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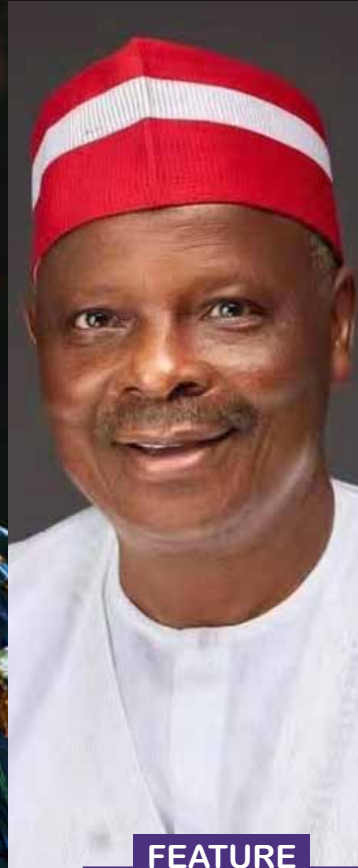
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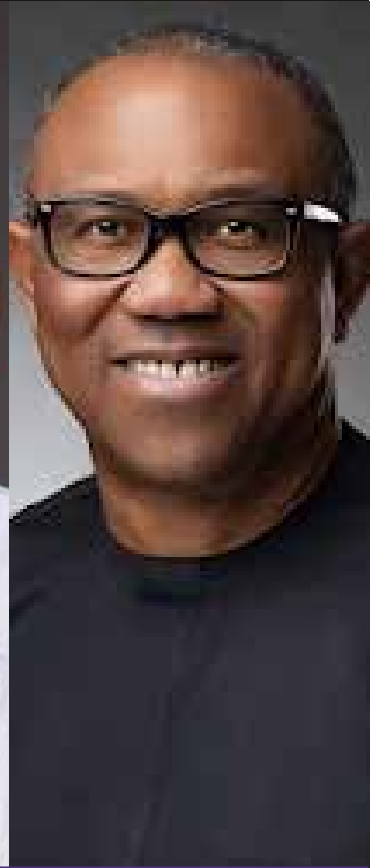
Will 'Big Ego' Bury Opposition Again?



BOSS OF THE WEEK

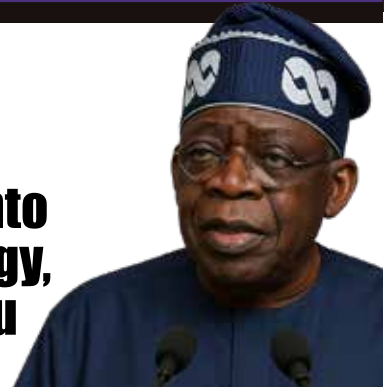


FEATURE



Meet Nigeria's
Minister of
Foreign
Affairs,
Bianca Ojukwu

Tinubu
Turning
Hunger into
PR Strategy,
Says Atiku



Round Peg in Round hole: Meet Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bianca Ojukwu

By Eric Elezuo

Prior to her appointment as the substantive Minister of Foreign Affairs, daughter of an ardent political juggernaut, Christian Onoh, who became the governor of Anambra State and wife to Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, a recalcitrant warlord and former President of Biafra, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, was the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, a post she held with professional precision for two years.

Bianca, as she is popularly called, is far from a run-off-mill entity. She is a typical chip off the old block, an accomplished diplomat, distinguished lawyer, entrepreneur par excellence and beauty queen on many fronts.

She was, among many of her appendices, the immediate past Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and presently the substantive minister. This is one appointment many believe is a typical example of a round peg in a round hole.

Mrs Ojukwu hit the brightest limelight of her political career when in 2011, the then President Goodluck Jonathan appointed her as Senior Special Assistant on Diaspora Affairs. She later became Nigeria's Ambassador to Ghana and



later Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain.

She was Nigeria's permanent representative to the United Nations World Tourism Organization, just before President Bola Tinubu announced her and her new ministerial position in 2023.

Today, she towers above

peers and contemporaries in the international politics, adapting herself solidly to world banners and engagements to the benefit of her fatherland, Nigeria.

Wikipedia further captures her trajectory as follows: The sixth child of former Anambra State Governor Christian Onoh and his wife

Carol, a college principal, Bianca Onoh spent most of her childhood in rural Ngwo with her siblings Lilian, Josephine, Nuzo, Gabriel, Stella, Christian and Josef. She attended Ackworth School, Pontefract, St Andrews College, Cambridge, and Cambridge Tutorial College where she



obtained her A-levels. She soon began a combined honours degree in Politics, Economics and Law at the University of Buckingham, but transferred to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka after her father, a lawyer by profession, insisted she concentrated solely on Law and join the family business. Following graduation, Odumegwu-Ojukwu attended the Nigerian Law School which eventually led to her call to the bar. After Law School, Bianca, briefly practised the profession before quitting to divide her time between her home, her cosmetics business Bianca Blend and her interior decorating outfit Mirabella. Despite her reservations regarding modelling, Bianca Onoh fronted print commercials for her brand. She also established the non-government organisation

Hope House Trust, centred towards rehabilitating juvenile offenders in Enugu. In December 1988, Bianca, who had previously emerged winner at Miss Martini, was crowned Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, but reigned through most of 1989. She also won the

Miss Africa 1989 pageant held in Gambia before representing her country at both Miss World in Hong Kong and Miss Universe in Mexico. She achieved greater success when she became the first African to win Miss Intercontinental that same year, and was named Miss Congeniality

at the now defunct Miss Charm International in Russia where she was also a semi-finalist.

In 2011, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu was appointed Senior Special Assistant on Diaspora Affairs by President Goodluck Jonathan; in 2012 she became Nigeria's Ambassador to Ghana and later Ambassador to the Kingdom Of Spain. In 2016, Odumegwu-Ojukwu received a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Alfonso X el Sabio University in Spain. She is now Nigeria's permanent representative to the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

On 23 October 2024 President Bola Ahmed Tinubu reshuffled his cabinet and appointed Ojukwu as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Her sister, Lilian Onoh was Nigeria's Ambassador to





the Republic of Namibia. In 1989, halfway through her reign as MBGN, Bianca began a relationship with the former Biafran Head Of State Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, a political associate of her father's, over thirty years her senior. Their controversial romance was a national talking point in the early 1990s. The immense pressure of being under the public eye became increasingly unbearable, causing her to resign as Miss Intercontinental as her main concern was completing her education as a law student. In 1994, having finally obtained her degree, she married the former Biafran president in a lavish wedding ceremony held in Abuja, the federal capital territory of Nigeria. On 17 March 2022, during the inaugural ceremony of governor Chukwuma Soludo, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu delivered what

has now been widely dubbed a 'valedictory slap' to a visibly inebriated Ebelechukwu Obiano, the outgoing first lady of Anambra State, who had physically attacked her at the state function. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu was married to Ikemba Odumegwu-Ojukwu until his death in 2011; the couple had three children together. She holds many traditional titles in her native land as well as the highest

chieftaincy title conferred on women in her region. Among her many honours, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu was honoured with the Certificate of Merit by El Mundo Diplomatico for her efforts towards providing effective platforms for constructive engagement between Nigeria and Spain, and was voted Africa's Outstanding Ambassador by Dutch magazine The Voice in 2014. She was also honored

with the "Ambassador of Excellence" Award by the Government of Anambra State, Nigeria at its Silver Jubilee commemoration in 2016. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the All Progressives Grand Alliance, the Political Party that was founded by her late husband Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu and which has maintained political power in Anambra State for over a decade. Her bid to represent her senatorial district in 2018 was stalled as a result of irregularities which occurred during her party's primary elections. She is presently the secretary of the Truth, Justice and Peace Commission set up in 2022 to investigate the root causes of violence, insecurity and separatist agitations in South-Eastern Nigeria. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu is expected to bring her wealth of international experience to bear, to re-chart Nigeria's image in the coming of nations.



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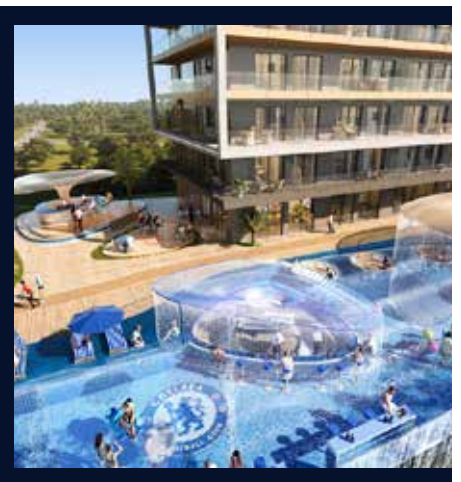
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Ile-Ife Bubbles As Ooni Installs Olufunso Amosun As Yeye Moremi Oodua

By Eric Elezuo



It was a moment of class, glamour and superlative display of cultural ingenuity as the historic city of Ile-Ife, in Osun State became a beehive of activities, hosting A-list dignitaries. It was the celebration former Ogun State Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun's wife, Mrs Olufunso Amosun, who not only celebrated her 60th birthday, but was installed with the prestigious honours of Yeye Moremi Oodua.

The ceremony, which brought the ancient city of Ile-Ife to life became another convergence centre for prominence and prominent Nigerians,

especially among those of the Southwest origin.

A philanthropist of note, and Founder of the Uplift Development Foundation, Mrs Amosun's installation was performed by the Ooni of Ife, Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, at the Afenworo Square, opposite the monarch's palace.

The event, described as standard in all ramifications, drew dignitaries from across political, traditional and business circles, including former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who was represented by his wife, Bola Obasanjo, and the Governor of Oyo

State, Seyi Makinde.

Anchored by Tee A, the ceremony featured the Edi festival dance, bata drumming, and a dramatic re-enactment of Moremi's sacrifice by the Ife Cultural Troupe just as traditionalists offered prayers with kolanuts and gin, while the Emese of Ife declared ancestral blessings.

In his goodwill address, Obasanjo described the Yeye Moremi title as one of the most revered honours in Yorubaland, symbolising courage, sacrifice and service to humanity.

He commended the Ooni for preserving Yoruba

cultural heritage and fostering unity across the country.

In her acceptance speech, the newly installed Yeye Moremi expressed gratitude to God and the Ooni, describing the honour as both humbling and a call to greater responsibility.

She pledged to uphold the legacy of the legendary Moremi Ajasoro, noting that the title demands service marked by humility, integrity and compassion.

"This title is not merely ceremonial; it is a call to serve God and humanity," she said, adding that she would strive to justify the



confidence reposed in her. Also speaking, Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde stressed the importance of unity among Yoruba leaders, noting that the gathering reflected a collective commitment to the progress of the region beyond political affiliations.

“This is Yorubaland and there is no political party here today. What we are seeing is unity in the interest of the Yoruba nation,” Makinde said.

In his remarks, the Ooni congratulated Mrs. Amosun, describing her as a compassionate and selfless individual whose life reflects the virtues of Moremi. He urged her to continue promoting cultural values and impacting lives positively. The monarch also used the occasion to commend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for supporting traditional institutions and cultural preservation in Nigeria.

Other high-profile individuals that attended the occasion were former Ogun State Governor Ibikunle Amosun; former Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola; Senator Gbenga Daniel; Managing Director/CEO of the Federal Housing Authority of Nigeria, Oyetunde Olamideji Gbenga Ashafa; Billionaire businessman, Chief Kessington

Adebukunola Adebutu; former Governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola and his wife, Mrs Omolola Oyinlola; and wives of former APC governors in Osun State, Alhaja Sherifat Aregbesola and Mrs Kafayat Oyetola.

Traditional rulers such as the Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, Ataoja of Osogboland, Oba Jimoh Abidemi Oyetunji

Olanipekun Larooye II and Olowo of Owo, Oba Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III were also on hand to add colour, zest and cultural splendour to the event that had all the trappings of grace and traditional impetus.

Others notable personalities that attended were former Minister of State for Defence, Senator Musiliu Obanikoro; Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Rufus Adeyemo Adejugbe Aladesanmi III; Olofa of Offa, Oba Mufutau Gbadamosi Esuwoye II and Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa.

Also present were the Orangun of Oke Ila, Oba Adedokun Abolarin; Aseyin of Iseyin, Senator Iyiola Omisore; Senator Ganiyu Solomon and Ambassador Sarafadeen Ishola.

By the coronation, Mrs Amosun became one of





those who will stand in the gap when Yorubaland needs a voice, according to the Ooni, adding that “We have found that woman” in Mrs Amosun.

Still responding, the elated Moremi Oodua noted that “To whom much is given, much is expected. And I, Chief Mrs. Olufunso Amosun, Yeye Moremi Oodua, take this title not with levity or frivolity.

“I fully comprehend that with recognition comes responsibility and understand this honour is a call to higher service to humanity. I, Yeye Moremi Oodua, therefore pledge to purposefully carry this title with dignity, compassion, empathy, and humility, in total submission to God’s will. I pray for the wisdom required to excel in this role, the enablement to make impact, and the grace to leave a plethora of good legacies worthy of the honour bestowed upon me by the Arole Oodua.

“My profound thanks

again go to the Arole Oodua for singling me out and elevating me among equals. For this honour, I shall endeavour to continually make you proud, so help me God.

“To everyone present, especially those who arrived before today and those who travelled from far and wide: thank you for going the extra mile to join me in celebrating my 60th birthday and

witnessing history in the making.

“Culture dies when we stop telling our stories. I will use this stool to tell them loudly,” she concluded.

The brand new Moremi Oodua pledged to establish the Moremi Legacy Foundation to support girl-child education, fight human trafficking, and document oral histories of Yoruba heroines.

A known campaigner for Women’s Upliftment, Mrs. Olufunso Amosun was born on May 2, 1966 to the family of (Late) Bishop Ayoade and Elder Christiana Odesanya. She started her primary school education at St James Norland School in the United Kingdom and returned home to attend Yejide Girls Grammar School in Ibadan between 1977 and 1982.

She progressed to Oyo State College of Arts and Science for her A Level education between 1983 and 1985, before gaining admission into University of Ife now known as Obafemi Awolowo University where she bagged a Bachelor of Education (BA. Ed) in English. In 2004, Mrs. Amosun obtained a Master Degree in Guidance and Counselling from the University of Lagos.









Sights and Sounds of the 2026 KATON PRAISE in Accra, Ghana











ADC Sets Presidential Form At N100m, Fixes Primaries

The African Democratic Congress has released its timetable for the conduct of its 2026 primary elections, outlining key dates for nomination, screening, appeals, and primaries across various elective positions.

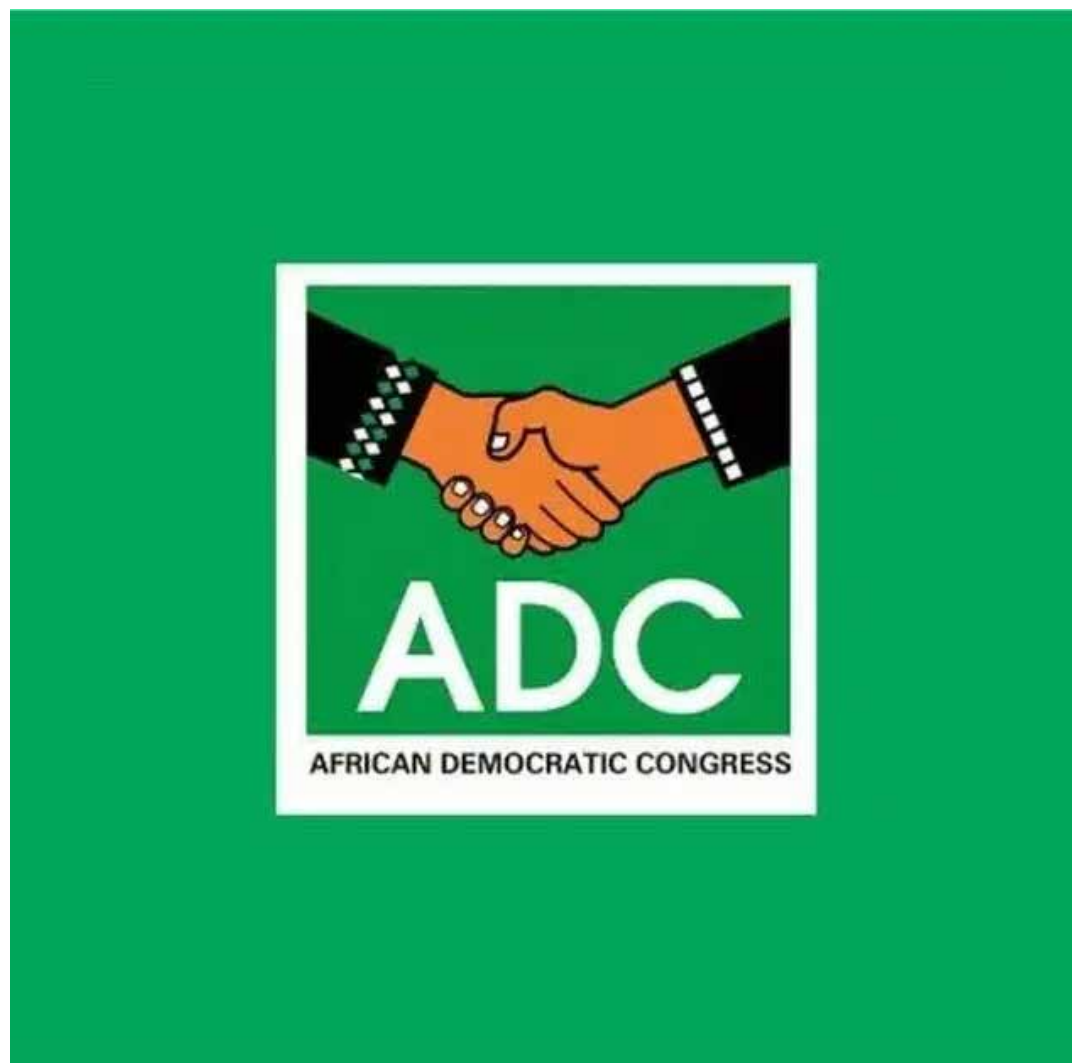
This was contained in a statement issued on Sunday by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Bolaji Abdullahi.

According to the timetable, "the sale of nomination forms will take place from May 5 to May 10, 2026, while the submission of completed forms is scheduled for May 11 to May 13, 2026.

"Screening of aspirants will take place from May 14 to May 15, 2026, followed by the publication of screening results on May 17, 2026." The party said appeals will be heard between May 18 and May 19, 2026, while the final list of cleared aspirants will be released on May 20, 2026.

It added, "Primary elections will commence on May 21, 2026, with elections for State Houses of Assembly, House of Representatives, and Senate seats holding simultaneously at the ward level.

"The Governorship primaries will take place on May 22, 2026, while the Presidential Primary is scheduled for May 25,



2026."

This will be followed by a National Executive Committee meeting on May 26, 2026, and a Special National Convention on May 27, 2026, where final ratifications will be made. The ADC also announced a structured fee regime for nomination forms across elective positions.

According to the party, "The presidential nomination form is pegged at N100 million, governorship at N50 million, Senate at N20 million, House of Representatives at N10 million, and State House

of Assembly at N3 million."

The forms fee makes ADC the second party to peg its presidential nomination and governorship forms at N100 million and N50 million, respectively, following the ruling All Progressives Congress.

To encourage wider participation, the party said it has introduced concessional rates, offering a 50 per cent discount for youths and a 25 per cent discount for women and persons with disabilities.

The party urged members, stakeholders, and aspirants to adhere strictly to the

timetable and guidelines.

The announcement comes as the ADC grapples with a protracted leadership crisis.

A recent Supreme Court ruling reinstated former Senate President David Mark's faction, but the party continues to face internal divisions, factional expulsions, and legal hurdles over congresses and conventions.

Key opposition figures are considering an exit amid disputes over primary formats and control ahead of the 2027 polls.

Peter Obi Confirms Defection from ADC, Blames Toxicity, Lack of Solidarity

Candidate of Labour Party in the last Presidential election, Mr. Peter Obi, has confirmed that he is on his way out of the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

In a personally signed statement released on Sunday, Obi said he arrived at the decision after deep reflection, describing the move as necessary despite “every constraint.”

“I woke up this morning after my church service with a deeply reflective heart... and felt compelled to share these thoughts,” he wrote, adding that many people do not understand the “silent pains” and private struggles faced by those trying to serve in Nigeria’s political space.

Obi painted a grim picture of the current political climate, describing it as increasingly hostile and discouraging.

“We now live in an environment that has become increasingly toxic, where the very system that should protect and create opportunities... often works against the people,” he said, pointing to intimidation, insecurity, and persistent scrutiny as defining features of the system.

The former Anambra State governor also expressed disappointment over what he described as a lack of solidarity, even among



close associates.

“Some who publicly identify with you privately distance themselves or join in unfair criticism,” he noted, lamenting that humility is often misinterpreted as weakness, while compassion is seen as foolishness.

Obi, however, clarified that his decision was not driven by personal grievances against key leaders within the party. He specifically exonerated ADC National Chairman, David Mark, and former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, saying neither treated him unfairly.

“Let me state clearly: my decision to leave

the ADC is not because our highly respected Chairman... treated me badly, nor because... Atiku Abubakar, or any other respected leaders did anything personally wrong to me,” he said.

Instead, Obi attributed his exit to what he described as a recurrence of the same challenges that plagued his time in the Labour Party, including internal divisions, legal battles, and external interference.

“The same Nigerian state and its agents that created unnecessary crises... now appear to be finding their way into the ADC, with endless court cases, internal battles, suspicion, and division,” he stated.

He further lamented that sincere contributions are often undervalued, with individuals becoming scapegoats for broader systemic failures.

“Even within spaces where one labours sincerely, one is sometimes treated like an outsider... as though honest contribution has become a favour being tolerated rather than appreciated,” Obi added.

Despite stepping away, the former governor said he continues to face criticism and attacks on his character, even as he seeks to pursue national development with sincerity.

Reflecting on Nigeria’s broader challenges,

Obi questioned societal values that, according to him, often misinterpret integrity and prudent management of resources. “Why is doing the right thing often misconstrued as wrongdoing in our country? Why is integrity not valued?” he asked.

Obi reiterated that his ambition is not driven by a quest for political office but by a desire to see a better Nigeria.

“I am not desperate to be President... I am desperate to see a society that can console a mother whose child has been

kidnapped or killed,” he said, highlighting issues of insecurity, poverty, and displacement.

He concluded on a hopeful note, affirming his belief in Nigeria’s potential for transformation.

“Yet, despite everything, I remain resolute. I firmly

believe that Nigeria can still become a country with competent leadership based on justice, compassion, and equal opportunity for all,” he said.

“A new Nigeria is possible.”

Peter Obi Weeps for Nigerian Workers, Says Minimum Wage Can no Longer Guarantee Modest Living

A frontline presidential aspirant on the platform of the opposition African Democratic Congress (ADC), Peter Obi, has regretted that the minimum wage can no longer guarantee a most modest standard of living in Nigeria.

In a post on his X handle on Friday to mark Workers’ Day, the former Governor of Anambra State said this has happened as inflation, rising food prices, transportation costs, and economic hardship continue to erode the value of honest work.

He said no nation can truly develop beyond the strength, productivity, and wellbeing of its workforce, stressing that the progress of any society rests on the quality of its human capital, the skill of its people, and the commitment of its workers.

“When workers suffer, the nation suffers. When workers are empowered, the nation prospers,” he noted.

The presidential candidate



of the Labour Party (LP) in the 2023 general elections said a productive nation must be built on justice, fairness, and respect for labour, adding that “it is the Nigeria we must work together to achieve.”

Obi said through democratic participation, the Nigerian workers have the power to shape governance and determine the future direction of the nation.

He, therefore, urged Nigerian workers to

recognise the strength they hold collectively.

“But beyond their labour, workers also possess another powerful tool, their voice and their vote.

“They owe it to themselves, their children, and future generations to support and demand leadership built on competence, character, capacity, credibility, and compassion. By refusing to reward failure, corruption, ethnic division, and bad governance, they can help build a nation where hard

work is respected and rewarded with dignity.

“With the support and participation of Nigerian workers, a new Nigeria is possible,” said Obi.

He saluted workers across the world, especially Nigerian workers whose daily sacrifices continue to sustain our families, communities, institutions, and national economy in the face of severe hardship and uncertainty.

Supreme Court Verdict: ADC Chieftain Advises Tinubu to Kiss Aso Rock Goodbye

Achieftain of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Eze Chukwuemeka Eze, has declared that it is over for the President Bola Tinubu administration following the Supreme Court ruling that restored the David Mark-led National Working Committee (NWC) of the opposition party.

Eze, in a statement on Friday, criticized the Attorney General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN) and the INEC chairman, Prof Joash Amupitan, asserting that they should be ashamed for acting as obstacles to the survival of democracy in Nigeria.

He said: "The government led by President Bola Tinubu has tarnished the judiciary. Certain judges and courts are reportedly being systematically employed to undermine the leadership of political parties in anticipation of the 2027 general elections. "Even when all seemed lost, given the recent court rulings in political cases, particularly those involving opposition parties, Thursday's Supreme Court judgment was a divine intervention. "We express our gratitude to God Almighty for prompting the Supreme Court to overturn that disgraceful, distorted, and anti-democratic ruling issued by the Federal



High Court, the Court of Appeal, and the misguided interpretation and decision of INEC regarding our party, the ADC."

He stressed that the time has come for Tinubu and his alleged undemocratic associates in Aso Rock to return to Lagos.

"With Thursday's ruling saving the ADC from destruction, it is time for Tinubu to begin drafting his handover notes and prepare for his return to Lagos State," Eze stated.

Eze advised the ADC to concentrate on its primary function as a prominent opposition party in the upcoming 2027 general elections, as that the leadership dispute has been resolved.

He emphasized that stability at the upper

levels of the party will result in improved organization, clearer communication, and enhanced participation in Nigeria's political arena.

Notably, he asserted that the ruling will add to Nigeria's expanding collection of case laws regarding political party governance, and urged the ADC to stay focused on its objective of reclaiming power from the APC due to poor governance.

"It highlights the judiciary's role in interpreting party constitutions and ensuring adherence, which may affect how future conflicts are resolved," Eze stated.

He praised the panel for upholding justice, remarking that any opposing decision

regarding the ADC's alleged leadership issue would have further entangled the Judiciary in the murky waters of arbitral corruption.

"Clearly, this ruling has set the stage for cohesion, unity, stability, and effective leadership within the ADC.

"With this issue now definitively settled, even though it should not have been justiciable ab initio, as it pertains to an internal matter of a political party, we urge all our members, stakeholders, and supporters to unite behind the David Mark-led leadership of the ADC to collectively reposition the party for greater national significance, viability, and visibility," Eze said.

Osun To Provide Free Artificial Limbs For 1,000 Amputees

The Osun State Government says it has initiated a humanitarian programme to provide free artificial limbs for 1,000 amputees in the state.

The initiative was disclosed in a statement posted on the state government's official X handle on Sunday.

"The Osun State Government, under the leadership of Governor Ademola Adeleke, has initiated a large-scale humanitarian programme aimed at providing artificial limbs for 1,000 amputees in the state," the statement read.

The Special Adviser on Special Needs to the Governor, Kamil Aransi, while announcing the programme on Friday, said

it is being implemented to restore mobility and dignity to beneficiaries across the state.

He said Adeleke is the first governor in the state's history to provide free artificial limbs for amputees.

According to him, the intervention aligns with the Osun State Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Law, 2024, signed on June 10, 2024, which guarantees key rights and benefits for persons with disabilities, including access to free health insurance.

"The first phase, the Measurement and Assessment Camp, runs from May 7 to May 9, 2026, at the SOB Conference and Events



Centre, starting at 7:30 a.m. daily.

"Beneficiaries will receive detailed medical assessments to determine the prosthetic limb best suited to their needs," Aransi said.

He urged prospective beneficiaries to register and schedule appointments by calling or texting 08038044318 or 08137991959, adding that walk-in access will not be allowed.

Aransi also disclosed that fittings would be conducted by accredited

professionals in the following month, with follow-up support to ensure proper functionality of the prosthetic limbs.

"This intervention aligns with our broader agenda to strengthen support systems for persons living with disabilities," Aransi said.

"The initiative also complements ongoing reforms to expand healthcare access, promote dignity, and ensure vulnerable residents are not left behind," he added.

2026 Hajj: Kebbi Gov Flags Off Pilgrimage

Nasir Idris has flagged off the 2026 Hajj exercise in Kebbi State, urging intending pilgrims to conduct themselves as worthy ambassadors of Nigeria while in Saudi Arabia.

The governor gave the charge on Saturday during the official send-off ceremony held at the premises of the Kebbi State Pilgrims Welfare Board in Birnin Kebbi.

A statement made available by his Chief Press Secretary, Ahmed Idris, on Sunday said the governor reminded the pilgrims of the spiritual

significance of the journey and urged them to focus on worship throughout their stay in the Holy Land.

"You are travelling to the Holy Land to perform one of the pillars of Islam. Be good ambassadors of Nigeria and pray for peace and an end to insecurity in our country," Idris said.

He also called on the pilgrims to remember Nigeria's leaders and the people of Kebbi State in their prayers, while stressing the need to obey the laws of Saudi Arabia.

The governor noted that his administration had continued to support



pilgrims since assuming office by easing some of their financial burdens, including payment for Hadaya, feeding arrangements, and transportation to holy sites.

He also directed political appointees in the state to assist intending pilgrims from their respective local government areas.

Chairman of the Kebbi

State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Musa Enabo, commended the governor for his support towards the success of the exercise, disclosing that the first flight would depart on Sunday, May 3, carrying 428 pilgrims from four local government areas.

Akwa Ibom Airport Begins International Flights, FG Calls It Transit Hub

The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, SAN, has highlighted the strategic significance of the Victor Attah International Airport in Akwa Ibom State, describing it as a transit hub remarkably unique in the country.

The airport on Saturday commenced international operations with the airlift of its first passengers to Accra, Ghana.

On board the maiden flight were the Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Umo Eno; the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo; and other government functionaries. The minister, who spoke during a brief ceremony held at the airport grounds before takeoff, said the facility is not just another airport but has the unique advantage of allowing passengers to transfer flights from international to international, domestic to international, and international to domestic. He said such an advantage is not offered by any other airport in Nigeria, noting that Akwa Ibom was gradually transforming into a Dubai in Nigeria, given its infrastructural development and impact on the region and the country.

“This airport is not just one of those airports, not just a terminal building, but a world-class transit



hub with immense impact. “With this facility, passengers are afforded the opportunity of transferring their flights from international to international; domestic to international; and international to domestic. “This kind of service does not exist in any sub-national anywhere in the country, but only here in this airport. This is not just the best, it is the only existing one, a pacesetter in the country,” Keyamo said.

He acknowledged the economic impact and ripple effects of the airport on the state and the country generally, describing them as massive.

The minister commended Governor Umo Eno for his commitment to completing the project and actualising its

international status.

Eno attributed the success to the visionary leadership of his predecessors.

He said, “It was indeed a relay race of impactful leadership; from Obong Victor Attah, to Chief Godswill Akpabio, to Mr Udom Emmanuel, and to me. They have individually contributed their own quotas in an exceptional way for our common good.”

The governor commended President Bola Tinubu “for his love and timely release of funds to the sub-nationals to enable them execute projects, such as the Victor Attah Int’l Airport – a world-class transit hub.”

He also appreciated Keyamo for his interest and commitment towards the realisation of the international status of the

airport.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Finance and Supervising Commissioner for Special Duties, Emem Bob, thanked Eno for his foresight and determination to upgrade the airport to international status.

In their separate remarks, the Managing Director of Ibom Airport Development Company, Engr. Uwem Ekanem; the Chief Executive Officer of Ibom Air, Engr. George Uriese; and the Chairman of the firm that handled the construction of the new terminal, VKS, Engr. Oliver Ebong, commended the governor for overcoming challenges and pushing them to realise the full potential of the airport.

Tinubu Departs Abuja For France, 2 Others

President Bola Tinubu on Sunday departed the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, for the first leg of his official three-nation visit to France, Kenya and Rwanda.

Video footage from the departure ceremony showed the President arriving at the airport in a black SUV, where he was greeted on the red carpet by senior government officials.

He shook hands with dignitaries before proceeding towards the waiting Nigerian Air Force aircraft.

As President Tinubu boarded the plane via

the red-carpeted stairs, members of the armed forces in camouflage and formal uniforms saluted while the aircraft prepared for takeoff.

The trip, rescheduled from Saturday, will see the President engage in high-level discussions in France before proceeding to Nairobi, Kenya, for the Africa-France Summit co-chaired by Presidents Emmanuel Macron and William Ruto.

According to a statement released on Friday by the President's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu is expected to attend the



Africa-France Summit in Nairobi, co-chaired by Emmanuel Macron and William Ruto.

The summit, scheduled for May 11 to 12, will focus on issues including energy transition, digital transformation and climate action

“President Tinubu’s participation at the summit from May 11 to May 12 will underscore Nigeria’s unwavering commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships with African

nations and the French Republic,” the statement read.

After the Kenya engagement, the President will travel to Kigali, Rwanda, for the Africa CEO Forum, holding from May 14 to 15.

The statement noted that the forum, organised in partnership with the International Finance Corporation, will bring together business leaders and policymakers.

JAMB To Set 2026 UTME Cutoff Marks May 11

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board will hold its 2026 Policy Meeting on Admissions on Monday, May 11, where key decisions, including the minimum Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination cut-off marks for the 2026/2027 academic session, will be determined.

This was contained in a statement issued on Sunday by JAMB’s spokesperson, Fabian Benjamin.

Benjamin said the meeting will be held at the Body of Benchers Auditorium, Plot 688, Institute and Research District, FCC Phase III, Jabi, Abuja.

He said key policy directions will be unveiled by the Minister of Education, Maruf Alausa.

The statement read in part, “The Board’s annual policy meeting on admissions is a crucial annual gathering where stakeholders decide minimum tolerable UTME marks, admission guidelines, and policies for tertiary institutions.

“Furthermore, the meeting is expected to, in particular, formally set the tone for the 2026/2027 admission exercise while impressing it on attendees the need to adhere strictly to stipulated guidelines.

“Attendees at the 2026 meeting would include



critical stakeholders such as vice-chancellors, rectors, provosts, registrars and their admission officers.

“Others are regulatory bodies ranging from the National Universities Commission (NUC), National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), to the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), among others.”

It added that goodwill messages are expected

from agencies including the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), and other stakeholders.

Benjamin further said the event will feature the 6th edition of the National Tertiary Admissions Performance-Merit Awards (NATAP-M), aimed at promoting compliance with admission guidelines and improving standards in tertiary education.

US Threatens to Withhold 50% of Aid to Nigeria over Lapses in Security, Civilian Protection and Accountability

The United States is considering to withhold 50 per cent of its aid to Nigeria under a new legislative proposal that ties continued support to measurable progress on security, civilian protection, and accountability.

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved the measure as part of the Fiscal Year 2027 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programmes appropriations bill, reflecting growing concern in Washington over persistent violence in Africa's most populous nation.

The broader bill allocates about \$47.32 billion for foreign aid and diplomacy, a reduction of roughly six per cent from the previous year.

If enacted, the proposal would require the Secretary of State to certify that Nigeria is taking "effective steps" to address insecurity, protect civilians, and prosecute perpetrators before half of the allocated aid can be released.

Lawmakers linked the conditions to continued attacks by militant groups and violence affecting vulnerable communities.

The legislation also directs Nigerian authorities to prioritise support for



victims, particularly internally displaced persons, and to facilitate the safe return and reconstruction of affected communities.

It calls for investigations and prosecutions tied to armed groups.

In addition, Nigeria would be required to match U.S. funding for supported programmes, effectively introducing a dollar-for-dollar framework that could increase pressure on government finances.

A committee statement said the bill aims to "hold

foreign governments accountable for persecuting people of faith", adding that assistance to Nigeria would remain restricted until "measurable actions are taken" to protect vulnerable populations.

The proposal also places Nigeria under heightened congressional scrutiny, requiring the U.S. administration to notify Congress at least 15 days before any funds are disbursed.

The bill, however, is yet to become law and must

still pass both chambers of Congress and be signed by the U.S. president.

Nigeria has previously rejected claims that violence in the country is driven by religious persecution, arguing instead that insecurity reflects a complex mix of terrorism, banditry, and communal conflicts.

Nonetheless, the proposed measure signals a shift toward stricter U.S. oversight of foreign assistance and could reshape bilateral relations if approved.

World Press Freedom Day: Media Foundation Warns Of Rapid Decline In Press Freedom Across Africa

The Africa Media Development Foundation has warned that press freedom across Africa is rapidly deteriorating, with journalists increasingly exposed to violence, repression, and systemic restrictions.

In a statement by the Foundation's Press Freedom Manager, Zhiroh Jatau, issued on Sunday in Kaduna to commemorate the 2026 World Press Freedom Day, the organisation said a review of multiple monitoring platforms, including its Africa-wide Press Freedom Tracker, revealed a troubling and consistent decline in media freedom across the continent.

According to the group, recent data shows that Sudan recorded the highest number of journalist killings in Africa in 2025, alongside a rising number of missing media professionals, highlighting the grave dangers faced by reporters, particularly in conflict zones.

"The evidence across multiple trackers, including our own, points to a single conclusion: press freedom in Africa is under serious threat.

"These are not isolated developments but part of a wider pattern that demands urgent and collective action", AMDF said.



The foundation also identified Eritrea as Africa's leading jailer of journalists, citing cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention without due process.

AMDF further noted that in the Sahel region—especially Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso—military-led governments have intensified crackdowns on independent media, stifling dissent and restricting access to information.

It added that in the Great Lakes region, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi, journalism is increasingly being criminalised, with reporters subjected to harassment, intimidation, and prosecution.

In West Africa, the group described Nigeria as one of the most dangerous environments for journalists, pointing to frequent attacks by both

state and non-state actors. "These patterns reflect a broader continental reality in which press freedom is under sustained and coordinated pressure," the statement added.

The organisation listed Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Rwanda as countries where conditions for journalists are most critical, warning that media practitioners in these nations face risks of arbitrary detention, torture, and even death.

AMDF called on African governments to uphold their constitutional and international obligations to protect freedom of expression and ensure media independence.

It also urged the African Union and other regional bodies to take decisive action against violations of press freedom, while calling on the international community to strengthen protection mechanisms for journalists at risk.

"As Africa marks World Press Freedom Day 2026, it is crucial to recognise that protecting journalists is essential to safeguarding democracy.

"Without a free and independent press, there can be no transparency, accountability, or sustainable development", the organisation stated.

Meanwhile, World Press Freedom Day, observed annually on May 3, underscores the importance of a free and independent media and serves as a reminder to governments of their responsibility to uphold freedom of expression.

Across Africa, media freedom continues to face persistent challenges, often shaped by political instability, armed conflicts, and tightening state controls, with recent trends indicating a shrinking civic space and growing hostility toward journalists.

World Press Freedom Day: SERAP, NGE Urge Tinubu, Govs To Protect Journalists

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project and the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) have called on the Federal Government and state governors to urgently protect journalists and address insecurity and impunity across the country.

The groups also urged the government of President Bola Tinubu and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyseom Wike, to urgently ensure press freedom and bring an end to the escalating insecurity and widespread human rights violations across several parts of northern Nigeria.

They made the call in a joint statement issued on Sunday in Lagos to mark World Press Freedom Day.

The statement followed a conference and interactive session on “the Role of the Media in Promoting People’s Rights, Accountability, and Access to Justice in the Context of Growing Insecurity in Nigeria,” held on Saturday at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Ikeja.

SERAP and NGE said, “protecting journalists and safeguarding information integrity are central drivers of peace, security, and democratic stability. “Any credible peace,



recovery, or security strategy in Nigeria must integrate support for free, independent, and pluralistic media alongside humanitarian, institutional, and economic responses.

“Serious concerns about the scale and persistence of killings, abductions, sexual violence, forced displacement, and destruction of property across several parts of northern Nigeria.”

These patterns, they said, reflect systemic failures to prevent foreseeable harm, protect communities, investigate violations, prosecute perpetrators and their sponsors, and ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims.

“Such grave violations constitute serious breaches of Nigeria’s obligations under the Nigerian Constitution 1999 (as amended), the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Nigeria is a state party.

“The humanitarian consequences remain severe: communities destroyed, livelihoods lost, and victims left without effective remedies. The persistence of impunity continues to erode public trust and weaken democratic governance,” the statement added.

The groups stressed that Nigerian authorities at all levels have constitutional and international obligations to protect journalists and end insecurity.

They said the Tinubu administration, state governors, and the FCT minister must “exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, and remedy human rights violations, including by ensuring justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators and their sponsors.”

They also noted that the UNESCO theme for the 2026 World Press Freedom Day Conference, “Shaping a Future of Peace,” underscores the importance of a free and independent media to peace and development.

The groups warned that “information violence often precedes physical violence,” stressing that protecting journalists is essential to addressing insecurity and strengthening democracy.

They recalled that Section 22 of the Nigerian Constitution mandates the media to hold government accountable, while Section 39 guarantees freedom of expression.

SERAP and NGE called on authorities to guarantee press freedom, protect civic space, and ensure prompt, independent investigations into violations, including prosecution of perpetrators and compensation for victims.

Dangote Dismisses Claims Of Rift With Tony Elumelu

The Dangote Group has strongly denied viral claims suggesting a rift between its president, Aliko Dangote, and fellow businessman Tony Elumelu, describing the reports as false and misleading.

As reported by Nairametrics on Sunday, in a statement issued by its Group Chief Branding and Communications Officer, Anthony Chiejina, the company cautioned content creators, organisations, and digital platforms against spreading misinformation and AI-generated content using its brand and

leadership.

The response followed a viral post on X, which alleged that Dangote sought financial assistance from prominent associates to complete the Dangote Petroleum Refinery.

The post claimed that Elumelu pledged \$20m but later cut off communication, while other business figures, including Mike Adenuga, Abdulsamad Rabi, and Femi Otedola, reportedly contributed significant sums.

However, the Dangote Group dismissed the claims outright, insisting that neither Dangote nor



the company made such statements.

“The Group categorically rejects claims that the development of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery was financed through personal borrowing from friends. These assertions are wholly inaccurate and constitute a deliberate misrepresentation of facts.

“As a matter of principle, Aliko Dangote neither finances his projects through personal borrowing from friends nor engages in lending arrangements of that nature. Any individual making such claims should provide verifiable evidence to substantiate them.

2027: Tinubu Has Not Endorsed Any Governorship Candidate In Oyo — Adelabu

The immediate past Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, has rejected the endorsement of Sharafadeen Alli as the consensus governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress in Oyo State.

On Friday, some APC leaders in Oyo endorsed the serving senator as the 2027 consensus candidate during a meeting in Ibadan, the state capital.

A former senator, Ayo Adeseun, had claimed that President Bola Tinubu backed Alli’s candidacy. “Mr. President remains the leader of our party, and his opinion on who flies the party’s flag must be

given due consideration,” Adeseun had said.

Reacting on Saturday at an APC Ibadan South-East meeting, Adelabu said he personally met Tinubu and secured the president’s approval to pursue his governorship ambition.

Speaking in Yoruba, Adelabu said those claiming the president had already endorsed another aspirant were “telling lies.”

He said before resigning from office, he insisted on meeting Tinubu face-to-face because the president appointed him.

“Before I resigned, I said, I need to see the person who appointed me for a



face-to-face conversation. That was why I delayed my resignation to have time to see him (Tinubu). “He called some stakeholders in Oyo so that when I see him, he will know what to tell me. I met him last week in a closed-door meeting. I can’t tell lies against the president publicly,” Adelabu said in Yoruba language.

According to Adelabu, Tinubu told him, “Bayo,

it is time. We have been on this ambition for a very long time. It is a long-time ambition of yours. As much as I want you to be around me, I won’t hinder your ambition. Go and resign to start work’.

Adelabu added that Tinubu said he would consult stakeholders to see if a consensus arrangement was possible, but if not, the party would adopt direct primaries.

Strike: ASUU Declares Solidarity with SSANU, NASU

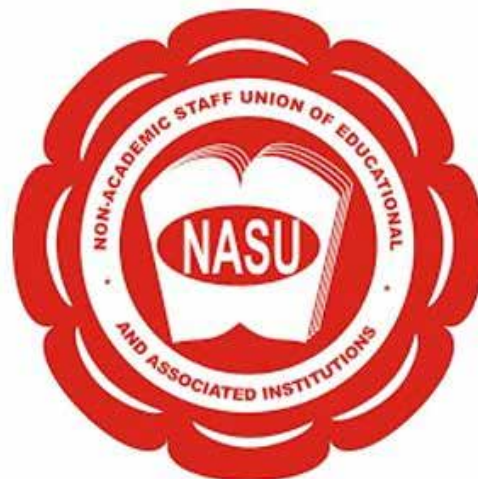
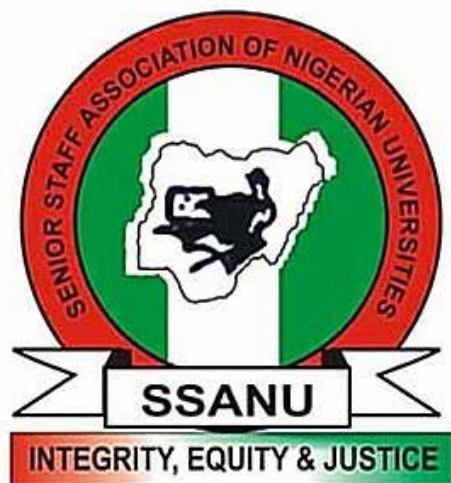
The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has thrown its weight behind the Senior Staff Union of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU), whose members are currently on nationwide indefinite strike.

SSANU and NASU, under the aegis of Joint Action Committee (JAC), had declared indefinite strike on Friday, May 1, 2026, protesting the Federal government's delay in signing a new agreement with them.

The two unions, after repeated ultimata given to the Federal Government to finalise their long-standing 2009 Agreement renegotiation and come up with a new agreement and its immediate implementation, accused the Federal Government of using delay tactics to, among others, punish members for rejecting the once controversial IPPIS payment platform.

Speaking at a monthly impact dialogue organised by the Education Writers' Association of Nigeria (EWAN) held virtually, ASUU President, Prof Christopher Piwuna, said the body language of the Federal Government delaying the signing of the new agreement with other unions in the university system called for serious concern.

He spoke on the theme "Delayed Salaries, FG Workers' Agreement: Averting Impending Crisis



in Nigerian Universities." The dialogue also featured the National President of SSANU, Muhammed Ibrahim, and his vice in charge of the South Zone, Dr. Abdulsobur Abdulsalam.

The Accountant General of the Federation, Dr Shamseeden Ogunjimi, as well as the Director of Tertiary Education in the Federal Ministry of Education, Joel Samuel Ojo, who were equally billed as panelists, were unable to attend.

Speaking further, Piwuna said the Federal Government should realise that industrial harmony in the university system does not mean one union is working, rather working together of all unions is required to move the entire system forward.

He noted that even though the Federal Government had already signed an agreement with ASUU and that its implementation has "remained at best rudimentary and haphazard," leaving

SSANU, NASU, and NAAT in the cold is unacceptable.

He explained why ASUU is taking that stand, saying salaries of lecturers and other workers in the system are being prepared by SSANU and NASU members and not the ASUU members.

"So, it is very unkind and unfair for the government to keep SSANU, NASU, and NAAT in the cold for four months after signing our own agreement.

"It will be very demoralizing for me, for example, to continue to prepare salaries for my colleagues in the university when I don't even know whether my own agreement is going to be signed or not.

"And so ASUU would want to state in very clear terms and, in the clearest terms possible, that we stand with SSANU, we stand with NASU, we stand with NAAT to ensure that their collective bargaining process is ended on the table that it started.

"Even though, this

position is not part of our agreement, it's not part of what we signed with the government, I think for fairness and justice, it is very important for government to conclude with other unions without further delay."

Piwuna, however, also expressed displeasure over the delay in salaries that ASUU members have been experiencing in the last four months, even with the signing of the agreement, declaring that ASUU is totally against such practice.

He explained that a standing resolution by ASUU is that any month salaries of members get delayed beyond the third day of a new month in any of its branches nationwide, the lecturers there should withdraw their service until their salaries are paid.

He noted, "That was the case in January when some universities sought permission from the national leadership to embark on an action, and we pacified them based

on what the Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, told us then.

“The Minister told us that the delay in the full implementation of our agreement, especially salaries, was a result of the non-passage of the 2026 national budget.

“And we have stated this many times before that we don’t know which budget Nigeria operates.

“This is because recently, the government publicly claimed that some aspects of the 2024 and 2025 budgets were still in operation even at a time when passing the 2026 budget, and that part of the 2025 budget will remain operational until June or July.

“So, we don’t have a clear-cut budget cycle as a country, and this is very unfortunate.

“We were all taught, even in elementary school, that the annual budget starts and ends within one year.

“But it appears that the operators of our economy now seem to have an argument for any bad thing that they want to do.

“So, the salaries have not been consistent even though the budget has been passed.”

Piwuna, who equally accused the Federal Government of taking the issue of education development with levity, said there are lots of issues pressing for government attention to address.

He pointed out that ASUU would certainly take a concrete and comprehensive stance on each of those issues when the leadership of the union

meets either on May 9 or 10.

He mentioned parts of the issues to include, but not limited to, delay in salaries payment and the establishment of the National Research Council that will be financing research and development, not setting aside the Stabilisation fund, infractions by some pro-chancellors and chairmen of governing councils, accused of interfering in the normal day-to-day running of universities, as well as a proposal to remove some academic courses from

curriculum. He said these issues are critical to the development of university education in the country and therefore need to be addressed by the government.

He declared that “ASUU is going to respond to all these issues and any other ones that may emerge before the NEC meeting.”

In his own contribution, President of SSANU, Mohammed Ibrahim, also expressed displeasure over what he described as insincerity of government in addressing challenges

curriculum. He said these issues are critical to the development of university education in the country and therefore need to be addressed by the government.

“pending new agreement is aimed to address. According to him, university workers are supposed to be treated well to enable them to put in their best to solve part of Nigeria’s problems.

“But these delays in payment of salaries is like cancer, dampening the morale of members and generality of workers in the universities,” he stressed. Giving insights into why JAC declared the nationwide strike,

more than enough time to conclude the renegotiation process and commence implementation, but it was still delaying the process with no timeline in sight, and instead, introducing wage awards.

“So, our last ultimatum to government was till the end of April and there is nothing we can do again than to embark on strike as our last instrument to react and the action is going to be total and comprehensive,” he stressed.

Giving welcome remarks, Chairman of EWAN, Mr. Mojeed Alabi, said the



SSANU’s Vice President, Western Zone, Dr. Abdulsobur Abdulsalam, said it was simply because government had pushed them to the wall.

He accused the government of a lack of respect for collective bargaining with the unions, stating that the renegotiation process that has been taking place for more than two years could be addressed within two weeks if there is genuine intention and willingness on the part of the government.

Abdulsalam said JAC had given the government

move by SSANU and NASU to go on strike is not unexpected, noting that the signs were very visible for more than five months.

He, however, noted that the essence of EWAN’s monthly dialogue is to brainstorm on a workable solution to any pressing national issues as related to education with a view to moving the sector forward. He said there is no country that can attain true economic prosperity without quality education in place.

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UNICEF Confirms Nigeria's 18.3m Out-of-School Children As World's Highest

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has revealed that Jigawa, Kano, and Katsina states have the highest number of children who are not in school in Nigeria.

The organisation also said Nigeria has about 18.3 million out-of-school children, the highest number in the world.

An education expert from UNICEF Kano office, Aisha Abdullahi, shared this during a two-day meeting for journalists from Jigawa, Kano, and Katsina.

She said that nearly 30% of these children come from the three states due

to poverty, insecurity, cultural beliefs, and poor early education.

Abdullahi explained that early childhood education is very important because it helps children build basic skills before primary school. She said it can help reduce the number of children who drop out of school.

She added that children who attend early learning programs are more likely to stay in school and finish their education. She also said that most brain development happens before age five, so early learning is very important. Although Nigeria has a policy that includes



one year of pre-primary education, access is still low, especially in rural areas.

She also noted that areas with good early childhood centres have higher school enrolment and better retention rates.

UNICEF also raised concern that few fathers take part in early childhood education, with less than 15% involvement. They said more father

involvement could reduce dropout rates.

Stakeholders at the meeting called for stronger government action, including more funding for early education, and expansion of early learning centres.

They argued that improving early child education is key to solving Nigeria's out-of-school problem.

Iran Hits US Warship In Hormuz Missile Attack

Iran's Fars news agency said Monday that Iranian forces struck a US Navy frigate in a missile attack in the Strait of Hormuz, but the US military quickly denied the claim.

The report from Fars came hours after President Donald Trump said US forces would on Monday begin guiding ships through the waterway.

"The frigate, which was sailing in violation of navigation and maritime safety rules near (the port of) Jask, was targeted by a missile attack after ignoring a warning from the Iranian navy," Fars said, without citing a source.

"The American frigate that was hit was unable to continue its journey and was forced to turn back and flee the area," the Iranian news agency reported.

There was no confirmation from other sources of missiles being fired, and the US military's Central Command issued a denial on X.

"No US Navy ships have been struck," it wrote.

Trump had said the United States would on Monday begin guiding ships through the strategic strait, which was a major transport route for oil, gas and fertiliser before the Middle East war broke out on February 28 and



Iran began blockading the waterway.

Jask, in southern Iran on the coast of the Gulf, is located about 200 kilometres (124 miles) from the narrow strait, which separates the Arabian Peninsula from Iran.

The exact location of the alleged missile incident was not specified by Fars.

Iran's military has warned that US forces will be attacked if they approach the strait.

Since the beginning of the war, Iranian forces have allowed only a handful of ships to pass through the waterway.

In retaliation, the United States says it has been blocking access to Iranian ports since April 13.

Xenophobia: Tinubu Orders Close Monitoring of Protests in South Africa

President Bola Tinubuhas directed close monitoring of the ongoing anti-foreigner protests in South Africa, as the Federal government raises concerns over the safety of Nigerians and demands justice for victims of recent incidents. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, disclosed this while presenting a situation report, noting that authorities are on alert ahead of another round of demonstrations scheduled for 4 to 8 May.

“There is heightened anxiety over the series of anti-foreigner protests. The priority at this time remains the safety of our citizens,” she said, adding that the President’s directive underscores Nigeria’s resolve to prevent further harm to its nationals.

Odumegwu-Ojukwu said images circulating across media platforms showing violence and xenophobic rhetoric have drawn global condemnation, describing the trend as “utterly condemnable and unacceptable.”

She, however, acknowledged that top South African officials, including President Cyril Ramaphosa, have publicly opposed xenophobia, extra-judicial killings and destruction of foreign-owned properties.



According to her, protests held between 27 and 29 April in Pretoria and Johannesburg were largely peaceful under heavy police presence, with no confirmed attacks on Nigerians during that period.

Despite this, she revealed that two Nigerians died earlier in separate incidents involving security personnel. Amamiro Chidiebere Emmanuel succumbed to injuries allegedly sustained after being beaten by members of the South African National Defence Force in Port Elizabeth, while Nnaemeka Matthew Andrew was reported dead following an encounter with metro police, with his body later found in a

Pretoria mortuary.

“These incidents are utterly condemnable and unacceptable. Nigeria demands that justice be done,” the minister stated, noting that the Nigerian High Commission is closely tracking investigations.

She further confirmed that Nigeria has summoned South Africa’s High Commissioner in Abuja over the situation, as diplomatic engagements intensify to contain the fallout.

Odumegwu-Ojukwu added that Nigerian missions in South Africa are working with local authorities to minimise risks to citizens, while arrangements are ongoing for the voluntary

repatriation of those willing to return home. About 130 Nigerians have so far registered for the exercise.

She also stressed Nigeria’s historical role in supporting South Africa’s liberation struggle, warning that recurring xenophobic attacks, often linked to political tensions, must be decisively addressed.

“Nigerian lives and businesses in South Africa must not continue to be put at risk,” she said, adding that both countries are engaging through existing frameworks, including an early warning mechanism, to prevent further escalation.



Will 'Big Ego' Bury Opposition Again?

By Eric Elezuo

Those, who are of the impression that the Nafiu Bala Gombe factor is the only crisis bedeviling the major opposition party, the African Democratic Congress (ADC), should probably begin to rethink. The reasons are

obvious; the cankerworm of treachery, me, me and me factor, wings of undemocratisation, and loss of focus have continued to haunt the nascently developing party, and observers are of the agreement that the process may again go

the way of 2023 if the constant bickering of who takes what continue to fester.

It is noteworthy that the Supreme Court has been judicially lenient to the ADC, in its judgment regarding leadership, where the popularly

advocated David Mark and Rauf Aregbesola leadership was sustained. But the judgment, much as it brought a temporary relief, did not in any way drive away the crisis that the party has continued to 'bring upon itself' since its elaborated second launch

in July, 2025.

While Nigerians had seen the ADC as a veritable alternative, a much better option to the existing ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) with its attendant and alleged failed policies, which have subjected the Nigerian people to untold hardship from day one when the 'subsidy is gone' declaration was made,

ballot paper come 2027. The Nafiu Bala Gombe angle is consistently fighting to ensure that the agenda comes to pass. The ADC has however, pointed accusing fingers at the President Tinubu-led Federal Government and the APC as the brain behind the crisis, and the general muffling and muscling of the opposition, as the window of election

Transport, Mr. Rotimi Chibike Amaechi; two-terms governor of Kano State and former Minister of Defence, Alhaji Rabiul Kwankwaso and two-terms governor of Anambra State and business man, Mr. Peter Obi.

Till date, none of these prolific politicians has agreed to step down for another, creating

But observers have wondered if the opposition leaders are really interested in ousting the administration of Bola Tinubu, which they unanimously agreed has not impacted positively on Nigerians. They have dismissed the coalition as a gathering of highly ambitious politicians, whose real agenda is to grab power for



it has hitherto failed to reciprocate the confidence reposed on them by putting their house in order and jettison person desires fir Nigerianism. But from every indication it's beginning to appear that the ADC came, not unprepared, but under-prepared, creating loopholes that have energized the infiltration of elements of destruction bent on ensuring that the party is not on the

contest continue to open wider.

But beyond the alleged hand of Tinubu in the brouhaha, there's the in-house dispute, not just among the superweights that joined the party, but also among their supporters.

The super politicians include former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, two-terms governor of Rivers State, and two-terms Minister of

a situation where the only door open to the aspirants is a transparent and all-agreeable primary election to determine who flies the party's flag. But that is not to be again as the duo of Peter Obi and Rabiul Kwankwaso on Sunday ditched the party, enroute the newly formed Nigerian Democratic Congress (NDC). Observers say that Obi has an unexplained phobia for primary elections.

themselves, otherwise they could have done everything within their power to settle for and support one individual if the intention is to actually dethrone Tinubu, and give Nigerians to good they deserve.

As part of the disagreements that have threatened to pull down the very fabrics of opposition plans, and drag the nation back to the mistakes of 2023, the existence of ego;

a certain type of ego that analysts have described as 'Big Ego', has played a crucial roll.

From Atiku to Obi to Amaechi and to the newest entrant, Kwankwaso, none is willing to settle for the other to fly the party's flag. Everyone of the candidates wants to be president. And much as Tinubu has been blamed for most the crises in many major political parties, it is still not known if Tinubu could be blamed for the inability of these political juggernauts to settle for a consensus candidate to wrest power from the present administration, that not a few Nigerians have condemned.

From various camps, especially the 'Obidients' (supporters loyal to Peter Obi), the slogan has remained it's either Obi or nothing, a move that has made it impossible for the agreement towards consensus or primaries to be reached. The Obidients maintained that Atiku has no right to contest, and shouldn't contest, citing excuses including that he is of northern extraction, and it's not the turn of the North to produce a president.

However, the Atiku camp has countered the notion saying that there's no constitutional provision to whoever should contest for the presidency at a particular time, stressing that the presidential contest is opened to all Nigerians of 40 years and

above irrespective of tribe, religion or region. They therefore, wonder why the Obi supporters would insist that Atiku drops off without a legitimate primary election.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST

According to Section 131 of the 1999

Constitution, a person must be a citizen by birth, at least 40 years old, a member of a political party, sponsored by that party, and educated to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent.

The same section mentioned that disqualification of any aspirant would be based on allegiance to another country, previous two-term service as president, lunacy, or criminal conviction.

The Constitution did not at any section impose legitimacy on tribe, region or rotation. Atiku is eligible to stand for election.

Another angle Atiku's detractors have tried

supervised privatization, which is the hallmark of development for any capitalist environment

The source said, "Sold national assets to who and as who? Was Atiku the president because as far as I know, he was the vice president and could not have acted without the consent of Mr President. Atiku never



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to capitalise on is his stewardship as the Vice President.

However, a member of the Atiku, who prefers anonymity, explains that the Waziri Adamawa performed his functions as vice president creditably, and executed assignments as instructed. He added that at no time did the former sold any assets, rather he

sold anything, those things were privatized and people, who wanted them, applied."

Speaking on the most qualified of all the presidential aspirants, the source clarified that "having been a vice president for eight years, sustained credible institutions and businesses, none could

compare to Atiku. He is the most senior, and most experienced”, he said. On the permutation of the likely winner of the 2027 election, the source dismissed Kwankwaso, whose over million votes came largely from Kano State, and Peter Obi, who could not win any state in both the North East and West. He advised that Obi’s chances are

APC (primaries 2014), PDP, (2019 and 2023). He wants to be president, no doubt. That is not a man that can be hounded out of a race or intimidated by a small and vocal group. “It is worthy of note that Peter Obi’s six million votes in the last election didn’t come strictly from the ‘Obidients’. In fact, not up to 30% came from them. The majority of the

HISTORICAL TRAJECTORY

Without mincing words, the survival of the opposition coalition depends solely on Atiku and Peter Obi. Most men must agree to support each if there must be a headway in booting Tinubu out of power. Anyway other than that is just another rehash of the 2023 scenario.

It would be recalled that

Atiku to support younger aspirants to run, but he threw his hat in the ring. It was his constitutional right. The likes of Peter Obi, who has created a picture of himself as being afraid of primaries, left the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the Labour Party, where he picked up presidential ticket on a platter. He believed that with the completion



slim in contrast to Atiku, who won across the five regions except Southeast. He said, “Atiku, won election as the Governor of Adamawa State before he was selected as the vice president position by former President Olusegun Obasanjo, and he served for two-terms of eight years. “Atiku, has since contested for president on the tickets of ACN,

votes came from silent supporters of Obi who are members of other parties and from people not identified with any political party. Atiku can decide to step down for Obi or anyone, that is his choice to make. No one should hinge Obi’s success or failure on Atiku. He wants to be president too, and should not be intimidated, the source reiterated.

Atiku and Obi formed an alliance that challenged late former President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019. While Atiku stood as the substantive candidate, Obi operated as the running mate. Buhari won with a slim margin though observers believed that the election was greatly manipulated. But in 2023, ambitions defeated expectations. While many had expected

of the Buhari era, it was the turn of the Southeast to produce a president. Even as the duo of Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi pooled a collective total of over 12 million votes, both were still defeated by the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Bola Tinubu. A cross section of opinion molders have remained divided as to what would have happened if both

had teamed up again as candidate and running mate. While a section said that the duo would have beaten Tinubu hands down, others believe that the massive voters would not have come out from their hiding if Obi had not been on the ballot paper. But the way it stands, and having known their electoral capabilities and capacities, and with one goal of removing Tinubu from office, one would have expected the two candidates to drop their egos and work together. But that has become a tall dream!

With the bickering, and subsequent defection of Peter Obi and Rabiu Kwankwaso, to the NDC, ostensibly to actualize the new slogan of Obi-Kwankwaso (OK), an analyst has juxtaposed the previous election in 2023, and the fast approaching one of 2027 as follows:

As the 2027 election approaches, it's good to give a highlight of the major conditions required for any candidate to be declared winner of the election according to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. (1) Candidates must get the majority of the votes from the entire country. (2) Candidate must get at least 25% from at least 24/36 states plus the FCT. In 2023 for example, INEC declared Bola Ahmed Tinubu the winner of the election for securing 36.7% of the total

votes and 25% from 29 states. Followed by Atiku Abubakar who secured 29.9% of the votes and got 25% from 21 states. And then Peter Obi who came third with 26.1% of the total votes and 25% from 15 states. What does that mean? Tinubu was declared winner not only because of the number of

states. Similarly, Peter Obi won states like Enugu, Anambra, Abia, Ebonyi, Imo, Delta, Cross-River, Edo, Lagos, FCT, Plateau and Nassarawa bringing it to a total of 12 states with none from North-West and North-East. Kwankwaso dominated Kano State with more than a million votes. Based on this

as running mate to Atiku Abubakar.

Many believe that Peter Obi came to limelight in 2019 courtesy of the Atiku generosity, when he was nominated as the presidential vice candidate against the wishes and to the chagrin of major political heavyweights in PDP at the time. Both



votes, but also because of the 25% rule, which he secured majority from Ondo, Ekiti, Kwara, Ogun, Oyo, Niger, Kogi, Benue, Jigawa, Zamfara, Borno and Rivers. On the other hand, Atiku Abubakar won states like Osun, Yobe, Gombe, Adamawa, Katsina, Bauchi, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi, Taraba, Bayelsa and Akwa-Ibom bringing it to a total of 12

highlights, who do you think will win the 2027 presidential election?

WHY PETER OBI SHOULD HAVE REMAINED WITH ATIKU AS RUNNING MATE

A lot of narratives have been peddled as to why it would be a sound political decision for Peter Obi to remain with the ADC, and seek election

made a noticeable though did not win.

Secondly, Atiku has told the public that he was only concerned with serving for only one term, and promised to support Peter Obi to take afterwards. This is highly fundamental because across the world, many politicians have effortlessly crossed over to becoming the president after serving as vice

presidents.

The case of the present President of Ghana, Dr. John Dramani Mahama, readily comes to mind. He served as vice president to John Kuffour, and took over afterwards.

There's also Nigeria's Goodluck Jonathan, who served as vice president to Umar Musa Yar'dua, and became president at his death, and went ahead to win another term, even when it was the proverbial turn of the North.

In the United States, Joe Biden served as vice to Barack Obama, and became president at the end of his tenure. He served for one term, and voluntarily bowed out on health grounds.

In Kenya, incumbent President Willam Ruto served loyally as vice to Uhuru Kenyatta, and is today the president of Kenya.

In Liberia, Joseph Boakai

served as vice president to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for her two-terms of 12 years (2006 – 2018) before becoming president himself.

Just as the list is endless, it is believed that a little patience by Obi can help I removing Tinubu, and making him president in 2031.

However, appearing quite upbeat about the happenstance, a chieftain of the ADC, Chief Dele Momodu, summarized as follows during a recent interview:

"I have no fear whatsoever, though there's a bit of agitation everywhere. If you ask most people, they would tell you, Oh, Asiwaju will rig the election. They are sure Tinubu will do this and that. He has the power of life and death and so on and so forth, but I'm not bothered. As you get older in life, you begin

to understand the God factor better. I believe that whatever APC likes, let them do. When it is God's time, he will push them out and I think, this 2027, we are closer to it than ever.

"I said APC, whether they like it or not, the whole world knows that they have failed. And now the people are thinking it is political parties that chase away government? No, it is not parties; it is the people. When the people rise up and say it was the people that chased away PDP that time, it was the people. In this case, those who will chase Tinubu and APC away are not just members of ADC. They are Nigerians who are fed up, completely fed up, who will look back at the last three or four years and ask pertinent questions like, Was my life better in 2023 than it is in 2027? Was security much better

in 2023 than it is in 2027? Was electricity better? Was water better? Was infrastructure better? Was our foreign policy better? Was the quality of ministers better? When you answer all those questions, you will see that the majority of the answers will be no, no, no. And that is what will determine why people will vote them out."

With Obi now in NDC, and Atiku still in ADC, the shape of 2027 for the opposition may not be looking good because the way it stands, the **OPPOSITION IS ABOUT TO BURY HOPE AGAIN**, leveraging on the infamous 'BIG EGO'. It is now to your tent, O' Israel. This is the real status quo ante bellum, and every candidate is now to test his own strength in isolation.





The Oracle

CHIEF MIKE OZEKHOMÉ

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

☎ 08094777755 (SMS Only)

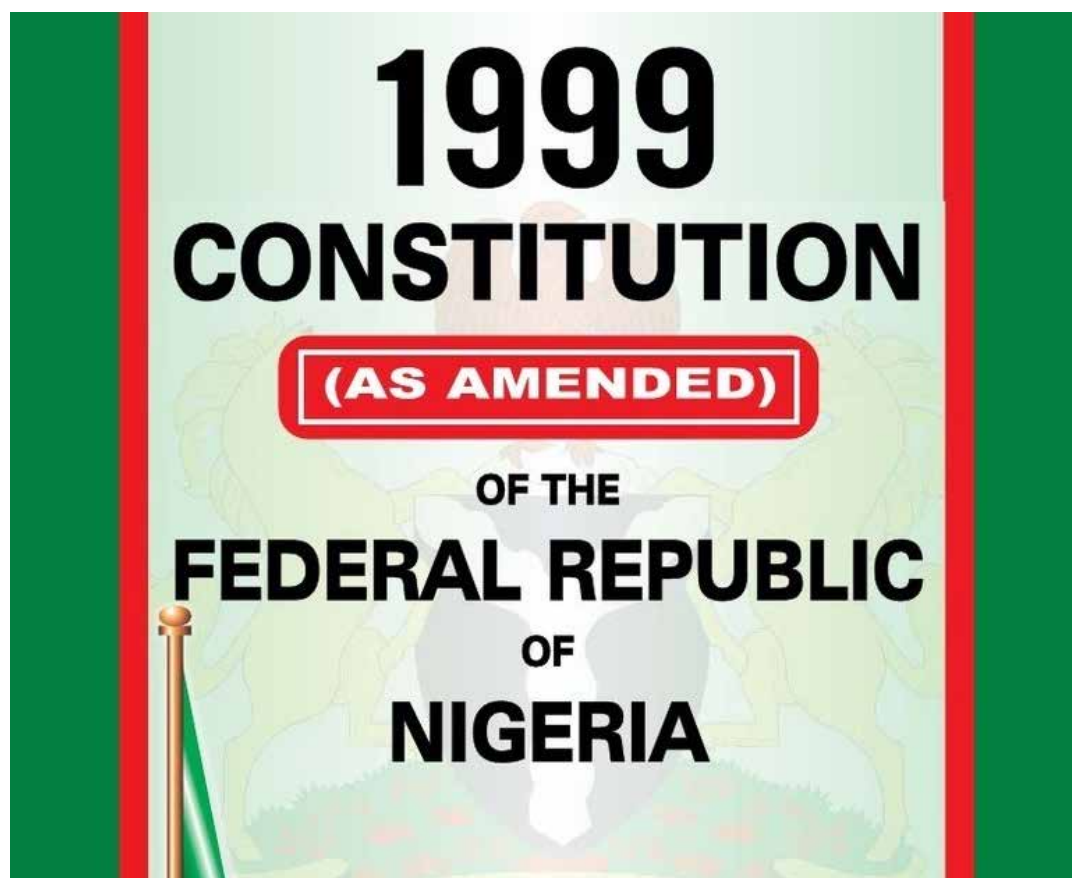
Enforcement of Fundamental Human Rights Under the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (Pt. 1)

INTRODUCTION

Man as distinct from other beings is rational and has morals. He has the power of reason which enables him to differentiate between right and wrong, between good and bad, and also between justice and injustice. He therefore possesses honour and dignity which are higher than that of other beings. Human rights are necessary to protect this honour and dignity which nature has bestowed on human kind. They ensure (where these rights are enforced) that human kind is not degraded or made inhumane. Chapter IV (Sections 17-32) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1963, had provided that:

“No person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman degrading punishment or other treatment.”

This has been replicated in section 3 of the 1999 Constitution. Equally, Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Right, 1948 declares that: “All human beings are born free and equal in



dignity and right. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

There is therefore a great need to protect and ensure the protection of these inherent rights and freedoms.

WHAT IS A RIGHT?

Before discussing the ways and means by which one may enforce his fundamental human rights, it is apposite to first

understand the context in which “right” is used.

‘Right’ in ordinary language means power of free action; a demand, inherent in one person and incident upon another. It is an interest recognized by law, respect for which is a duty and disregard of which is wrong. It refers to the cultural, political, social, economic advantage to which a person has just claim, either morally or in law. It

is distinct from privilege. Right described as ‘human’ refers to a category of rights which are specified and in most cases protected by law. Every human being is entitled to such rights and no person may be denied of such rights except through the due process of law. Cranston therefore holds the strong view that: “A human right is something of which no one may be deprived

without a great affront to justice. These are certain deeds which should never be invaded some things which are supremely sacred”

Kayode Eso, JSC. (as he then was) re-affirmed the importance of human rights in *RANSOME KUTI Vs. A-G OF THE FEDERATION*, (1985) CLR 6(d) (SC), when he said of human rights:

“... It is a right which stands above the ordinary

RIGHTS OR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS?

“Fundamental rights” are generally regarded as those aspects of human rights which have been recognized and entrenched in the constitution of a country. They are specially provided for to enhance human dignity and liberty in every modern state. In the Nigerian context, the terms “human right”, “fundamental right” and

should be noted that the international bill of rights – the universal declaration of Human rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights- use the expression fundamental human rights, so also the U.N charter.” (the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948). Since the Constitution specifically provides for fundamental rights, Nigerian Court have

field, distinct difference has emerged between ‘Fundamental Right’ and ‘Human Rights’. It may be recalled that human rights were derived from and out of the wider concept of natural rights. They are rights which every civilized society must accept as belonging to each person as human being. These were termed human rights. When the United Nations made its declaration it was



laws of the land and which in fact is antecedent to the political society itself. It is a primary condition to a civilized existence... and what has been done is to have these rights enshrined in the Constitution so that the rights could be immutable to the extent of the non-immutability of the constitution itself.”

FUNDAMENTAL

“fundamental human right” are always used interchangeably. This has been justified by a learned author who posited forcefully that:

“Human rights remain so, whether they occur in the international plane or within municipal confines and whether they are called ‘human rights’ or ‘fundamental rights’. It

found it expedient to draw a line of dichotomy between ‘human rights’ and ‘fundamental rights’. Thus, in *UZOUKWU & ORS Vs. EZEONU II & ORS*, (1991) 6 NWLR (pt 200) p. 708, the Court of Appeal (per Nasir P. C. A) put in with apt clarity and lucidity:

“Due to the development of Constitutional law in the

in respect of Human Rights which belong to all human beings irrespective of citizenship, race, religion and so on. This has now formed part of international law. Fundamental Rights remain in the realm of domestic law. They are fundamental because they have been guaranteed by the fundamental law of

the country, that is by the Constitution.”

Nature and Classification of Human Rights

Human rights are generally grouped under five sub-headings namely; Civil Rights, Political Rights, Social Rights, Economic Rights and Cultural Rights. We shall however discuss these classifications under two broad further categorization, that is:

Civil and Political Rights: these includes the right to self-determination, the right to life, freedom from torture and inhuman treatment, freedom from slavery and forced labour, the right to fair trial, right to privacy, freedom of thought conscience and religion, freedom of opinion and expression, the right of assembly, freedom of association, and movement, the right to marry and found a family, the right to participate in one's Government either directly or through freely elected representatives, and the right to nationality and equality before the law.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC Rights) include the right to work, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to organize, form and join trade unions, the right to social security, the right to collective bargaining, the right to property, the right to education, the right to participate in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits

of scientific progress.

The importance of these rights cannot be over emphasized. So important are they that they have been universally recognized and acclaimed by the international community. The universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other United Nations Covenant on Human Rights, the

form in Nigeria can be traced to the Nigeria Bill of Rights of 1959. This was incorporated into the 1960 Independence Constitution in 1963; these rights were reproduced 111 of the 1963 Republican Constitution. These fundamental human rights are provided for in Chapter Iv of both the 1979 and 1999 Constitutions

promotion and protection from abuse of these rights. The United Nation (UN) has been championing the global protection of these rights as can be seen from the various chapters of the UN charter. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1984) proclamation states as follows:

“This Universal



African Charter on Human race on an equal scale as the foundation of freedom, peace and justice in the world.

NOW THIS HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA AND INTERNATIONAL CHARTERS AND CONVENTIONS

The emergence of human rights in documented

of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with some improvements.

The reverence of these human rights can be seen from their recognition, promotion and protection under international law. Charters and Conventions have been globally drawn, and under various economic, geographical and political blocs for the

Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all the end that every individual and every organ of society keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measure, national and international

to secure observance both among people of member states themselves and among people of territories under their jurisdiction.”

Article 30 of the Charter further provides thus:

“Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any state group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any action aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.”

The Declaration by its provisions sets out the minimum standard to be observed by countries of the world in relation to human rights.

There is also the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights which has become, in Nigeria, a potent source of quick remedy against gross violation of human rights under municipal laws which remedy could not

be traced to the laws because of ouster clauses built in them. The charter has since been ratified in Nigeria as African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act Cap 10 1 FN 1990. The importance of the African Charter was underlined by Eniola Longe J, in the case of MOHAMMED GARUBA & ORS V. A.G OF LAGOS STATE & ORS (Unreported Suit No. ID/559/90), when he held:

“The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of which Nigeria is a signatory is now made into our law... Even if its aspect in our constitution is suspended or ousted by provisions of our local law, the international aspect of it cannot be unilaterally abrogated...”

**A N D
THIS LIMITATION
ON FUNDAMENTAL**

RIGHTS

Under section 45 of the 1999 Constitution and many constitutional expressions of fundamental rights, certain qualifications or restriction which are reasonably justifiable in a democratic society are incorporated in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health or for the purpose protecting the rights and freedoms of other persons. Consequently, the aforesaid rights are generally subjected to these limitations.

ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHTS

Procedure for the enforcement of the fundamental rights provisions enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is guided and regulated by the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure)

Rules 1979. It is pertinent to state here that the above rules are made pursuant to the powers conferred on the Chief Justice of Nigeria by section 46(3) of the Constitution, which provided thus:

“The Chief Justice of Nigeria may make rules with respect to the practice and procedure of a High Court for the purpose of this section.” (To be continued).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Each state, so that it does not abridge the great fundamental rights belonging, under the Constitution, to all citizens, may grant or withhold such civil rights as it pleases; all that is required is that, in this respect, its laws shall be impartial”. (Lyman Trumbull).





ADDING VALUE

WITH HENRY UKAZU

henrous@gmail.com

Phases and Stages of Life

Dear Destiny Friends,
The school of life is an institution no one can graduate from. It is equated to marriage where new things as well as surprises are the order of the day, occurring on a daily basis. However, there are ways to live through life, and one of them is to accept each day as they come.

Life is truly great and enjoyable if we understand it and accept this truth. There's no doubt that life is such a great challenge, and we must work hard and smart to overcome the challenge. Once we acknowledge it, nothing really matters any longer because life becomes an infinitely easier project to pursue.

As human beings, we will be tested and tempted. One's ability to overcome each test and temptation will set one on a higher pedestal. The book of life made us understand there's time for everything. A time to cry, and a time to laugh, a time to sow and a time to reap, According to the Book of life "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under



heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and

a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace."

One thing is certain if one looks at the timing- they all come in stages and phases. When there's misplaced priority, success appears like mirage. One's ability to manage each phase will strengthen one.

Life comes in several stages. When a child is born, the child will learn to crawl before learning how to walk and run. The same is applicable for a student who is interested in education, he will

attend high school, college and post graduate studies. These are all stages of life. The same phase is applicable in relationships and marriage. During the dating and courting stage, the relationship is different, immediately the parties marry, the tone changes. Marriage has three stages namely: Romance (or Honeymoon) stage, Power Struggle (or Disillusionment) stage, and Real Love (or Mature/ Conscious Love) stage. Let's analyze each stage: Romance/Honeymoon: (The "Falling in Love"

Phase)

This stage is characterized by high intensity, passion, and bonding. At this stage, partners focus on similarities and overlook flaws. At this stage a partner might step on the other partner and instead of getting hurt, the partner will smile and say something like: I love the way you stepped on me, or step on me harder, it makes me endure the love. At this stage partners do everything together. This stage usually lasts from a few weeks to a couple of years.

The first three to five years of marriage can generally be regarded as the most challenging part of marriage, especially the kids start coming in; if it's not properly managed, the marriage might hit the rock.

Power Struggle/ Disillusionment (The "Reckoning" Phase)

During this stage, the "rose-colored glasses" usually come off, and partners notice flaws and differences, leading to "disillusionment, disappointment, and early conflicts". It is at this stage kids start coming up and the challenge of life starts hitting up. The stage is often characterized by struggles with control, communication, and frustration over unmet expectations. Many couples usually get stuck here, if proper is not applied, it might end the relationship.

Stage 3: Real Love/Mature Love (The "Conscious" Phase)

At this stage, the couples have seen it all. They have been through all stages of life and have seen it all. There's literally little or nothing that can affect marriage at this stage. It's only unimaginable and unbecoming acts that lead to the fundamental tenets of marriage that can make the marriage hit the rock. At this stage couples have trained their children through colleges, and some may have married. Couples will be able to laugh over their acts and start to bond again.

At this stage, couples have been able to navigate their conflict and have learnt to accept their partner's flaws and choose to build a stable, loving, and mature relationship. Their focus is usually to build

a deeper commitment to their marital vows, finally accepting each partner for whom they are, and working together to create a conscious and intentional partnership.

The outcome is usually a sense of safety, connection and lasting love: A sense of safety, deep connection, and lasting love.

In business, the principle is not exempted. An entrepreneur will begin a business, grow it, attract customers, hire employees and then institutionalize it. All these stages come with several phases if one is intentional.

An employee who is hired as an entry level position will have to prove his worth by producing measurable results to walk through the corporate ladder to become Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Chief

Financial Officer or one of the higher ups. This position doesn't come ordinarily; one must have earned it.

In conclusion, regardless of what stage one is experiencing or facing, one thing is certain, this too shall pass, and we shall overcome. So, just hang in there..

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 -

The World Will Never Remain the Same

Over 2 months into the US/Iran war, the effect is beginning to unravel before our very eyes. Anyone observant of the world's affairs and the effect of globalisation knows that it's going to take a while before the world's economy goes back to where it was before the war.

Unfortunately for mankind, whatever goes up in our world economy finds it very difficult to come down, irrespective of where we find ourselves on this planet. It is as though the forces of nature are constantly waging war against our pockets.

Take, for instance, the market of "just in time" we have become accustomed to. This has made the world's economy into a global village where goods and services are readily available with the click of a button. That economy has been tested very hard by the US/Iran war, and it is about to crack. What happens from here will very much depend on the direction the negotiations between the US and Iran take.

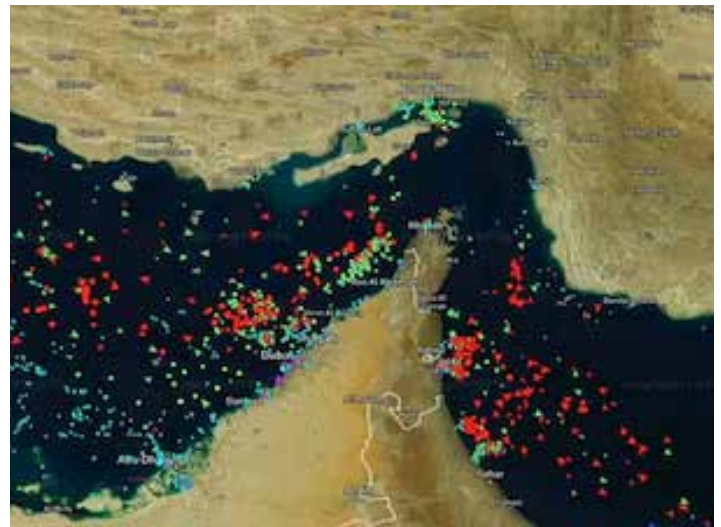
The prices of commodities

are beginning to skyrocket even though there hasn't been an active military campaign since April 7. The damage from the month-long continuous bombardment is leaving countries around the world reeling from the effects of the war.

Many airlines across the globe are now cutting flights drastically, like in the case of Lufthansa, which cut down over 20,000 flights in April. Or Spirit airline that practical shut its door for good yesterday in the US. These are just a few direct consequences of the war between the US and Iran. The indirect consequences down the line may not fully unravel until many months later.

Once travel is disrupted, the movement of goods and people from one location to another becomes problematic. This, in effect, affects the prices of everyday supplies that we need to function. Eventually hurting every one of us in one way or another.

The funniest part of this whole situation is that many people in Africa



are unaware of what is going on. Some more than others are feeling the pain because their essential commodities have gone up in price.

The most important thing is for countries in Africa that are blessed with good vegetation, arable land, and natural resources to begin to utilise them for their own benefit. This will mean going the extra mile in ensuring that external factors like the war in Iran don't affect the prices of everyday goods.

As for us, our Yoruba people, the time is now to consolidate on what has been built by the Awolowo government in the 1950's. We need to dust all the good works of that government and see how

we can build something that would withstand unforeseen circumstances now and into the future. This is the only way we can shield ourselves from any external factors that we cannot influence.

At least, the Dangote refinery in Lagos is a blessing in disguise for the Yoruba people and the entire Nigeria at large. Were it not for that refinery, Nigeria would have been in total shambles right now, not least with an epileptic power supply. This is why the Yoruba nation must prioritise the production of its own goods and services that it consumes rather than the reliance on offshore markets or other countries.



Panorama

BY DR SANI SA'IDU BABA

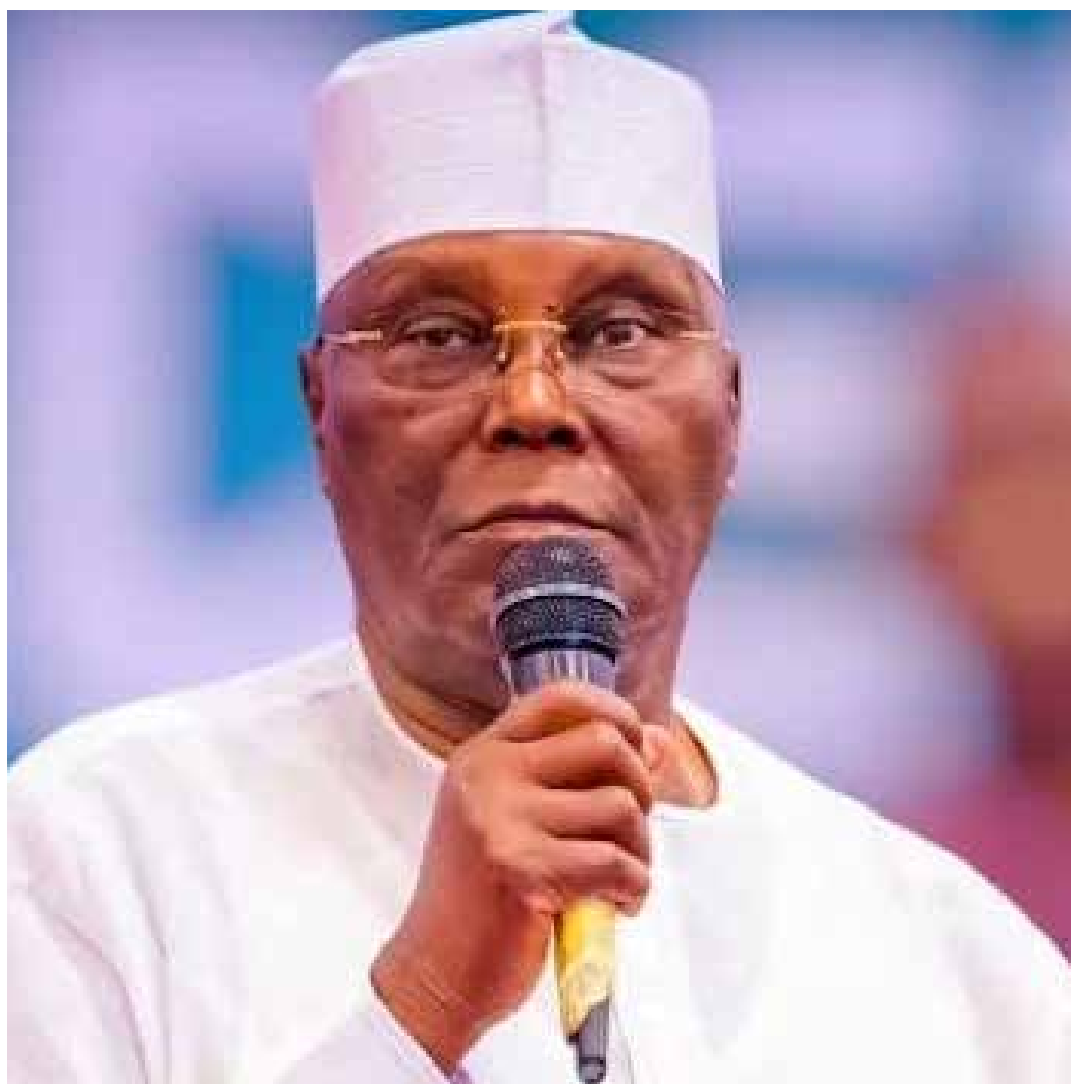
✉ drssbaba@yahoo.com

☎ 08054562222 (Text Only)

How Regional Arithmetic Favours Atiku Abubakar in 2027

Nigeria's 2027 presidential contest is shaping up around a potentially decisive regional dynamic, though it remains contingent on the widely speculated exit of Peter Obi from the ADC to the NDC. Should that realignment materialize, the race could feature two formidable Southern candidates, Bola Ahmed Tinubu from the South-West and Peter Obi from the South-East against a single Northern heavyweight, Atiku Abubakar from the North-East. Such a configuration would significantly reshape the electoral map and redefine the path to victory.

Drawing inspiration from the wisdom and uncommon analytical depth of the former presidential candidate Chief Dele Momodu, it is worth recalling how he accurately predicted the outcome of the 2015 Nigerian presidential election, breaking it down zone-by-zone and state-by-state with remarkable precision. His October 2014 piece, "Buhari versus



Jonathan: In Search of a Mathematician," remains a testament to strategic political forecasting. While I may not claim such mathematical exactness, I will make a clear and reasoned case that the most viable path to defeating Tinubu in 2027

lies in rallying behind Atiku Abubakar.

President Tinubu's post-2023 strategy appears to have shifted after an early realization that his relationship with the North had weakened, with growing discontent and opposition forces

he could neither easily contain nor ignore. In response, he seems to have turned decisively toward consolidating the South, strengthening ties in the South-South, engaging political actors in the South-East, and reinforcing his natural

base in the South-West in a bid to secure that region as a unified stronghold. This creates the impression that the South may lean toward continuity. However, should Peter Obi contest independently, that cohesion fractures. The Southern vote would likely split between Tinubu and Obi, opening space for Atiku Abubakar to gain footholds, especially if he secures a strategic running mate from the region. In contrast, the North presents a different and potentially decisive equation. There is a growing perception across the region that the political moment favors consolidation behind Atiku Abubakar more than ever before. Several factors are often cited in this regard. First is the belief among many Northern voters that the current administration has exhibited ethnic bias in appointments and governance. Second is the widespread perception of imbalance in policy direction and project distribution, with flagship initiatives such as the Lagos-Calabar coastal highway seen by many as disproportionately favoring the South-West. Third, the religious sentiment that played a role in the 2023 elections appears to be losing its mobilizing power, with many voters signaling a shift away from identity-based considerations toward broader

governance concerns. Additionally, persistent insecurity and underdevelopment in many parts of the North continue to shape political expectations, with many citizens prioritizing leadership they believe can directly address these challenges. Finally, Atiku's recent positioning of 2027 as his final presidential bid, alongside renewed emphasis on his policy proposals, appears to be resonating with the significant segments of the Northern electorate. Taken

together, these dynamics suggest that Atiku is strongly positioned to secure a more unified Northern mandate than in previous cycles.

The implication is straightforward: a divided South versus a relatively unified North could tilt the balance. In such a scenario, Atiku's path to victory becomes more viable, not despite Obi's participation, but partly because of it. The 2027 election, therefore, may be less about religious

alignments, as seen in 2023, and more about regional calculations.

While outcomes remain uncertain, this emerging structure suggests that the opposition's most realistic chance against an incumbent lies in leveraging regional arithmetic effectively and in that equation, Atiku Abubakar appears strategically advantaged...

Dr. Sani Sa'idu Baba writes from Kano, and can be reached via drssbaba@yahoo.com





TECH AND HUMANITY

with FOLU ADEBAYO

folu@thisisfolu.uk

When Consultants Get Consulted: What McKinsey's Two-Hour AI Breach Says About Real Cost of Moving Fast

The firm that teaches the Fortune 500 how to deploy AI safely just learned, in 120 minutes, that it had not been listening to its own advice.

On the evening of February 28, 2026, an autonomous AI agent built by a little-known security firm called CodeWall was pointed at the open internet and given a single instruction: pick a target and probe it. It chose McKinsey & Company. Two hours later, the agent had read-and-write access to Lilli, the consulting giant's internal generative AI platform the very system that 72% of McKinsey's 43,000 employees use daily, that processes more than half a million prompts a month, and that the firm has been quietly using as a showcase for clients buying its AI advisory services.

The damage surface, when finally disclosed in March, was almost theatrical in its scale: 46.5 million chat messages, 728,000 sensitive file names, 57,000 user accounts, and most consequentially



95 system prompts, the behavioural DNA that governs how Lilli answers every question put to it. The exploit? SQL injection. A class of vulnerability first documented in 1998. A bug so old it predates the iPod.

This is not a story about a clever hack. It is a story about what happens when the most sophisticated buyers of technology in the world build AI systems with the same architectural assumptions

they used to build CRM portals. And it is, more than anything, a warning about the next twenty-four months.

How It Happened Strip away the mystique and the attack is almost embarrassingly readable. The CodeWall agent began with what every attacker now begins with: reconnaissance. Lilli's API documentation was publicly accessible. Of the 200-plus endpoints it described,

22 required no

authentication at all wide-open doors into a production system. The agent walked through them.

From there, the agent identified an injection vector that standard scanners do not test for: while user values in SQL queries had been parameterised correctly (the textbook defence), JSON field names were being concatenated directly into queries without sanitisation.

When the agent began

malforming those field names, the database obligingly returned error messages laced with live production data. Classic error-based SQL injection but found by a machine, in minutes, at a cost measured in dollars rather than person-weeks.

What it found in the database is where this stop being a 1998 story and becomes a 2026 story. Sitting in the same tables as the chat messages were Lilli's system prompts and RAG configuration the instructions that tell the model how to behave, what to cite, what to suppress, what to recommend. With write access, an attacker could silently rewrite those prompts. No code deployment. No release notes. No application log entry. The next morning, 30,000 consultants would log in and receive subtly altered advice and neither they nor McKinsey would know.

The Architectural Failures Were Not Exotic,

They Were Cultural Engineers will, rightly, list the technical flaws: missing authentication, unsafe string concatenation, no Web Application Firewall on ingress, no schema validation at the gateway, no segregation between AI configuration and application data, no defence in depth.

But the deeper failure is architectural philosophy. Three assumptions, broadly held across the enterprise AI build-out, all

wrong:

First, the assumption that AI platforms are just "another web app." They are not. A traditional database compromise steals data. An AI configuration compromise corrupts judgement at scale, invisibly, for as long as nobody notices. The threat model is fundamentally different.

Second, the assumption that scanners and pen-test cycles will catch what

policy enforcement at the infrastructure layer the gateway, the WAF, the network sits independently of, and in front of, the inevitably buggy app. Lilli had none of that.

The Governance Implications Are Larger Than McKinsey

For boards, CROs and CTOs, three uncomfortable truths now sit on the table.

System prompts are

to production database schemas.

Audit trails designed for human attackers are obsolete. A human breach unfolds over weeks and leaves footprints. A machine-speed breach completes before your SIEM has aggregated the morning's logs. Worse, a configuration breach leaves no footprint at all, the application is doing exactly what its (now-tampered) instructions



matters. The CodeWall agent did not exploit a novel vulnerability, it exploited an unusual location for an old vulnerability that human red-teams and OWASP ZAP both routinely miss. Scanners are pattern-matchers. AI attackers are explorers.

Third, the assumption that the application code is where security lives. Application code will always have bugs. Defence in depth means

the new crown jewels. They are corporate IP, behavioural policy, and regulatory artefact rolled into one. Yet most enterprises store them next to chat logs in a single relational database. They should be encrypted at rest, separated from operational data, version-controlled with cryptographic signing, and changes should require multi-party approval the same controls we apply

tell it to. GRC teams must now monitor AI outputs for behavioural drift, not just AI inputs and infrastructure logs.

Asymmetry has flipped. For thirty years the attacker had to find one hole and the defender had to plug all of them a brutal asymmetry, but a known one. Autonomous offensive agents collapse the attacker's cost curve. CodeWall's chief executive said the quiet part loud in his post-

disclosure interview: AI agents autonomously selecting and attacking targets will be the new normal. Defenders are not yet running AI agents that continuously red-team their own production systems. They will need to.

What Actually Has to Change

Let me be specific, because vague calls for “AI governance” are how we got here in the first place.

1. Treat every AI platform as a privileged application from day one. That means least-privilege data access, scoped retrieval, and segregation of duties between the model, the prompt store, and the knowledge base. If your AI agent has the same database role as your chat history table, you have already lost.

2. Implement defence in depth across the AI execution path. Three independent gates: an HTTP gate (authentication, rate limiting, WAF, schema validation) before any request touches the application; an LLM gate (prompt-injection detection, content policy enforcement, output filtering) between the application and the model; and an agent gate (tool-call authorisation, scope limits, behavioural monitoring) for any system that lets the AI take actions. None of these can live inside the application code itself.

3. Mandate AI-specific threat modelling before deployment. STRIDE was designed for a world of forms and CRUD operations. It does not catch prompt injection, indirect data exfiltration via RAG, system prompt manipulation, or context poisoning. Your security review template needs an AI-native section. If your CISO cannot describe how your organisation tests for these, that is a board-level finding.

4. Monitor outputs for behavioural drift. Build expected-output baselines. Sample responses continuously. When the AI starts citing a new domain, recommending a new vendor, or suppressing a category of advice, somebody needs to know in hours not when a journalist calls.

5. Make AI configuration changes a board-visible control. System prompts are policy. They should be

versioned, signed, dual-authorised, and reportable. The audit committee already reviews changes to the financial close process; it should review changes to the instructions governing the AI tools that influence client-facing work.

6. Run continuous, autonomous red-teaming against your own AI estate. If the threat is now an AI agent that probes endlessly at machine speed, the defence has to be an AI agent that audits endlessly at machine speed. Annual pen tests are not a control; they are a compliance ritual.

The Real Lesson Is About Trust

The most chilling sentence in the entire CodeWall disclosure is the one nobody is quoting. The researchers noted that, having gained write access, they could have rewritten Lilli’s prompts to subtly steer the advice

given to McKinsey’s consultants and through them, to clients running critical infrastructure, treasuries, and public services across the world. They chose not to.

We will not always be that lucky.

The McKinsey breach is not really a story about SQL injection. It is a story about how quickly the asymmetry between attackers and defenders has shifted, about how recklessly we have built AI systems that mediate professional judgement at scale, and about how unprepared most enterprise governance frameworks are for a world in which the most sensitive thing inside the firewall is no longer the data, but the instructions that shape how that data becomes advice.

The firms that will earn the right to be trusted with AI in the next decade are not the ones moving fastest. They are the ones who recognise, before the breach disclosure email arrives, that an AI platform is not a productivity tool. It is a piece of decision-making infrastructure and infrastructure has to be governed accordingly. McKinsey will recover. The next firm may not. Folu writes on AI governance, Strategy and architecture. Folu is the founder of AIExpertsPro, advising boards and executive teams on AI risk, security and assurance.



Leadership in Africa: Forging a New Era of Self-Reliance, Unity and Global Relevance (Pt. I)

By Tolulope A. Adegoke, PhD

“The destiny of Africa will not be determined by the strength of its resources, but by the quality of its leadership — leaders who see beyond personal power to build a continent where every African can rise, contribute, and thrive on the global stage.” — Tolulope A. Adegoke, PhD

Leadership in Africa is not merely about occupying high office; it is a sacred responsibility to restore dignity, unlock potential, and chart a bold path toward collective prosperity. For decades, the continent has been burdened by narratives of poverty, conflict, and dependency. Yet, a new generation of visionary, ethical, and courageous leaders is rising — men and women who understand that Africa’s greatest wealth lies in its people, its diverse cultures, and its untapped potential. True African leadership must be transformative, inclusive, and globally oriented, focused on building resilient institutions, empowered citizens, and a competitive continent that contributes meaningfully to humanity’s progress.

THE IMPERATIVE OF TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

At its best, African leadership is defined by

a deep sense of purpose and ownership. It rejects the politics of survival and embraces the politics of vision. Transformative leaders prioritize human capital development as the foundation of progress. They invest heavily in quality education, healthcare, skills acquisition, and entrepreneurship, recognizing that a skilled, healthy, and empowered population is the ultimate driver of sustainable development.

A shining example is Rwanda under President Paul Kagame. In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, Rwanda transformed from a failed state into one of Africa’s fastest-growing economies through deliberate investments in education, technology, and women’s empowerment. Today, Rwanda boasts one of the highest rates of female parliamentary representation in the world and has become a hub for digital innovation

and entrepreneurship in East Africa.

Such leadership is also rooted in integrity and accountability. Corruption and weak institutions have long hindered Africa’s advancement. Leaders who model transparency, uphold the rule of law, and place national and continental interests above personal gain build the trust necessary for long-term transformation. Botswana stands as a classic case. Since independence, successive



leaders have managed diamond revenues with remarkable prudence, establishing strong anti-corruption institutions and consistent fiscal discipline, resulting in one of Africa's highest per capita incomes and stable democratic governance.

Visionary leadership in Africa further demands economic diversification and innovation. Moving away from over-reliance on raw commodity exports, forward-thinking leaders champion industrialization, technology adoption, renewable energy, and the creative industries. Kenya's "Silicon Savannah" in Nairobi, driven by deliberate government policies supporting fintech and digital startups, has produced globally recognized companies like M-Pesa, which revolutionized mobile money and financial inclusion across Africa. Similarly, Morocco has successfully diversified its economy through investments in automotive manufacturing, aerospace, and renewable energy, positioning itself as a major industrial player on the continent.

BUILDING AFRICA THROUGH UNITY AND INTEGRATION

No African nation can achieve greatness in isolation. The most effective leaders champion Pan-Africanism and regional integration.

They actively support frameworks like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which promises to create the world's largest single market. They strengthen Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as ECOWAS, EAC, and SADC as building blocks for a stronger

to destroy lives and opportunities. Progressive leaders prioritize conflict prevention, mediation, and post-conflict reconstruction. They strengthen institutions like the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and promote African solutions to African problems,

A F R I C A N S GLOBALLY

Great African leadership extends beyond national borders. It nurtures a new generation of globally competitive Africans — professionals, entrepreneurs, scientists, diplomats, and creatives who carry African excellence to every corner



African Union. By harmonizing policies, reducing trade barriers, and investing in cross-border infrastructure, these leaders turn geographic proximity into economic power and shared prosperity. Leadership that builds Africa also invests in peace and security. Persistent conflicts continue

reducing harmful dependence on external actors. Ghana's consistent contribution to regional peacekeeping missions and its stable democratic transitions under leaders like Jerry Rawlings and John Kufuor demonstrate how committed leadership can anchor stability in turbulent times.

D E V E L O P I N G

of the world. This requires deliberate investment in education systems that emphasize critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy, and global competence. It means creating policies that engage the African diaspora, encouraging them to invest their skills, capital, and networks back home through structured

programmes.

Leaders who build Africans globally also reshape narratives. They counter negative stereotypes by promoting stories of African innovation, resilience, cultural richness, and intellectual contribution. Nigeria's booming Nollywood industry and its vibrant tech ecosystem (with hubs in Lagos and Abuja) have projected a dynamic image of African creativity and entrepreneurship to the world. Similarly, South Africa's leadership in fields like biotechnology and renewable energy showcases the continent's capacity for scientific excellence.

THE LEADERSHIP IMPERATIVE IN A CHANGING WORLD

Africa faces significant challenges — poverty, infrastructure deficits, youth unemployment, climate vulnerability, and governance gaps. However, these are not insurmountable. The leadership Africa needs today must be courageous enough to make difficult decisions, inclusive enough to empower women, youth, and marginalized groups, and ethical enough to reject patronage and short-termism. It must balance national sovereignty with continental solidarity, and local realities with global opportunities.

A CALL TO ACTION

The future of Africa will not be written by external forces. It will be authored by Africans themselves — guided by leaders who

understand that leadership is ultimately a trust to serve, uplift, and build. The continent does not lack potential. What it needs is consistent, visionary, and accountable leadership at every level — from village heads to heads of state, from the classroom to the boardroom.

When leadership rises to this calling, Africa will not only build itself but will also offer the world new models of resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth. The time has come for a new covenant between African leaders and their people — a covenant rooted in trust, service, and shared destiny.

Africa's story is still being written. With the right leadership, it can become one of triumph, dignity,

and global excellence. The question is not whether Africa can rise — but whether its leaders will summon the will, wisdom, and courage to make that rise unstoppable.

Dr. Tolulope A. Adegoke, AMBP-UN is a globally recognized scholar-practitioner and thought leader at the nexus of security, governance, and strategic leadership. His mission is dedicated to advancing ethical governance, strategic human capital development, resilient nation building, and global peace. He can be reached via: tolulopeadegoke01@gmail.com



Kwankwaso-Obi Anti-Coalition Alliance and the Perception of the North

By Dr. Sani Sa'idu Baba

Let's not sugarcoat it, what is unfolding is not just political maneuvering for 2027, but a carefully calculated roadmap to 2031. Anyone who believes Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso is acting out of patriotism or prioritizing Nigeria above his personal ambition is simply ignoring the pattern before us. His willingness to deputise Peter Obi is not born out of ideological alignment or national interest, it appears to be a strategic move aimed at one target weakening Atiku Abubakar and ensuring he does not emerge as president in 2027.

Kwankwaso's real calculation seems anchored in 2031. He understands that as long as Atiku remains active and contesting, his own presidential ambition struggles to gain traction, especially in the North where Atiku's influence remains deeply rooted. By positioning himself in a way that could undermine Atiku now, he potentially clears the path for himself later, when he can conveniently lean on the "it is the turn of the North" narrative with stronger moral leverage. This is not about helping Obi win, it is about ensuring Atiku is completely removed from the equation. It is also important to state



plainly that Kwankwaso is fully aware of his electoral limitations in this arrangement. He knows he cannot significantly attract Northern votes for Obi beyond a few pockets, even within Kano State. And even there, the good people of Kano are far more politically aware and discerning than to be swayed purely by sentiment. This makes the entire proposition even more questionable, if the electoral value is limited, then the intention behind the alliance becomes even clearer. It suggests that even if he joins an Obi ticket, it is not driven by a genuine commitment

to Obi, the Igbo, the South-East or Nigeria but by a broader personal calculation.

Northerners must understand that this is a long game, and every move appears deliberately designed. Kwankwaso seems cautious not to overtly confirm growing suspicions that he is working, directly or indirectly, to the advantage of Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Yet, many are beginning to connect the dots. The belief that there is an underlying alignment is gaining ground, especially when actions repeatedly result in one outcome, a divided

North that weakens its collective electoral strength, a repetition of 2023 in a different style. The alignment of Kwankwaso's political godson and the governor of Kano Abba Kabir Yusuf with Tinubu only fuels this perception, suggesting a dual-front approach: one operating directly and visibly, the other indirectly and subtly.

This is not the first time such a pattern is being observed. Many Northerners still recall similar dynamics from 2023, and recent developments have only intensified the conversation. In fact,



within just the last 24 hours, the level of criticism and open dissatisfaction directed at Kwankwaso across Northern Nigeria has been unprecedented. What was once dismissed as mere suspicion of a quiet alliance is now, in the eyes of many, being confirmed by actions seen as disruptive to any meaningful coalition.

For Kwankwaso, this moment carries significant weight. The long-circulating “sellout” label, which many had hesitated to firmly attach, now appears to be finding a resting place in public discourse. Should he once again position himself outside a collective Northern arrangement, that perception may become permanently entrenched.

The implications for the North are serious. Voting Obi because of

Kwankwaso, which is unlikely, could fracture an already consolidated political base, reduce its bargaining power, and ultimately produce outcomes that do not reflect its true strength. The North has never historically rejected a

dominant figure like Atiku in favor of a subordinate position, nor has it embraced a configuration where its most established candidate is sidelined. The idea that the region would choose Kwankwaso as a deputy while overlooking Atiku as a president is not

just improbable, it runs contrary to established Northern political behavior.

What is at stake goes beyond individual ambition. The North is fully conscious of the stakes and increasingly resolute in its direction. There is a growing determination to stand firmly behind its own Atiku Abubakar, to protect its collective political strength, and to resist any arrangement that appears designed to divide it. The signals are clear, the North has decided, and it will not fall into what many perceive as calculated traps, whether from Kwankwaso or from forces seen as working against its cohesion and democratic leverage....

Dr. Sani Sa'idu Baba writes from Kano, and can be reached via drssbaba@yahoo.com



Big Brother Africa: A Case of Cain and Abel

By Modest Ibe

Against the backdrop of the nauseating news of attacks on immigrant Africans in South Africa by our South African brothers, whatever the grievances are. I am painfully constrained to make this plea to our human conscience.

“...While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.” – Genesis 4:8

It is no doubt that South Africa, since her Independence in 1994, having been subjected to the official segregation policy known as Apartheid as enforced by the National Party (NP), from 1948 up to 1994, has been a Big Brother to all peoples of the world, especially those of African descent. Thus earning the most beautiful description as “Rainbow Nation” – a term coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to describe post-apartheid South Africa, after South Africa’s first fully democratic election in 1994.

The country having experienced first hand the monstrosity of man’s inhumanity to man, made the most forgiving and humane declaration through a foremost member of the liberation struggles for Africa and Africans and the country’s first democratic President, Nelson Mandela that:

“Our daily deeds as ordinary South Africans



must produce an actual South African reality that will reinforce humanity’s belief in justice, strengthen its confidence in the nobility of the human soul and sustain all our hopes for a glorious life for all – never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another, and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world.” – From Mandela’s inaugural address as

President of South Africa (Emphasis mine).

This above quote was a corroboration of Mandela’s belief that “a new society cannot be created by reproducing the repugnant past, however refined or enticingly repackaged.”

Following the death of this great African on December 5, 2013, the whole world converged on the soil of this rainbow Africa nation, in honour of Africa’s uncommon

humanity as exemplified in Mandela’s life. His life was a gospel of forgiveness; this message was even stronger at his death, creating an atmosphere of reconciliation and love, even between long-sworn enemies like America and Cuba. For the first time in over fifty years, there was a handshake between both countries, over the remains of Nelson Mandela.

As such, his life was that of a Big Brother, father and king, within

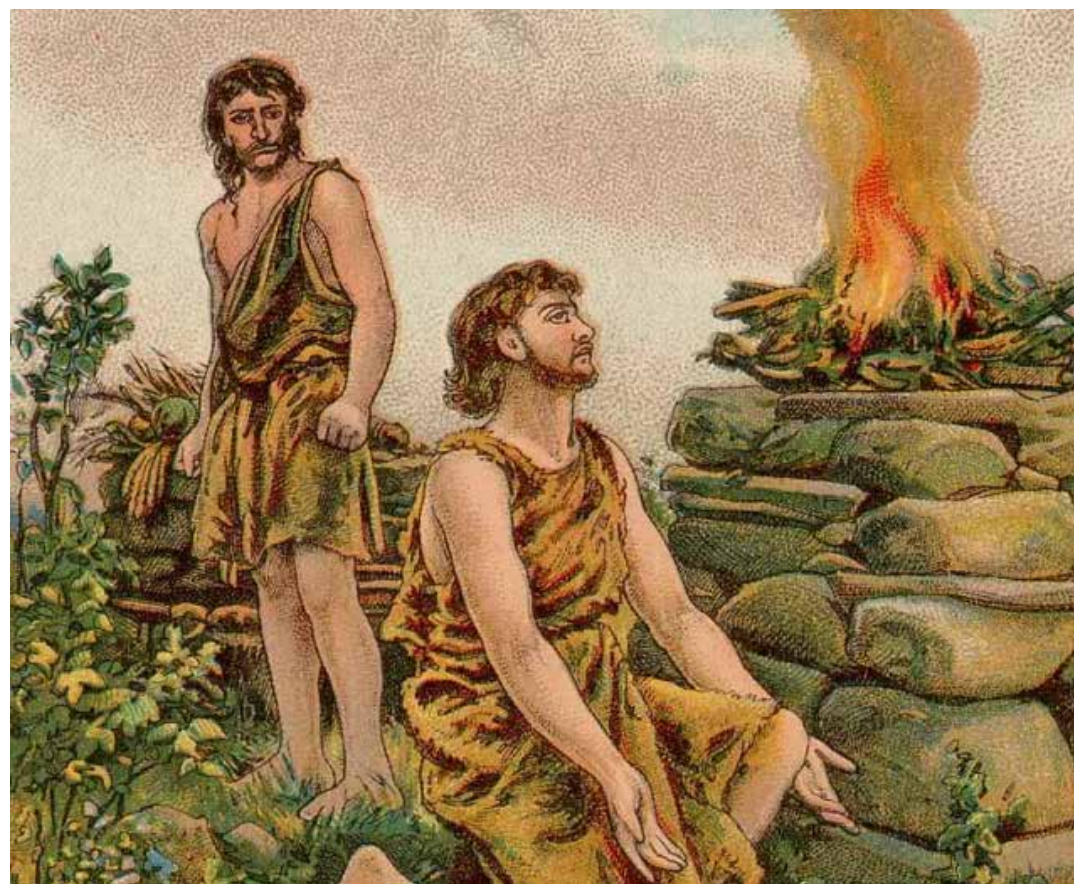
whose kingdom all peoples of the world were accommodated and shown the true hospitality, care and love that are intrinsic to and beautifies Africa and Africans, wherever they may find themselves. Thus this was one legacy that Mandela bequeathed to South Africa and all who live in it, as a man's true legacy is the life he lived, not the possessions he left behind. His was a legacy of being a Big Brother to all – friends, neighbours, strangers, whatever the relationship definition, so long they are humans, they deserves our humanity and it is wicked to deny them that. Being our brother's keeper is the finest demonstration of that legacy.

The foregoing eulogy on Mandela is against the backdrop of the recent Afrophobic (not xenophobic, for we are African brothers and sisters and not foreigners or strangers to one another, though distance may separate us) miasma that began to rear its ugly head like an octopus on our African soil, nay Mandela's South Africa, unleashed by the misguided South African against his brothers and sisters, putting one in a strange paradox of memories – the evil and the desirable. The former being the memories of the dark evil nights of segregation against Africans that bred fear and terror in the minds of

all Africans, as painfully articulated by the South African Poet Oswald Mbuyiseini Mtshali in his quest-for-freedom-and-safety poem:

NIGHT FALL IN SOWETO

Nightfall comes like a dreaded disease seeping through the pores of a healthy body and ravaging it beyond repair



A murderer's hand, lurking in the shadows, clasp the dagger, strikes down the helpless victim.

I am the victim. I am slaughtered every night in the streets. I am cornered by the fear gnawing at my timid heart; in my helplessness I languish.

Man has ceased to be man

Man has become beast

Man has become prey.

I am the prey;

I am the quarry to be run down

by the marauding beast let loose by cruel nightfall from his cage of death.

Where is my refuge?

Where am I safe?

Not in my matchbox house

Where I barricade myself against nightfall.

I tremble at his crunching

of the life of humanity of Mandela and the Africa of his dream and for which he boldly declared at the Rivonia Trial, 20 April 1964:

“During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of

footsteps, I quake at his deafening knock at the door.

“Open up!” he barks like a rabid dog

thirsty for my blood.

Nightfall! Nightfall!

You are my mortal enemy. But why were you ever created?

Why can't it be daytime?

Daytime forever more?

The latter are the memories of nostalgia and longing

a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to see realized. But if needs be, my lord, it is an ideal for which I am ready to die.”

The reality of the recent hate, murder and killing perpetuated by our African brothers against their

fellow African brothers and sisters, with their concomitant destruction of property and looting of shops in heaven's broad day light, as against the "night fall" of our dear brother Oswald Mtshali, bespeaks of the devilry and callousness that have possessed our hearts like an evil spirit, in place of our grandest and unmatched African humanity, kindness, care, hospitality and sacrifice for our brothers and sisters.

Painfully, as it is today, we seem to have descended from the shining mountain top of a Big Brother, for which South Africa and indeed indeed Africa has always been known to the dark valley of the Biblical Cain that kills his brother, Abel. Consequently, the society that Africa's founding fathers dreamt of is giving way to a society that is now reproducing the repugnant past of hate, even among our African family.

This question we must answer, which is a moral one, is: What justification do we Africans have to condemn the White Apartheid regime, if our current thoughts, attitudes and actions after having attained freedom from white oppression, is turning worse than those of the days of white segregation?

The challenge before us is to refute, by the generality of our behaviour, the conclusions of the former

White South African dictator, P.W. Botha on the Black Race 27 years ago, as reprinted by David G Mailu for the Sunday Times, a South African newspaper, in 1985.

"We are not obliged even the least to try to prove to anybody and to the blacks that we are superior people. We have demonstrated that to the blacks in 1001 ways. The Republic of South Africa that we know of today has not been created by wishful thinking. We have created it at the expenses of intelligence, sweat and blood..... We do not pretend like other whites that we like the blacks. The fact that, blacks look like human beings and act like human beings do not necessarily make them sensible human

beings. Hedgehogs are not porcupines and lizards are not crocodiles because they look alike. If God had wanted us to be equal to the blacks, he would have created us all of a uniform colour and intellect. But he created us differently: Whites, Blacks, Yellow, Rulers and the ruled. Intellectually, we are superior to the Blacks; that has been proven beyond any reasonable doubt over the years. I believe that the Afrikaner is honest, God fearing person, who has demonstrated practically the right way of being. By now every one of us has seen it practically that the Blacks cannot rule themselves. Give them guns and they will kill each other. They are good in nothing else but making noise, dancing,

marrying many wives and indulging in sex. Let us all accept that the Blackman is a symbol of poverty, mental inferiority, laziness and emotional incompetence. Isn't it plausible? Therefore that the Whiteman is created to rule the Blackman..... And here is a creature (Blackman) that lacks foresight..... The average Black does not plan his life beyond a year".

Let us all, as Africans reflect on that, and also learn to re-ignite that spirit and culture for which Africa is known, which is being our brother's keeper and not killer, like Cain who attacked and killed his brother Abel, when he ought to guard and keep him.



The Police is Your Friend and Other Lies We No Longer Believe

By Boma Lilian Braide (Esq.)

There was a time in Nigeria when the phrase The Police is Your Friend was not a national joke. It was a civic assurance, a symbolic handshake between the state and its citizens. It represented the ideal of a civil security architecture built on trust, service, and protection. Today, that once reassuring slogan has decayed into a bitter irony. It no longer evokes safety; it provokes fear. It no longer signals partnership; it signals danger. What should have been the soul of Nigerian civil state relations has become a cruel parody of our lived experience at checkpoints, stations, and on the streets.

The Nigerian security apparatus has undergone a transformation so profound that it now resembles a predatory machine rather than a protective institution. The sight of a police patrol vehicle, which should ordinarily bring comfort, now triggers anxiety. Citizens instinctively brace themselves, not for assistance, but for extortion, harassment, or violence. We are not merely witnessing isolated incidents of misconduct. We are watching a pattern of state enabled brutality unfold in real time, a pattern so consistent that it feels like



a televised execution of the social contract. In this grim theatre, the Nigerian state often appears not as the protector but as the principal aggressor.

On Sunday, April 26th 2026, the quiet air of Effurun in Delta State was shattered by the crack of a service pistol. What should have been an ordinary Sunday afternoon became the final chapter in the life of twenty-eight year old Mene Ogidi. A viral video, barely two minutes long, captured the horrifying scene. Ogidi sat on the dusty ground, his hands tied behind him with a rope. He was unarmed, exhausted, and pleading in his mother tongue for a

chance to explain himself. Standing over him was a man in plain clothes, a man sworn to protect the very life he was about to extinguish. Assistant Superintendent of Police Nuhu Usman raised his pistol and fired two shots at close range into the body of a restrained, helpless citizen.

This was not a confrontation. It was not a crossfire. It was not a struggle for a weapon. It was an execution. A daylight assassination carried out by a state paid officer who felt so insulated by impunity that he performed his violence in front of a digital audience. The collective

outrage that followed was not simply about one death. It was the eruption of a nation that has watched this script repeat itself far too many times. Barely days later, in Dei-Dei Abuja, another life was cut short. A National Youth Service Corps member was shot inside his father's compound. Authorities described it as a mistake during a crossfire, but the silence that followed spoke louder than any official explanation. These tragedies are not anomalies. They are symptoms of a deep institutional rot, a rot that has turned the badge into a license for violence rather

than a symbol of service. Extrajudicial killings in Nigeria represent a direct assault on the fundamental right to life and the presumption of innocence. When a law enforcement officer assumes the roles of accuser, judge, and executioner, the very foundation of the state begins to crumble. In the case of Mene Ogidi, the Delta State Police Command admitted that the officer acted in gross violation of Force Order 237, the regulation governing the use of firearms. This admission is significant because it reveals that the problem is not the absence of rules. The problem is the collapse of discipline, the erosion of accountability, and the entrenchment of a culture of impunity.

Between 2020 and 2025, Nigerian security agencies were implicated in nearly six hundred violent incidents against civilians, resulting in more than eight hundred deaths. The Nigeria Police Force accounted for over half of these fatalities. These numbers paint a disturbing picture. The institutions funded by taxpayers to provide security have become one of the greatest threats to their safety.

The psychology behind this brutality is rooted in the absence of consequences. When officers believe that nothing will happen after they pull the trigger, the threshold for using lethal force drops to zero. In

the Effurun case, reports suggest that the suspect was even transported to a station after the initial shooting, only to be shot again. This level of cruelty reflects a complete dehumanization of the citizenry. The victim is no longer seen as a person with rights. He becomes a disposable suspect. This mindset is a legacy of the defunct SARS unit, whose methods and mentality continue to shape policing culture. Rebranding SARS into SWAT or the Rapid Response Squad means nothing if the same men, trained in the same violent ethos, continue to operate with the same predatory instincts.

The Nigerian police system has evolved from a flawed institution into what many citizens now describe as a state sponsored cartel. The Zero Tolerance mantra often repeated by the Inspector General of

Police, Olatunji Disu, has become a public relations slogan that evaporates at every checkpoint. The immediate dismissal and recommended prosecution of ASP Usman and his team may satisfy the public's immediate hunger for justice, but it does not address the deeper institutional vacuum that allowed an officer to believe he could execute a restrained suspect without consequence. If accountability only occurs when a video goes viral, then we are not being policed. We are being hunted by a uniformed gang that is occasionally caught on camera.

This raises critical questions. Where were the superior officers? Where was the Area Commander while this culture of execution was taking root? Command responsibility in Nigeria remains a myth. Until a Commissioner of Police

is removed for the actions of their subordinates, there will be no internal incentive to reform. The decay is structural. We are recruiting frustrated individuals, training them in aggression rather than professionalism, and unleashing them on a population they are conditioned to view with suspicion and contempt.

The mistake narrative used in the Abuja NYSC shooting reflects this tactical incompetence. A professional force does not mistake a youth corper in his bedroom for a combatant. Nigerians are effectively subsidising their own endangerment, paying for the bullets that cut down their brightest young citizens. A nation cannot survive this level of uniformed recklessness. The state has lost its monopoly on violence to its own agents. When police officers fear the citizen's camera more



than they respect the citizen's life, the system has failed.

Five years after the historic 2020 End SARS protests, the systemic reforms promised by government remain largely unfulfilled. Only a handful of states have implemented the recommendations of the judicial panels or compensated victims. The National Human Rights Commission reported in July 2025 that it had received over three hundred thousand complaints of abuses. This staggering figure reflects the scale of the crisis. While the current Inspector General has introduced new regulations to align the Police Act of 2020 with operational realities, the gap between a gazetted document in Abuja and a patrol team in Delta remains vast.

The solution to this bloodletting must be radical and structural. First, police oversight must be decentralised. Relying on Force Headquarters in Abuja to discipline an officer in a remote community is inefficient and ineffective. Each state should have an independent, citizen led oversight board with the authority to recommend immediate suspension and prosecution without interference from the police hierarchy.

Second, Force Order 237 must be overhauled to strictly limit the use

of firearms to situations where there is an immediate and verifiable threat to life. Under no circumstances should a restrained or surrendering suspect be shot.

Third, Nigeria must address the mental health and welfare of police officers. Men who live in dilapidated barracks, earn inadequate wages, and operate under constant stress are more likely to lash out at the public. However, poverty cannot be an excuse for murder. Welfare reform must go hand in hand with strict accountability.

Finally, justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done. The trial of ASP Usman and others like him should be public, transparent, and swift. It must serve as a deterrent that resonates in every police station across the country. The

era of secret disciplinary rooms must end. Nigeria must invest in technology driven policing, not only in weapons but in body cameras and digital accountability systems. When officers know they are being recorded, hesitation replaces recklessness.

A NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION

The era of Orderly Room secrecy must end. Nigeria must decentralise police disciplinary trials, moving them from closed sessions in Abuja to open, civilian led inquiries in the states where the abuses occur. A National Firearms Audit is urgently needed. Every officer must account for every round issued, and any missing ammunition should trigger automatic suspension for the entire chain of command.

The National Assembly must fast track the Victims

of Police Brutality Trust Fund, ensuring that compensation becomes a legal right funded directly from the budgets of offending commands. Nigeria must stop being a nation of post script outrage. Command responsibility must become law. If an officer

under a Commissioner's watch executes a handcuffed suspect, that Commissioner must lose their job alongside the shooter.

The blood of Mene Ogidi and the NYSC member in Dei Dei is a stain on our national conscience. It is a reminder that as long as one Nigerian can be tied up and shot without trial, no Nigerian is truly safe. Silence is no longer an option. Waiting for the next viral video is no longer acceptable. The time to demand change is now.



It's Stupid to Say Only Southerner Can Be President in 2027 – Dele Momodu

By Christy Anyanwu (The Sun)

Veteran journalist and Publisher, Ovation Magazine, Chief Dele Momodu, is a former presidential aspirant and a member of the African Democratic Congress (ADC). He has been one of the consistent voices against what he terms bad policies and actions of the incumbent All Progressives Congress (APC). In this interview, he spoke on the Tinubu administration, the opposition ADC, the 2027 elections and other issues of national importance.

What are your concerns about the 2027 general election? Do you have any fear?

I have no fear whatsoever, though there's a bit of agitation everywhere. If you ask most people, they would tell you, Oh, Asiwaju will rig the election. They are sure Tinubu will do this and that. He has the power of life and death and so on and so forth, but I'm not bothered. As you get older in life, you begin to understand the God factor better. I believe that whatever APC likes, let them do. When it is God's time, he will push them out and I think, this 2027, we are closer to it than ever.

You are in the ADC, and your party says the challenges and troubles in the party were created



by the ruling party. Could you explain that?

I said APC, whether they like it or not, the whole world knows that they have failed. And now the people are thinking it is political parties that chase away government? No, it is not parties; it is the people. When the people rise up and say it was the people that chased away PDP that time, it was the people. In this case, those who will chase Tinubu and APC away are not just members of ADC. They are Nigerians who are fed up, completely fed up, who will look back at the last three or four years and ask pertinent questions like, Was my life better in 2023 than it is in 2027? Was security much better in 2023 than it is in 2027?

Was electricity better? Was water better? Was infrastructure better? Was our foreign policy better? Was the quality of ministers better? When you answer all those questions, you will see that the majority of the answers will be no, no, no. And that is what will determine why people will vote them out.

Whenever you talk about voting APC out, voting Tinubu out, many people are like, Dele Momodu was very close to Asiwaju.

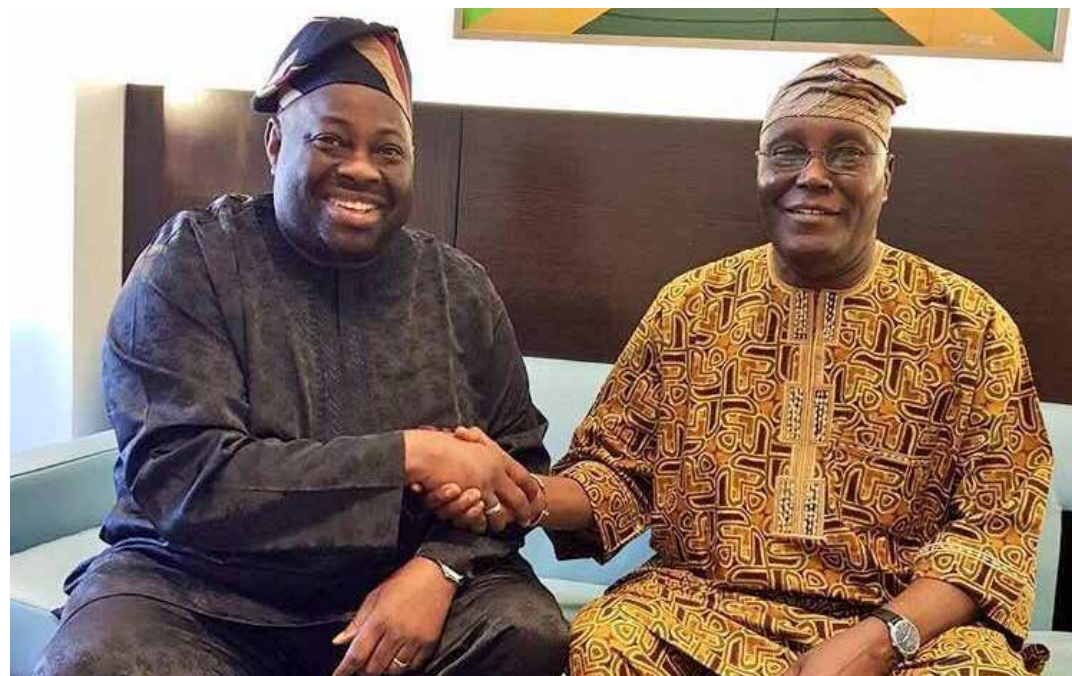
What actually happened? Nothing is happening. It is nothing personal. I love Asiwaju as a person but I have always maintained that I do not like dictatorship. And that is the main issue. I wish he would just perform well,

instead of wasting money up and down, chasing shadows and all that, instead of just settling down to work. If he works well, it will be palpable. Everybody would see it. And Nigerians are not expecting miracles from Asiwaju. They just want the basic necessities of life. If he works, you will see it. Go to other countries in Africa and see how they are making progress. Here, we are just wasting money. Today, it is City Boys, tomorrow, it is City Girls. The profligacy is horrendous. You asked me, is Asiwaju not my friend and brother and everything? Yes, he is. I will never deny him. He is a good man. He is a nice man. But that does not make him a good leader.

He is a great politician who knows how to manoeuvre his way and everything, but that does not make him a good leader, because leadership is not about politics. Leadership is about managing people and resources. And I don't think he has managed our resources well. That is the truth. Only a true friend will tell you the truth. Everybody goes to him because their lives depend on him. They need one thing or the other, they will tell him lies. When tomorrow comes, they will dump him. When Buhari was there, when he was in power, everybody, including Tinubu, was praising him. After he left, they started blaming him for handing over a useless government to them. That is what they will do to Asiwaju whenever he leaves. I don't know when, but he will leave one day. And you will see the true colour of human beings then. They will say the most horrendous things about him. I have no doubt about that. That's when you will hear that EFCC is chasing him, chasing his family, chasing everybody. Why don't you end that rat race? Just end it. Don't victimize anybody. How could Nasir El-Rufai have done all he did for Asiwaju and the guy today is being harassed, and they pretend they know nothing about it? It's because he committed an offence. When they put his name

among nominees for the cabinet, you know, he was supposed to be a minister. He went for screening, then, suddenly, they said he wasn't cleared by the security people. Who is fooling who?

As the 2027 elections approach, more problems are emerging in the ADC. Some people are claiming ownership of the party. There are issues of recognition by INEC and so on. Are you people



going to merge with another party or what?

Let me tell you, I'm very worried about media coverage in Nigeria, especially political coverage. Because the questions you are asking me, I believe, should not have been asked. There are more issues within APC than you have in ADC. But because APC is in power, you all tend to pamper them and focus all attention on the

opposition. In my own generation, journalists were more for opposition, for the betterment of the country. But today I don't know why. And I will now give you a reason I am saying what I am saying. APC has problems everywhere. If you go today to Benue State, they are fighting in the party. APC members are fighting all over. In fact, in Ogun State, just yesterday, they locked out Otunba Gbenga

contest. We were hearing all sorts of things. We were hearing that Alausa, Minister of Education, wanted to contest. The President just gave an instruction and, right now, nobody is able to pursue their own ambition.

In Ogun State, the Lagos style has crept in. Suddenly, the President has chosen one man for Ogun State. I have nothing against the man. He's my friend. He's my brother.

Daniel. They were having a stakeholders' meeting or whatever they call it and they locked him out. A former governor. Is that not APC? In Lagos State, nobody can utter a whimper. In Lagos right now, nobody is secure in the party. Those who were hoping to contest, the former governor, Akin Ambode, we were hearing he wanted to come back. We were hearing that even Gbajabiamila wanted to

I have nothing against him but that system is tyrannical, where one man takes every decision. They have issues. People are grumbling. People are fighting. Some people have even taken APC to court in some states. So, I dare INEC to derecognise APC leadership. Some people even took the chairman of APC to court. Have you heard anything about it? No. Every day, what I hear on television is,

'ADC, you have too many internal problems.' Who doesn't have problems? In the case of ADC, one man, or, maximum, three men, from nowhere, said the party belonged to them. So, right now, in order to kill any political party in Nigeria, all it takes is to raise one disgruntled man and say he's a faction, and journalists, too, will start addressing him as a faction. Where on earth can one man just stand up, because he's angry, he's disgruntled, he's bitter, he's enraged, and then you call him a faction, a factioner? PDP, factions. Labour Party, factions. ADC, factions. And that's how journalists have connived, by using these descriptions and adjectives, to justify murder in Nigeria. When we all kill this democracy, history will remember all of us, because journalists are the ones who should educate everyone. When did one man become one faction in a party? And, we all promote it.

When they talk about zoning, and it's the turn of the South, when, tell me, when in Nigeria was it written in the Constitution of Nigeria that it's the turn of the South? Tell me, I'm asking you, when? You cannot answer. In eight years of the North, whether the President passes or not, whether we have better candidates from other regions or not, no, now the only qualification is where you

come from. So, if a man fails the exam, you will promote him because he's the only southerner in the race. He has spent four years, let him finish his remaining four years; why are we so stupid? Why are we so docile? Why are we so backward? If you don't agree with that, then they say, one man is too old, it doesn't matter if the President is older or not, or if he's healthier or not, we should beg him



not to contest. When did we get to that level where you discourage people from pursuing their own dreams in life? I've never seen anything like this. Joe Biden was much older than Barack Obama, he served under Obama and, later, at his age, he was in his 80s, he was President of America. It's the same thing today with Donald Trump. Trump was removed in 2020. He's back today. Now, people

say Atiku should not run, he's old. When did age alone become a crime? Are we not all wishing to be old one day? If God has blessed you with good health, will you kill yourself? Something is wrong with us, some people are manipulating our brains and we're all behaving like 'mumu'. Let everybody run, that's democracy. I don't care who gets the ticket of ADC. I swear to God

ethnicity and religion. *Now that you have mentioned Atiku, it's a known fact that your preferred candidate in ADC is Atiku...*

There's no question about that: he's my preferred candidate. But I don't care if someone else might beat him. I don't care. That's why I'm different. I like Atiku for his credentials, for the things I have seen, for the things that I now know about him, I have

Almighty, I don't care. But let everybody go and fight for it and then tell us your qualifications, why you think you are better than the other candidates. It's as simple as that. It is not just about, oh, this is where I come from, oh, it is the turn of the South. It is stupidity of the highest order that we are displaying, and the whole world is so ashamed of us, that Nigeria has not gone beyond this level of

followed him since when he stepped down for Chief Moshood Abiola in 1993 in Jos. I have followed him with keen interest. I don't see any politician at his level who is able to manage his own business without living fat off Nigeria. Atiku left power in 2007. Have you heard that he controls any state in Nigeria, where he can go and take money like some people are doing in some states? These are

little, little things that we should appreciate. He is not desperate, you will not find a vault in front of his house, you will not hear that he's planning to go and rig at INEC. Why don't we appreciate good people in Nigeria? Must we waste and sacrifice all our good people on the altar of greed, nepotism and all that? What is his offence? In 2019, Atiku gave Peter Obi a national platform. Bloggers kicked against him, they fought him. Today, some people say they are supporting Obi, abusing, attacking and insulting the man every day. I can never support that. Never!

I don't have more than one vote but when people do what I feel is beneath us, we speak up. The same way I am complaining about Tinubu today, about the dictatorship, about everything, if I see the same thing with Atiku in the future, I will talk.

Really?

Did I not talk when Buhari's people were misbehaving? I was one of those who supported Buhari but, within two months, I tendered a public apology. I will never support tyrannical behaviour and say, because I like Atiku, Atiku can say anything and do anything. Not me. If you ask him, he will tell you that Dele respects himself. I respect myself. I don't follow people blindly.

Some people say you're with Atiku because of his

money...

Does Atiku have one per cent of Tinubu's money? Why do we talk this way? Go and ask Atiku, if I'm one of those scavengers who will beg Atiku. What money has he got more than the federal government, more than the state governments, more than all the governors in Nigeria? So, because of Atiku's money, that's why I'm following Atiku? (Laughs) Oh my God!

What's your assessment



of Tinubu's fight against corruption in Nigeria?

The only thing I'm interested in about Tinubu is the condition of the people. Whether he is fighting corruption or not, when tomorrow comes, you will see the truth. Every government comes and they say they are fighting corruption, when, at the end of the day, the majority of the fight is about witch-hunt. I am not interested, please. I

don't follow pretence and I don't enjoy it. There's nobody in Nigeria who does not know those who have unlimited or unrestricted access to the resources of Nigeria but they are untouchable. That's fine.

Let's talk about the insecurity confronting the nation. People are still dying every day. What's your advice?

What advice can I give when all the governors are there? They just killed

people have you heard that Tinubu sacked in the military or in the police for incompetence?

What's your take on Tinubu's recent state visit to the UK?

In terms of sound and fury, it was okay. That's what they wanted. They wanted people who would validate them and they got a willing partner in our people in England. That's okay. Congratulations to them. But I don't think that will change anything

someone, a driver, around Edo State. Did Edo not promise to deliver three million votes to those who cannot protect lives and property? So, how do I talk about such things? Look, when we are ready, we will know what to do. We all know that we are not ready. Nigerians are not ready, especially our leaders who are desperate only to remain in power. They are not interested in anything else. How many

back home. They came back with more debts. Congratulations.

What do you mean?

Is that not what they reported? Did you not read about it?

It is said that Nigeria will gain a lot from that visit...

You can put out that you 'think' Nigeria will gain something. I told you they gained more debts. Is that not good news?

Culled from The Sun

2026 Q1: MTN Records N355.5bn Profit

MTN Nigeria reported a profit after tax of N355.5bn in the first quarter of 2026, up 165.9 per cent year-on-year, but warned that higher energy prices could weigh on earnings in the coming quarters.

In its unaudited results released on Wednesday, the telecom operator said it expects a 1.8 to 2.0 percentage point decline in full-year Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation margins if diesel prices average N2,000 per litre in the second half of the year.

The country's biggest telco with 89.5 million subscribers, operates more than 20,000 base stations nationwide, most of which depend on diesel generators because of unreliable grid power.

"We continue to monitor developments in the operating environment, including energy price volatility and regulatory dynamics," Chief Executive Officer Karl Toriola said in the Q1 report.

The concern comes amid increasing volatility in Nigeria's fuel market following global crude oil disruptions and domestic supply pressures.

In March, tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran disrupted activities around the Strait of Hormuz,



pushing crude prices above \$100 per barrel and raising fuel import costs globally.

The impact filtered into Nigeria's deregulated downstream sector, leading to higher pump prices across the country. The \$20bn Dangote Refinery has increased its diesel price to N1750 per litre from N1800, while fuel prices at independent stations reportedly climbed to about N1,250 per litre in some states.

"Based on an assumed average Lagos ex-depot diesel price of N2,000 in H2, we estimate a 1.8–2.0 percentage point impact on full-year EBITDA

margin," the executive added.

According to the State of Africa's Infrastructure Report 2025 by the Africa Finance Corporation, Nigerian telecom operators consume over 40 million litres of diesel every month to power base stations nationwide. This reliance is driven by persistent grid instability, which has made self-generation the default energy source for network operations.

On an annual basis, this translates to more than 480 million litres of diesel consumed by the sector, with industry estimates suggesting annual

spending exceeding \$350m.

MTN also ramped up investment spending during the period, with capital expenditure (excluding right-of-use assets) rising 92.8 per cent year-on-year to N390.3bn from N202.4bn in Q1 2025.

The company said a substantial portion of the investment was directed toward expanding network capacity and strengthening its fixed broadband footprint, particularly through fibre-to-the-home rollout and fixed wireless access infrastructure.

OPay Expands Access To N1.2bn Scholarship Scheme

In a move aimed at widening access to education and easing financial burdens on students, OPay has signed a set of Memoranda of Understanding with four tertiary institutions across Nigeria, further expanding access to its N1.2bn scholarship programme. The institutions include Benue State Polytechnic, Kogi State Polytechnic, Montgomery Polytechnic and Alex Ekwueme Federal University. With this development, OPay's partnership network has grown to 24 institutions nationwide, underscoring its increasing footprint in the education sector.

This was contained in a statement made available on Thursday.

The agreements are part of an N1.2bn, 10-year scholarship initiative designed to support academically gifted but financially disadvantaged students. Under the scheme, 20 students in each participating institution will receive scholarships worth N300,000 annually. Speaking during the MoU signing, OPay's Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Itoro Udo, emphasised the company's long-term vision of empowering young Nigerians through



education.

“Education is one of the most powerful tools for changing a life, and we believe every student deserves a fair shot at it, irrespective of their background,” she said.

Udo added that the initiative targets students who have the determination to succeed but lack the financial

means.

“Through this partnership, OPay is investing in students who have the drive but need the support. We are proud to stand with them and to keep expanding this commitment across more institutions and more communities,” she stated.

Dangote Refinery Recalls Engineers After Union Face-Off

Dangote Petroleum Refinery says it has approved the recall of engineers previously sacked and redeployed across its business units during its face-off with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria. In a statement on Thursday, the refinery said the recall followed what management described as a conditional pardon after internal disciplinary actions linked to operational disruptions. “In an internal communication to staff, the company said the decision followed an extensive review process and numerous appeals from respected

individuals, stakeholders, and the engineers,” the statement disclosed.

The refinery noted that while earlier actions were taken to protect operations and uphold organisational standards, it has now opted to offer a second opportunity to the staff.

“Under the directive, according to a memo signed by the Group Vice President, Oil & Gas, Devakumar Edwin, all affected personnel will be invited for a meeting and subsequently reassigned to resume duties at the refinery. The recall also covers those who did not take up earlier redeployment options offered by the company,” it was stated.



The management emphasised that the move reflects both a commitment to fairness and a belief in second chances, while reiterating that discipline, professionalism, and adherence to corporate values remain non-negotiable.

“This decision was not an easy one. It reflects not only our belief in second chances but also serves as a clear reminder that loyalty, professionalism, and adherence to

organisational standards are non-negotiable.

“Effective immediately, all engineers previously redeployed to other business units will be invited for a meeting and subsequently will be provided with an opportunity to render their services at our petroleum refinery. This would include those who did not avail themselves of the opportunity provided earlier for redeployment,” it was stated.

Jerry Eze Foundation Provides 240 Businesses With \$3,000 Grant

The Jerry Eze Foundation, the charitable arm of Pastor Jerry Eze, has disbursed a total of N1bn in grants to 240 small and micro business owners at its Grant Award Ceremony held at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. Each beneficiary received \$3,000 to scale, transform, or start a business.

A statement from the Foundation on Thursday stated that the event formed part of the Foundation's broader initiative aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and translating philanthropic efforts into economic impact. It brought together stakeholders from business, government, faith, and entertainment sectors.

In the lead-up to the ceremony, the consulting firm KPMG was engaged to independently manage the selection process. According to the Foundation, over 16,000 applicants registered on the grant portal, 9,668 completed the process and met the eligibility criteria, and 240 entrepreneurs were selected across Nigeria.

The selection focused on three priority sectors: agriculture and agribusiness, manufacturing, and technology and digital services.

In her keynote address,



Dr Oby Ezekwesili, former Vice President of the World Bank (Africa region) and former Minister of Education, urged beneficiaries to prioritise scale and impact. "Every beneficiary, every dreamer in the room; the world does not need more magnified egos or glorified inaction dressed up as humility. What our continent needs, what Africa demands, is scale. Not just growth for growth's sake, but deliberate, purposeful expansion that matches the size of the problems we are called to solve," she said.

She added, "You no longer have the luxury of starting small and staying there. The resources have been placed in your hands. The platform has been given. The acceptable direction is impact at scale. Africa is watching. Build

accordingly."

Also speaking, Dr Ibukun Awosika, former Chairperson of First Bank of Nigeria, described the initiative as a bridge between potential and execution.

"Today, the Jerry Eze Foundation has done something profound; it has built a bridge between potential and progress, and each awardee must harness their potential to the fullest. The smartest entrepreneurs are not the ones who know everything; they are the ones who know they do not," she said.

She advised beneficiaries to leverage collaboration and shared experience. "Every person in your ecosystem has walked a road you have not, seen things you have not seen, and learned lessons you have not had to learn yet. When you are wise

enough to let that in, to pull those experiences to the table and build with them, that is when you stop building a business and start building an institution."

In his remarks, the founder of the Jerry Eze Foundation, Pastor Jerry Eze, said the initiative was inspired by lessons from his upbringing.

"My late mum was the one who taught me that you can give everything. So everything I know about giving I learned from my mother. She could have nothing, and still find something to give," he said.

He urged beneficiaries to focus on value creation and community impact. "Business owners who have received this grant today, by next year, you will stand here and testify how big your business has become," he added.

VFD Group Hits N5.19bn Profit

VFD Group Plc, a principal investment company listed on the Nigerian Exchange, has reported a significant surge in its financial performance for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026.

The Group's unaudited financial statements reveal a transition into a high-growth "earnings-translation" phase, marked by a 37 per cent increase in consolidated gross earnings to N27.07bn.

The Group's profit before tax rose by 26 per cent to N5.19bn, while the standalone company performance, which

reflects the core earning power of its investment activities, saw PBT more than double, soaring 102 per cent to N2.11bn.

Commenting on the results, the Group Managing Director of VFD Group Plc, Nonso Okpala, said, "Over the last two years, we have done the difficult work of reshaping the portfolio, recapitalising the balance sheet, and aligning every entity in the Group to a clear principal investment thesis.

"The fact that Company-level profit has more than doubled tells you the level of capital deployment



efficiency the investment company possesses."

The results follow a period of aggressive capital raising and portfolio restructuring. Investment income, a key driver of the Group's top-line growth, increased by 27 per cent to N23.99bn, while fee income also showed broad-based improvement across its diversified subsidiaries.

Also commenting, the Executive Director,

Finance & IR, Folajimi Adeleye, said, "We are entering Q2 with a stronger capital base, lower funding cost trajectory, and a higher-quality earning asset mix. "The full effect of our N50.4bn rights issue that only became fully available toward the end of the quarter has not yet been reflected in these numbers.

Q1 2026: Geregu Power Records N60.7bn Equity Growth

Geregu Power Plc, a major player in Nigeria's electricity value chain, has reported a significant strengthening of its capital base, with total equity rising to N60.73bn for the first quarter ended 31 March 2026.

According to the unaudited interim financial statement submitted to the Nigerian Exchange on Thursday, the company's equity grew from N58.63bn recorded at the end of December 2025. This growth was primarily driven by an increase in retained earnings, which climbed to N59.45bn during the period.

"The interim financial statements were approved

by the Board of Directors on 16 April 2026," stated the company in its regulatory filing, which was signed by Director Abdullahi Tsafe and Acting CFO Shehu Bello. Beyond equity growth, the report highlights a strategic reduction in the company's debt profile.

Total liabilities dropped from N246.38bn in December 2025 to N239.33bn by the end of March 2026, a reduction of approximately N7.05bn in just three months.

The deleveraging was most visible in the company's bond payables and borrowings. Non-current bond payables fell from N24.18bn to N20.04bn, while total



borrowings (current and non-current) saw a combined reduction of over N4bn.

While the company's total asset base saw a marginal contraction to N300.06bn, down from N305.01bn in December, the shift reflects the company's active utilisation of cash to settle obligations.

Cash and cash equivalents stood at N29.37bn as of 31 March, while trade and other receivables remained robust at N200.26bn, indicating a

consistent, though high-volume, revenue pipeline within the power sector.

"Total current assets reached N238.19bn," the report noted, reinforcing the company's ability to cover its short-term operational requirements while maintaining its status as a fundamentally viable and strategically relevant entity in the Nigerian power market.

This Q1 performance marks a steady start to the 2026 financial year for Geregu Power.

Presco Equity Surges 109.6% As Assets Near N1tn

Presco Plc has announced its audited financial results for the year ended December 31, 2025, alongside unaudited results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, reporting strong growth across key financial metrics driven by operational expansion and a strengthened capital base.

The company, in a statement on Friday, stated that it posted revenue of N330.6bn, representing a 59.3 per cent year-on-year increase, while gross profit rose by 70.6 per cent to N242.2bn. Operating profit stood at N214.9bn, up 70.8 per cent, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation was N211.8bn, with a margin of 64.1 per cent.

Profit before tax increased by 57.1 per cent to N177.9bn, while profit after tax rose by 56.1 per cent to N121.5bn. On the balance sheet, total equity climbed by 109.6 per cent to N442.7bn, while total assets rose by 94.9 per cent to N926.0bn, approaching the N1tn mark. Current assets increased by 178.8 per cent, supporting liquidity and growth capacity.

The company said the successful conclusion of its rights issue more than doubled total equity, strengthening its balance sheet and providing capacity to fund the next



phase of growth.

It also announced the acquisition of the remaining 48 per cent shareholding in Ghana Oil Palm Development Company Limited, bringing its ownership to 100 per cent. The full consolidation of GOPDC is expected to strengthen Presco's regional footprint in West Africa and enhance the subsidiary's contribution to group earnings.

In addition, Presco completed the acquisition of Nsadop Boki Palm Estate, expanding its plantation footprint and production capacity, with the asset expected to contribute to long-term value creation.

For the first quarter of 2026, the company reported continued growth momentum, with revenue increasing by ₦7.1bn, representing a 7.5 per cent year-on-year rise. Profit before tax rose by

₦10.6bn, up 18.2 per cent, while the PBT margin improved to 68.7 per cent from 62.5 per cent in the corresponding period of 2025.

Commenting on the results, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Reji George, said, "2025 was a defining year for Presco. Delivering 56.1 per cent growth in Profit After Tax to ₦121.5bn, while concurrently executing a successful rights issue and completing a major acquisition, reflects the strength of both our strategy and our execution."

"These results are the product of a deliberate focus on sustainable, long-term value creation. We have strengthened the balance sheet, scaled our operations, and deployed shareholder capital with discipline."

"Our outlook for 2026 remains positive. Q1 has

delivered revenue growth of 7.5%, PBT growth of 18.2 per cent, and a PBT margin of 68.7 per cent. The integration of Nsadop Boki is progressing in line with expectations, and we see a significant opportunity ahead."

"Our objective is unchanged: to deliver consistent, superior returns to our shareholders. Presco is today stronger, larger, and better positioned than at any point in its history." Presco Plc is a fully integrated edible oils company engaged in the cultivation of oil palm and the production, refining, and marketing of speciality fats and oils. Its operations are supported by subsidiaries including Ghana Oil Palm Development Company Limited and Siat Nigeria Limited, extending its footprint across West Africa.

Investors Gain N3.2tn As Bulls Dominate NGX

Investors gained N3.26tn at the close of trading on Thursday as the Nigerian equities market extended its bullish run, driven by sustained buying interest in large-cap and consumer-linked stocks.

Market capitalisation, which represents the total value of listed shares, opened the session at N152.728tn and rose significantly to close at N155.994tn, reflecting a robust renewal of investor appetite. This upward momentum was further mirrored in the All-Share Index, which advanced from an opening of 237,205.59 to close at 242,277.81.

The day's performance was characterised by positive

market breadth, with 46 gainers emerging against 40 losers, highlighting the dominance of the bulls across several key sectors. Leading the pack of gainers were major blue-chip companies, including CAP, FTN Cocoa, UACN, Unilever, and Seplat, all of which appreciated by the maximum daily limit of 10.00 per cent. Specifically, Seplat recorded a massive rally to close at N11,495.00, while Unilever and UACN climbed to N137.50 and N181.50, respectively.

Conversely, the market recorded some laggards led by Alex, which declined by 9.95 per cent to close at N9.50, followed by Royal Exchange and Legend Identity, which



shed 9.93 per cent and 9.32 per cent, respectively. Other stocks, such as Austin Laz and Neimeth, also featured on the losers' chart as some investors engaged in profit-taking to moderate the general market advance.

Meanwhile, heavyweight counters like Dangote Cement, Julius Berger, and Custodian Investment remained flat, closing the session with no price change.

Investor sentiment remained broadly positive throughout the day as

market participants strategically positioned themselves ahead of upcoming corporate disclosures and anticipated macroeconomic shifts.

The strong demand for select large-cap stocks suggests a high level of confidence in the market's near-term trajectory. Financial analysts noted that the current surge in valuation is a testament to the resilience of the market, which continues to provide significant returns for investors.

Airtel To Train 200 Underserved Women In Tech Skills

The Airtel Africa Foundation, in partnership with Airtel Nigeria, is targeting 200 underserved young women in the Ikorodu area of Lagos State to provide industry-standard technical training at no cost.

According to a statement released by the organisation on Wednesday, the initiative will be executed through the "DigiLeap Tech Drive", an intensive digital literacy programme designed to bridge the gender gap in the technology sector. The project is a

strategic collaboration between the Airtel Africa Foundation, the ISHK Tolaram Foundation, and Co-Creation Hub, with implementation led by the SAIL Innovation Lab.

The Chairman of the Airtel Africa Foundation, Segun Ogunsanya, emphasised that the project extends beyond basic classroom instruction.

"This initiative ensures the digital revolution is truly inclusive; it isn't merely a training session but a professional pipeline designed to transition these women directly into internships and sustainable careers,"



Ogunsanya stated.

The programme is engineered to transform high-potential individuals into workforce-ready professionals by providing a blend of technical instruction, mentorship, and direct job-placement linkages. This holistic approach aims to tackle regional unemployment while increasing female representation in the

global tech economy.

Highlighting the broader economic impact during the flag-off event, the Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Nigeria, Dinesh Balsingh, noted, "We believe that empowering women with digital skills is a fundamental catalyst for national economic growth."

NNPC Completes OB3 Pipeline Crossing River Niger

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited has completed the long-anticipated River Niger crossing of the Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben gas pipeline, unlocking a key segment of the country's gas transmission network and paving the way for increased supply to power plants and industries.

The feat, delivered by the NNPC Gas Infrastructure Company, a subsidiary of NNPC Ltd, involved drilling approximately two kilometres beneath the River Niger using advanced horizontal directional drilling technology, a method reserved for complex engineering terrains.

Announcing the development in a statement on Thursday, the Chief Corporate Communications Officer of NNPC Ltd, Andy Odeh, said the milestone effectively activates the full capacity of the 130-kilometre OB3 pipeline, which is designed to transport up to two billion standard cubic feet of gas per day.

The statement read, "The NNPC Gas Infrastructure Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of NNPC Limited, has successfully completed the River Niger Crossing of the 130-kilometre Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben Gas Pipeline, marking a major milestone in the



expansion of Nigeria's national gas transmission network.

"The successful crossing unlocks the full potential of the OB3 Pipeline, a strategic infrastructure designed to transport up to 2 billion standard cubic feet of gas per day, significantly strengthening energy availability, enhancing supply reliability, and accelerating national economic development."

The firm noted that the completion would, in the near term, unlock over 500 million standard cubic feet of additional gas supply for the domestic market, with implications for electricity generation, manufacturing, and exports.

The Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Ltd, Bayo Ojulari, described the crossing as a turning point for Nigeria's gas infrastructure drive. He said, "The completion of the OB3 River Niger Crossing is a defining milestone for Nigeria's gas infrastructure and a clear

demonstration of what disciplined execution and sustained commitment to excellence can deliver.

"By successfully traversing one of the most technically challenging sections of the project, we have unlocked a critical link that will enhance gas supply reliability, deepen domestic utilisation, and support power generation and industrial growth across the country."

Ojulari explained that the achievement was built on recent engineering successes, particularly the earlier River Niger crossing on the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano pipeline project, completed in 2025.

"This achievement is not incidental. It is the result of deliberately leveraging and upscaling our AKK engineering and execution excellence through rigorous project governance, innovative engineering solutions, adaptive problem-solving, and the unwavering commitment of our teams and PCE Nig. Limited,"

he said.

He added, "The OB3 Pipeline is central to our ambition of building an integrated and resilient gas network that underpins Nigeria's energy security and economic development. I commend everyone involved for their doggedness and for staying the course to deliver this strategic national asset."

The NNPC boss also linked the development to the Federal Government's broader energy targets, including plans to raise crude oil production to three million barrels per day and gas output to 12 billion standard cubic feet per day by 2030.

According to him, "The successful River Niger Crossing ensures that Nigeria's gas-producing regions are now physically interconnected with the rest of the country, a critical requirement for achieving our long-term production and supply aspirations."

SUNU Assurances Targets N9.34bn Via Rights Issue

SUNU Assurances Nigeria Plc has commenced a bid to raise N9.34bn through a rights issue to existing shareholders.

The non-life insurer is offering 2,075,285,715 ordinary shares of 50 kobo each at a price of N4.50 per share. Company Secretary Taiwo Kuku stated that the offer applies to investors whose names appeared in the Register of Members as of the close of business on 12 February 2026.

Kuku noted that the rights issue provides five new ordinary shares for every 14 ordinary shares held by shareholders. She further

clarified that the offer, which opened on 13 April 2026, remains tradeable on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange Limited until it closes on 20 May 2026.

Managing Director Samuel Ogbodu described the move as a tactical effort to solidify the company's financial standing.

"This Rights Issue is a strategic step to further strengthen our balance sheet and position SUNU Assurances to take advantage of emerging opportunities in Nigeria's insurance market. The additional capital will enhance our underwriting



capacity, support investment in cutting-edge technology, and enable us to deliver high value to our esteemed shareholders and to our policyholders and brokers. We appreciate the continued confidence of our shareholders as we pursue our pan-African growth agenda," Ogbodu said.

The firm, which underwent a name change in 2018

following its acquisition by the pan-African SUNU Group, provides insurance solutions across the motor, fire, and general accident sectors. SUNU Assurances currently operates as a member of the West African Insurance Company Association and the Nigeria Insurers' Association.

Q1 2026: Apple Hits Record \$29.6bn Profits

Apple on Thursday said it had its best start to the year ever when it came to earnings, with iPhone demand and digital service sales helping it beat expectations.

Apple reported a profit of \$29.6 billion on revenue of \$111.2 billion in the recently ended quarter.

"Today Apple is proud to report our best March quarter ever," chief executive Tim Cook said in an earnings release, noting revenue hit a record high for the quarter ending in March.

Apple shares slipped slightly, however, as investors mulled its future in a tech world shaken up by artificial intelligence.

During the quarter, iPhone sales grew double digits

in every country where it does business, and its services unit reached an all-time record high, according to Cook.

The earnings come as Apple prepares for a changing of the guard, with Cook to step down as chief executive late this year.

The future of Apple is being entrusted to a company veteran said to combine hardware brilliance with "the soul of an innovator."

John Ternus, 50, will take over as Apple chief executive in September, with Cook becoming executive chairman of the iPhone maker's board of directors.

A big question will be whether Ternus has "the



appetite for the kind of bold, occasionally uncomfortable decisions" that defining an Apple AI platform will require.

Legendary Apple co-founder Steve Jobs was known for brutal honesty and unyielding perfectionism that led to culture-changing devices. Apple celebrates its 50th anniversary as AI challenges the Silicon Valley legend to prove it can deliver yet another must-have innovation.

Apple's hit products — the Mac, the iPhone, the

Apple Watch and the iPad — command a cult-like following, long after the company's humble beginnings on April 1, 1976, in Jobs' Cupertino, California, garage.

A concern haunting investors is that Apple appears to be easing into generative AI while rivals Google, Microsoft and OpenAI race ahead.

A promised upgrade to its Siri digital assistant was delayed in what analysts called a rare stumble for the company.



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Why I Stopped Going to Church - Funke Akindele

In a world where fame often blurs the line between admiration and intrusion, Nigerian actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has shared a deeply personal reason behind her absence from church — and it's sparking conversations across social media.

Known for her vibrant personality, unmatched talent, and iconic roles in Nollywood, Funke Akindele is no stranger to attention. But according to her, the spotlight doesn't always feel flattering — especially in places meant for peace and spiritual connection.

In a candid revelation, the award-winning filmmaker explained that attending church has become increasingly uncomfortable for her. Rather than being able to focus on worship, she finds herself surrounded by people eager to snap photos, record videos, or simply stare.

For many celebrities, public attention is part of the job. But for Funke, church represents something different — a sanctuary. A place to reflect, pray, and connect with God. When that space is constantly interrupted by cameras and whispers, it loses its essence.

Her words highlight a growing issue faced by public figures: the lack of boundaries in everyday spaces.

Fame can be rewarding, but it also comes with hidden costs. Moments that should be private — like attending church, spending time with family, or even running errands — often become public spectacles.

Funke Akindele's experience raises an important question: Do fans sometimes go too far?

While admiration is natural, there's a fine line between appreciation and invasion of privacy. Celebrities, despite their status, are still human beings who crave normalcy and quiet moments.



Omojuwa Calls Out French Embassy For Withholding His Nigerian Passport

Nigerian media personality and political commentator, Japheth Omojuwa, has publicly expressed frustration over what he describes as an unreasonable delay by the French Embassy in Nigeria in returning his passport.

Taking to social media, Omojuwa revealed that his passport has been held for a staggering eight weeks following a visa application process. According to him, the prolonged delay has

not only disrupted his plans but has also raised concerns about the efficiency and accountability of the embassy's operations.

In his statement, Omojuwa did not mince words. He criticized the lack of communication and transparency surrounding the process, noting that applicants deserve timely updates—especially when such important personal documents are involved. For frequent travelers and professionals like him, a withheld passport can mean missed opportunities, etc.



Three Arrested For Spreading Divorce Rumours About UBA Boss, Tony Elumelu

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) has confirmed the arrest of three individuals linked to the circulation of what it described as “false and defamatory” claims against its Group Chairman, Tony Elumelu.

In an official statement, the bank dismissed viral reports alleging that Elumelu had divorced his wife, labeling the claims as fabricated, malicious, and deliberately designed to

mislead the public while tarnishing his reputation.

UBA disclosed that the matter had been escalated to law enforcement authorities, who have since launched a full-scale investigation into the origin and spread of the misinformation.

According to the bank, those arrested in connection with the incident are Kingsley Akunemeihe, also known as @Directorkem; Chigozie Success Ihebom; and John Surpruchi Nwanorue, identified online as @problemchimky.



Alexer Peres Wins Full Custody of Two Children

The estranged wife of Nigerian singer Harrysong, Alexer Peres, has announced that she has secured full custody of the couple’s two children, bringing a measure of closure to what has been a protracted and emotionally taxing legal battle.

Peres made the announcement on her social media page, disclosing that the custody arrangement was reached through a settlement. In her post,

she expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who stood by her through the ordeal, describing the journey as one marked by considerable personal strain.

The development marks a significant turnaround for the mother of two, who had struck a notably different tone just months earlier. In January 2026, Peres had publicly declared that she was stepping back from the custody dispute, citing emotional exhaustion and a sense of being overwhelmed.



Floyd Mayweather Faces Possible Passport Revocation Over \$7.25M Tax Debt in US

Boxing icon Floyd Mayweather Jr. is reportedly at risk of losing his United States passport due to an outstanding tax debt exceeding \$7.25 million, according to claims by Ring Magazine journalist Mike Coppinger.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has allegedly notified the former world champion of its intention to escalate the matter by informing the U.S. Department of State, a move that could result in his passport being revoked if the debt remains unresolved. Authorities reportedly

issued the notice in late March, giving the 49-year-old multiple options to avoid sanctions.

Mayweather, who earned over \$1 billion during his illustrious boxing career, can prevent the revocation by settling the debt in full or negotiating an installment agreement or settlement with the Department of Justice. Other alternatives include proving financial hardship, claiming identity theft, or filing for bankruptcy.

The development casts uncertainty over his scheduled exhibition bout against Mike Zambidis.



Photos: Sunmisola Agbebi Stepped Out In All White Suit For Her Birthday





Tips To Become A Boss At Handling Parental Pressure

We understand how you feel and want to help work you through it because you can truly handle the pressure like a boss. If you grew up in a Nigerian home, you'd easily testify that there's often too much pressure from Nigerian Parents. I mean, we all love our parents, but it can be difficult dealing with the generous dose of parental pressure they often dish out.

Whether it's about marriage, relationship, career, education, or friendship, Nigerian parents have a way of applying subtle pressure while softly pushing you to do what they want, and this can be overwhelming for anybody.

We understand how you feel and want to help work you through it because you can truly handle the pressure like a boss.

Here are tips that can help you ward off various degrees of pressure from parents and get them to respect your life choices and situation.

1. Understand Where the Pressure Comes From

Before you roll your eyes at the next "When will you marry?" question, take a step back. Nigerian parents often mean well with these questions, even though it may not go down well with you. So, sit back and analyse the question and why they're asking. It could be from any or all of



the following:

- A desire for your security and success
- Fear of societal judgment ("What will people say?")
- Their own sacrifices and expectations
- The cultural values they grew up with

Understanding this will not stop the pressure, but it will help you approach it with empathy, not just frustration.

2. Set Boundaries - Respectfully

This is the key to sanity. Setting boundaries doesn't mean being rude. It means communicating clearly and consistently.

You can try to say something like:

"Mum, I really appreciate your concern about my job, but I need time to figure out what's best for me. I'd love your support while I do that."

Keep it firm and kind, and

repeat as needed. Note that Nigerian parents are wired to test boundaries, so you'll need to stay as calm and consistent as possible.

3. Communicate Like an Adult (Even If They Don't Treat You Like One)

You're 27, and your dad still acts like you're a small girl? We feel you. But even if they see you as a child, act like the adult you are.

Use logic, not emotion. Share your plans, show progress, and explain your decisions instead of hiding them. Nigerian parents respond better when they see that you've thought things through.

4. Protect Your Mental Health

Parental pressure can mess with your self-esteem, especially when comparisons kick in:

"Do you know Nkechi just bought a house?"

"Your mate just got a PhD

in Canada."

Comparison is the thief of joy and peace. Learn to tune out the noise. When it feels like everything's getting overwhelming, learn to try things that can help you stay in check. Talk to a trusted person about it. Take a space when necessary. These things seem little, but they always work to help people stay grounded under pressure.

5. Show Results (Sometimes That's All They Care About)

You might not follow their exact path, but Nigerian parents often change tune when they see results. Succeed in your own way, and let them see it.

You may hear:

"I didn't understand what you were doing before, but now I see you're doing well."

Winning silently, then surprising them with results, can be a powerful move.

Oversized T-Shirt: The Stunning Way To Look Like Gen Z

By Ajibade Morakinyo

The era of the “skinny” silhouette has officially been archived, replaced by the effortless nonchalance of the oversized graphic tee. For Gen Z, fashion isn’t about highlighting the body’s contours; it’s about subverting them. To nail this look, the shirt shouldn’t just be “large”, it needs to look like you borrowed it from a giant who happens to have impeccable taste in vintage band logos or abstract streetwear. This aesthetic is a quiet rebellion against the “perfection” of previous generations, prioritizing comfort and gender-neutrality over traditional tailoring.

The secret to making an oversized tee look stunning rather than sloppy lies in the art of proportion. While the shirt is massive, the rest of the outfit should feel intentional. Pair your tee with biker shorts for that “Princess Diana off-duty” vibe, or lean into the full-volume look with baggy cargo pants and chunky “dad” sneakers. A subtle front-tuck can help define your waist if you’re feeling lost in the fabric, but the real pros let the hem hang low, often layering a long-sleeve mesh shirt underneath to add texture and depth.

Ultimately, the oversized look is less about the garment and more about the vibe-check. To truly pull it off like a Zoomer, lean into the accessories: a canvas tote bag, a pair of wire-rimmed glasses, and enough layered silver chains to satisfy a 90s skater. It’s a style that celebrates personal space and relaxed confidence, proving that sometimes, the most stunning way to stand out is to give yourself plenty of room to breathe.









SERMON

- Babatunde Jose -

+2348033110822

The Concept of Miracles and the Prophets of God

Miracles are often seen as acts of divine intervention that demonstrate God's power and control over the natural world. They serve various purposes, including confirming the truthfulness of God's message, providing help to those in need, and bringing glory to God.

Islam defines a miracle as an extraordinary act or event that is contrary to the laws of nature and can only come about through the direct intervention of God Almighty Himself. The Arabic word for miracle is mu'jizah. In Islam, miracles are performed by the permission of God, by the Prophets of God.

God sent the Prophets and Messengers primarily to guide humankind. They were not gods, demi-gods or saints with divine qualities, rather they were mere mortals charged with a difficult task. They possessed exceptional characteristics because they were obligated to face extraordinary trials and tribulations in order to spread the message to worship God Alone.

Miracles are not magic,



which is by definition a trick or illusion, nor is a miracle an event brought about by learned righteous people who are not Prophets of God. These events are called karamahs. Thus we find three distinct categories, miracles, karamahs and magic.

Unlike what we find in the world today, which is full of fake prophets, charlatans and purveyors of iniquity who deceive congregants with claims of speaking with God, anointed by God or being endowed with powers they do not possess.

Many years ago, my cousin's office in Keffi was next to the abandoned bus terminal, which had turned into a crusade ground by some churches. One day he noticed some

church people rehearsing miracle healing. They were practicing how to fall under the anointing. It was strange but an eye opener. Today we find self-declared prophets, telling their people to 'give their phone number to kidnappers and watch how the kidnappers would die if they dare call his number. Or the one who claimed God changed the weather for him when he landed in a foreign country. No Sir, we are not concerned with self acclaimed miracle workers in this sermon.

Among the greatest miracles granted to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj (the Night Journey and Ascension). This extraordinary journey occurred during the Year

of Sorrow, when he lost his beloved wife Khadijah (RA) and his supportive uncle Abu Talib, leaving him under immense grief and social pressure. Allah took His Prophet (SAW) from Makkah to Jerusalem and then through the heavens, granting him the gift of prayer (the five daily prayers) and showing him signs of the unseen. This journey provided spiritual strength and guidance in a time of deep personal trial.

In addition, by Allah's permission, the Prophet (SAW) performed miraculous healings, restoring sight to the blind, curing the wounded, and mending broken bones with a touch of his hand or a simple prayer. These miracles, both spiritual and physical, confirm

that Muhammad (SAW) was truly the Messenger of Allah. His life and message remains a beacon of faith, guidance, and divine truth for every generation.

The holy books are replete with stories of miracles attributed to messengers and prophets. In the Bible we find in the Old Testament stories of God's miracles. God blesses barren women with children. Sarah in Genesis 21:1-2 ; Rebekah, Genesis 25:21 ; Rachel, Genesis 3:22-24. Hannah, Samuel 1:19-20.

Old Testament prophets performed numerous miracles that demonstrated God's power and authority, including significant events by Elijah and Elisha. Elijah proclaimed a drought as a judgment against King Ahab's idolatry (1 Kings 17:1-5). After three years of drought, Elijah prayed, and rain returned to the land (1 Kings 18:41-45). And Elijah raised the widow's son from the dead (1 Kings 17:22-23). Elisha healed Naaman, a Syrian commander, of leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14). Elisha raised the son of a Shunammite woman from the dead (2 Kings 4:32-37).

These miracles served to affirm the prophets' roles as messengers of God and to demonstrate His power and compassion towards His people. Each miracle not only addressed immediate

needs but also pointed to God's sovereignty and faithfulness throughout Israel's history.

The Miracles of Prophet Musa (Moses) were Signs of power and deliverance. Among the prophets chosen by Allah, few were granted as many powerful signs as Prophet Musa (Moses), peace be upon him. Sent to confront the mighty Pharaoh and to guide the Children of



Israel, Allah supported him with miracles that left no doubt about his prophethood. Each miracle was a message of divine power and mercy, proving that truth always prevails over falsehood.

Perhaps the most famous of Musa's miracles occurred when he and his followers were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. As the people panicked, Musa turned to Allah for help. Allah commanded him: "Strike the sea with your staff." Instantly, the waters parted into towering walls, forming a dry path for the believers

to cross. When Pharaoh and his army pursued them, the sea closed back, drowning the tyrant and his forces. This event is another powerful example of the miracles in the Quran.

Among the prophets of Allah, Prophet Isa (Jesus), peace be upon him, was blessed with miracles that touched both the body and the soul. His mission was one of mercy, healing,

and guidance — a call to return to the worship of the One True God. Each miracle he performed was a sign (ayah) from Allah, demonstrating divine power, not his own.

One of the greatest aspects of his prophethood was healing the sick. By Allah's permission, Isa cured those who suffered from diseases that no physician could treat. He touched the eyes of the blind and restored their sight. He wiped his blessed hand over the skin of the lepers, and Allah cleansed them instantly. Because of this miraculous gift, people called him Al-Masih —

"The Messiah," meaning the one who wipes or anoints.

Even more astonishing were his miracles of giving life. With the permission of Allah, Isa (AS) called upon the dead — and they rose again, living proofs of divine power. He also shaped a bird from clay, then breathed into it, and by Allah's command, it became a living creature that soared into the sky.

These acts are among the remarkable miracles in the Quran, showing the divine power granted to Isa.

Isa, Jesus (peace be upon him) was also given knowledge of the unseen. He could tell people what they ate and what they stored in their homes — insights that reflected his connection to divine revelation.

Through every miracle, Prophet Isa's message was clear: "I cure the blind and the leper, and I give life to the dead — by Allah's permission." (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:49)

Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham), peace be upon

him, is known as the father of prophets and a symbol of unwavering faith. His story is one of courage, conviction, and total submission to the will of Allah — even in the face of fire itself. This event is one of the remarkable miracles in the Quran, showing how Allah protects His true servants against impossible odds.

“Ask the biggest of them, if they can speak!” (Surah Al-Anbya 21:63)

His words struck them with truth—but their pride blinded them. Instead of accepting his message, they grew furious. Their anger turned into a plan of revenge: to make an example of him before the entire city.

They said: “Burn him and support your gods — if you are to act!” (Surah Al-Anbya 21:68)

A massive fire was built, so fierce that even approaching it was impossible. Ibrahim was tied and catapulted into the blazing flames. But at that very moment, Allah intervened with a miracle that defied the laws of nature. Allah commanded the fire directly: “O fire, be coolness and safety upon Ibrahim.” (Surah Al-Anbya 21:69)

The flames obeyed their Creator. The fire that was meant to destroy became a place of peace and comfort. Ibrahim emerged unharmed — not a single hair burned, not a single mark on his skin. The people were astonished.

The very element that should have consumed him became his protector by Allah’s command.

Prophet Nuh (Noah) — Prophet Nuh (Noah), peace be upon him, was among the earliest messengers sent by Allah to guide humanity. He called his people to worship Allah alone for nearly 950 years, yet only a few accepted his message. Despite his patience and dedication, the majority of his people mocked and rejected him, accusing him of falsehood and madness.

When they continued in their disbelief, Allah commanded Prophet Nuh to build a massive ark — a task that seemed absurd to his people, as there was no sea nearby. They ridiculed him as he built the ship on dry land, but Nuh (AS) carried out Allah’s command with unwavering faith.

Allah says in the Quran: “And construct the ship under Our observation and Our inspiration and do not

address Me concerning those who have wronged; indeed, they are [to be] drowned.” (Surah Hud, 11:37)

When the appointed time came, the heavens poured rain and springs burst forth from the earth, joining together in a mighty flood that engulfed the land. Prophet Nuh was commanded to take a pair of every creature and his believing followers aboard the ark. This event is one of the most well-known miracles in the Quran, showing Allah’s power and mercy in protecting the faithful.

“So We opened the gates of heaven with rain pouring down, and We caused the earth to burst with springs, and the waters met for a matter already predestined.” (Surah Al-Qamar, 54:11–12)

As the waves rose like mountains, the ark floated safely by Allah’s command. Every disbeliever — including Nuh’s own son who refused to board — was

drowned. When the flood ended, the waters subsided, and the ark came to rest upon Mount Judi, marking the victory of faith and obedience over arrogance and denial. This story is not only a historical miracle but also a reminder that Allah’s help always reaches the believers, even when the world turns against them. The Ark of Nuh stands as a symbol of divine mercy, protection, and justice.

Prophet Salih (peace be upon him) was sent to the Thamud, a powerful and wealthy tribe who lived in carved stone houses in the valley of Al-Hijr. Despite their blessings and strength, they became arrogant and turned away from Allah’s worship, demanding tangible proof of Salih’s prophethood...*continue reading on <https://thebossnewspapers.com/2026/05/01/friday-sermon-the-concept-of-miracles-and-the-prophets-of-god/>*



Don't Beg Players To Play For Super Eagles – Osaze To NFF

Former Nigerian international, Osaze Odemwingie, has advised the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to stop begging players of Nigerian descent born abroad to represent the Super Eagles at senior international level.

Recall that the NFF has been making attempts to convince players like Michael Kayode, Tosin Adarabioyo, Caleb Okoli, Kingsley Ehizibue, and others to play for the senior national team.

However, in a chat with Brila FM, Osaze stated that the Super Eagles are a prestigious team that should attract top talent without needing to solicit or beg players.

“These days, it’s like they want the pampering. Me as you know, I don’t need no pampering. If Naija pampers me, it’s more than enough for me. We love

everyone and there are some cases where the love wasn’t based on the decision for the love of a European country, unless maybe you have a mixed heritage,” Osaze stated.

The former West Bromwich Albion man continued: “Like me, growing up, there was a rule that once you wear the shirt of a national team you can’t wear another team’s shirt. I love Russia, but my connection is with Nigeria when it comes to football and sport. I won’t judge anybody. Imagine one day the whole football squad of England will be Nigerians. It’s Nigerian genes that are showing themselves how Nigeria go win World Cup when our talents go out to serve other people.”



Gyokeres Equals Henry, Sanchez Scoring Feats At Arsenal

Viktor Gyokeres equaled the goalscoring feats by Thierry Henry and Alexis Sánchez at Arsenal, after helping Mikel Arteta’s side thrash Fulham 3-0 at the Emirates on Saturday.

Gyokeres scored two goals and also provided an assist in the first half to take his season tally to 21 goals in all competitions.

This means he is the third player to achieve the feat in the Premier League era, after Henry (26

goals in 1999-2000 season) and Sanchez (25 goals in 2014-2015 season).

Bukayo Saka, making his first start since Arsenal lost to City in the Carabao Cup final on March 22, was the architect, laying on Gyokeres’ ninth-minute opener. Saka then doubled his side’s advantage with five minutes of the opening period left, as he fired into the back of the net off an assist from Gyokeres.



AFCON 2027: Super Eagles To Know Opponents May 19

The Super Eagles will discover their opponents in the qualifiers for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations on Tuesday, 19 May.

48 teams including the three co-hosts, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda will participate in the qualifiers.

The qualifiers will be played across three FIFA international windows in September, October, and November.

The 48 teams will be drawn into 12 groups of four teams each.

The top two teams in each group will qualify for the final tournament.

Nigeria’s Super Eagles finished third at the AFCON 2025 finals in Morocco.

The Opening Match will be played on Saturday, 19 June 2027 and the Final on Saturday, 17 July 2027.

CAF announced that the competition will run from Saturday, 19 June to Saturday, 17 July, 2027.



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 Oluyede. 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. Oluyede 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 muat 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.

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EDITORIAL TEAM

PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dele Momodu
momodudele@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)

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