma. She also conceived and shot the album cover for Craig David—each frame a testament to her evolving visual language. African Voices airs on

Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., with further broadcasts on Sunday at 3:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and repeat transmissions on Monday at 3:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.—an invitation to witness, through Shaw's eyes, a world where identity is not fixed, but fluid, luminous, and ever unfolding.

2027: Opposition Parties Storm Ibadan, Unite to Field One Candidate Against Tinubu

Political leaders from the opposition have resolved to present a united front in the 2027 general elections, agreeing to field a single presidential candidate to challenge President Bola Tinubu of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

The decision was one of the major highlights of a National Summit of Opposition Political Leaders held on Saturday in Ibadan, Oyo State, where participants gathered to fashion the way out of the current challenges facing the country.

They also warned that Nigeria's democracy is under increasing strain and requires urgent collective action to safeguard it.

The summit, themed "Safeguarding Nigeria's Democracy: A National Dialogue," brought together key opposition figures across party lines, culminating in the adoption of a joint communiqué known as the Ibadan Declaration.

Leaders at the event said the decision to rally behind a single candidate was driven by the need to avoid fragmentation of votes and strengthen the opposition's chances at the polls.

Host governor, Seyi Makinde, in his welcome address, warned of a steady erosion of democratic



competition, noting that the concentration of political power under one party threatens pluralism. He took a trip down memory lane, reminding the ruling party that the 'wet e' era in Ibadan, which he said must not be allowed to repeat itself.

"Democracy without opposition is not democracy, it is a slow drift toward a one-party state," he said.

Factional National Chairman of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), Taminu Turaki, described the move as both strategic and necessary, warning that disunity has historically weakened opposition efforts.

"A single stick can be broken easily, but a bundle of sticks is far more difficult to break," he said, urging political actors to prioritise national interest over individual ambition. Turaki maintained that Nigeria is currently experiencing what he termed "progressive regression," citing worsening insecurity, economic challenges, and declining confidence in democratic institutions.

"This is not a moment for silence or division; it is a moment for decisive action," he said.

Similarly, former Senate President David Mark described the moment as a "national rescue

mission," stressing that no single opposition party could confront the current political structure alone.

"We cannot confront the future as fragmented entities. This is the time to rewrite the story of coalition building in Nigeria," Mark said.

In the communiqué issued at the end of the summit, opposition parties reaffirmed their commitment to contest the 2027 elections at all levels, rejecting what they described as attempts to impose a one-party state.

They also resolved to resist any move to make the election a one-candidate race, insisting that Nigerians must be



presented with credible alternatives.

Beyond the consensus candidacy plan, the declaration raised concerns over the credibility of the electoral process.

They passed a vote of no confidence in the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Joash Amupitan. The opposition leaders alleged bias and called for his removal from overseeing the 2027 elections.

Leaders at the event said the decision to rally behind a single candidate was driven by the need to avoid fragmentation of votes and strengthen the opposition's chances at the polls.

The summit further urged the National Assembly to review contentious provisions of the Electoral Act 2026, and demanded

an extension of deadlines for party primaries to the end of July 2026.

Participants also called for the release of political actors allegedly detained on bailable offences, stressing the need for inclusivity and respect for fundamental rights.

Speakers at the summit, in their separate remarks, repeatedly stressed that Nigeria stands at a critical juncture, urging leaders to act decisively to preserve democratic institutions.

The summit ended with the declaration of a shared commitment

among opposition parties to deepen collaboration, rebuild public trust, and present a united challenge in 2027.

The Ibadan meeting attracted several prominent political figures from different political parties, including the PDP and the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

Among them were former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Labour Party 2023 presidential candidate Peter Obi, former Kano State governor Rabi'u Kwankwaso, former Osun State governor Rauf Aregbesola, former Rivers State governor Rotimi Amaechi, political economist Pat Utomi, and elder statesman Jerry Gana, among other notable political leaders.



Tunde Ayeni's Travails Return, As EFCC Arrests Ex-Skye Bank Chair over Fraud Allegations

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission have arrested a former chairman of defunct Skye Bank Plc, Tunde Ayeni, over alleged money laundering, misappropriation and diversion of funds amounting to N36.54bn and \$30m.

Ayeni, a businessman, was arrested in Abuja on Thursday, and is currently being held at the commission's facility.

The arrest followed an EFCC probe into alleged misappropriation and diversion of funds said to have been obtained from Polaris Bank through multiple entities linked to him.

“Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested a former board chairman of defunct Skye Bank Plc and businessman, Tunde Ayeni, in connection with alleged money laundering, misappropriation and diversion of funds to the tune of N36,540,058,400.00 and \$30m.

“Ayeni was arrested sequel to the investigation of the EFCC into alleged misappropriation and diversion of funds to the tune of N36,540,058,400.00 and \$30m obtained from Polaris Bank Plc by different entities linked to



him.

“The funds were loans obtained allegedly for specific investment projects but subsequently transferred to other entities' accounts. Investigations showed that, though the loans were obtained for purposes such as finance of marine security activities, electricity distribution contract, estate development, they were diverted to the NITEL/MTEL asset

acquisition through NATCOM account,” one of the sources said.

Another source said the commission is currently probing 12 companies allegedly linked to Ayeni, which it said were used to obtain the loans from Polaris Bank.

“Twelve different companies linked to Ayeni are being investigated by the EFCC. They are entities he allegedly used to obtain loans from

Polaris Bank for his shady activities. The loans are depositors' funds fraudulently obtained and frittered into diverse wasteful purposes. Ayeni will be arraigned in due course upon conclusion of investigations,” the source said.

When contacted, EFCC spokesman Dele Oyewale confirmed the arrest but declined to give further details.

Opposition Summit: Why I Declined Invitation - Sowore

Activist and presidential candidate of the African Action Congress, Omoyele Sowore, has explained why he declined an invitation to attend an opposition summit held in Ibadan, Oyo State, saying Nigerians deserve a credible alternative rather than what he described as a recycling of failed political actors.

In a post on X on Sunday, Sowore dismissed the gathering as lacking substance, arguing that many of those involved had previously contributed to Nigeria's challenges.

"I was invited to attend the so-called 'Opposition Summit' in Ibadan, but I declined," he wrote.

"There is no need to pretend that the same men (and a few women) who held Nigeria to ransom for years, presiding over stagnation, corruption, and systemic decay, can suddenly reinvent themselves as champions of progress or defenders of the people. Not all Nigerians are suffering from amnesia."

He stated that his party, the African Action Congress, would not associate with what he termed a deceptive political arrangement.

"For the avoidance of doubt, our revolutionary party, the African Action Congress, will not be part of any charade designed to recycle failed political actors under the guise of



'opposition,'" he said. Sowore maintained that his focus remains on building what he described as a people-driven movement rooted in accountability and integrity.

"Instead, we are committed to presenting a formidable, people-driven alternative, one rooted in integrity, accountability, and genuine transformation," he added.

He further criticised major political parties across the spectrum, accusing them of representing the same political culture.

"We will mobilise Nigerians across the country to rally behind a credible vision that

rejects the decadence and deception represented by both the All Progressives Congress and their opportunistic counterparts in ADC, PDP, Labour Party and elsewhere," he said.

"Nigeria does not need a rearrangement of the same broken pieces, it needs a complete break from the past."

The summit, held at the Oyo State Government House in Ibadan, brought together opposition figures across parties, including former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who chaired the meeting, and Governor Seyi Makinde, who hosted.

Also in attendance were former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and former Kano State Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso, among other political leaders.

Organisers said the summit, themed "That We May Work Together for a United Opposition to Sustain Our Democracy," was aimed at strengthening coordination among opposition parties in response to Nigeria's socio-economic and security challenges, as well as charting a common front ahead of future elections.

Stop Addressing Me As Hausa Man - Kukah

The Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese and Chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State, Most Rev. Dr Matthew Kukah, has urged Nigerians to stop addressing him as a Hausa man.

Kukah added that he is a typical Nigerian, but not a Hausa man by origin, as he is often addressed wherever he goes.

He stated this while speaking at the 16th convocation ceremony of the university, held at the institution's auditorium on Saturday.

He charged the graduating students to be of good character to their parents, the university community, Anambra State, the South-East region, and Nigeria as a whole.

The new Chancellor commended the state government for its significant investment in education, adding that statistically, "Anambra is performing well in education among the 36 states."

He said, "I am a typical Nigerian from Anchuna, Ikulu Chiefdom in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, but not a Hausa man by origin. Nigerians should stop addressing me as a Hausa person.

"As the new Chancellor of this institution, we will not only strive to achieve



the university's goals, but surpass them."

He appreciated the state governor, Chukwuma Soludo, for appointing him as the Chancellor of the university.

He was formally installed as Chancellor of the varsity by the governor during the ceremony.

Also speaking, the Anambra State governor expressed excitement while decorating Kukah as the new Chancellor of the university, expressing confidence that his wisdom, experience, and moral leadership will further strengthen the vision and standing of the institution.

Soludo said, "It was a great honour to be present at the 16th Convocation Ceremony of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University as a visitor to this great institution.

"The ceremony was a celebration of excellence, hard work, and the power of quality education. It

was also a reminder of the critical role universities play in training skilled manpower, shaping character, advancing knowledge, and preparing young people to contribute meaningfully to society.

"I was particularly delighted to decorate the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, as the new Chancellor of Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University.

"I am confident that his wisdom, experience, and moral leadership will further strengthen the vision and standing of the university.

"In recognition of exceptional academic achievement, I announced a ₦4 million cash gift to Somtochukwu Augustus Ume of the Economics Department, who emerged as the overall best graduating student at COOU's 16th Convocation with an outstanding CGPA of 4.85

out of 5.0.

"I also offered scholarships to 37 first-class graduates of the university's 16th Convocation to support their postgraduate studies up to the highest level at any public university of their choice."

He charged the university to remain focused on producing problem-solvers rather than mere enumerators.

"Our institutions of higher learning must go beyond awarding certificates; they must raise innovative, solution-driven, and globally competitive graduates who can respond to the challenges of our time.

"To the graduands, I urged them to seize the moment and emerge as beacons of hope, disruptive thinkers, and agents of change in society. The future belongs to those who are prepared to lead with courage, creativity, and purpose," he added.

SERAP, NGE Sue NBC Over Broadcasters Sanction

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project and the Nigerian Guild of Editors have filed a lawsuit against the National Broadcasting Commission over what they described as an “arbitrary, unconstitutional, and unlawful” threat to sanction broadcast stations and presenters.

This was disclosed in a Sunday statement jointly signed by SERAP Deputy Director, Kolawole Oluwadare, and General Secretary of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Onuoha Ukeh.

The suit, marked FHC/L/CS/854/2026 and filed at the Federal High Court in Lagos on April 24, 2026, challenges the NBC’s recent directive warning broadcasters against “expressing personal opinions as facts,” “bullying or intimidating guests,” and failing to maintain neutrality.

In the originating processes, SERAP and NGE argued that the provisions of the 6th Edition of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code relied upon by the NBC are “vague and overly broad” and “constitute a fundamental breach of freedom of expression and media freedom guaranteed by the Nigerian Constitution.”

The groups told the court that, “Unless the reliefs



sought are granted, the NBC will continue to use the provisions of the 6th Edition of the Broadcasting Code to threaten and sanction broadcast stations and presenters solely for carrying out their constitutional responsibilities and exercising their rights.”

They further contended that journalistic work inherently includes opinion, noting that, “The right to impart ideas necessarily includes opinions, commentary, and analysis,” adding that, “Journalists are entitled to express their opinions as a matter of professional standard, including commentary and analytical expression, which lie at the very core of journalistic practice and democratic discourse.”

Challenging the legality of the NBC’s position, the plaintiffs argued that, “The Nigerian Constitution is

the supreme law, and any law that is inconsistent with it is null and void,” stressing that the Broadcasting Code, as subsidiary legislation, “cannot override constitutional rights or exceed its enabling Act.” They also warned that the NBC’s approach could stifle media freedom, stating, “The blanket prohibition imposed by Section 1.10.3... amounts to prior restraint that impermissibly excludes commentary, analysis, and value judgments, the core of journalism and democratic discourse.”

On the broader implications, SERAP and NGE argued that the regulatory move risks suppressing democratic engagement, noting that, “Ahead of the 2027 general elections, the NBC’s Formal Notice undermines Nigerians’ democratic rights to receive diverse

information, hear competing political viewpoints, and engage in open debate.”

They added that the threat of sanctions “creates a chilling effect on journalists and broadcasters,” potentially leading to self-censorship and weakening the media’s watchdog role.

The plaintiffs are seeking, among other reliefs, a declaration that several provisions of the Broadcasting Code are unconstitutional, as well as an injunction restraining the NBC from enforcing sanctions based on those provisions.

It was also stated that Human rights lawyer Femi Falana (SAN) is leading the legal team representing SERAP and NGE in the case, while no date has been fixed for the hearing of the interim application and the substantive suit.

Sanwo-Olu Hails Lagosians On Sanitation Day Compliance

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commended residents for their participation in the reintroduced monthly Sanitation Day held on Saturday.

The state government said the exercise recorded impressive turnout across various parts of Lagos, including Ikorodu, Badagry, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Alimoso, Ikeja and Agege.

In a statement issued on Sunday by the state commissioner

for information and strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, the governor praised Lagosians for embracing the initiative and contributing to environmental cleanliness. “I thank Lagosians who joined the call to clean up our environment as a sure step to good health.

“That is patriotic; it is the Spirit of Lagos that we often speak about. We should continue to walk that path,” Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor urged residents to desist from



indiscriminate dumping of refuse, especially as the rainy season approaches. According to the statement, the government has intensified the clearing of gutters and drainage systems across the state to prevent flooding, following forecasts of heavy rainfall.

It added that the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Strategy, has launched a campaign against indiscriminate waste disposal and blockage of drainage channels.

Lagos Roads Claim 69 In Q1 2026 — LASTMA

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority says 69 people died on roads across the state in the first quarter of 2026.

The authority also said 246 others sustained varying degrees of injuries in road accidents within the same period.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Olalekan Bakare-Oki, disclosed this in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria on Sunday in Lagos.

Bakare-Oki also said the authority cleared more than 600 accident scenes during the period.

He said LASTMA resolved more than 900 infractions involving trucks and other articulated vehicles.

He added that the agency carried out 4,900 physical

enforcement operations during the period.

Bakare-Oki told NAN that LASTMA captured about 17,942 offences through technology-driven enforcement, including the use of Traffic Management Solutions devices.

According to him, LASTMA maintains zero tolerance for traffic infractions.

He said impounded vehicles would be promptly arraigned before the Lagos State Mobile Court.

“For the first quarter, we have been able to improve on our service management, especially ensuring that there is great improvement in the travel time of Lagos residents.

“We have done a total



overhaul of all traffic equipment and recovery vehicles by ensuring that we reposition them strategically so that they can aid and improve our response time to traffic incident management.

“In terms of our personnel, we started with their training and re-orientation for better service delivery,” he said. Bakare-Oki said the agency had drawn up a year-long training calendar outlining how its personnel would be

trained from January to December 2026.

“We are planning to train over 1,000 of our men, and we have started — both internal and external training.

“We engaged various consultants for external training.

“As the months unfold, we will roll out and actively engage in high-level capacity-building programmes for all our staff,” he said.

Viral 394 UTME Result: JAMB Dismisses Cross River Candidate Claim As Fake

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board has dismissed as fake a widely circulated result slip purporting to show a candidate from Cross River State scored 394 in the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination.

The result, shared by social media user @Onsogbu on X, claimed the female candidate, Okon Winnifred Sampson, scored 394 out of 400.

“Okon Winnifred Sampson, a young girl from Cross River State, delivered a remarkable performance in her UTME examinations, scoring an outstanding 394 out of 400.

“Her results were as follows: 96 in Use of English; 99 in Biology; 98 in Chemistry and

99 in Physics... a truly exceptional academic achievement. I love this,” Onsogbu wrote.

Reacting in a statement issued on Sunday, the Board’s spokesperson, Dr Fabian Benjamin, described the result as fake and urged the public to disregard it.

“A purported result slip currently being circulated, claiming that a candidate scored 394 in the 2026 UTME, is entirely fake. It is surprising that such a fabrication is being shared by otherwise well-informed Nigerians,” the statement said.

Benjamin explained that UTME results are strictly view-only and not designed for circulation in printed or shared templates, adding that the document being circulated



is based on a fabricated result format.

“Firstly, the Board has clearly stated that UTME results are view-only. The circulated document appears on a fabricated result template, which on its own is sufficient indication that it is not authentic,” he said.

He further noted that the registration number on the fake slip does not conform to JAMB’s system-generated numbering format.

“Secondly, the Board’s

registration numbers are system-generated and do not follow the pattern ‘20269’ as seen on the fake slip. There are several other inconsistencies that, even at a glance, expose the result as fraudulent,” he added.

The Board advised the public to rely only on official communication channels for authentic information on examination results, stressing that all UTME results remain view-only at present.

No New Tax On Vehicles – NRS

The Nigeria Revenue Service has described as false and misleading a viral infographic claiming that a new vehicle tax has been imposed by the Federal Government, effective July 1.

The NRS made this known in a statement by Mr Dare Adekambi, Special Adviser to the NRS Chairman, Dr Zach Adedeji, and spokesperson for the service.

According to Adekambi, the infographic directs owners of private,

commercial, and corporate vehicles to pay an unspecified vehicle tax rate online or at approved banks and agencies.

He said the material, which bore no identifiable author, further asked members of the public to visit <http://www.firs.gov.ng> for more information, whereas the correct official website of the NRS is <http://www.nrs.gov.ng>.

Adekambi said the Federal Government had not introduced any fresh tax on vehicles as claimed in the material.



He advised members of the public to trust and rely only on information disseminated through verified official channels of government or any of its agencies, and not on anonymous graphics circulating online.

“The NRS wishes to state categorically that the information did not

emanate from the service or any government agency.

“Citizens are, therefore, advised to disregard the fabricated messages designed to mislead the public and instead rely on official government channels for information on government policies,” he said.

Trump Says Iran War On Hold, Cancels Pakistan Trip

International efforts to mediate between the United States and Iran were hanging in the balance on Sunday after President Donald Trump cancelled his envoys' planned trip to Pakistan for talks.

Trump said there was no point "sitting around talking about nothing" and dismissed Tehran's negotiating position, but added that Iran had revised its proposal within minutes of his decision.

"They gave us a paper that should have been better and—interestingly—immediately, when I cancelled it, within 10 minutes, we got a new paper that was much better," he told reporters, without elaborating.

The White House had said Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and special envoy Steve Witkoff were to depart for Pakistan on Saturday for talks with Iran aimed at moving "toward a deal," but Trump later told Fox News he had scrapped the trip.

"We have all the cards. They can call us anytime they want, but you're not going to be making any more 18-hour flights to sit around talking about nothing," the president said he had told his team. Asked separately whether the cancellation meant a return to hostilities, Trump said, "No, it doesn't mean that. We haven't thought



about it yet." Later, after a gunman was arrested at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington, Trump said he did not think the incident was related to Iran but that it would not deter him "from winning the war."

Shortly beforehand, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrapped up a visit to Islamabad after meeting Pakistan's military chief, Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Iran said Araghchi had left for Muscat and would return to Pakistan on Sunday after meetings in Oman, before travelling on to Russia for talks on ending the war launched by the United States and Israel on February 28.

Araghchi described his Pakistan trip as "very fruitful" but signalled

skepticism over Washington's intentions. "Yet to see if the US is truly serious about diplomacy," he said.

Even before Trump's move, prospects for talks were uncertain, with Iranian state television saying Araghchi had no plans to meet US officials and that Islamabad would act as a conduit.

Sharif said he had spoken to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and reiterated Islamabad's commitment to facilitating "durable peace."

Iranian state TV said Pezeshkian told Sharif the Islamic Republic would not be coerced by Washington's "hostile actions."

Pressure to end the war has intensified as the Strait of Hormuz—a vital oil and gas route—remains closed.

But Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it had

no intention of lifting its blockade, which has roiled energy markets.

"Controlling the Strait of Hormuz and maintaining the shadow of its deterrent effects over America and the White House's supporters in the region is the definitive strategy of Islamic Iran," the Guards said on their official Telegram channel.

The United States has imposed a blockade on Iranian ports in retaliation. In a statement carried by state media, Iran's military warned that continued US "blockading, banditry and piracy" would draw a response.

On the war's Lebanese front, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered strikes on Hezbollah after accusing the Iran-backed group of violating a ceasefire extended this week.

White House Correspondents' Dinner: US Secret Service Probes Shooting

The United States Secret Service has launched an investigation into a shooting incident that occurred in Washington during the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner at the Washington Hilton.

In a statement, the agency said it is working with the Metropolitan Police Department to determine the circumstances of the incident, which occurred near a security screening area.

The shooting was

reported close to the main magnetometer checkpoint used to screen guests, prompting an immediate response from law enforcement officers on duty.

The Chief of Communications, United States Secret Service, Anthony Guglielmi, on its X handle on Sunday, confirmed that all protected individuals, including the president and first lady, were safe following the incident.

One suspect has been taken into custody, while



authorities continue to assess the condition of those involved.

Guglielmi said teams are on the ground actively investigating and gathering information, adding that updates will be provided as more details are confirmed.

“We will provide updates

as they become available and confirm information. Our teams are on the ground assessing the situation and investigating. All of our protectees are safe,” he added.

The incident has raised fresh concerns about security at major public events in the US capital.

White House Correspondents' Dinner: Trump Unharmmed

U.S. President Donald Trump and the First Lady were unhurt after a shooting incident at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C., on Saturday night.

The United States Secret Service confirmed that a suspect has been taken into custody, adding that investigations are ongoing in collaboration with local law enforcement.

According to BBC on Sunday, the agency said the shooting occurred near the main security screening area at the event venue, the Washington Hilton, where hundreds of journalists, politicians, and guests had gathered.

“The president and first lady are safe along with all protectees,” the

statement read, noting that the condition of those involved in the incident was still being assessed.

Witnesses reported hearing what sounded like gunshots shortly after 8:30 p.m., triggering panic as attendees fled the ballroom. Security operatives were seen swiftly evacuating top officials, including Vice President J.D. Vance and members of the cabinet.

Video footage from the scene showed Secret Service agents clearing the stage and ushering the president and other dignitaries to safety, while voices were heard urging people to “stay down.”

Shortly after the incident, Trump praised security agencies for their swift response.



“Secret Service and law enforcement did a fantastic job. They acted quickly and bravely. The shooter has been apprehended,” he said in a post on social media.

He added that while he initially suggested the event continue, final decisions would be made by security authorities, noting that the evening's programme had been significantly disrupted.

Organisers later confirmed that the president would address the press,

with plans to possibly reschedule the event within 30 days.

The White House Correspondents' Dinner is an annual gathering that brings together journalists, political leaders, and public figures, and is often seen as a key moment celebrating press freedom in the United States.

As of press time, authorities had yet to release full details about the suspect or possible casualties linked to the incident.

2025: Nigeria Borrowed \$634m From Other Countries

Nigeria's bilateral debt stock rose by \$634.34m in 2025, as loans owed directly to other countries increased from \$6.09bn in 2024 to \$6.72bn at the end of 2025.

This was contained in the latest external debt stock data from the Debt Management Office for December 31, 2025, compared with the corresponding figures for December 31, 2024.

The increase represented a 10.42 per cent year-on-year rise in Nigeria's bilateral credit, even though its share of the country's total external debt dropped slightly from 13.30 per cent in 2024 to 12.97 per cent in 2025.

The decline in share, despite the rise in value, showed that other external debt categories grew faster during the year.

Nigeria's total external debt rose from \$45.78bn in 2024 to \$51.86bn in 2025, an increase of \$6.08bn or 13.27 per cent.

A breakdown of the report showed that France and the China Development Bank accounted for the bulk of the rise in bilateral debt.

Loans from France, through Agence Francaise Development, jumped by \$318.83m from \$592.60m in 2024 to \$911.43m in 2025, representing a 53.80 per cent increase.

Debt owed to the China Development Bank is more than doubled,



rising by \$262.66m from \$254.71m to \$517.37m. This represented a 103.12 per cent increase and made it the second-biggest contributor to the rise in bilateral debt.

Together, France and the China Development Bank accounted for \$581.49m of the \$634.34m increase, or about 91.66 per cent of the total rise in bilateral debt.

Japan's credit through the Japan International Cooperation Agency also increased sharply by \$77.53m, from \$53.31m in 2024 to \$130.84m in 2025, representing a 145.43 per cent rise.

However, not all bilateral creditors recorded increases. Debt owed to the Exim Bank of China fell marginally by \$570,000 from \$5.06464bn to \$5.06407bn. Despite the slight decline, China's Exim Bank remained Nigeria's largest bilateral creditor, accounting for

about 75.31 per cent of total bilateral debt in 2025. India's Exim Bank exposure declined by \$6.04m from \$19.42m to \$13.38m, while Germany's Kreditanstalt Fur Wiederaufbau fell by \$18.07m from \$105.78m to \$87.71m.

The figures showed that Nigeria's bilateral debt remained heavily concentrated around Chinese lending institutions. When the Exim Bank of China and China Development Bank are combined, Nigeria owed Chinese lenders \$5.58bn at the end of 2025, compared with \$5.32bn in 2024.

This means Chinese bilateral creditors accounted for about 83 per cent of Nigeria's bilateral debt stock in 2025.

Beyond bilateral loans, the DMO data showed that multilateral debt remained the largest component of Nigeria's

external obligations, rising from \$22.32bn in 2024 to \$23.85bn in 2025. Eurobond debt also increased from \$17.32bn to \$18.55bn, while other commercial loans rose sharply from \$54.87m to \$2.73bn, mainly due to syndicated project loans.

Moreover, the country's debt exposure to China could rise further, as the Federal Government is in advanced discussions with the Export-Import Bank of China for a \$2bn facility to finance a new electricity super grid aimed at addressing the country's persistent power supply constraints.

The Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, and the Presidency on Friday traded words over the country's rising debt burden, following renewed concerns by the monarch about continued borrowing by President Bola Tinubu's administration.

Atiku Raises Alarm over Alleged Plot to Disenfranchise Northern Voters

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has expressed concern over reports that the Senate is considering the suspension of political campaigns in eight Northern states under the pretext of rising insecurity.

Atiku, in a statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant on Public Communication, Phrank Shaibu, described the development as deeply troubling and fraught with dangerous implications for Nigeria's democracy.

He noted that while insecurity remains a serious national challenge that must be confronted decisively, it must never become a convenient justification for undermining constitutional rights or selectively restricting democratic participation.

“Let it be clearly stated: the right to vote and participate in the electoral process is fundamental and cannot be abridged under any guise. Any attempt—whether deliberate or disguised—to suppress political activities in parts of Northern Nigeria raises legitimate concerns about disenfranchisement,” Atiku said.

The Waziri Adamawa recalled that credible intelligence had earlier pointed to possible plans to weaken electoral participation in key



Northern states, warning that recent developments appear to be lending credence to those fears.

“This is not merely about campaigns; it is about representation, inclusion, and the integrity of our democratic process. You cannot cure insecurity by silencing the voices of the people. Democracy must not become a casualty of government failure,” he added.

The former Vice President stressed that the people of Northern Nigeria, like all Nigerians, deserve both security and full participation in the democratic process — not one at the expense of the other.

He added that it is the responsibility of

government to provide security for its citizens, while it remains the duty of citizens to freely exercise their civic rights without fear, intimidation, or unlawful restriction.

“At a time when citizens are already battling hardship and insecurity, the least the government can do is to guarantee their right to be heard — not to restrict it. Any policy that creates the impression of targeted exclusion will only deepen distrust and national division,” he warned.

He called on the Independent National Electoral Commission, security agencies, and the administration of Bola Ahmed Tinubu to immediately clarify their

position and reassure Nigerians that no region will be denied its constitutional rights.

“Nigeria must never descend into a situation where elections are shaped by exclusion, fear, or administrative manipulation. The consequences of such actions are far-reaching and better imagined than experienced,” Atiku cautioned.

He urged all stakeholders to uphold the principles of fairness, equity, and national unity, emphasising that democracy must remain inclusive, transparent, and credible across every part of the country.



Implosion Looms at APC

By Eric Elezuo

With crises bedeviling the rank and file of opposition parties; from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the Labour Party, the NNPP, to Accord Party and more, it is still not uhuru for the ruling All Progressives

Congress. While the opposition parties are battling leadership issues, the APC seems about to be consumed by its own growth, and the leader, who happens to be the President, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu's system of

handpicking candidates for electoral offices. Recall that prior to the weekend, Tinubu had held a closed-door meeting with the extended leadership of the Senate at the Presidential Villa, where he rebuffed lobbying efforts by the

leadership of the Senate to secure automatic return tickets for the ruling party's sitting legislators ahead of the 2027 general elections, instead reaffirming the authority of state governors over the selection of candidates in their respective states. By

this, the president made it clear that the governors have the right to decide who returns among the legislators, on both federal and state levels. The decision has since torn the party apart.

It must be added that the governors, by unwritten convention, will communicate and

the return of serving legislators, a promise that raised expectations in the National Assembly, and enabled massive decamping to the ruling party from most distressed parties, including PDP and Labour.

A source told The Punch that “The meeting was to plead for automatic tickets

governors, who have completed their tenures, and eyeing Senate seat, now are at liberty to dethrone whoever is occupying the seat presently.

A state like Rivers, where the governor, Sim Fubara, is still at loggerheads with his godfather, Nyesom Wike, is likely to slide

Agbese, defected from the APC to the Labour Party, after his return prospects under the APC collapsed.

Meanwhile, the APC’s revised 2027 primary timetable, announced by the party’s Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Duro Meseko, at the 186th National Working Committee



seek approval from the President for whichever candidate they intend to settled with. With the president having the last say of approval, it becomes imperatively clear that all candidates are direct consequences of Tinubu’s choice.

Tinubu had earlier hinted that he would “do everything within the party’s power” to ensure

for senators but President Tinubu insisted that the governor of each state has the influence over candidates.

While the president’s decision has enabled consensus, which he is tailored to, it has also created dissenting opinions among party as most lawmakers are not in good terms with their governors. More so, most

to boiling point if the President’s decision stands. What this portends is that the APC will be divided across individual lanes, and a threat to their survival in the forthcoming election.

The President’s decisions has already started claiming casualties. In late March, Deputy Spokesman of the House of Representatives Philip

meeting, now pegs Senate primaries for May 18, 2026 while House of Representatives primaries are scheduled for May 15, with the presidential primary on May 23.

The consensus brouhaha appears to, even after the elections, continue to drag the party to the mud.

This is because the new provisions in the updated Electoral Act 2026 require

written consent from all cleared aspirants for a consensus candidate to be valid. If even one aspirant refuses to sign, the party is legally forced back to a primary. This means that forced consensus is not just a political risk; it is a legal minefield that can lead to the total disqualification of a party's candidates.

According to The Sun analysis, The most critical legal hurdle is that consensus is no longer a decision the party leadership can make unilaterally. For a consensus candidate to be legally valid, all cleared aspirants for that specific position must provide their written consent to withdraw from the race in favour of the consensus candidate.

Under the new Act, a single dissenting aspirant can collapse the entire consensus arrangement by refusing to sign the withdrawal letter. If the party proceeds without this signature, the nomination is void.

If a consensus arrangement fails or is challenged because an aspirant refused to sign, the law mandates that the party must revert to direct primaries where every card-carrying member votes.

Because the rules for consensus are now strictly codified, any breach is considered a pre-election matter.

Any aspirant who felt

coerced into a consensus can approach the Federal High Court to challenge the nomination. If a court finds that the consensus was forced or that the mandatory ratification convention required by Section 87(3) was not properly held, it can nullify the nomination. Since the window for submitting candidate lists is now shorter — reduced

intimidation or without the required signatures, the commission can refuse to accept the candidate's credentials, citing a breach of the party's own constitution and the Electoral Act.

Overall, the Electoral Act 2026 has essentially weaponized the individual aspirant. Forced consensus is now legally impossible if an aspirant has the

several strategic maneuvers. In most cases, party elders engage aspirants before they are officially cleared to contest.

The party often convinces aspirants that a consensus with a promise of a future appointment or refund of their form fees is the safer bet.

Under Section 87(3) of the new Act, even a consensus



to 90 days before the election — a party may run out of time to conduct a fresh primary, leaving them with no candidate on the ballot, similar to the APC's 2019 experience in Zamfara.

Under Section 84(1), INEC retains the power to monitor all primaries. If INEC's report indicates that a consensus was reached through

courage to withhold their signature and sue.

Avoiding the legal minefields of the Electoral Act 2026 is possible, but it requires the APC to move away from executive orders and toward a more documented negotiation process.

To bypass the risks of litigation and disqualification, the party is currently employing

must be ratified. To avoid a Zamfara scenario, the party is becoming meticulous about the paper trail.

The most effective way to avoid a lawsuit is to make the losing aspirants feel like winners. For this, the APC is using political MoUs: promises of Senate slots, ministerial roles, or state cabinet positions in exchange for a peaceful

consensus. This is said to be part of the strategy stakeholders discussed when President Tinubu met governors elected on the APC platform in Aso Villa ahead of primaries. But beyond the inherent legal implications, party members across states, who feel disenfranchised by the consensus anthem, have registered their displeasure, amid mild

orchestrated exclusion of their principal and his supporters.

Recall that leaders and stakeholders of the APC in Ogun East Senatorial District have on Monday endorsed Abiodun as their consensus candidate for the 2027 senatorial election.

The loyalists, under the aegis of the BATOGD Movement, said the

the spokesperson of the group, retired General Olumuyiwa Okunowo, said members who were legitimately qualified to attend were turned away at the venue, the Adeola Odutola Hall in Ijebu Ode, on Monday.

“Some of our members who were eminently qualified to attend according to the Notice of Invitation were told

“We do not deny them their right to hold their own show, and we believe this must account for why our leader, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, was denied access to a ‘DA Show.’ No ill feeling, but they should have been bold enough to make the notifications clear about their true intention, rather than using the name of our great party to drag



threats. In the first instance, loyalists of former Ogun State Governor and Senator representing Ogun East, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, have rejected the purported endorsement of Governor Dapo Abiodun as the All Progressives Congress consensus candidate for the 2027 Ogun East Senate race. They described the process as a carefully

meeting tagged “Ogun East APC caucus meeting,” during which Abiodun was announced as the party’s consensus senate candidate, was in fact a gathering organised exclusively by the governor’s loyalists, in violation of the party’s guidelines on consensus candidate emergence.

Addressing journalists at the Sagamu GRA private residence of Daniel,

pointedly to leave the venue, with the explanation that ‘this is a DA show’ and could be attended only by loyalists of the governor,” Okunowo said.

He said the group had no objection to the governor’s supporters holding their own meeting, but took exception to the use of the party’s name to disguise what he described as a premeditated agenda.

our leaders into ratifying a premeditated show,” he said.

Okunowo also raised alarm over what he described as a security siege on Daniel’s Ijebu Ode residence on Wednesday, saying armoured vehicles and hundreds of police officers were deployed around the property without any justification.

“We are deeply surprised

by this turn of events, as we see no reason to warrant the deployment of armoured vehicles and detachments of security forces in their hundreds,” he said.

He called on security agencies to remain fair to all parties and not allow themselves to be used as instruments of political intimidation.

“We need to emphasise that we are running a democracy in Nigeria, and we are law-abiding citizens. We call on all security agencies to take a cue from the President’s posture by being fair to all and not allowing themselves to be used as tools in desperate hands to deny the freedom and rights of others,” Okunowo said.

Former Chairman of Ijebu North East Local Government, Otunba Tayo Onayemi, also questioned the legality of the process, saying, “Consensus, as recognised by law, must be based on voluntary agreement by all aspirants. Has the governor formally declared? Has he obtained nomination forms? Without these steps, there is no consensus.”

Also, former Commissioner Akogun Kola Onadipe argued that due process was ignored, saying, “Consensus requires that all aspirants willingly agree and endorse the candidate in writing. If one person disagrees, the party must conduct direct primaries.

What happened on Monday falls short of these requirements.”

However, the APC Publicity Secretary, Femi Nuberu, dismissed the allegations, insisting that the meeting was properly constituted and that all decisions taken were legal and binding.

“The meeting was called by the senatorial chairman of the party, the senatorial

before the party, and advised any aggrieved member to formally file a complaint with the party leadership.

Abiodun had earlier announced the endorsement of Senator ‘Yayi’ Olamilekan as the party governorship candidate. The announcement has divided the party between the yes and no.

the end of a stakeholders’ meeting held on Tuesday to deliberate on key issues affecting the party in the area.

The stakeholders were reacting to reports that the state governor, Umo Eno, had at different fora directed party leaders to adopt a consensus candidate to fly the party’s flag in the primaries.

However, a former APC



organ of the party was seated and took decisions on behalf of the senatorial leadership, and somebody is sitting somewhere saying it’s a kangaroo — it is that person that actually doesn’t know what he’s doing,” Nuberu said.

On the allegation that Daniel was barred from the venue, the Publicity Secretary said no such report had been brought

In Akwa Ibom State, stakeholders in Ikot Ekpene, rejected the adoption of an automatic ticket for the Ikot Ekpene/Obot Akara State House of Assembly seat ahead of the party’s forthcoming primaries, describing it as contrary to democratic principles.

The rejection was contained in a communiqué issued at

Assistant Secretary and spokesperson for the group, Ubong Amadu, who read the communiqué at a press conference held at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Ikot Ekpene, insisted that the consensus arrangement undermines the will of the majority.

Amadu, who highlighted the benefits of direct primaries, described the consensus option as a

violation of the principles of fairness as enshrined in the party's constitution and the Electoral Act 2026.

The communiqué, signed by the leadership of the Ikot Ekpene APC stakeholders, read in part, "Having noted with concern the alleged plan by some individuals to impose a preferred candidate through the unpopular and undemocratic process of consensus, this stakeholders' meeting became necessary.

The group, however, supported the reelection of Tinubu and Senate President, Godswill Akpabio.

Also in Nasarawa State, Senator Aliyu Wadada, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Accounts, has secured a consensus endorsement

for the governorship, which would see him exit the Senate, and make a way for the present governor, Abdullahi Sule. This arrangement has been resented by not a few in the state including political godfathers in the state.

In Oyo, Senator Sharafadeen Alli received the APC's backing on April 15 to succeed Governor Seyi Makinde of the PDP.

These departures, alongside the growing list of senators whose governors are actively working against their return, may see a high turnover rate in the red chamber.

Nor a few of members of the APC has warned that the party is walking a constitutional tightrope, and unconsciously

organising its own implosion.

An aggrieved lawmaker said, "There is no provision for an automatic ticket in the APC Constitution. The Electoral Act recognises the consensus and direct primaries option."

"Whatever they discuss in their meeting cannot upstage the law. We should either go by consensus or adopt the primary election model," the lawmaker added, noting that he was not privy to what was decided at the Senate leadership's meeting with the President.

Also in Benue state, the fallout between Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume, and Governor Hyacinth Alia over control of the APC structure in the state has pushed 10 of the state's 11 federal

lawmakers into Akume's camp. It is not known where the governor may pitch his tent in the coming days.

Across the states, not excluding Lagos State, the consensus and automatic ticket crises have continued to polarized the ruling party, and observers say it's only a matter of time before the all-important implosion occurs.

And who knows who and who may be affected. This is even as opposition parties at a National Summit in Ibadan on Saturday, agreed to adopt a single presidential candidate.

Time will surely tell as 2027 draws dangerously close.





The Oracle

CHIEF MIKE OZEKHOMÉ

SAN, CON, OFR, FCI Arb, Ph.D

☎ 08094777755 (SMS Only)

Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials (Part 3)

INTRODUCTION

The last installment of this treatise dealt with human rights vis-à-vis the Nigerian legal system focusing on its challenges as well as civic responsibility and the power of citizen action. This week, I shall make some recommendations for advancing the cause of human rights both globally and locally. Read along.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY

To make human rights truly universal and effective, bold reforms and consistent actions are needed at multiple levels from international institutions and national governments to grassroots communities. While the Nigerian case offers a powerful lens through which to explore these challenges, the recommendations that follow apply broadly across nations, particularly in the Global South, where rights are often written into law but not always realized in daily life.



1. Constitutional and Legal Reforms Globally, many constitutions contain robust declarations of rights. However, a major gap persists between civil-political rights (like voting or freedom of speech) and economic, social, and cultural rights (like access to healthcare or education). Countries should work toward constitutional and legislative reforms that make these socioeconomic rights justiciable that is,

enforceable in courts. In places like South Africa and Kenya, courts have already ruled in favour of health and housing as legal rights. More nations must follow suit.

In Nigeria, this means amending Chapter II of the 1999 Constitution to give full legal weight to the right to education, food, and shelter rights which are currently considered non-binding policy goals.

2. Strengthening Independent Institutions

The protection of rights depends heavily on independent institutions courts, ombudsmen, electoral commissions, and national human rights commissions. These bodies must be free from political interference, well-funded, and given real enforcement powers. The National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, for example, should not merely issue reports but have powers to prosecute or initiate

actions against violators, similar to mechanisms in Ghana, South Africa, and Canada.

3. Global Solidarity and Enforcement

International human rights bodies such as the UN Human Rights Council, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and International Criminal Court (ICC) must play a firmer role

At both global and national levels, citizens must be educated to recognize, claim, and defend their rights. Civic education must be mainstreamed in schools and public discourse not as propaganda, but as empowerment. Citizens across Africa, Asia, and Latin America have often led the charge against injustice, from the Arab

internet shutdowns and surveillance have been used to silence dissent. Legal frameworks must protect citizens' online freedoms while also holding tech companies accountable for hate speech, misinformation, and algorithmic discrimination.

6. Economic Justice and Inclusion

Finally, poverty remains

Human rights are not just international ideals. They are the soul of our everyday existence. They define how we speak, worship, live, and die and the late South African President, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela would say: "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal



in holding governments accountable. Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR), treaty body reports, and sanctions against violators must be used consistently not selectively. Global responses to conflicts in Syria, Sudan, Palestine, and Ukraine demonstrate that political interests often distort enforcement. A truly just world must prioritize humanity over geopolitics.

4. Civic Education and Democratic Participation

Spring to Nigeria's #EndSARS movement. These efforts must be sustained by informed participation in elections, peaceful protest, and legal action.

5. Technology, Access, and Digital Rights

In our digital age, human rights must evolve to include the right to digital freedom, data privacy, and access to the internet. In countries like Iran, China, and even democratic settings,

the greatest threat to human rights globally. Over 700 million people worldwide still live in extreme poverty, according to the World Bank. Human rights advocacy must align with inclusive economic policies fair taxation, anti-corruption, social safety nets, and access to basic services. Without these, freedom of expression means little to someone without food or shelter.

CONCLUSION

opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die". For every child kept out of school, every woman denied justice, every protester silenced, and every poor person ignored, a part of our shared humanity is lost. Nigeria diverse, dynamic, and determined has all it takes to be a beacon of rights in Africa. But it must close the gap



between law and life, between words and will. Our constitution, treaties, and institutions must reflect not just power, but compassion.

We are all stakeholders in the human rights movement lawyers and teachers, market women

and tech founders, students and traditional leaders. A just society begins not in distant courts, but in the decisions we make daily: to speak up, to listen and to treat each person with dignity.

Human rights are not extras. They are essentials.

And they are not the work of others, they are the work of us all. (The end).

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”. – Nelson Mandela.

“Human rights are not a privilege granted by the few, they are a liberty entitled to all, and human rights, by definition, include the rights of all humans, those in the dawn of life, the dusk of life, or the shadows of life”. – Kay Granger.





ADDING VALUE

WITH HENRY UKAZU

henrous@gmail.com

Be Fruitful

Dear Destiny Friends,
To be fruitful is to be productive, profitable, and successful in all areas of your life. When one is fruitful, he will attract many opportunities and values. When we are fruitful, we won't be barren because we will be producing fruits and results with our work. Even the book of life said no woman will be barren in your land. That's being fruitful.

Fruitfulness permeates every area of our life. When you are fruitful, your life, marriage, business, academic, ethics, relationship/network will flourish. Our business must be fruitful to survive, otherwise it will be out of business. We shall discuss several areas where one can be fruitful.

Parents

The joy of every father is for the child to be greater than him. Any father that wants to be greater than his son is not a good father in my understanding. Parents, mentors, government, teachers, leaders of faith, etc. all want us to be fruitful. Let's take a case study of parents. They sacrifice



their time, resources and health just to give us a decent life. They do it because they want us to be successful in life.

Personally, I watched my late father and mother deprive themselves of the luxury of life just to give me and my siblings a decent life. My late parents never had the opportunity of having a decent education, it won't be out of place for one to say they are unlettered, but they knew the value of education.

My late dad will always say, he's not concerned about building houses, or living a luxury lifestyle, to him, those are secondary needs of life. His primary concern is for his children to have a good education. My late dad will always say assuming he's educated, he would have

excelled higher in life.

My late mother is not an exemption. I vividly remember one day my late mother said to me, her colleagues are buying jewelry, shoes, clothes, making their hair, etc. to fit into trends, but she's not concerned about that, her major concern is for her children to have a decent education and look good.

Most people don't understand the inspiration behind why I do what I do today. My late parents were and remained my biggest supporter. Apart from going to heaven, my greatest goal is to make my late parents and children proud. The moral of this analysis is my late parents sacrificed even their life for me and siblings just because they want us to be successful and fruitful.

Mentors

Mentors are not left out of this equation; mentors can be regarded as gatekeepers because they have paid the price of success. It is the fruitfulness of mentors that attracts values and mentees to them. When a mentor accepts a mentee into his fold, he's simply telling the mentee, "I want you to be successful, I don't want you to fail. However, it is important to state that before a mentor can accept to mentor a mentee, the mentor would have seen some potential in the mentees.

It's instructive to mention that there are five types of mentors namely:

- **Position Mentor:** People follow you because they have a right to follow you which can be because of the position you occupy.

- **Permission Mentor:** People follow you because you allow them. For example, in relationships when you decide to allow people to build relationships with you.

- **Production Mentor:** People follow you because of what you have done for the organization or association. This is result oriented.

- **People Development Mentor:** People follow you because of what you have done for them.

- **Pinnacle Mentor:** People follow you because of who you are or what you represent. The question now is where do you belong?

For the umpteenth time, I am a product of mentorship. My mentors have really shaped my life.

Teachers
Teachers are not left out. Teachers are generally regarded as professional educators who play a critical role in fostering student achievement, personal growth, and social development. They are seen as the “lifeblood” of the education system, often serving as mentors, role models, and agents of social change.

There are many components of teachers namely:

- **Professional Experts:** Teachers are trained specialists in pedagogy (the art/science of teaching) and subject

matter, holding degrees and certifications that qualify them to guide learners.

- **Facilitators and Mentors:** Beyond delivering content, they act as guides who help students acquire critical thinking skills and knowledge, shifting from “information dispensers” to active facilitators.

- **Lifelong Learners:** Effective teachers are viewed as individuals who continuously learn and adapt their practices to new technologies, curricula, and student needs.

- **Moral and Cultural Guides:** Teachers are often expected to act as stewards of community values, maintaining student safety, and cultivating civic responsibility.

- **“Backbone of Society”:** They are considered crucial to a nation’s social and economic development by preparing the future workforce. Above all, they assist in making us fruitful human beings.



Leaders of faith

The leaders of faith are regarded as the molders of the human faith because they help to build our faith. When the scripture says in Genesis 1:8, be fruitful and multiply, the scripture is also referring to them because they are regarded as shepherds. As Christians, we expected to be fruitful because our heavenly father is fruitful. Being fruitful here entails bearing fruits with our life and this entails using our life to attract people into the kingdom of God as evidence of our heavenly father who expects us to be Christlike.

Government

Let’s talk about the government. When a government is fruitful, it will reflect on the lives of her citizens, but when the government is performing below expectations, the citizens will be on the receiving end. The principal responsibility of the government is protection of life and security for her citizens. Every other thing is secondary. The government is also

responsible for creating job opportunities for the citizens. However, it should be noted the government cannot create for all her citizens, and as such they provide an enabling environment for the private sector to thrive. Employers/Supervisors/Leaders

These sets of people are regarded as people of influence. You need them at your corner, if you intend to move higher in life. Your employers and supervisors are regarded as your leaders. You can never outsmart them; the best one can try is to be in their good books and tolerate their excesses. When an employee is fruitful and exceeding expectations at work, they tend to be rewarded by their supervisors or employers because of the value they create and the problem they solve. In conclusion, whatever you do in life, please try and be fruitful.

Henry Ukazu writes from New York. He works with the New York City Department of Correction as the Legal Coordinator. He’s the founder of Gloemi. He’s a Transformative Human Capacity and Mindset coach. He is also a public speaker, youth advocate, creative writer and author of Design Your Design and Unleash Your Destiny. He can be reached via info@gloemi.com



VOICE *of* Emancipation

- Kayode Emola -

Is Africa Left Behind in the Face of Globalisation

Recently in the news, we saw how the rise of Xenophobia in South Africa is tearing the African community in South Africa apart. Not what you would expect exactly 32 years after the end of apartheid South Africa.

One would ask, what really happened to South Africa since the return to black rule in 1994? After all, with a GDP of nearly \$500 billion and just about 60 million population, they are still the largest economy in Africa. Would they have achieved that feat on their own if the white folks hadn't built that economy. That really isn't the issue here. The main issue is that majority of the black South Africans are reeking in abject poverty with no way of escape. So, the easiest thing to do is to blame it on immigrants as though they are the cause of the problem.

The truth is Africans are being left behind in an ever-changing world. As an immigrant myself to the United Kingdom, I have achieved far more than many core British people



whose ancestors were originally from Britain. I do not believe that my migration to Britain threatened the existence or survival of the locals. On the contrary, I believe I have added more value to the British society and to

its progress and enriched its culture.

Which leaves me to conclude that the problem with the black/brown South Africans is not that migrants are overwhelming their society. Rather, it is a

failure of the African leadership to build a good framework for sustainable development.

Many Africans always blame slavery, colonisation and neo-colonialism for the underdevelopment of Africa. As true as these

things, they aren't the major obstacles to our real development. Our real underdevelopment stems from the greed of a few individuals among our black folks who are so determined to steal from our collective commonwealth for their own personal gain.

With an economy the size of South Africa, the average person is supposed to be earning a decent \$8,000 to \$10,000 annually. Enough to make a good life for themselves, and their immediate family. However, the reality is that GDP doesn't mean anything to anyone who is just scrapping by. Estimate from the South Africa statistics department in 2023 shows that nearly 40 percent of their population live below the poverty line earning less than R1,300 (\$80) per person per month. With that kind of poverty brings resentment to any successful group or groups of person(s) supposedly perceived to be taking away the wealth of the local population.

This is part of the real reason behind the Xenophobic attitude of our South African brothers whom many African countries defied all odds to stand with in their dark days. Despite, the growing South African economy, it shows that globalisation is not actually improving the lives of the ordinary man on the street. This is the same across several

African countries on the continent.

It's easy to blame the leaders of many of these African countries, but we must equally blame the followers who do not know how to hold their leaders accountable. African leaders get an easy pass despite their mismanagement of the economy in their countries propped up by international organisations and foreign government. Partly because of a docile and an uninformed population.

If our Yoruba nation must succeed, we must make conscious effort to ensure that no one is left behind. There must

be specific programs by the government to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry, let alone go to school with an empty stomach.

The level of poverty in the continent is so high that it should revulsed our leaders. However, seeing that our leaders are far removed from the common man, they feel disconnected to their plight. We who are custodians of leadership must ensure that the right policies are in place to genuinely lift millions of our people out of poverty and not just cosmetic dressing.

That is the only time we too as Africans can benefit

from globalisation. If not, our people will continue to wallow in poverty, blaming everything on our ancestors and the government without they themselves taking responsibility for their own personal development.

I urge our African people to wake up whilst there is still the opportunity so that we too can benefit from the globalisation the world is experiencing. This will stop the blame game, because the last time I checked, migration is a net contributor to any economy and not the other way round as some myopic people will have us believe.





Panorama

BY DR SANI SA'IDU BABA

✉ drssbaba@yahoo.com

☎ 08054562222 (Text Only)

Kano Deputy Governorship: Why Murtala Sule Garo is Most Deserving

One of the defining slogans of the Governor of Kano State is “Kano First,” a principle that emphasizes prioritizing the collective interest, development, and unity of Kano State above all else. In line with this vision, Hon. Murtala Sule Garo stands out as the most suitable candidate for the position of Deputy Governor. His track record reflects a history of diligent and selfless service to Kano State, marked by consistent dedication to grassroots development and people-oriented governance. Over the years, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing the welfare of the people, making him a natural fit for a leadership role that demands loyalty, competence, and a deep understanding of Kano’s needs.

Throughout his time in office, Garo distinguished himself through people-oriented policies and impactful empowerment initiatives. He became widely known for implementing large-scale



programs that directly improved the livelihoods of youth and women across Kano State. Thousands benefited from his initiatives, which included financial support, business tools, and opportunities for economic independence. These efforts not only reduced poverty at the grassroots level but also

demonstrated his belief in inclusive governance ensuring that the dividends of democracy reach even the most remote communities. His approach earned him recognition as a leader who “takes government to the people,” a rare quality that continues to endear him to the masses.

Beyond empowerment,

Garo’s leadership style is defined by accessibility, generosity, and responsiveness. He has consistently been described as a “man of the people,” someone who listens, engages, and responds without bias. His political strength lies in his deep-rooted connection with communities across Kano, where he has

built trust over the years through direct engagement and consistent support. This grassroots network has become one of his greatest political assets, positioning him as a unifying figure capable of mobilizing support across different demographics and political divides. In the evolving political landscape of Kano State, Murtala Sule Garo has emerged as a leading and widely endorsed candidate for the position of Deputy Governor. Recent political development shows that he enjoys overwhelming support not only from key stakeholders within the APC, but also from the generality of the grassroots Kano electorate, reflecting not only his political relevance but also the confidence party leaders and stakeholders have in his experience, loyalty, and leadership capacity. Garo's suitability for the role of Deputy Governor is further strengthened by his extensive experience in governance and party administration. Having served in multiple strategic positions, including organising roles, advisory capacities, and two consecutive terms as commissioner, he possesses both institutional knowledge and practical governance skills. His ability to navigate complex political structures while maintaining strong grassroots support makes him uniquely positioned

to complement executive leadership and ensure stability in governance. Looking ahead to future elections, Murtala Sule Garo's political capacity remains one of his strongest advantages. He is widely regarded as a mobilizer who can energize the electorate, increase voter participation, and strengthen party unity. His influence at the ward and local government levels provides a strategic advantage for any administration he is part of, as he can effectively translate political goodwill into electoral success. Observers believe that his inclusion in leadership would not only consolidate party structures but also enhance governance

outcomes through effective implementation of policies at the grassroots level. Moreover, Garo represents a bridge between experience and youthful dynamism. His understanding of both traditional political structures and modern governance demands positions him as a forward-thinking leader capable of contributing meaningfully to Kano's development agenda. His inclusive approach, engaging traditional rulers, youth groups, and stakeholders, suggests that he can foster a sense of collective ownership in governance, which is essential for sustainable development.

In conclusion, Hon. Murtala Sule Garo embodies the qualities of a competent administrator, a grassroots mobilizer, and a unifying political figure. His track record of service, empowerment, and community engagement presents a compelling case for his emergence as the next Deputy Governor of Kano State. With his proven ability to deliver results and connect with the people, he stands not only as a suitable candidate but as a strategic asset capable of driving progress, stability, and inclusive governance in Kano State's future.

Abdullahi Sa'idu Baba (Hafizi) writes from Kano, and can be reached via Hafeezsb@gmail.com





TECH AND HUMANITY

with FOLU ADEBAYO

folu@thisisfolu.uk

Why Africa Must Write Its Own AI Rules

There is a meeting happening right now that Africa is not in.

In Brussels, Washington, London, and Beijing, the rules that will govern artificial intelligence for the next generation are being written. Frameworks are being debated. Standards are being set. Regulatory architectures are being designed that will determine how AI is built, deployed, and held accountable across the global economy.

And yet, the continent that will be most affected by those decisions home to the world's youngest population, with a median age under 20, and some of its fastest-growing economies is largely absent from the room.

This is not just an oversight.

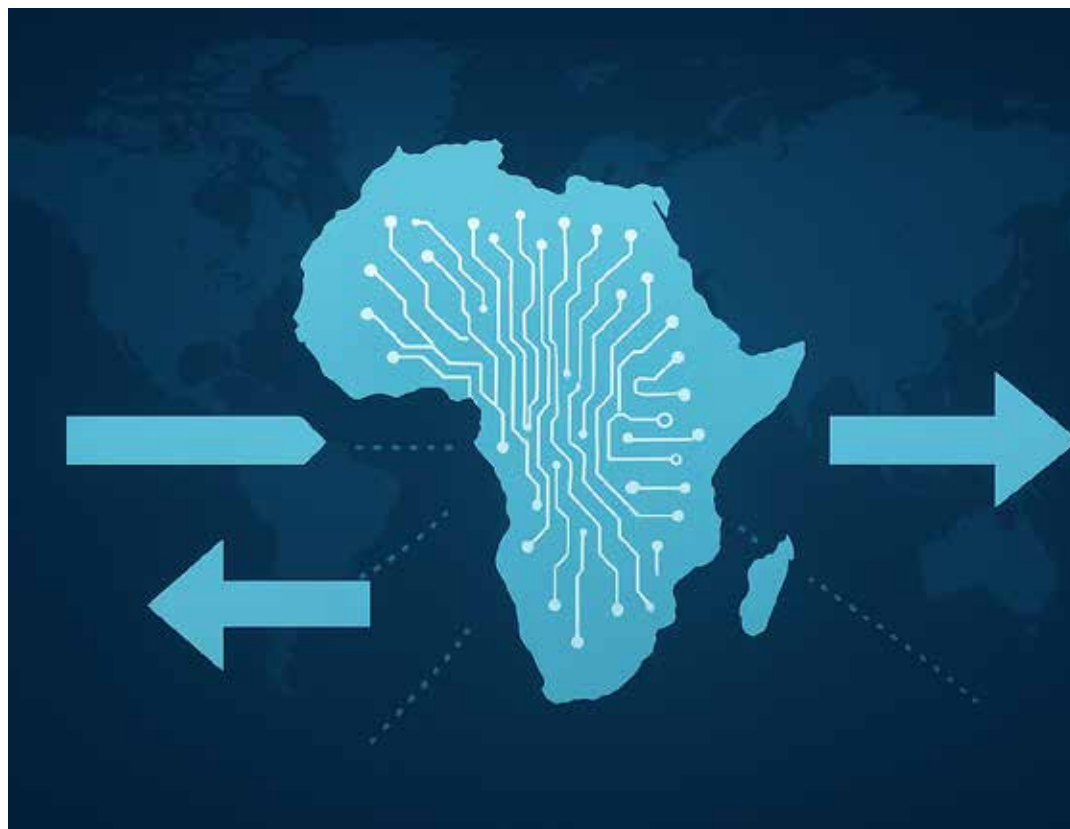
It is a strategic risk.

The illusion of neutrality

There is a persistent myth in technology: that AI is neutral, that algorithms are objective, that data does not discriminate.

The evidence suggests otherwise.

A landmark study by researchers at MIT Media Lab found that leading



facial recognition systems had error rates of up to 34.7% for darker-skinned women, compared to less than 1% for lighter-skinned men. Similarly, audits by National Institute of Standards and Technology have shown significant demographic disparities in biometric systems.

These are not edge cases. They are signals.

Every AI system reflects the values, assumptions, and blind spots of those who build it and the data it is trained on. When that

data is overwhelmingly Western, the systems built on top of it will perform best in Western contexts.

This is already visible in financial services. Credit scoring models trained on formal banking histories misinterpret the creditworthiness of entrepreneurs operating in informal or cash-based economies. Medical AI systems trained on European and North American datasets are being deployed in health systems where disease patterns and

treatment pathways differ significantly.

Africa is not simply adopting AI.

It is increasingly being asked to adapt to AI that was never designed for it.

The governance gap is a sovereignty gap

When the European Union introduced the EU AI Act, it did more than regulate technology. It set a global standard.

Any company that wants to operate in the European market must now align with its requirements. That is regulatory power.

Africa has no equivalent. And in that absence, a pattern is emerging: African institutions default to external standards European, American, or Chinese importing not just technology, but the governance models that come with it.

This is where the real risk lies.

The AI governance gap is not just a regulatory lag. It is a sovereignty gap.

Because when rules are written elsewhere, outcomes are shaped elsewhere.

What is at stake

Nowhere is this more consequential than in financial services.

Across Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, and South Africa, fintech is expanding access to credit, insurance, and payments at unprecedented speed. According to the World Bank, mobile money alone has lifted millions out of financial exclusion across Sub-Saharan Africa.

But governance has not kept pace.

When an AI model determines whether a small business owner in Lagos receives a loan, who is accountable for that decision?

When a customer in Nairobi is flagged as high risk, can they challenge it? When algorithmic systems produce biased outcomes, who is responsible for identifying and correcting them?

In many jurisdictions, there is no clear answer.

That is not just a policy gap.

It is a trust gap.

And trust is the foundation on which financial systems and digital economies are built.

The opportunity within the gap

For all its risks, Africa's position is also a rare strategic advantage.

Europe is retrofitting governance onto decades of legacy systems. The United States remains constrained by political fragmentation. China's approach reflects a governance model that many African democracies will not seek to replicate.

Africa has the opportunity to build differently to embed governance into AI adoption from the outset. That means designing frameworks that reflect local realities:

- informal and hybrid economies

- mobile-first financial

infrastructure

- linguistic and cultural diversity

- distinct social and regulatory priorities

There are early signals of what this could look like. Rwanda has positioned itself as a testbed for responsible AI policy. Kenya has taken meaningful steps in data protection. Nigeria with its scale, talent base, and economic influence has the potential to lead a continent-wide approach.

But leadership requires intent.

And the window to lead is narrowing.

What African boards must do now

For board directors, Chief Risk Officers, and technology leaders, AI governance is not a future issue.

It is a present responsibility.

Start with visibility:

Which AI systems are

currently influencing decisions in your organisation?

Then ownership:

Who is accountable for them?

Then integrity:

What data were they trained on and does it reflect the customers you actually serve?

And finally, accountability: What happens when the system is wrong?

These are not regulatory questions.

They are governance fundamentals.

And organisations that cannot answer them today will struggle to defend them tomorrow to regulators, to customers, and increasingly, to the public.

The decision point

The rules that will govern artificial intelligence across Africa are still being written.

But the direction of travel is clear.

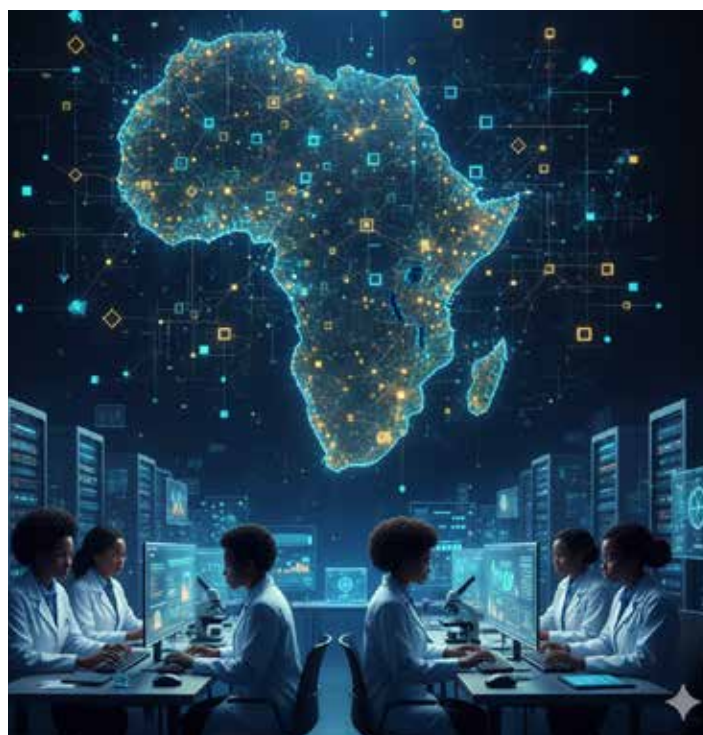
If Africa does not define its own standards, it will inherit them.

If it does not build governance into its systems, it will import it along with the assumptions embedded within it.

And in a world where AI is shaping access to capital, healthcare, security, and opportunity, that is not just a technical decision.

It is a question of economic sovereignty.

Africa can either become a rule-maker in the AI economy or remain a rule-taker.



Beyond the Present Impasse: Five-Pillar Strategy for Restoring Credibility of ECOWAS

By Tolulope A. Adegoke, PhD

PREAMBLE: THE STRATEGIC MOMENT AND ITS IMPERATIVES

The Economic Community of West African States confronts a moment of institutional reckoning without precedent in its fifty-year history. The confluence of democratic recession, the fracturing of regional solidarity, the commodification of the Community's security space by external actors, and the erosion of popular faith in the tangible benefits of integration has converged to pose a systemic threat to the organization's foundational relevance. The established toolkit of declaratory diplomacy, automatic suspension, and sanctions escalation has demonstrably exhausted its capacity to compel compliance or to stabilize the regional order.

The way forward, therefore, cannot be a mere intensification of existing methods. It must be a strategic recalibration of ECOWAS's institutional posture, operational doctrines, and normative architecture. The objective is not the preservation of institutional prestige for its own sake, but the patient, principled, and incentivized reconstruction of a regional political community in which sovereign member

states and their citizens perceive membership as a demonstrable enhancement of their national security, economic prosperity, and democratic legitimacy. The following roadmap articulates a sequenced, non-biased, and operationally concrete way forward, structured across five interdependent strategic lines of effort.

STRATEGIC LINE OF EFFORT I: RECALIBRATE THE NORMATIVE FOUNDATION OF THE COMMUNITY

The prevailing perception that the ECOWAS normative framework on democratic governance is applied with selectivity—penalizing military seizures of power while remaining diplomatically passive in the face of civilian constitutional manipulation—has inflicted severe damage on the institution's moral authority. Rectifying this asymmetry is an indispensable precondition for the restoration of credible institutional leadership.

Action 1.1: Convene an Extraordinary Authority Summit Dedicated Exclusively to Normative Self-Correction

The Chair of the Authority must convene, within a non-extendable 90-day period, an Extraordinary



Summit with a single, undiluted agenda item: the critical review and amendment of the 2001 Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. This Summit must not be subsumed within a broader agenda of security or economic matters. Its singular focus signals institutional seriousness and prevents diplomatic evasion.

Action 1.2: Codify and Adopt a Binding Symmetrical Sanctions Regime

The Summit must adopt a formal Supplementary Protocol that introduces, with legally binding precision, a definition of the "Constitutional Coup" or "Incumbent Entrenchment." This shall be defined as any action by a sitting elected executive, whether through

legislative manipulation, compliant judicial ruling, or tailored constitutional referendum, that modifies the fundamental law of the state for the primary purpose of abrogating or eliminating established presidential term limits in order to extend the incumbent's tenure. The sanctions prescribed for this defined violation must be identical in their automaticity of trigger, procedural robustness, and severity of consequence to those prescribed for classical military coups d'état. This single act of symmetrical legal self-correction eliminates the charge of institutional bias and re-establishes the Community as a principled, impartial guarantor of democratic integrity.

Action 1.3: Mandate the

ECOWAS Council of Ministers to Develop a Compliance Monitoring and Early Warning Matrix. The Council of Ministers must be mandated to develop, within 120 days, a transparent, indicator-based Compliance Monitoring and Early Warning Matrix. This matrix must track, on a continuous and publicly accessible basis, the compliance status of every member state against the full spectrum of democratic governance norms, including term limit provisions, electoral calendar integrity, and civil liberties protections. The matrix serves as an objective, depoliticized early warning mechanism that triggers preventive diplomatic engagement before a crisis crystallizes, removing the element of discretionary political judgment that fuels perceptions of bias.

STRATEGIC LINE OF EFFORT II: REPOSITION THE SECURITY ARCHITECTURE FROM PUNITIVE POSTURE TO ENABLING PARTNERSHIP

The region's security space has become an unregulated, competitive marketplace for external military projection. ECOWAS must fundamentally reconceive its security offer to member states, pivoting from a posture associated with kinetic interventionism

to one of technical enabling partnership that sovereign states perceive as enhancing, rather than constraining, their national security.

Action 2.1: Adopt and Promulgate a Binding External Security Partner Code of Conduct

The Mediation and Security Council must convene a high-level Strategic De-confliction and Transparency Dialogue with all external

with a centralized registry at the ECOWAS Commission within a non-extendable 90-day period. The objective is a non-prejudicial technical audit ensuring that the cumulative effect of multiple, independently negotiated bilateral arrangements does not inadvertently undermine collective regional security.

Action 2.2: Formally Reconceptualize the

away from large-scale conventional combat power projection—a mission type assessed as operationally unviable and politically irrecoverable in the current environment—and towards the provision of high-demand, low-substitutability technical enabling functions. These core modules shall include a multi-source intelligence fusion and strategic warning cell, a specialized digital border security and



state actors conducting unilateral security operations on the territory of ECOWAS member states. The binding, legally codified outcome shall be an ECOWAS External Security Partner Code of Conduct. Its central provision mandates that all bilateral Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs), defense cooperation memoranda, and security-related basing or access pacts between any external state and any individual ECOWAS member state be formally and confidentially deposited

ECOWAS Standby Force into a Modular Technical Enabling Capability. The Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security must be directed to present, within 180 days, a comprehensive doctrinal and operational blueprint for the reconceptualization of the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF) into a new instrument, provisionally designated the "ECOWAS Crisis Response and Resilience Capability" (ECRRC). This new capability must execute a decisive doctrinal pivot

management task force, and a dedicated regional counter-financing of terrorism unit operating in institutional coordination with GIABA. This recalibrated offer creates a non-coercive incentive for disengaged states to voluntarily resume security cooperation.

Action 2.3: Establish a Specialized Civilian Harm Monitoring and Accountability Mechanism. The Commission must establish, with immediate effect, an operationally independent Civilian

Harm Monitoring and Accountability Mechanism (CHMAM). Its personnel shall be sourced from member states with no direct security-material interest in the Sahelian theatre. Its mandate is the impartial, transparent, and universally applied monitoring, verification, and public reporting of civilian harm perpetrated by all armed actors, including state forces and their external partners. This mechanism depoliticizes the protection agenda and positions ECOWAS as a non-partisan guarantor of humanitarian accountability.

STRATEGIC LINE OF EFFORT III: ENGINEER A CALIBRATED, INCENTIVE-ANCHORED POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The sterile binary between “immediate unconditional constitutional restoration” and “indefinite unverifiable transition” has produced a protracted diplomatic gridlock. A new engagement framework, grounded in verified deliverables and sequenced incentives, is required.

Action 3.1: Constitute a Permanent, Empowered Panel of Eminent Persons for Silent Mediation

The Chair of the Authority must formally constitute, through a Decision of the Authority, a permanent

Panel of Former Heads of State and Eminent Persons. Membership must be curated exclusively from a small cohort of former leaders whose nations possess an unassailable living legacy of peaceful, constitutional, and fully contested democratic alternation of executive power. The Panel’s mandate is to conduct a silent, continuous, indefinitely sustained shuttle diplomacy mission, operating strictly on the methodology of interest-based negotiation. No public statements, no deadlines, and no press releases are to be issued by the Panel. This permanently discontinues the counterproductive practice of “mégaphone diplomacy.”

Action 3.2: Table a Formal, Three-Tiered Transition Compact with Verified Deliverables and Sequenced Incentives

The Commission, under the political guidance of the Mediation and Security Council, must

prepare and formally table a comprehensive Three-Tiered Transition Compact as the baseline framework for engagement with member states currently under transitional military administration. The tiers are sequenced as follows:

· Tier 1 (Immediate Confidence Building): Full, unimpeded humanitarian access to all conflict-affected zones, verified by operational humanitarian agencies; and the release of all political detainees not credibly charged with violent criminal offenses, verified by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Upon successful independent verification, ECOWAS commits to a formal suspension of targeted economic sanctions against the state apparatus.

· Tier 2 (Sequenced Political Roadmap): A binding 24-month, bottom-up electoral sequence—local elections first, constitutional referendum second, presidential and

parliamentary elections third—with a guaranteed statutory role for ECOWAS in the technical vetting of the electoral management body. Upon verification of each phase, incremental incentives are released.

· Tier 3 (Structural Guarantee Against Self-Dealing): The constitutional entrenchment, prior to terminal elections, of a non-amendable clause prohibiting any serving member of the transitional government from contesting those elections. Upon verification and peaceful transfer of power, all remaining sanctions are lifted, and ECOWAS proactively sponsors the state’s full reintegration and development financing package... *continue reading on <https://thebossnewspapers.com/2026/04/25/beyond-the-present-impasse-five-pillar-strategy-for-restoring-credibility-of-ecowas/>*



From Library Steward to Literary Icon: Aare Dele Momodu Returns to OAU as Distinguished Ambassador

By Anjorin Fehintola Stella

Forty-nine years after walking the halls of the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library as a young staff member, Aare Chief Dele Momodu returned to Obafemi Awolowo University on April 22, 2026, not as a visitor, but as a celebrated son of the institution. The occasion was the OAU Library Week, and it was nothing short of historic.

The Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, the same library where Aare's intellectual journey began, received him with full honours presenting him with its highest recognition and affirming what many have long believed: that the library was the foundation of the man he has become. A Warm Welcome from the University Librarian

The event opened with a formal address by Dr. O.A. Fadehan, University Librarian of OAU, who read the library's Vision and Mission Statements to Aare as a formal expression of institutional identity and purpose. Dr. Fadehan described the statements as a true reflection of who they are as an institution committed to the discovery, creation, and curation of knowledge in service of academic, social, economic, and cultural development.

She warmly congratulated Aare on returning to his alma mater and offered



her best wishes ahead of the award he would receive later in the day.

In Conversation with Great 94.5 FM: "Readers are Leaders" A Myth or Not?

In a compelling interview with Great 94.5 FM, Aare was asked one of literature's most enduring questions: "Readers are leaders, a myth or not?" His answer was both personal and profound.

He spoke of a generation

that fell in love with books not out of obligation, but out of genuine passion. He recalled reading voraciously, moving from thrillers like James Hadley Chase, Nick Carter, and Sidney Sheldon, to the African Writers Series: Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Ayi Kwei Armah, and Nuruddin Farah.

"For us, showing off

was about knowledge, not how much you had in your account," he said, reflecting on a time when intellectual wealth was the true currency of social capital. He recalled Wole Soyinka teaching on campus, distinguished visiting lecturers including Dr. Bena Soli from Uganda and David Rubadiri from Malawi, and legendary OAU figures like Wande Abimbola and Ojetunji Aboyade. "We knew



those names because we were grounded. We were reading.”

He recalled a vivid memory of his brother Prof Oladele Ajayi walking into his room to find thirteen large volumes of Bertrand Russell stacked on his table. For Aare and his peers, that was a point of pride. They memorised poetry and passages from novels with the same ease others memorised song lyrics. To prove it, he recited live at the podium stanzas from Wole Soyinka’s *Abiku* and passages from Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, including:

“Life’s but a walking shadow, a poor player That struts and frets his hour upon the stage And then is heard no more.”

The audience was visibly moved. That a man of his stature could still recite

these passages from memory decades later was itself a testament to the power of reading.

“If they say readers are leaders, then yes and at the same time, leaders must be readers. You do not stop learning,” he declared. He expressed

his excitement at being recognised by the very institution that built him, noting that the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, where he worked 49 years ago, was the foundation of whoever he is today.

And My Idol Died: A Tribute to Michael

Jackson

In one of the most moving moments of the event, Aare served as Guest Reader and the piece he chose was deeply personal. Projected on the LED screen was a photograph of him at Michael Jackson’s funeral service in Los Angeles, California, alongside the full text of his tribute article: “And My Idol Died!”

He revealed that he had written the piece on the very night Michael Jackson passed Thursday, June 25, 2009 and that it was published on the back page of *ThisDay* Newspaper on June 27, 2009. Reading it aloud in Oduduwa Hall, his voice carried the weight of genuine grief and admiration for the man he had called his idol.

The article was a defence of MJ’s legacy, a rebuke of those who attacked





him even in death, and a meditation on fame, loneliness, and the cruelty of a world that often destroys the very greatness it claims to celebrate. For many in the audience, it was a revelation not just about Michael Jackson, but about the depth of feeling that lives beneath Aare's public persona.

The Books That Shaped a Career, Presented to Those Who Will Lead Aare personally presented copies of three of his published works to the Vice Chancellor, faculty deans, and students, each with a story behind it.

Fighting Lions a candid account of his 2011 presidential bid was described as "fighting lions with bare fingers." He expressed hope that students who would one day enter politics would read it and understand what that journey truly

costs. Pendulum 1 his first collection of essays represented over four decades of writing. "In the past 40 years, I would have written over 1,000 essays and articles in newspapers and journals globally, and this was the

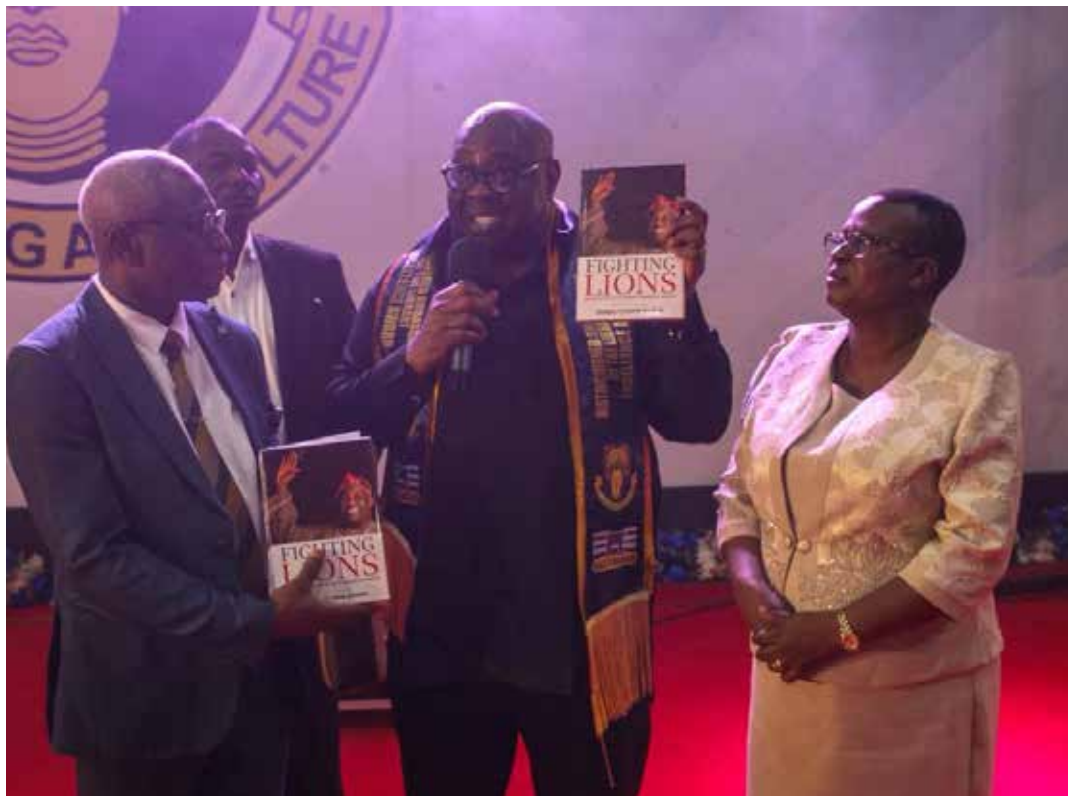
first collection," he said with quiet pride.

Pendulum 2 came with perhaps his most memorable anecdote of the day. When President Buhari invited him to Aso Rock in 2015 despite Aare's very public criticism of him he did not

bring a CV or a request for political appointment. He brought his book. He told the President plainly that he would advise him the same way he had advised presidents before him, and warned that if Buhari did not listen, he would "fail spectacularly like them." Buhari looked at him in disbelief, expecting a minister hopeful, and got a man who would rather offer truth than seek favour. "After I left, I said to Nigerians: I apologize to you for supporting this man," he added. "The rest is history."

Gifts, Donations, and a Full-Circle Homecoming Beyond his words, Aare's presence was marked by tangible generosity. The School PRO announced that Aare had donated high-resolution LED display screens for academic and event use in Oduduwa Hall, a fitting





gift from a man who understands the power of visual storytelling and public communication.

He also promised to make copies of his books available to students, ensuring that his literary legacy finds its way into the hands of the next generation. Throughout the event, students approached him to take photographs and pay their respects, a testament to the reach of his influence across generations.

The Distinguished Ambassador of the Library Award

The highlight of the day was the presentation of the Distinguished Ambassador of the Library Excellence Award by the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, Obafemi Awolowo University.

The citation, read by the OAU Public Relations Officer, honoured Aare

“in recognition of your growth from a devoted steward to a distinguished symbol of success and impact, reflecting the limitless possibilities that begin within the library.”

The award was presented by the Vice Chancellor of OAU, Prof. Adebayo

Simeon Bamire, with Dr. O.A. Fadehan, University Librarian, also participating in the handshake, a symbolic moment of the university embracing its own.

Also in attendance was the Orangun of Oke-Ila Orangun, Oba Adedokun

Aomoniyi Abolarin Aroyinkeye I, whose royal presence lent further gravitas to the occasion.

For the Dele Momodu Leadership Centre, this day was a reminder of what authentic leadership looks like, rooted in knowledge, grounded in values, generous in giving back, and unapologetically committed to truth.

The library that gave him his start has now immortalised his name. And Aare, ever the reader, ever the writer, has given the next generation every reason to pick up a book.

Dele Momodu Leadership Centre

For media enquiries, please contact the Dele Momodu Leadership Centre.

Anjorin Fehintola Stella is a Youth Corps member serving with the Dele Momodu Leadership Centre, Ibadan



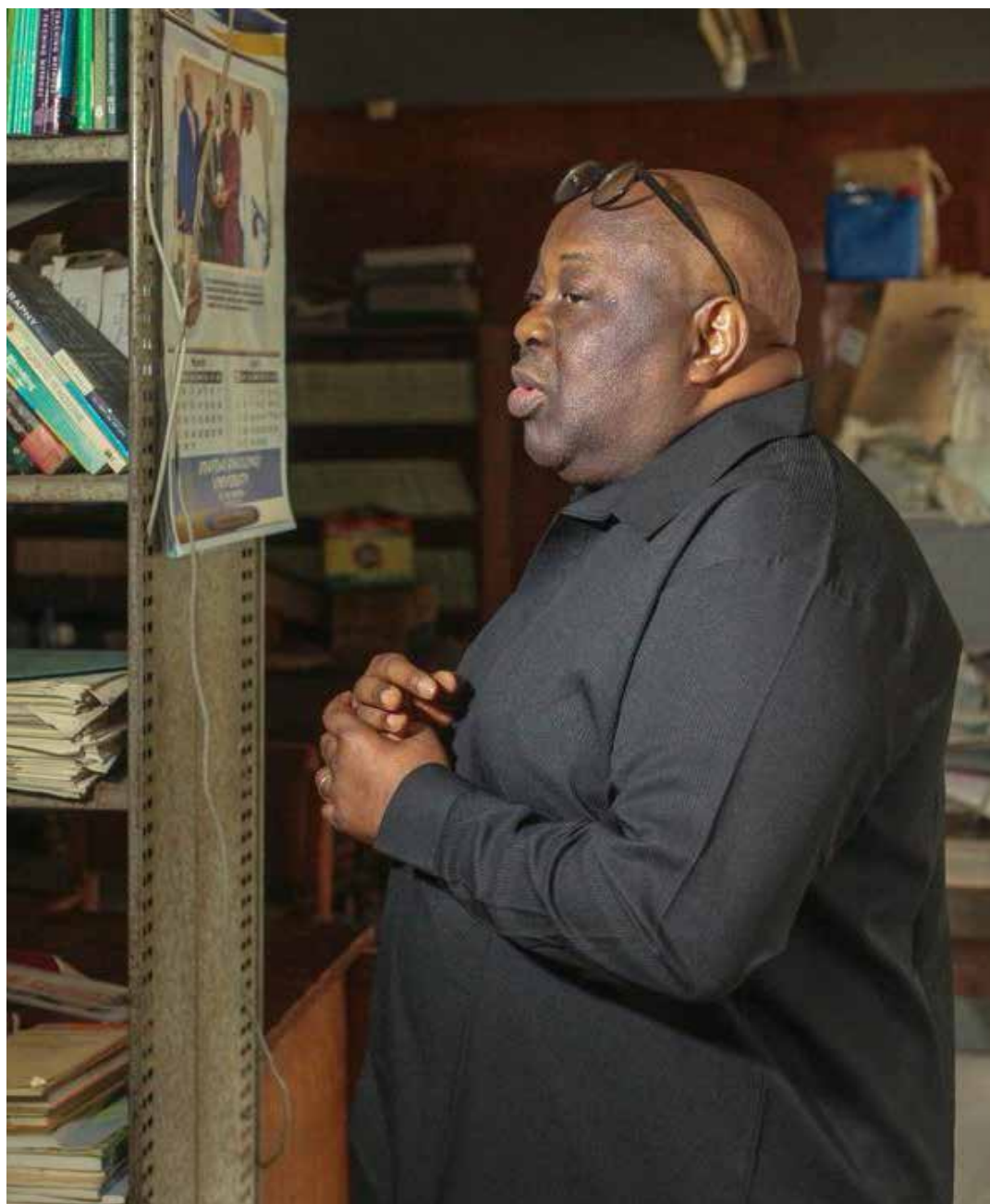
The OAU Library Week 2.0 at Oduduwa Hall

By Adeoye Inioluwa Precious

“To have fun when one is living is to acknowledge the grace of God in one’s life. Your nostalgia is fun” said the University Librarian, Dr. Olukemi Adebimpe Fadehan to Aare, Chief Dele Momodu while having a conversation with him in her office, as he joyfully reminisced on old times.

As an alumnus of the University himself, Aare Dele Momodu graced Obafemi Awolowo University with his presence for their second edition of their Library Week celebration which was organised by the University Library (Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library) and was held at the Oduduwa Hall.

The event officially kicked off at about 12:30pm and Dr. Olukemi Adebimpe Fadehan welcomed the distinguished guests; His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Adedokun Omoniyi Abolarin, Aroyinkeye I, the Orangun of Oke-Ila Orangun, and Aare, Chief Dele Momodu, Chairman of Ovation Media Group. During the opening remarks made by the University’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, he spoke extensively of Aare Dele Momodu’s generosity and proudly informed us of his donation of LED projectors that were on display in the hall. Subsequently, some of the



deans of the University were all introduced and individually gave their speech; From the Faculty of Administration, the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Environmental Design and Management, Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Nursing Science.

READING BY AARE DELE MOMODU

During his speech, he spoke to the audience, especially the University’s students, like a father that sought to advice his own children. He briefly spoke about his humble beginnings, his family, how hard life seemed back then and his journey to where he is now. Subsequently, he spoke extensively about the power of books, stating how his life changed

dramatically when he discovered it. He specifically said “I was a greedy reader when I discovered the power of books” as he encouraged everyone to tap into that source of power. He reiterated that reading and gaining extensive knowledge was what brought him to where he is today. Uniquely enough, he never used his certificate for a job to this



day. His speech set a table of hope for everyone in the audience passing on the message “If he could do it, why can’t I?”.

Thereafter, he broached the subject of his partial connection in politics. “I am a partial politician” he said, making sure to note that he cannot go full time into politics as it demands things that he would rather avoid.

Thereafter, he dived into his reading. He granted us the opportunity to gain an insight into his brilliant mind by presenting an old piece he once wrote about the late musical genius, Michael Jackson; A piece that he regards as one of his top three.

This beautiful piece was a sincere tribute of Michael Jackson written by a dedicated admirer, that almost saw Michael Jackson as a god.

In this piece, he admitted

to supporting Michael Jackson and defending him with everything he had and how he hated anyone who ever dared to pass snide remarks about him.

This article resonated with the audience as it allowed us to deeply understand

his thought process at the time and also allowed us to again feel the impact of the musical star and mourn his legacy, including the good and bad times.

He reiterated, in the piece, that the fame that came with Jackson’s success was so overwhelming

that it basically became a source of sorrow. The writing also highlighted Jackson’s dark days, when he fell from fame and how it seemed like hell.

The knowledge of certain things that most people probably did not know about was imparted to us, including events leading up to the final days and eventual death of the musical genius.

From his words, we truly felt how deeply he loved the musical star, as he even writes about how he “cried like a baby” when he learned of his death..

A part of the writing that specifically stood out was “I had wished Fela truly kept death in his pouch. We would have begged him to keep Michael for us forever. But Fela himself was killed by death. It is one debt we all owe.”

The hall erupted in joyful applaud after he





concluded his reading, in appreciation of Aare Dele Momodu's amazing work and the opportunity to hear from such a brilliant mind.

AWARDS

The event was heightened as the 'Distinguished Ambassador of the Library Excellence Award' was conferred on Aare, Chief Dele Momodu, by the University in utmost appreciation and recognition of his constant generosity and influence in the University. Alongside the award, several other Faculty Deans also had something to present him in gratitude for his continued legacy and impact.

In an unexpected turn of events, Aare Dele Momodu himself, had something for the University. He graciously gifted them some of his

own books as an addition to the University's Library. Thereafter, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Adedokun Omoniyi Abolarin, Aroyinkeye I, the Orangun of Oke-Ila, was also honored with a 'Royal Father of the Library Excellence

Award' for his love of knowledge and for his promotion of all that pertains the University's development.

NOTEWORTHY HIGHLIGHTS

In the Oduduwa hall, representatives of the

OAU students' Press, GREAT 94.5FM, approached Aare Dele Momodu for an interview, with an interesting topic of question, "Are readers leaders?"

In an exciting response, Aare Dele Momodu concurred with the question. He explained extensively on exactly why he agreed with the statement, stating that he was a reader before he ever even became someone that could be referred to as a leader.

He ended the interview with an interesting statement, saying "If they say leaders are readers, sure, but readers are also leaders"

Adeoye Inioluwa Precious is a Youth Corps member serving with The Dele Momodu Leadership Centre, Ibadan



Report on the Reading Time Event – Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

By Ayomide Oguntuase

The 2026 Reading Time Event was organized by the University Library (Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library) of Obafemi Awolowo University as part of its annual Library Week celebration. The event was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at Oduduwa Hall. It provided a platform for promoting intellectual engagement, fostering a reading culture, and encouraging lifelong learning among students, staff, and invited guests. The event was aimed at achieving the following objectives:

To promote and sustain a strong reading culture within the university community

To reinforce the significance of intellectual development and academic scholarship

To create an avenue for reflection, learning, and personal growth.

To emphasize the role of the library as a center for knowledge, research, and innovation.

The programme commenced with welcome remarks delivered by the University Librarian, Dr. Olukemi A. Fadehan. In her address, she highlighted the vital role of reading in shaping minds, preserving knowledge, and driving innovation. She also drew



attention to the declining reading culture in the digital era and encouraged participants to embrace reading as a powerful tool for personal and academic transformation. She further emphasized that the Reading Time Event was not merely ceremonial, but a reflection of the university's enduring commitment to academic excellence and intellectual curiosity.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, delivered the official opening address. He commended the University Library for organizing a meaningful

and impactful programme, describing reading as the foundation of education and knowledge acquisition. He noted that, despite the distractions of the digital age, initiatives such as the Reading Time Event create opportunities for deep reflection, critical thinking, and meaningful engagement with texts. He subsequently declared the event officially open. A major highlight of the event was the presence of the Guest Reader, Dele Momodu, a distinguished journalist, publisher, and public figure. He was recognized for his immense contributions

to media, literature, and public discourse.

During the event, the following recognitions were made:

Dele Momodu was conferred with the Distinguished Ambassador of the Library Excellence Award.

Oba (Dr.) Adekunle Omoniyi Abolarin, the Orangun of Oke-Ila, received the Royal Father of the Library Excellence Award

Citation of the Guest Reader.

The citation presented in honour of Chief Dele Momodu highlighted his achievements and



contributions, noting that he is:

A globally recognized African journalist and publisher

The founder of Ovation International Magazine

A prominent voice in shaping African narratives on the global stage

An influential public figure with impact across media, politics, and business.

His accomplishments were presented as a source of inspiration to students and members of the academic community.

The Reading Time Event underscored the importance of reading as a critical tool for both academic excellence and personal development. It reinforced the role of libraries in promoting scholarship, innovation, and intellectual growth.

Additionally, the event provided an opportunity for participants to interact

with accomplished individuals, thereby encouraging the revival and sustenance of a strong reading culture in contemporary society.

In conclusion the 2026 Reading Time Event was a successful and impactful programme that effectively promoted intellectual engagement

and a culture of reading within the university community. Through insightful presentations,

recognition of excellence, and active participation, the event achieved its intended objectives.

The presence of distinguished personalities, particularly Dele Momodu, added

prestige and inspiration, making the event a memorable highlight of the University's Library Week.

Ayomide Oguntuase is a Youth Corps member serving with the Dele Momodu Leadership Centre, Ibadan



Reviving the Literary Soul at Nigeria's "Great Ife"

By Shakirat Titilope Akintola



In an era where digital distraction has become a global epidemic, a historic movement to reclaim the power of the written word took center stage at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU). On Wednesday, 22nd April 2026, the iconic Oduduwa Hall was packed to capacity for "LIBRARY READING TIME 2026," an event that served as both a cultural revival and a masterclass in intellectual heritage. Organized by the Hezekiah Oluwasanmi Library, the colloquium brought together international media icons and traditional royalty to address a universal challenge: the survival of deep reading in the age of

"information overload." A Homecoming of Global Influence The spotlight of the event shone on Aare Dele Momodu, Chairman of Ovation Media Group and a figure synonymous with African excellence on the global stage. For Momodu, the day was a profound full-circle moment. Before the formal ceremonies, he toured the stacks of the university library where, decades ago, he served as a humble library attendant. "My journey started through the window of this library," Momodu reflected in an interview with Great 94.5FM. Addressing the massive audience, Momodu expressed his immense

joy at seeing the hall overflowing with so many young people, noting that their presence was a powerful signal that the thirst for knowledge remains alive in the next generation. To catalyze this growth, Momodu announced a major philanthropic contribution, donating LED Projectors to modernize the library's infrastructure and copies of his acclaimed books, Pendulum 1 & 2 and Fighting Lions. The Scholar-King: Bridging Tradition and Modernity In a display of the unique intersection between African tradition and academic excellence, the event honored His

Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Adedokun Omoniye Aroyinkeye I, the Orangun of Oke-Ila. As a distinguished alumnus of the university, the "Scholar-King" received the Friend of the Library Excellence Award. His Majesty is widely recognized beyond Nigeria's borders for founding Abolarin College, a landmark tuition-free boarding school dedicated entirely to indigent children. His presence served as a reminder that the ultimate goal of literacy is societal transformation and the empowerment of the underserved. Textured Narratives: From Agriculture to Pop Culture



The event featured a diverse “Reading Time” session that demonstrated the interdisciplinary necessity of the library:

- **Science & Sustainability:** The Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture read from *Agricultural Extension for Sustainable Development*, highlighting the practical application of research.

- **The Arts as a Sanctuary:** The Dean of the Faculty of Arts delivered a poignant reading titled “The Library is Faculty of Arts. No Walls Needed,” reinforcing the library as a space of boundless creativity.

The emotional crescendo arrived when Aare Dele Momodu took to the lectern as the Guest Reader. He chose to read a deeply moving tribute he authored in 2009 following the death of Michael Jackson. By dissecting

the tragic “grace to grass” narrative of a global icon, Momodu illustrated that reading is not just about facts—it is about developing the empathy and “human-interest” lens needed to understand the complexities of the human condition.

A Legacy for the Future
The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, and the University Librarian, Dr. Olukemi Adebimpe Fadehan, emphasized that the library remains a “sanctuary where curiosity is

nurtured.”

To ensure the day’s momentum survives the closing ceremony, the university officially inaugurated the H.O. Library Club. This initiative aims to foster a sustainable community of bibliophiles among the thousands of students who filled the hall.

As the “Great Ife” anthem echoed through the venue, the message to the world was clear: in the heart of West Africa, the next generation of leaders is being forged not just through screens, but through the timeless, transformative power of books.

Shakirat Titilope Akintola is a Youth Corps member serving with the Dele Momodu Leadership Centre, Ibadan





Iran War Reduces Global Oil Demand — IEA

The International Energy Agency has warned that the Iran war has destabilised global oil markets, cutting demand expectations and triggering what it described as the most severe supply shock in history, driven by disruptions across the Middle East energy corridor.

In its latest Oil Market Report, the agency said global oil demand is now projected to contract by 80,000 barrels per day in 2026, a sharp reversal from last month's forecast growth of 730,000 bpd. It added that a projected 1.5 million barrels per day drop in Q2 2026 would mark the steepest quarterly decline since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IEA said early demand destruction is already visible in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, where consumption of naphtha, LPG and jet fuel has fallen sharply. It attributed this to rising prices, scarcity of supplies, and weakening industrial and aviation activity.

On the supply side, global oil output plunged by 10.1 mbpd in March to 97 mbpd, as continued attacks on energy infrastructure and restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz disrupted exports. OPEC+ production reportedly fell by 9.4 mbpd, while non-OPEC supply also weakened despite gains in the United States and



Brazil.

The crisis, it was learnt, has also hit refining operations, with global crude throughputs constrained by feedstock shortages and damaged infrastructure. The IEA said refineries in the Middle East and Asia reportedly cut runs by around six mbpd, while global crude processing is now expected to decline by one mbpd on average in 2026.

Prices have also surged to historic levels, with Brent crude trading around \$100 per barrel and physical crude briefly touching \$150 per barrel, as refiners

scramble for alternative supplies. Middle distillates in Asia reached record highs above \$290 per barrel, reflecting extreme tightness in product markets, according to the report.

Inventories were said to have fallen sharply, with global observed stocks dropping by 85 million barrels in March. The IEA said supply routes through the Strait of Hormuz have been severely disrupted, cutting flows from over 20 mbpd before the conflict to about 3.8 mbpd.

While some exports have been rerouted through Saudi Arabia,

the UAE, and Iraq–Türkiye pipelines, these alternatives have not offset losses exceeding 13 mbpd, the agency said, adding that floating storage has increased in the Middle East as stranded cargoes build up offshore.

The IEA stressed that restoring full flows through the Strait of Hormuz remains the most critical factor in stabilising global energy markets, warning that prolonged disruption could deepen the supply shock, worsen inflationary pressures, and further weaken global oil demand.

NUPRC Urges Refiners To Acquire Oil Blocks

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission has urged members of the Crude Oil Refinery Owners Association of Nigeria to consider acquiring oil blocks in upcoming licensing rounds as a long-term solution to crude supply challenges.

The Commission Chief Executive, Mrs Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, made the call during a recent courtesy visit by CORAN members to the NUPRC headquarters in Abuja, where both parties discussed ways to strengthen domestic refining capacity and ensure sustainable crude

supply.

According to details of the meeting provided by the CORAN spokesperson, Eche Idoko, on Friday, Eyesan said, "Encouraging indigenous refiners to participate in upstream asset ownership would create more stable and commercially viable crude supply arrangements while also deepening local participation across the petroleum value chain." She assured the refiners that Nigeria has adequate crude resources to meet domestic refining needs and reiterated the commission's commitment to policies that promote in-country value addition.



The NUPRC boss also advised refinery operators to adopt long-term crude supply contracts with producers as a practical approach to guaranteeing feedstock availability, improving operational planning, and achieving pricing stability. However, she noted that infrastructure gaps remain a major hurdle to seamless crude delivery, citing inadequate pipeline

networks, evacuation bottlenecks, storage constraints, marine logistics, and other supply chain challenges as areas requiring urgent investment and coordinated efforts. Members of CORAN commended the commission's ongoing regulatory reforms and its support for domestic refining.

NNPC Denies Selling Refinery Scrap, Warns Public

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited has raised the alarm over the circulation of false information claiming that it is selling refinery scrap materials, equipment, and components to individuals and private firms.

This was contained in a statement signed by the NNPC Chief Corporate Communications Officer, Andy Odeh, on Friday. In the statement, the company categorically denied issuing any request for bids, tenders, expressions of interest, or approvals for the sale of scrap materials or refinery components from the Port Harcourt, Warri, and

Kaduna refineries.

"NNPC Limited wishes to alert the public to the circulation of misleading and false information suggesting that the company is selling scrap materials, equipment, or components from its refineries to individuals and private companies," the company said.

The NNPC stated that the claims being circulated were misleading and untrue, stressing that it has not authorised the sale of any items from the warehouses or inventories of its refineries.

"The company wishes to categorically state that this information is untrue. NNPC Limited has not



issued any request for bids, tenders, expressions of interest, or approvals for the sale of scrap materials, refinery components, or any items from the warehouses or inventories of any of its refineries," it was stated.

It also disclosed that it had received reports of individuals falsely presenting themselves as its representatives or agents, claiming to facilitate the sale of so-called scrap metals and

refinery equipment. It warned that such individuals are not authorised and are attempting to mislead members of the public. The NNPC, therefore, advised the public, corporate organisations, and industry stakeholders to disregard any such claims or solicitations, urging them to exercise caution when dealing with persons making such representations.

UBA Grows Assets By 9.4%

United Bank for Africa Plc, has announced its audited financial results for the year ended December 31, 2025, recording total assets growth of 9.4 per cent to N33.2tn, up from N30.3tn at the end of 2024, alongside an 11.8 per cent increase in customer deposits from N24.3tn in 2024 to N27.2tn.

The results, released to the Nigerian Exchange Limited on Friday, showed that the Group also delivered gross earnings of N3.09tn, down from N3.19tn recorded the previous year. Although recording a slight drop in gross earnings, the performance was still strengthened by resilient core business fundamentals and a diversified Pan-African footprint, even as the year reflected a strategic repositioning of its balance sheet for sustainable long-term growth.

Overall, the bank's 2025 performance was impacted by prudent and forward-looking risk management decisions, including loan loss provisions of N331bn and fair value changes on derivatives amounting to N278bn. These changes, which are largely non-recurrent in nature, weighed on profitability but are not expected to recur at similar magnitudes in future periods.

Despite this, the Group maintained strong



underlying performance, with operating profit exceeding N1tn before these exceptional items, highlighting the resilience of its core banking operations.

A critical look at the performance showed that UBA's capital position remained robust, with shareholders' funds rising to N4.25tn in 2025, up from N3.42tn the previous year, with share capital and premium hitting N505bn following a very successful rights issue.

The Group's capital adequacy ratio of 23.2 per cent provides a solid foundation to support future growth, just as the bank has also strengthened its recovery efforts, with a fortified recovery team aggressively pursuing delinquent exposures, ensuring that recoveries will positively impact earnings from full year 2026 and beyond.

Operating in 20 African countries and in the US, UK, France and UAE, the Group's Pan-African operations continue to be a major growth driver, contributing over 50 per cent of total assets, revenue, and profit.

Notably, West Africa operations recorded a 53 per cent profit growth, while East and Southern Africa delivered a 61 per cent increase, reinforcing the strength and scalability of UBA's diversified business model across the continent.

Commenting on the results, UBA's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Oliver Alawuba, said the bank continues to demonstrate the true strength of its Pan-African diversified model, despite the moderation in bottom-line performance compared to the prior year's highs, as core business

engines, especially in the subsidiaries outside Nigeria, delivered double-digit growth.

"The 2025 financial year was defined by UBA's proactive approach to the Central Bank of Nigeria's new recapitalisation requirements. The Group successfully concluded a capital raising programme, which was oversubscribed, reflecting strong investor confidence in UBA's long-term growth strategy. A total of N395bn additional capital was raised, enhancing our capacity to support our footprints, and expanding lending to key sectors."

Continuing, the GMD said, "We have also made significant investments in innovation, technology, and resources to drive our payment and digital offerings; this will help scale digital-led income streams across our markets."

Unilever Nigeria Posts N59.2bn Revenue

Unilever Nigeria Plc has sustained its double-digit growth momentum into the 2026 financial year, delivering a 26 per cent increase in revenue for the first quarter ended 31 March 2026.

According to the company's unaudited financial results, revenue rose to N59.2bn, up from the N46.9bn recorded during the same period in 2025. The consumer goods giant also reported a significant leap in profitability, with operating profit rising 39 per cent to N11.5bn, while net profit grew 26 per cent

to reach N7.0bn.

The performance underscores the company's resilience in a competitive market, driven by what it described as strategic innovation and robust marketplace execution across its diverse product categories.

Commenting on the financial results, the Managing Director of Unilever Nigeria, Tobi Adeniyi, stated that the figures represent a solid foundation for the remainder of the year.

“Our Q1 2026 results represent a strong start to the year and a clear signal that the momentum



we delivered in 2025 is being sustained,” Adeniyi remarked.

“Growth in the quarter was driven primarily by increased volume, underpinned by innovation and strong marketplace execution. This performance reflects our continued operational discipline and commitment to delivering sustainable value,” he

added.

The Managing Director further emphasised that the company would remain focused on its consumer-centric strategy to maintain its market leadership.

“We will continue to elevate the consumer experience while reinforcing a ‘play-to-win’ culture where we focus on winning with Nigerians.”

NLPC Assets Hit N624.95bn On Steady Growth

NLPC Pension Fund Administrators Limited has reinforced its position in Nigeria's pension industry, posting steady asset growth and improved risk management performance amid a challenging economic environment.

The Pension Fund Administrator disclosed that its Assets Under Management rose to N624.95bn as of 31 March 2026, representing a 5.42 per cent increase from the N592.84bn recorded at the end of 2025. Its Retirement Savings Account funds also climbed to N516.96bn, reflecting sustained growth across its core operations.

The performance, according to the firm, is driven by a disciplined investment strategy anchored on diversification, long-term asset allocation, and resilience against market volatility.

Industry analysts say the upward trajectory underscores growing confidence in structured retirement savings, particularly as more Nigerians seek stability in uncertain economic conditions. Beyond its traditional offerings, NLPC Pension is expanding financial inclusion through its Personal Pension Plan, which recorded significant growth within the review



period.

The scheme is attracting participants from the informal sector, widening access to retirement savings for previously underserved groups.

Speaking on the development of the company, the Managing Director, Samuel Abolarin, said, “Our customer-focused approach has also continued to yield results. A client service feedback assessment conducted in December 2025 showed a satisfaction rate of 93.5

per cent, with no negative feedback recorded.”

He added, “Benefit requests accounted for the highest level of interaction, highlighting the firm's role in facilitating seamless access to funds for retirees and contributors.”

In response to earlier concerns around risk-adjusted returns in 2025, the firm strengthened its risk management framework, introducing measures to improve portfolio efficiency.

NERC Tackles Overbilling, Refunds N155m To Power Consumers

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission paid a total of N155.84m as credit adjustments to electricity customers in 2025, following the resolution of billing-related complaints across the country's power sector. An analysis of the commission's quarterly reports on Friday showed that the refunds were issued in tranches throughout the year as distribution companies resolved verified overbilling and related disputes raised by consumers.

The breakdown indicated that customers received N32.21m in the first quarter, N40.22m in the second quarter, N32.66m in the third quarter, and N50.75m in the fourth quarter, reflecting a steady intervention by the regulator to address billing concerns in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry.

The refunds were tied directly to complaints lodged through the commission's Customer Complaint Unit, a mechanism established under the Electricity Act 2023 to ensure consumer protection and enforce accountability among power distribution companies.

Data from the commission showed that billing disputes remained the



single largest trigger for customer complaints, accounting for between 29 and 37 per cent of total cases recorded across the four quarters.

In the first quarter alone, the commission received 4,169 complaints, out of which only 1,554 were resolved, translating to a resolution rate of 37.27 per cent.

Explaining its mandate, the commission stated, "In furtherance of its mandate as contained in Section 119(1)(c) of the Electricity Act 2023, the commission shall develop, in consultation with licensees, the customer complaints handling standard and procedure, and provide various channels for customers to lodge complaints against their service providers."

It added, "The primary channels available for customers to lodge complaints in the Nigerian

Electricity Supply Industry include the NERC Customer Complaint Unit, where complaints can be received via emails, letters, or phone calls through the NESI Call Centre, after which such complaints are transmitted to the DisCos responsible for resolution."

Reacting to this, the regulator said, "The commission notes the poor resolution rate (37.27 per cent) of complaints lodged at the NERC-CCU in 2025/Q1 and is taking steps to improve the speediness of complaint resolution by DisCos, as timely redress remains critical to consumer confidence in the power sector."

It further noted that, "Customer complaints about billing constituted 37.37 per cent of the total complaints received during the quarter, while metering issues accounted

for 32.00 per cent and service interruptions 13.65 per cent, with these three categories cumulatively representing over 83 per cent of all complaints."

Subsequent quarters showed a marked improvement in complaint resolution by DisCos, with resolution rates rising steadily to 45.63 per cent in Q2, 62.30 per cent in Q3, and 76.96 per cent in Q4.

Highlighting the improvement, the commission stated in the second quarter report, "Of the 2,474 complaints lodged at the NERC-CCU during the quarter, 1,129 were satisfactorily resolved by DisCos, corresponding to a 45.63 per cent resolution rate, which represents an improvement compared to the 37.27 per cent recorded in the previous quarter."

Afriland Properties Reports 8% Rise In Revenue

Afriland Properties Plc has reported a resilient financial performance for the year ended 31 December 2025, recording growth in revenue, a significant expansion in total assets, and sustained returns to shareholders.

The company disclosed its audited results at its 13th Annual General Meeting held in Lagos on Wednesday.

According to the company, its revenue rose eight per cent to N4.07bn, compared to N3.75bn in 2024, supported by steady contributions from its development, property management, and investment segments, while gross profit also increased to N3.51bn from N3.13bn, reflecting improved operational

efficiency and disciplined cost management.

It added that its Profit Before Tax, however, declined to N2.60bn from N3.70bn in the previous year, indicating a shift in earnings dynamics despite stronger top-line growth.

Speaking at the event, the Chairman of Afriland Properties Plc, Emmanuel Nnorom, said the company's balance sheet strengthened considerably during the period, with total assets growing 33 per cent to N65bn, up from N48bn in 2024, adding that shareholders' funds rose to N36.09bn from N34.93bn, underscoring the company's solid financial position.

He added that in line with its commitment to delivering shareholder value, the Board approved



a total dividend payout of N329.7m, representing 24 kobo per ordinary share.

“This comprises an interim dividend of 13 kobo per share already paid and a final dividend of 11 kobo per share approved at the meeting,” he added.

Nnorom said the performance reflects resilience, sound governance, and disciplined stewardship in a challenging operating environment.

According to him, the company remained focused on protecting value, strengthening its

asset base, and positioning for future opportunities.

Also speaking, the Managing Director/CEO of Afriland Properties Plc, Azubike Emodi, noted that the results highlight the strength of Afriland's operating model and its growth potential.

He said the company continued to make progress across development, facilities management, asset enhancement, and investment activities, while maintaining a strong focus on efficiency and value creation.

FG Disburses N396.7m Insurance Claims To Farmers

In a move aimed at shielding Nigeria's fragile food system from climate shocks, the Federal Government, through the Presidential Food Systems Coordinating Unit, has partnered with Leadway Assurance and PULA Advisors to disburse N396.7m in insurance claims to smallholder farmers across four states. The pay-out, unveiled at the 2025 Wet Season Insurance Pay-out Ceremony under the National Agribusiness Planning Mechanism held on Thursday in Abuja,

benefited farmers in Plateau, Borno, Kaduna, and Taraba states, many of whom suffered losses linked to erratic weather and other climate-related risks.

A breakdown of the N396.7m insurance payout showed that farmers in Borno State received the largest share, N127.19m, followed by Taraba State with N154.31m. Kaduna State got N69.73m, while Plateau State received N45.47m, reflecting the varying levels of losses recorded across the beneficiary states.



The intervention highlights a growing shift toward using insurance as a safety net to stabilise agricultural production and prevent farmers from sliding into poverty after a bad season.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Executive Officer of Leadway Assurance, Gboyega Lesi, described

agriculture as inherently vulnerable, stressing that insurance remains critical to sustaining livelihoods.

He said, “Agriculture is inherently exposed to the elements, but through the strategic application of climate insurance, we are ensuring that a bad season does not lead to a total loss of livelihood.”

Dangote Plans 650,000bpd East Africa Refinery Expansion

Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, has unveiled plans to build another 650,000 barrels-per-day refinery in East Africa, signalling an ambitious expansion of his refining footprint beyond Nigeria as the continent seeks to cut reliance on imported fuel.

Dangote disclosed this during a presidential panel at the Africa We Build Summit, organised by Africa Finance Corporation, on Thursday in Nairobi, saying his company is ready to replicate the scale and model of its Lagos-based refinery if governments in the region provide the needed support. Our correspondent monitored the proceedings of the panel session.

He sought the support of East African governments to replicate his Nigeria-scale refinery in the region in a move that could reshape fuel supply.

His remarks came as Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania intensified talks to establish a joint refining hub in the Tanzanian port city of Tanga, a project expected to process crude from across the region, including supplies from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Speaking at the forum, Dangote expressed confidence in the feasibility of the project,



citing his experience in delivering the 650,000bpd refinery in Nigeria.

He said, "I can give commitment to the presidents here today that if they support the refinery, we will build the identical one that we have in Nigeria, a 650,000 barrels-per-day refinery. The discussions are still early, but it will work. There is nothing that can stop it. We have done it before in Nigeria, and that is why we are taking this bold step again."

Dangote revealed that his group had already commenced expansion works in Nigeria to scale up refining capacity to 1.4 million barrels per day, a move he said would position the facility as the largest refinery in the world.

"We have already started piling for the expansion. We are building it to a scale of 1.4 million

barrels per day. It will be the largest refinery globally. That also means we will account for about 10 per cent of the entire refining capacity of the United States, alongside significant petrochemical production," he added.

The billionaire industrialist stressed that Africa must prioritise industrial self-sufficiency, warning that continued dependence on imports exposes economies to severe price shocks. He cited recent volatility in global petrochemical markets as evidence of the risks.

"Look at what is happening today. If not for the local production of polypropylene in Nigeria, many businesses would have collapsed. Cement packaging, flour, rice, grains—everything depends on it. In just 45 days, the price jumped from about \$900 per

tonne to nearly \$3,000 per tonne. That tells you why we must build local capacity and stop relying on imports," Dangote said.

According to him, the proposed refinery will not only deepen Africa's refining capacity but also unlock large-scale investment opportunities for the continent. "We now have strong financial institutions that are willing to support big-ticket projects, and we also have the vision to execute them. This was not the case years ago.

"There was a time in Nigeria when interest rates were as high as 44 per cent. We had to rely on international institutions like the IFC to raise about \$478m for our early projects. Today, the landscape has changed significantly," he said.

Oil Hits \$105 Amid Renewed Middle East Tensions

Oil prices rose from around \$100 per barrel on Wednesday to over \$105 as of Thursday following the failure of Iran and the United States to agree on a ceasefire deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Oil prices had earlier fallen from \$115 to \$88 on Friday when the two countries entered a ceasefire agreement. However, this was not sustained as Iran reportedly reclosed the route due to the US blockade.

On April 13, the US imposed a blockade that was said to “completely halt” economic trade

going in and out of Iran by sea, including vessels carrying goods that could be used by Iran in the war against the US and Israel.

On Thursday, President Donald Trump ordered the US military to “shoot and kill” small Iranian boats suspected of deploying mines in the Strait of Hormuz. This came a day after Iran again demonstrated its ability to disrupt traffic through the channel.

According to Associated Press, Trump’s post on social media came shortly after the US military seized another tanker associated with



the smuggling of Iranian oil, escalating a standoff with Tehran over the strait through which 20 per cent of all crude oil and natural gas traded passes.

“I have ordered the United States Navy to shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be ... that is putting mines in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz,” Trump posted, adding that

US minesweepers “are clearing the Strait right now.”

He added, “I am hereby ordering that activity to continue, but at a tripled-up level!”

Meanwhile, AP reports that it was still unclear when, or if, the two sides would meet again in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

Discos Install 130,209 Meters Under N49bn Funding Scheme

Not less than 130,209 meters were installed by electricity distribution companies under the Meter Acquisition Fund framework, even as the Federal Government invested N49bn in the MAF between 2024 and 2025.

Reports and documents from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission showed that the Federal Government made efforts to address the persistent challenge of distribution companies struggling to secure essential debt or equity financing for capital investments, particularly in end-use meters.

The MAF scheme, a critical intervention by the commission, was established to bolster the creditworthiness of DisCos. By creating a reliable revenue stream from market funds, the framework aims to provide a foundation upon which utilities can secure long-term financing for meter deployment.

The management of these funds is entrusted to a designated fund manager, operating under terms negotiated by the DisCos and approved by NERC.

Since 2024, the commission has announced the disbursement of free prepaid meters to Band A



customers under Tranche A of the MAF scheme.

In 2024, NERC approved N21bn for DisCos to meter customers, while N28bn was disbursed in 2025 under the second tranche of the scheme.

According to NERC data, while installations in 2024 were relatively modest, totalling 5,068 meters across a few DisCos, 2025 saw a dramatic increase.

The first quarter of 2025 recorded 36,903 installations, followed

by a peak in the second quarter with 65,315 meters deployed. The third quarter saw a sharp decline to just 175 installations nationwide before a rebound in the fourth quarter with 22,748 meters installed.

Leading the charge in meter deployment is Ikeja DisCo, which has installed a total of 31,331 meters since 2024. Its performance in Q2 2025 was 21,004 installations.

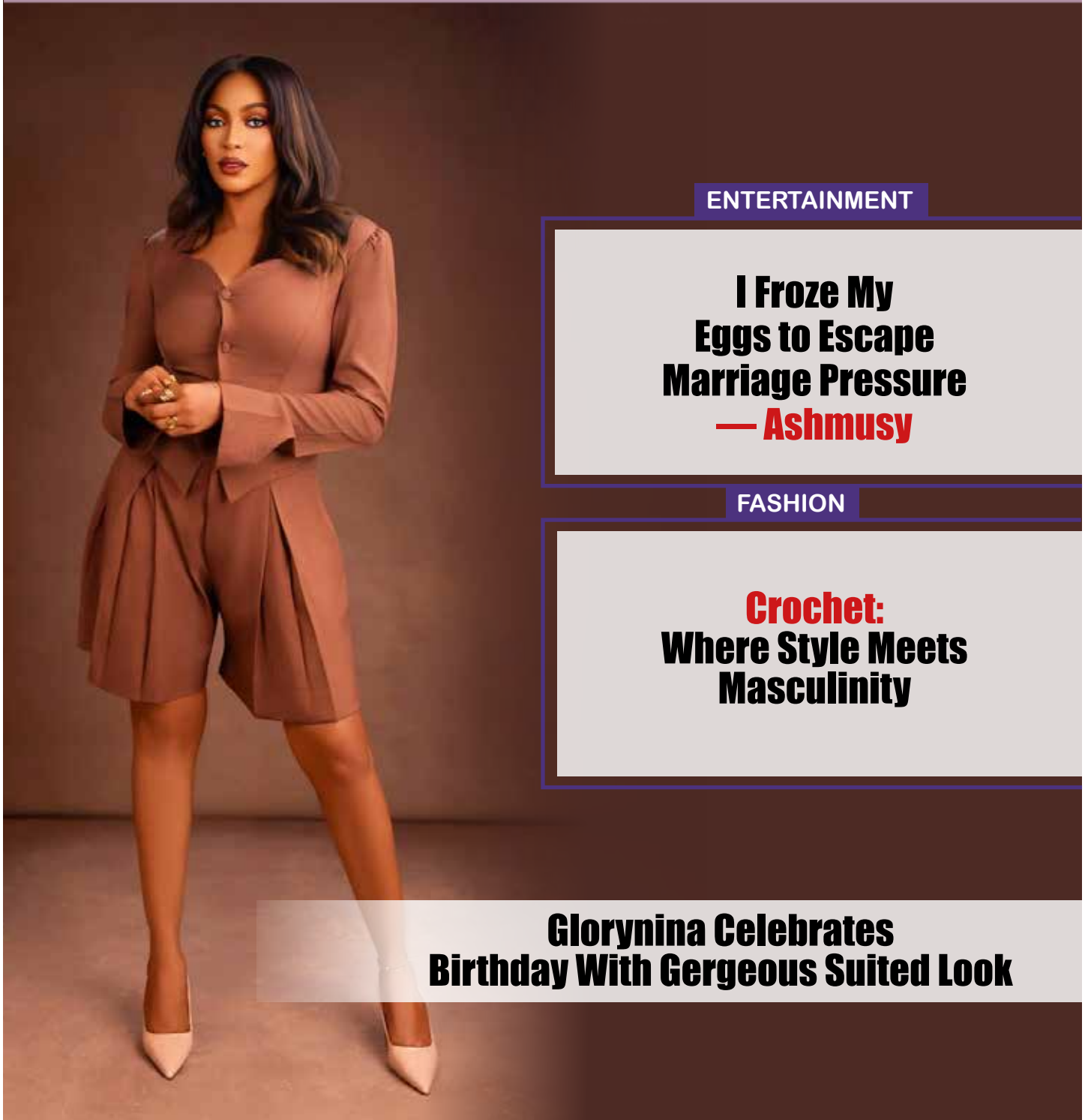


Lifestyle

Vol. 5.40

www.thebossnewspapers.com

A publication of Ovation Media Group



ENTERTAINMENT

**I Froze My
Eggs to Escape
Marriage Pressure**
— **Ashmusy**

FASHION

Crochet:
**Where Style Meets
Masculinity**

**Glorynina Celebrates
Birthday With Gergeous Suited Look**

TOPNOTCH

...Celebrity Gist Unlimited

I Froze My Eggs to Escape Marriage Pressure — Ashmusy

Popular Nigerian vlogger and content creator Ashmusy has disclosed that she has taken the significant step of freezing her eggs, describing the decision as one of the most deliberate and empowering choices she has made for her future — and one driven largely by a determination to resist the mounting social pressure on women to marry within a prescribed timeframe.

In a candid address to her audience that has since generated considerable conversation across social media, Ashmusy explained that preserving her fertility was not an act of postponement but of liberation. By securing her reproductive options in advance, she said, she has removed fear and urgency from the equation, freeing herself to pursue the relationship and life she genuinely desires rather than one dictated by age anxiety or societal timelines.

She described the experience as deeply reassuring, saying it had brought her a measure of peace she had not previously felt when contemplating her future as a mother. The decision, she emphasised, was rooted in intentionality — a commitment to emotional readiness, personal fulfilment, and finding the right partner before starting a family. The disclosure quickly ignited debate online. A significant portion of her followers praised her foresight and applauded her for taking control of her reproductive future in a society where women frequently face intense pressure to marry early.

Others, however, viewed the decision through a more traditional lens, raising questions about cultural and religious expectations surrounding motherhood and marriage timing.



Former Miss Universe 'Killed' By Her Mother-in-law

A former Mexican beauty queen was found shot dead in her luxury apartment, with her mother-in-law being investigated as the prime suspect. Carolina Flores Gomez, 27, was found with a gunshot wound to the head last Thursday in her apartment in one of Mexico City's wealthiest neighborhoods, Mexican outlet Reporte Indigo reported.

Authorities believe Gomez, the Miss Teen Universe for northern Mexico's Baja California state

in 2017, was killed in front of her baby a day before they were alerted, raising suspicion as to why her husband, Alejandro Gomez, took so long to raise the alarm.

They believe he was home at the time of the murder, along with his mom, Erika Maria, who is the prime suspect, according to the reports.

Building staff did not report hearing gunshots or unusual activity at the high-end residential complex in Polanco, a district known for its wealth and security. Forensic teams have since combed the apartment for evidence.



Tiffany Haddish Reveals No Sex With Burna Boy

American comedian and actress Tiffany Haddish said she is not interested in a segxwal relationship with Nigerian singer Burna Boy.

Speaking during a “smash or pass” segment on The Jason Lee Show, Haddish quickly chose to pass when Burna Boy’s name was mentioned.

She gave a humorous explanation, suggesting that the singer has a strong appeal that could make people behave differently.

Haddish joked that Burna Boy seems to have a powerful effect on women, saying his charm and presence might lead people to act out of character.

“I feel like it’s been around parts of Africa and women love him and want him,” she added.

“It is the manhood that you slash tires for and the manhood will make you do dumbshit.”

The 44-year-old added that she would rather admire him from a distance instead of getting personally involved.



Roby Ekpo: DaddyFreeze Reacts To Yul Edochie’s Comment

Media personality, DaddyFreeze, has reacted to a comment made by actor, Yul Edochie, berating OAP Roby Ekpo for crying over his marital crisis.

In a post shared on X, Yul knocked Roby for crying on a podcast over his ex-wife levaing him. According to Yul, speaking out over such pain is acceptable but what is not acceptable is for a man to cry over a woman. He argued that instead of crying,

the man involved should move on by marrying five women and getting all of them pregnant at once.

Reacting to his comment, “I am seeing all sorts of comments like ‘Roby why are you crying? Are you not a man’. Yul Edochie said he should marry five wives and get all of them pregnant at the same time. Shey na Roby when dey nack twice a week naim wan impregnate seven women. This Yul sef, e nor be like say you too get sense like that” he said in venacular



Rosy Meurer Files For Dissolution Of Her Marriage With Olakunle Churchill

The marriage between popular businessman Olakunle Churchill and Nollywood actress Rosy Meurer has hit the rocks.

Sources confirmed to that Meurer filed for the dissolution of the marriage on Monday, April 21, 2026, officially ending the union contracted in 2021. The couple, who have two children together, have also heightened separation rumors by unfollowing each other on Instagram.

The development marks a dramatic

turn in a relationship that has long been shrouded in controversy. Meurer was previously accused by actress, Tonto Dikeh, Churchill’s ex-wife, of having an affair with him before their 2017 split. Following his divorce from Dikeh, Churchill married Meurer in 2021, and they subsequently welcomed two children.

This latest separation comes shortly after reconciliation efforts between Churchill and his ex-wife, Tonto Dikeh, with both parties recently coming together to celebrate their son’s birthday.



Glorynina Celebrates Birthday With Gergeous Suited Look





Tip To Getting Over breakup Fast

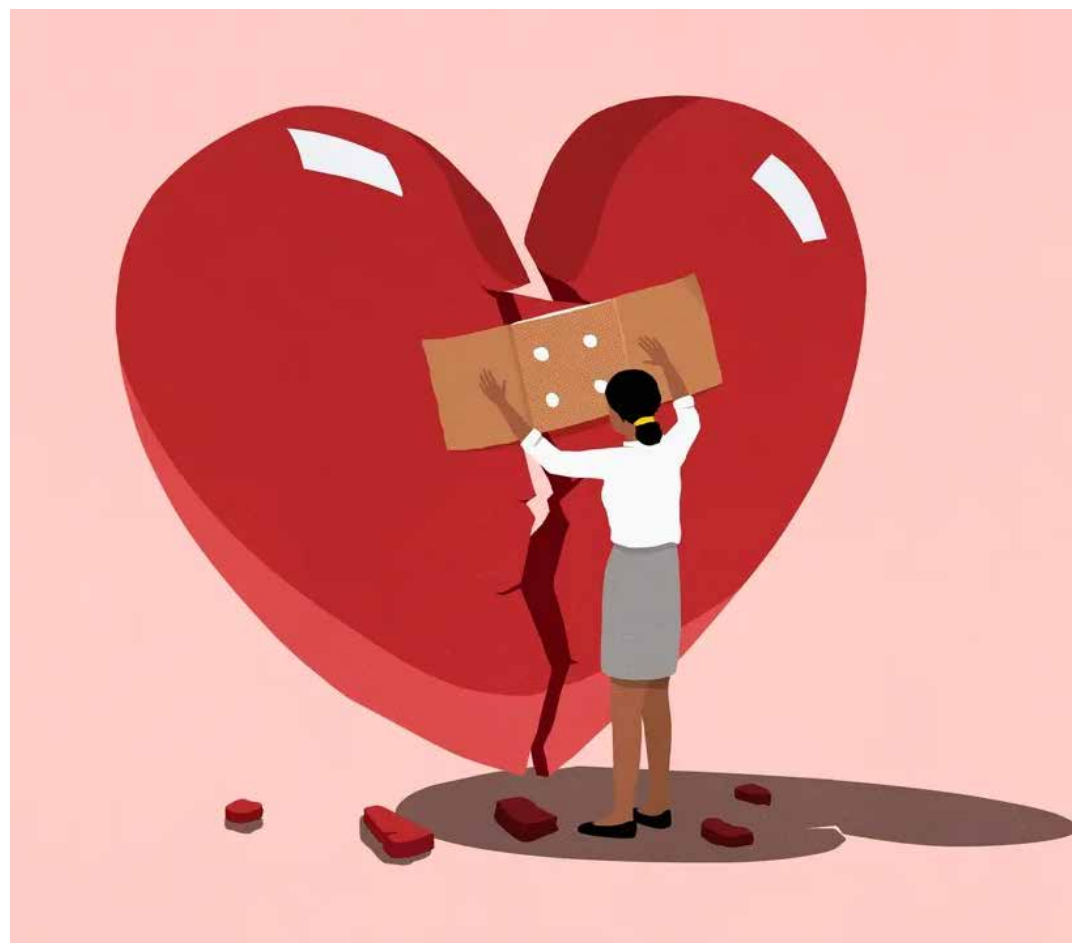
You won't get over it overnight, but you'll get through it if you know how to handle the situation correctly. Breakups often come with a sting that leaves us feeling pained even after several months. Whether it ended with a quiet goodbye or a screaming match, it usually feels like a piece of your world just cracked open. The person you once imagined life with is no longer part of your plan, and now, you're left wondering: What next?

The truth is, starting afresh after a major breakup can be tough. But it's also an opportunity - a chance to rebuild you - stronger, clearer, more whole. Yes, you won't get over it overnight, but you'll get through it if you know how to handle the situation correctly.

Here, let's offer useful tips that can help you start afresh after a breakup.

Give Yourself Permission to Feel

Let's start with this: You're allowed to hurt. Don't let anyone make you feel otherwise. You don't have to "snap out of it" or pretend like you're fine when your chest is heavy and your pillow is soaked. Breakups are like grief - you're mourning the loss of something real. Someone you've shared a major part of your life with. So cry if you want to. Journal. Listen to sad



songs if you must. Let your emotions breathe instead of bottling them up. You'll be surprised by how soon releasing your feelings helps you heal.

Cut Contacts

We understand how it hurts to suddenly stop communicating with someone you're so used to being around. But it'll do more harm to try to communicate with them or even to stalk them. Whatever you had with them is gone, so why check in to see how they're doing? Constant contact (or cyber-snooping) is like picking at a wound that's trying to heal.

Mute them. Unfollow. Block if you need to. Healing needs space—no

closure via WhatsApp at 1 a.m.

Reconnect With the You That Got Lost

Sometimes in relationships, we slowly morph into "us" and forget what it felt like to be you. What hobbies did you drop? What routines did you love before you had to compromise on them? Reclaim that version of you. Take yourself out. Learn something new. Rebuild your identity - not as someone's ex, but as a person full of untapped potential.

Surround Yourself With the Right People

You don't need an audience for your pain, but you do need a tribe. Good friends will remind

you who you are when you forget. They'll show up with laughs, food, and tough love when needed. Lean into your support system. And don't be afraid to let new people in when you're ready. Healing is easier when you're not doing it alone.

Don't Rush the Next Chapter

Being single again can feel awkward, especially if you were used to constant companionship. But don't jump into a rebound just to fill a void. Give yourself time to fall in love with your own life before trying to merge it with someone else's.

A healed you will attract better - not just someone new, but someone right.

Crochet:

Where Style Meets Masculinity

By Ajibade Morakinyo

Crochet isn't just a craft; it's a celebration of creativity, heritage, and evolving style. Once viewed as a niche pastime, crochet has made a strong return to the fashion spotlight, captivating people across generations. And for men, it now stands as a statement of bold individuality; blending masculine energy with handmade sophistication. The charm of crochet lies in its versatility. From relaxed, textured apparel to one-of-a-kind accessories, it bridges function and fashion with ease. Though its contemporary form emerged in the 19th century, crochet's deeper roots remain a blend of influences — from ancient lace-making in Europe to textile traditions in China and Turkey. Historically, it offered an accessible alternative to expensive lace, allowing lower-income households to create beauty with limited means. By the mid-1800s, it had woven its way into everyday life across Europe, prized for both its practicality and its aesthetic value. Today's men aren't just wearing crochet; they're owning it — making bold, stylish statements rooted in both tradition and confidence. Here are some looks...









SERMON

- Babatunde Jose -

+2348033110822

The Concept of Faith in Islam: Understanding the Core of Belief

Faith (Iman) means to believe; to have faith in something means to believe in it. Iman also means to show acquiescence and acceptance to the sacred Law, and to all that the Prophet (SAW) brought, and to accept it and believe in it with the heart. The one who does all this is a believer (Mu'min) and a Muslim, having neither misgivings nor doubts; and he is the one who sees that completing the obligations [of the religion] is incumbent upon him, and has no doubt about this.

Iman is the core of faith, the base of a Muslim's belief, and the key to a strong relationship with Allah, doing righteous deeds. It is about believing in Allah, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), and the power of the Quran, showing trust, and giving in to God's will.

1. Belief in Allah is the base of Iman and the heart of Islamic religion. It is the first step in saying yes to the truth of Islam and shapes how a Muslim sees all of life and prayer. To believe in Allah is to say



He is the only Maker of all. This belief is the main part of faith and the soul of Islam.

Surah Al-Ikhlās is the 112th chapter of the Quran, emphasizing the absolute oneness and uniqueness of Allah. Surah Al-Ikhlās, also known as "The Sincerity" or "Memurnikan Keesaan Allah," is a Makkiyah surah revealed in Mecca and consists of 4 verses (ayat) found in Juz 30 of the Quran. It encapsulates the essence of Tawhid,

the Islamic concept of monotheism, affirming Allah's uniqueness, self-sufficiency, and incomparability.

Surah Al-Ikhlās sums up His one and unmatched nature: "In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Say: He is Allah. the One and Only; Allah, the Eternal, Absolute; He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; And there is none like unto Him." (Quran 112:1-4)

2. The Quran as Proof of

Allah's Existence: The Quran was given by Angel Jibril (Gabriel) to Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Each verse of the Quran is proof of Allah's wisdom, mercy, and power. Through the Quran, Muslims learn about Allah's traits and how to live life according to Islamic teachings.

3. Prophetic Lessons on Believing in Allah. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) often talked about the need to believe in Allah. Ibn Abbas tells us that the Prophet said

belief in Allah and the Day of Judgment are key parts of Iman. Faith starts with knowing Allah's existence.

4. Belief in Allah gives purpose, path, and peace of mind. It reminds Muslims that they are not alone, as Allah is always near.

The six main pillars of Iman build the needed base of Islamic belief, steering how a Muslim understands faith and shapes their relationship with Allah and the world. These parts are: belief in Allah, angels, holy books, messengers, the Day of Judgment, and divine order. They create a full view of what it means to fully accept Islam.

Iman is not just a head belief but a deep heart feeling and taking in of divine truth. Scholars say Iman involves both faith and thought, showing that belief in Islam is backed by thinking, knowing, and choosing. True Iman is more than just saying yes; it needs good acts and true sticking to Islamic principles.

Belief and acts go together: Faith makes acts strong, and good deeds make belief firm. This mix makes sure that Iman is both a spiritual state and a way of living.

The divine plan (Qadar) is the sixth part of Iman and a main stone of Islamic belief. It teaches Muslims to accept that all—both good and bad—happens by Allah's will. Seeing the

divine plan helps believers grow patience, thanks, and strong trust in Allah, no matter what happens.

In Islam, people have the free will to choose in their lives, but these choices go with Allah's set fate in big life events. This means that while we are answerable for our acts, the final result of life events is steered by Allah's wisdom and knowledge. Believers are pushed to trust Allah's



choices and stay sure that what happens is for their best good, even if it's not clear right away.

The idea of divine plan is closely tied to thoughts of fate and Allah's all-power. It tells Muslims that Allah knows and controls all. This helps true believers find peace and a steady mind, as they trust that Allah's wisdom rules all. In its root, faith in the divine plan makes a

Muslim's soul strong. It brings together trust, taking in, and work, letting believers live with confidence, drive, and calm knowing Allah is in charge.

Believing in angels and messengers is key for Iman and needed to truly grasp Islamic faith. These link humans to Allah, guiding them with divine words and help.

Belief in Angels: Angels

the horn on the last day, marking the world's end and the raise of all beings. Belief in angels tells Muslims there is a world we can't see, and Allah's plan goes past what we can know, making faith and trust in Him strong.

Belief in Messengers: Messengers (Prophets) link Allah and humans, bringing divine words. They teach, warn, and guide people toward a

are soul beings made by Allah, given the job to do certain things in the world. They are clean, follow rules, and do nothing wrong, serving Allah without fail.

Some angels have big roles in Islamic lessons: Angel Jibreel (Gabriel): Brought the Quran to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and shared Allah's words to other prophets. Angel Israfeel: Will blow

good life as Allah wants.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is the last messenger, and his life, lessons, and ways light the path for all believers. By going with the prophets' words, Muslims learn how to live in a way that pleases Allah, filling both soul and right needs.

Together, angels and messengers are big parts of Islamic faith: angels do as Allah asks, while

messengers give guidance and words. Belief in both makes Iman strong, reminding Muslims of Allah's care and mercy.

Belief in Allah's holy books is the third pillar of Iman and is key to Islamic faith. These holy texts are Allah's words and they guide believers over time. Muslims believe that holy books, like the Torah, Psalms, Gospel, and the Quran, are divine guidance meant to push humans toward goodness. Taking these books as true is key for full Iman and for knowing the base of Islamic lessons.

The holy books give rules, teachings, and warnings from Allah, helping people live as instructed. They teach good rules, soul wisdom, and the right way to establish prayer and serve Allah.

Among all holy books, the Quran is the last word from Allah. It is a full guide for life, offering wisdom, laws, and soul guidance for all generations.

Belief in holy books ties a Muslim to Allah and shows how important it is to live in faith.

The teachings of the Quran, above all, give real guidance, good clarity, and help, guiding believers in choices that fit divine will. By taking in these words, Muslims build a strong base of Iman, knowing that their faith is set in divine wisdom and guidance. In short, Allah's holy books are key for soul growth, good growth, and living in

faith, making an endless connection between the Creator and His creation.

Belief in the Day of Judgment is the fifth pin of Iman and is a base of Islamic faith. It tells Muslims that life is a short trip and that everyone will face their actions before Allah. This belief needs deep faith more than human thought, as what comes next is more than what we can see or think.

The Day of Judgment is when all will stand before Allah and justify their deeds. Each action, thought, and choice will be looked at, and believers must be ready to face Allah's with real hearts. This belief drives Muslims to live right, trying for good while staying away from sins, knowing that they will face their actions in the end.

The idea of the Day of Judgment links closely with Allah's justice and kindness. Believers trust

that Allah will judge in a fair way, giving good to those who are right and help to those who ask for forgiveness. Belief in the Day of Judgment makes Iman firm, helping Muslims face life's hard tests with patience and strength.

By counting on Allah's fairness and kindness, believers can face hard times with peace inside, knowing that the last accountability is His to give. Just as we are today facing very hard times in this climate: strong faith in the goodness of Allah gives us hope of deliverance from the hand of our oppressors. This is the true meaning of hope and its renewal.

This faith pushes Muslims to stay true in their worship, good acts, and love, knowing that life is just to get ready for the long time after here.

In truth, belief in Allah and the Day of Judgment is

not only a base of Islamic faith but also a guide for living right, growing in soul, and keeping a steady trust in Allah's fairness and kindness.

Muslims build a strong, unwavering faith rooted in trust, devotion, and righteous action. True Iman brings peace, purpose, and spiritual fulfillment, inspiring believers to live in harmony with Allah's guidance.

"Subhana Rabbika Rabbil Izzati Amma Yasifun. Wa salamun 'alal Mursalin, wal hamdulillahi Rabbil 'aalamin": "Glorified is your Lord, the Lord of Honor and Power, above what they describe or attribute to Him"... "And peace be upon the messengers, and all praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of all worlds".

Barka Jumuah and a happy weekend



Arsenal Set New EPL Records After Newcastle Win

Arsenal set two individual records of the season when they scored against Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday to secure an important 1-0 victory.

The Gunners needed to win to remain firmly in the title race, and although the performance was not straightforward, they achieved their objective.

The match proved difficult for Mikel Arteta's side, who had to rely on a corner for the decisive goal. It was another example of Arsenal's effectiveness from set pieces, an area that has become a major feature of their campaign.

Throughout the season, Arsenal have regularly found goals from dead-ball situations, often more successfully than through open play. While this has brought criticism from some observers,

it has also delivered valuable points at crucial moments.

The Gunners remain determined to finish the season at the top of the league table, and matches such as this demonstrate the importance of finding different ways to win. Even when flowing football is absent, efficiency can be decisive.

Eberechi Eze scored the only goal of the game, and it arrived following an Arsenal corner. According to Opta on X (via Yahoo Sports) that strike means Arsenal are now the team with the most goals from corners, with 17, and the most goals from corners to go 1-0 up, with 10, this season.



Ottolini: Juve Have No Plan To Sign Salah

Juventus sporting director Marco Ottolini has denied reports linking the club with a move for Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah, stating that the Egyptian is not on their transfer list.

Recall that Salah will leave Liverpool as a free agent at the end of the season after nine years at Anfield.

Speaking to 365Scores, Ottolini addressed the speculation

regarding the 33-year-old, who is set to leave Anfield on a free transfer at the end of the season.

“What is being said about negotiations to sign Mohamed Salah is not true. There is absolutely nothing in this regard at the moment.”

Salah, now 33, is open to remaining in Europe next season, despite interest from the Saudi Pro League.



He Has Been Fantastic – Coventry Captain Hails Onyeka

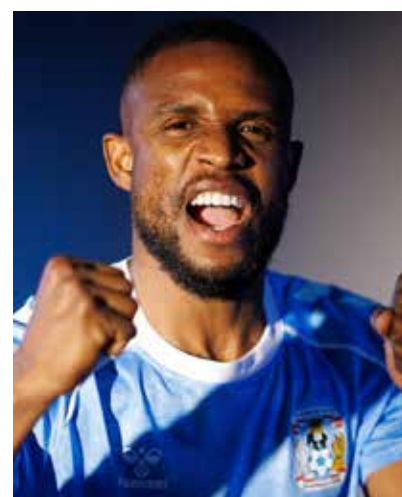
Coventry City captain Matt Grimes has lauded Super Eagles midfielder Frank Onyeka's impact since joining the team during the January transfer window from Brentford.

Speaking in a press conference ahead of today's game against Wrexham, Grimes stated that the Nigerian international's experience and energy played a vital role in Coventry's return to the Premier League.

“He's been a big addition for us, holding down the middle alongside Jack [Rudoni],” the 30-year-old said in the pre-game conference.

“When we went through a little bit of a mid-season blip in form, when you can bring someone in that has got so much experience, and such a high quality player, it gives the whole place a big boost

“He's been fantastic. You've seen his performances and the energy he gives everyone. He has been a really big part of it,” Matt Grimes concluded.



Dear CDS, NSA, Your Prodigal Sons, Brothers Have Killed General Braimah

Almost five months since the yet to be explained killing of Brigadier General Musa Uba, another high ranking military officer, another Brigadier General, has been unlive. He was Brigadier General Oseni Omo Braimah, Commander of 29 Task Force Brigade Operation Hadin Kai, Maiduguri Borno State.

The sadness that followed the brutal killing of the Brigade Commander, can almost be touched, dear Nigerians, with special reference to the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, and his counterpart, the Chief of Defense Staff, General Olufemi Olujede. These men, have at separate fora concassed for the kid gloves handling of terrorism activities, and terrorists. Ribadu, it was, that asked that they be rehabilitated as they are 'our brothers. Olujede echoed the stand, saying the terrorists was equated to the biblical prodigal son, and therefore should be received with open hands. This he said to justify his latest 'Operation Safe Corridor', designed to welcome 'repentant' terrorists and bandits, and have them reintegrated into the society.

It is still these touted same brothers, and prodigal sons that overran a military base in Benisheikh, reportedly killing 18 soldiers including the Brigadier General. According to the Army, however, the number of deaths was overhyped, claiming that only two officers and two other soldiers were killed in the battle they said the military had the upper hand, and auccessfully repelled the assailants and maintained their positions.

Much as the military agreed that they lost four soldiers, they have failed to produce casualties, or even speak on the number, from the terrorists side, in a battle they said they had the upper hand. It's still had to believe, only that the prodigal sons and brothers snuffed the life of a general, and according to reports, he was caught like a sitting duck.

The prodigal sons with the 'brothers' did not stop there; they proceeded to kill Forest Guard Commander and five others in Kwara, just as they mercilessly hacked to death eight members of the same family in Bokkos, Plateau. The list is endless. Of prodigal sons and brothers. Thanks to the NSA and the CDS.

Someone once said that that the only



mercy a terrorist or bandit deserve is the mercy of God. And it is the duties of the authority to send them to God for such mercy.

Why do we keep handling merciless killers with kid gloves, and turn around to call them sons and brothers. They in turn, are only looking for opportunity to strike again.

These people have gone from being brothers to becoming animals, very dangerous and ugly beasts that have lost the capacity to show, and so should not be shown any mercy caught.

Dear NSA and CDS, you must understand that these people have been extremely radicalised, and can no longer fit into the society of sane beings, and therefore, should be put away permanently. We can't continue to safe corridor to experiment with the lives of Nigerians. No bandit or terrorist is worth rehabilitating, talk less of being integrated into the military. Whoever does that is complicit, and should be treated as an enemy of the Nigerian state.

The NSA and the CDS should begin now to revisit everyone they have ever pardoned or reintegrated into the society for they are part of our problem. They are culpable.

General Uba died saraa, as we say in our local parlance. We should let Braimah die saraa. We must not allow this irresponsibility happen again. I'm not borrowing any words from the president because all his words appear empty, while Nigerians continue in droves, even when the country is not really at war.

Time to jettison this brother, cousin, prodigal son rubbish, and deal decisively with terrorists and bandits.

The BOSS NEWSPAPER
ISSN-2022-1079

EDITORIAL TEAM

PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dele Momodu
momodule@yahoo.co.uk

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Mobolaji Momodu

GROUP EDITOR

Eric Elezuo
erico72ng@yahoo.com

GRAPHICS DESIGNER/ CONTENT ASSISTANT

Ajibade Morakinyo

REPORTER

Ruth Akpan

PHOTO EDITOR

Adekoya Adegbite

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Isaac Edoh-Philip...Abiodun Adekoya

PHOTO JOURNALISTS

Dragan Mikki (UK)...Ken Ehimen Adeyemi
Funmilayo Ben Dzakah (Ghana)

OVATION TV CREW

Ben Osei-Bansah... Babatunde Bolarinwa
Saheed Aderopo... Temitope Ogunleye

WEB DESIGNER/MANAGER

Kwaku Yeboah Darteh

CONTRIBUTORS

Henry Ukazu... Mike Ozekhome SAN
Babatunde Jose... Kayode Emola
Sani Sa'idu Baba

LAGOS OFFICE

67, Oduduwa Way, Ikeja GRA, Lagos,
Nigeria

Tel: +(234)8055069220,
+234(0)8023002090, (4)4543030,
+234(0)8035032618

DIRECTORS

Segun Fatoye, Mobolaji Momodu,
Damola Aderemi, Dele Momodu (CEO)

GLO COLLABO BUNDLE

*The ultimate
voice and data
combo*

*to talk and browse
as you like*



N1,000

20MINS + 1.25GB
7 Days Validity

N2,000

40MINS + 3GB
30 Days Validity

N5,000

100MINS + 12.5GB
30 Days Validity

To get started
Dial *312# or

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE

GloCafé APP



Unlimited

Ts and Cs Apply