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New Owa-Obokun, Oba Haastrup pledges
peace, unity, development

100 DAYS: GOV AIYEDATIWA UNVEILS ONDO'S UPGRADED PHARMA-GRADE DRUGS WAREHOUSE



By Ladidi Al-hassan

The Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, has said that health remains a top priority of his administration, and that access to safe, quality, and affordable medicines is a fundamental part of the government's commitment to building a healthier and stronger State.

The Governor made this commitment on Tuesday, during the official commissioning of the newly upgraded Central Medical Stores to a Pharma-grade Warehouse in Akure, the state capital.

During the event, the Governor described the project as a major leap in strengthening the state's healthcare delivery system and a bold step toward eliminating counterfeit and substandard drugs from public health facilities.

Governor Aiyedatiwa explained that the upgrade of the Central Medical Stores was the result of a strategic partnership between the Ondo State Government, the Federal Government, and the Global Fund through counterpart funding arrangements.

"It became imperative to upgrade the facility to a Pharma-grade Warehouse that adheres to international best practices for drug storage, thereby protecting the potency, safety, and quality of all health commodities," he said.

The Governor stressed that one of the most significant health threats in Nigeria and Africa at large is the widespread circulation of counterfeit and substandard drugs. He assured the public that the new warehouse will strengthen quality assurance mechanisms and procurement systems.

"With this facility, we are taking concrete steps to eliminate fake medicines from our supply chain. We have instituted strict procurement policies to ensure that all drugs are sourced exclusively from registered and reputable pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers," he added.

He stated that the facility would not only ensure optimal storage conditions but would also enhance inventory management, reduce wastage, and guarantee the timely and safe distribution of health commodities to hospitals and clinics across the state.

The Governor also disclosed that the state recently collaborated with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) to produce the first edition of the Ondo State Essential



Medicines List, a major stride in standardizing healthcare delivery and drug availability.

Earlier in his welcome address, Pharmacist (Dr.) Amos Ayegbusi, Executive Secretary of the Ondo State Drugs and Health Commodities Management Agency (ODHCMA), described the event as a major leap in strengthening the state's healthcare system.

He expressed deep appreciation to Governor Aiyedatiwa for his unwavering support, particularly the prompt release of counterpart funds that enabled the project's timely completion.

Representing the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Ali Pate, at the commissioning, Mrs. Celine Onunkwo, Coordinator of the National Product Supply Chain Management Program, described the facility as a critical milestone towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

She emphasized that the warehouse will serve as the backbone of an integrated, efficient system for storing and distributing essential medicines and public health commodities.

Onunkwo commended Governor Aiyedatiwa for his commitment to healthcare development and called for sustained investment in distribution networks and warehouse maintenance to ensure long-term success.

Meanwhile, the Special Adviser on Health, Professor Simidele Odimayo, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Mr. Adeniran Ikumola, praised Governor Aiyedatiwa for his visionary leadership in advancing the health sector in Ondo State.

He noted that the successful upgrade and commissioning of the Central Medical Store is a reflection of the governor's dedication to building a resilient and efficient healthcare system, emphasizing that such investments will have lasting impacts on service delivery and access to essential medicines for the people of the state.

In attendance at the event were the Deputy Governor, Dr Olayide Adelami, Secretary to the State Government, Dr Taiwo Fasoranti, Chief of Staff, Prince Segun Omojuwa, traditional rulers, members of the State Executive Council, top government functionaries, among others.

NIGERIA: REPENTANT KILLERS, DISTRACTED SENATORS, AND A NATION IN PERIL

... Time to face reality

In 2011, I wrote an article asserting that Nigeria is at war with her North and Central African neighbours. Yes, we are at war, but we are masking it with different names; banditry, Boko Haram insurgency, killer herdsmen, etc.

I don't know if my Northern brothers see the war the way I do. This insurgency is beyond what any army battalion can easily overcome. We need to deploy modern warfare technology. The enemy is difficult to identify once he blends into the crowd.

Our greatest mistake in the last five years has been the policy of reintegrating “repentant” Boko Haram members into society. The government is, knowingly or not, creating avenues for the enemy to infiltrate and target vulnerable Nigerians.

With the use of drones and other modern techniques, our soldiers would be better equipped to confront these enemies. Through satellite surveillance and mobile tracking systems, our gallant troops can win this war. (Let's not forget that soldiers are human beings too.)

Our legislators need to wake up and do the needful. At a time when lives are being lost daily in Benue and Plateau states, when bandits have taken over towns and villages in the Northwest and Niger State, our senators are wasting time discussing irrelevant matters, like seating positions and sexual harassment.

Let us hold a mirror to the upper chamber: Nigeria is becoming a laughing stock before the international community.

My take: Senate President Akpabio should submit to scrutiny

Women's inclusion in African politics still requires deliberate study and deep understanding. Spouses of female politicians must be mature enough to trust and support their wives. Male politicians must give the utmost respect to their female counterparts and remember that she is someone's daughter, wife, or sister.

They must grow beyond ego and recognise these ladies as equals, if not more. I recall the words of distinguished Senator Ita Giwa: “For a woman to campaign and win a senatorial seat, she is already a man.” The men in the chamber must accord these women due respect.

As a Nigerian, I have carefully observed the ongoing altercation in the Senate between distinguished Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan and the Senate President, distinguished Senator Godswill



Akpabio. Though ridiculous, it is clear that the Senate President did not handle the matter as expected of the upper house.

Former federal lawmaker and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, West Idahosa (SAN), challenged the legality of Senator Natasha Akpoti's extended suspension, asserting that the Senate has overstepped its constitutional boundaries.

Idahosa emphatically stated that parliamentary suspensions face strict legal limitations: “You can't suspend a sitting senator or lawmaker for more than 14 days, and not only that, you can also not suspend without hearing the other party.”

I was shocked to see the accused becoming the judge in a matter where he is directly involved. Are we in Animal Farm or an animal kingdom? Clearly, this is a wrong action at the wrong time.

Our senators should focus on how to win the multifaceted war raging across our land instead of trivialising national discourse with issues like sexual harassment.

At a time when inflation, hunger, and pest-infested crops plague our farmers and when armed herders are preventing farming activities, our politicians are busy discussing endorsements for elections that are still two years away. Are we even serious?

I remain baffled by our leaders' belief that “repentant” Boko Haram members should be reintegrated into society. Honestly, we must pity our soldiers. Treat criminals as criminals. A murderer claims to have repented, and you let him walk freely among the same people he once terrorised? Hmmm... en fina sori orule sun. (You set the house on fire and went inside to sleep.)

President Tinubu must call the political class to order. This is no time for politicking. Let's come together, united, to make Nigeria great.

GOD BLESS NIGERIA.

Lai Gidado
 3rd June 2025

"Port Wars and Public Shaming: Hadiza Bala Usman's Rocky Reign at NPA"

Hadiza Bala Usman's time as boss of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) from 2016 to 2021 was a wild ride—some wins, but a whole lot of drama. Her big clash with Abdul Samad Rabiu, the head of BUA Group, over their Rivers Port deal getting canceled is just one messy chapter. Let's dig into her other controversies, tie them to the BUA fight, slam her tenure, and scold both sides for airing their dirty laundry in public, which makes Nigeria look bad and scares off investors.

Hadiza's Other Headaches

Money Mess: In 2021, Transport Minister Rotimi Amaechi suspended Hadiza, claiming NPA didn't send N165 billion of profits to the government. A probe followed, but it found no solid proof. She got her job back in 2022 after an audit cleared her. Still, the whole thing screamed political drama, with whispers she was targeted for her ties to ex-Governor Nasir El-Rufai.

Dodgy Contracts: Hadiza was accused of playing favorites with contracts, like kicking Intels off a big port deal in 2017 for not following financial rules. It sparked a nasty fight, with some saying she was settling political scores. Similar gripes came up with other port operators, painting her as tough but maybe too picky.

Stakeholder Fights: Hadiza went hard on companies like APM Terminals and Five Star Logistics, demanding they fix port infrastructure. Some cheered her for cleaning up, but others called her a bully who ignored their challenges. It made her a lot of enemies.

Political Games: Her appointment screamed "El-Rufai's friend," and her suspension looked like Amaechi flexing muscle. The back-and-forth—sacked, then reinstated—made NPA look like a political ping-pong ball.

How This Ties to the BUA Drama

The BUA fight fits Hadiza's pattern like a glove:

Picky Enforcement: Like with Intels, Hadiza hammered BUA for not rebuilding berths at Rivers Port, ignoring their claims that NPA didn't dredge or secure the port. Rabiu even said she canned their deal to help a pal's business—sounds familiar to the Intels accusations.

Ignoring Rules: BUA says Hadiza steamrolled a court order and arbitration to shut their terminal. That echoes complaints about her bending rules in other deals or her own suspension saga.

Political Whiffs: Rabiu's claim of favoritism smells like the political mud slung at her elsewhere. Her reinstatement after Buhari stepped in mirrors BUA's comeback in 2022 when the termination was called illegal.

Public Brawls: Both Hadiza and BUA took their beef to the press in 2025—her

with a fiery rebuttal, them with a victim story. It's the same loud mess as her Intels fight or suspension drama.

Slamming Hadiza's Tenure

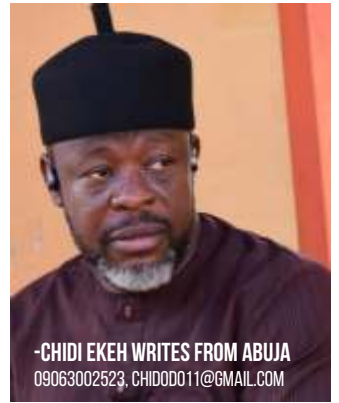
Hadiza came in swinging, trying to fix Nigeria's messy ports. She cut ship wait times and pushed for accountability—big wins. But she botched the execution. Her "my way or the highway" vibe, like in the BUA case, turned partners into foes. Ignoring court orders and arbitration made her look like she thought she was above the law. The money scandal, even if unproven, showed she wasn't watching the books closely enough. And her political ties? They made every move look like a power play. She wasn't corrupt, but she was stubborn and played favorites, leaving a trail of fights that hurt more than helped. Her tenure was a bold mess—some progress, but way too much noise.

Scolding Both Sides

Hadiza and BUA need to sit down and shut up. Her public clapback at Rabiu in 2025 was petty—she's got facts but didn't need to air them like a reality show. BUA's whining about being wronged, while dodging their own failures, is just as bad. Their back-and-forth makes Nigeria's ports look like a circus, scaring off foreign investors who already dropped from \$5.8 billion in 2016 to \$2.2 billion in 2023. This public shame game screams "Nigeria can't get it together," and it's on them. They should've settled this quietly instead of dragging the country's name through the mud.

Bottom Line

Hadiza's time at NPA was a mix of gutsy moves and sloppy fights, with the BUA saga as Exhibit A. She pushed for change but tripped over her own ego. BUA's not innocent either—they messed up and then played the victim. Their public spat is a bad look for Nigeria, chasing away money the country desperately needs. Both need to grow up and put Nigeria first.



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WOMANHOOD AND MOTHERHOOD: A Divine Trust Worth Honouring

Let's face it, life doesn't come with a manual, but if we're lucky, it comes with a mother. From the bustling streets of Lagos to the sun-kissed villages of Abeokuta, one truth rings out loud and clear: the woman especially the African woman is the rock on which many homes are built. She's the cook, the comforter, the counselor, the peacemaker, and often, the unsung breadwinner. She juggles roles like a seasoned circus act, only without the applause. In Yoruba culture, there's a saying that packs more punch than a whole paragraph: "Òrìsà bí Ìyá ò sí, Ìyá là bá maa bọ." It means, "There's no deity like a mother, she's the one we worship." And truthfully, who else would willingly carry another human being for nine months, endure labour, and still go on to sacrifice nearly every comfort for their child's wellbeing?

The late Dr. Sikiru Ayinde Barrister, the Fuji music icon from Ibadan, knew the worth of women. Though never pinned down as a feminist, Barry as fans fondly called him was one of the few male artists of his time who consistently paid homage to womanhood and motherhood in his music. He didn't just sing to entertain; he sang to teach, to correct, and to honour.

In one of his early tracks, he proclaimed:

"Òrìsà bí Ìyá ò sí, Ìyá là bá maa bọ..."
(There is no deity like a mother, she is the one we must honour.)

This wasn't just poetry—it was cultural truth, sung straight from the heart. In his songs like "Adieu MKO Abiola" and "Precious Mum," Barry painted women as pillars of strength and virtue. He spoke of them with respect, celebrated their hard work, and even gave heartfelt marital advice: urging women to be of good character, hardworking, and dignified.

And he wasn't alone.

From Nelson Mandela, who credited his mother and a strong female figure in his life for his early education, to Barack Obama, who frequently praised the resilience of his late mother Ann Dunham and his wife Michelle, we see examples of men who knew that womanhood isn't just sacred, it is society's safety net.

In Nigeria, men like Fela Durotoye, Tony Elumelu, and Obi Cubana have also publicly recognized the invaluable support and strength of women whether mothers, wives, or colleagues on their paths to success. Even the late MKO Abiola was known to empower women politically and socially, long before it became mainstream.

These are not weak men. They are wise men.

They understand that a society that sidelines its women is building on sand, and that behind every great man is not just a woman but a mother who prayed, a sister who sacrificed, and a



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wife who stayed.

More Than Mothers

But womanhood is not limited to motherhood. Not every woman will bear children, and not every mother figure is defined by biology. From teachers who shape minds in classroom corners, to market women who trade with wisdom, and the nurses in LUTH, FMC, or even the quiet community hospitals in Enugu and Ekiti these women carry life in more ways than one.

They carry hope.

They carry culture.

They carry the future.

And so, in a world that still pays lip service to gender equality, we must do more than clap on International Women's Day. We must raise daughters who know their worth, and raise sons who respect that worth.

We must celebrate the Subuola in every home—the woman who never went to Harvard but taught her child to dream; the woman who gave up her comfort for someone else's future; the woman who may never wear a crown, but whose hands bless everyone she touches.

Let's Say It Loud: Òrìsà Bí Ìyá Ó Sí

As Barrister once prayed in his music:

"Orí mi má jẹ fi iyá mi sáyé lọ..."
(May my destiny never cost me the presence of my mother.)

May we live with that same wisdom.

To every mother, every woman who wears her struggle like fine lace this is for you. Not just because you carried life, but because you gave it meaning. Your strength is not in your silence, but in your sacrifice. And your worth? Beyond rubies. Let's build a world that remembers: the rise of women is the rise of us all.



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THE PARLIAMENT

Dear readers you are welcome to your column, the **PARLIAMENT**, this month we are giving you juicy stories from our representatives. Happy reading.



REPS THREATEN REVOCATION OF LICENSES FOR DEFAULTING QUARRY OPERATORS

The Nigerian House of Representatives Committee on Solid Minerals has threatened to recommend the revocation of mining licenses of companies operating quarries across the country for either operating illegally or failing to honour legislative summons.

Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Jonathan Gaza Gbefwi, representing Keffi/Karu/Kokona of Nassarawa State handed down this warning at an investigative hearing into the activities of mining companies in Nigeria.

The lawmaker specifically ordered Arab Contractors and Omatek to either present all relevant documents authorizing their quarry operations or shut down immediately.

Hon. Gbefwi expressed displeasure that several quarry operators had refused to honour the Committee's invitations, describing their actions as a flagrant disregard for the laws of the land.

"It is unacceptable for companies to operate within Nigeria while disobeying extant laws and ignoring legislative oversight," he said.

The lawmaker said an oversight visit by the Committee to

several quarry sites in the Federal Capital Territory exposed a deplorable state of affairs, particularly the failure of companies to fulfill their community development obligations.

He further disclosed that in many of the companies visited, only technical staff reside in Nigeria, while Managing Directors and senior executives—mostly foreign nationals, particularly from China—remain in their home countries.

"We welcome foreign investment in Nigeria," Gbefwi noted, "but we will not tolerate a situation where host communities are subjected to inhumane conditions and denied the benefits promised under signed agreements."

He added that Arab Contractors were found to be operating an illegal quarry site without securing the required approvals from relevant authorities.

The lawmaker warned that, beyond recommending the suspension of operational licenses for defaulting firms, the Committee may be compelled to push for the outright revocation of such licenses.

Speaker Abbas: ICT Framework Critical to Job Creation, Youth Empowerment

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, has emphasized that a robust Information and Communication Technology (ICT) framework is vital to driving job creation, youth empowerment, and economic diversification in Nigeria.

He made this known in Abuja while declaring open a public hearing on a bill to establish the Federal Institute of Information Technology in Idanre, Ondo State.



Represented by the Deputy Chief Whip, Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka, the Speaker said the proposed legislation, if passed, would serve as a strong response to the challenges of unemployment and social discontent.

Abbas expressed optimism that the bill would help equip Nigerian youth with digital skills aligned with the demands of the 21st-century workplace.

"These initiatives align

seamlessly with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda on youth empowerment and job creation," he said.

He further underscored the need to explore how ICT can transform the education sector—how students learn, how knowledge is delivered, and how educational processes are managed.

The Speaker reiterated the importance of harnessing the immense potential of emerging and future ICT technologies to revolutionize the Nigerian education system.

He described public hearings of this nature as valuable platforms for citizens, experts, and stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to the development of ICT education in the country.

"Such contributions will not only guide lawmakers in shaping effective legislation but also offer valuable insights into the likely impact of the proposed bills," he said.

Abbas, however, noted that the success of such initiatives goes beyond legislation, calling for the collective commitment of all stakeholders to implement policies that will redefine the role of technology in Nigeria's development narrative.

Also speaking, Chairman of the House Committee on Digital and Information Technology, Hon. Adedeji Olajide,

said the bills are designed to provide employment opportunities for Nigeria's growing youth population.

He commended Speaker Abbas for his consistent support and for personally declaring the hearing open. Olajide noted that the objective of the hearing was to gather expert input and public opinion to guide the legislative process.

"This is also an opportunity for citizens to actively participate in shaping laws that affect their lives," he said.

The sponsor of the bills, Hon. Festus Akingbaso (Idanre Federal Constituency, Ondo State), stated that the goal was to bring Nigeria in line with global standards in technology development. He said the proposed institute would create jobs and contribute meaningfully to the country's economic advancement.

In his remarks, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, reaffirmed the agency's commitment to promoting digital literacy across Nigeria.

Represented by Emmanuel Edet, Programme Manager at NITDA, Abdullahi expressed the agency's full support for the bill, which he said aligns with NITDA's mandate to advance technology and digital development nationwide.

Stakeholders Reiterate Commitment to National Sugar Masterplan as Reps Move to Amend NSDC Act



Key stakeholders in Nigeria's sugar industry have reaffirmed their commitment to the successful implementation of the National Sugar Masterplan (NSMP), which aims to transform Nigeria into a net exporter of sugar and related products, while contributing meaningfully to national economic growth.

Stakeholders—including the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), BUA Group, Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc, and Abuja-based consulting firm NINA-JOJER—made this commitment at a one-day public hearing on a bill to amend the National Sugar Development Council Act, held on Thursday at the National Assembly.

The proposed legislation is titled "A Bill for an Act to Amend

the National Sugar Development Council Act, CAP N78 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024, to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Council, and the Payment of All Monies Received by the Council into the Federation Account in Accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), and for Related Matters" (HB.2022 and HB.2030).

In his presentation, the Executive Secretary of the NSDC, Mr. Kamar Bakrin, emphasized the transformative goals of the Sugar Masterplan—chief among them the creation of 100,000 high-quality jobs, development of rural infrastructure, and savings of over \$1 billion in foreign exchange annually.

"To realize this vision, we require \$4.5 billion in investments, which the Council is actively working to attract. Investor confidence is critical, and that confidence hinges on transparent, rule-based policies," he said.

Bakrin raised concerns over the recent directive mandating that 50% of the sugar levy be remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF), warning that such measures could undermine the sector's transformation goals.

"The sugar levy was specifically introduced to fund the development of the sector, unlike import duties. Redirecting those funds could derail the country's industrial ambitions," he warned, adding that the NSDC has established a technical committee to thoroughly review the proposed amendments and provide feedback.

Representing the Director General of NAFDAC, Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye, Mrs Iba Edward expressed the agency's support for the bill's intent to enhance the Council's regulatory capacity. However, he cautioned that some of the proposed

provisions overlap with NAFDAC's core regulatory functions as outlined in Section 5 of the NAFDAC Act.

"We urge the National Assembly to clearly delineate the roles of NSDC to avoid conflict and duplication. NAFDAC remains the regulatory authority for all food imports, including sugar, to ensure consumer safety and quality standards," he said.

Also speaking, Assistant Comptroller General of Customs, K.C. Egwuh, affirmed the Nigeria Customs Service's commitment to its revenue collection mandate under Nigeria's fiscal laws. He reiterated the agency's support for efforts to enhance transparency and efficiency in the sugar industry.

Representing BUA Group, former Minister Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong expressed the company's firm commitment to the NSMP, noting BUA's substantial investments in the sector.

"We have developed a nearly 50,000-hectare sugar plantation, with 20,000 hectares already under cultivation, and we're acquiring another 50,000 hectares. While we're not where we want to be yet, we are making progress," he said.

Hong, however, urged policymakers to consider the economic impact of regulatory changes on both producers and consumers. "Fiscal policies must be holistic and sensitive to the realities of Nigerians. As a socially responsible company, we support the backward integration policy and commend the ongoing reforms."

On behalf of Flour Mills of Nigeria, Mr. Onome Okurah, Head of Government and Community Relations, acknowledged the challenges in the sector but stressed the company's continued dedication.

"We operate on over 6,000 hectares and currently run sugar production for three to four months each year. We believe that with sustained collaboration, we'll see meaningful progress in the

next decade," he said.

The consulting firm NINA-JOJER also made submissions at the hearing, raising concerns about the bill's provisions on the utilization of the sugar levy, quota allocation, expanded regulatory roles, and enforcement mechanisms. The firm called for clarification of grey areas to ensure transparency and effectiveness.

In his opening address, Chairman of the House Committee, Rep. Enitan Dolapo Badru, said the hearing was part of efforts to develop inclusive legislation that will strengthen the NSDC's capacity to drive the NSMP.

"We urge all stakeholders to contribute constructively. Our goal is to build a sustainable and competitive sugar industry that creates jobs, improves livelihoods, and contributes significantly to national development," he said.

In his remarks, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. John Owan Eno, emphasized sugar's potential in achieving President Bola Tinubu's \$1 trillion economy vision.

"Sugar plays a critical role in rural development, job creation, and national value generation. The NSMP is a vital component of our industrialization drive. However, its success depends on the collective attitude and accountability of both public and private sector actors," he said.

The Minister noted that while the sugar industry has benefited from over \$2 billion in incentives under the first and second phases of the Masterplan, its contribution to the economy remains underwhelming—estimated at just \$30 billion.

"This amendment is intended to strengthen the law, correct past lapses, and ensure we achieve real import substitution and sustainable local capacity," he concluded.

Agriculture Most Viable Alternative For Broad-based Economic Resilience - Speaker Abbas

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Abbas Tajudeen has said With Nigeria's economy still grappling with the vulnerabilities of oil dependency, agriculture presents the most viable alternative to attaining broad-based economic resilience.

Abbas stated this while declaring open the public hearing on 11 bills organised by the House Committee on Agriculture Colleges and Institutions at the National Assembly Complex in Abuja on Monday.

Represented by the deputy chief whip, Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka, the speaker said it is within the context of agriculture as a viable alternative that the establishment and expansion of agricultural research institutions across the country is not only necessary but strategically urgent.

"There are a good number of Countries that have attained a significant leap in agro development. These countries that have attained global respect in agricultural transformation are driven by investing substantially in research and development. Brazil's Embrapa, for instance, reengineered an infertile savannah into a global food hub.

"Vietnam's targeted agricultural reforms pulled vast populations out of poverty. Israel continues to innovate in arid-zone agriculture through technology-driven methods. Nigeria, blessed with expansive arable land, a youthful farming



population, indigenous knowledge systems, and an emerging tech ecosystem, stands at the cusp of replicating and even surpassing such success stories if we act decisively.

"I am firmly convinced that the passage of these bills will invigorate our agricultural institutions by providing them with a robust legal and operational framework. Strengthening research centres will unlock new insights in crop production, pest control, and climate-smart agriculture. Expanding extension services

will bridge the gap between research and practice, ensuring that innovations reach the grassroots.

"Enhanced farmer engagement will not only boost productivity but also lead to improved livelihoods, healthier soils, and rural development outcomes. By building institutional capacity, we are also investing in future generations of agronomists, scientists, and policy experts who will sustain this momentum. These are the issues to be considered as we make our contributions to these bills," he said.

Earlier, the committee's chairman, Hon. Isiaq Akinlade said with a population size of over 220million and still growing, the nation is desirous of more agricultural colleges and research institutions that will help proffer solutions to issues namely — climate change, insecurity, pest outbreaks, soil degradation, unskilled laborers, livestock management amongst others.

"I am positive that establishing more agricultural colleges and institutions will drive specialization and dedication to agricultural excellence. Other tangible benefits of the Establishment Bills are to create jobs for our teeming youths through its various value chain.

"Centers of Learning – equipping students with modern, science-based agricultural skills in crop production, livestock management, agribusiness, and environmental stewardship. Hubs of innovation – conducting research to improve yields, enhance farming systems to meet global standards.

"Catalysts for Rural Development – supporting local agribusiness; and nurturing entrepreneurs who will drive sustainable development from the ground up. Bridge gap between tradition and technology – preserving indigenous knowledge whilst also introducing cutting-edge technologies like precision farming, biotechnology, and modern irrigation systems etc.

"I envision these colleges not as isolated institutions, but as networks — collaborating with other agric institutions, ministries, and the private sector — to ensure their teachings are practical, market-relevant, and future-facing. To our youth: these colleges represent opportunity. To our farmers, it represents support. And to our nation, it represents a pathway to food security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability," he added.

NG-CARES: REPS C'TTEE DIRECTS NATIONAL COORDINATOR TO BRIEF ON EXPENDITURE FROM 2009 TO 2021

The House of Representatives Committee on community and Social Development/NG-CARES Hon . Abubakar Kusada has requested for documents from the Federal CARES Support Unit of the Nigeria Community Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus, NG-CARES, showing their transaction from 2009 till 2021.

The Committee Chairman, Hon Kusada gave the directive during an interactive meeting with members of his committee and the group in a meeting held at National Assembly complex, Abuja

The Lawmakers during the occasion urged the NG-CSRES to urgently provide state-by-state reports detailing the achievements of all state coordinators in mitigating the effects of flooding.

Members of the committee also used the occasion to discuss with the National Coordinator of group, Abdulkarim Obaje on how he should manage the results with the states before releasing the published amounts of money each state has received.

In his brief presentation at the meeting, the National Coordinator, Abdulkarim Obaje while commending lawmakers for their effective oversight explained that the Loan repayment are hampered by the fluctuating exchange rates in the country.

He therefore informed lawmakers that the loan agreement between Nigeria and the World Bank is with a value of \$70m while the disbursement of \$2.2 billion have been carried out among various states across Nigeria.

Earlier while responding to question from the committee, the National Coordinator explained that Nigeria Community



Action for Resilience and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) Programme, formerly known as the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus, is one of the shock response mechanisms established by the Federal Government to address the negative impact of the pandemic and other related shocks.

According to him: "NG-CARES Programme is a World Bank-assisted multi-sectoral intervention specifically designed to provide immediate emergency relief to poor and vulnerable Nigerians, smallholder farmers, and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) that were adversely affected by various shocks, including COVID-19".

"The NG-CARES Programme is implemented by the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) using the Programme for Results (PforR) lending instrument.

The Programme Development Objective (PDO) is “ To expand access to livelihood support and food security services, and grants for poor and vulnerable households and firms”

Onifiye of Idado-Ijesa felicitates Owa of Ijesaland on Coronation, offers prayers for peaceful reign

The Onifiye Adimula of Idado-Ijesa Kingdom, His Royal Majesty, Oba Michael Kehinde Adebawale Taiwo (Orilobamise Jowele Lori-Oko II), has congratulated His Imperial Majesty, Owa Clement Adesuyi Haastrup (Ajimoko III), Owa-Obokun Adimula, the Paramount Ruler of Ijesaland, on his coronation ceremony held on the 23rd of May, 2025.

According to the monarch:

"On behalf of the Onifiye-in-Council and the entire people of Idado-Ijesa, I felicitate with Your Majesty on your historic ascension to the revered throne of your forebears.

"This is indeed a divine affirmation of your wisdom, strength, and commitment to the progress of Ijesaland.

"As you mount the sacred stool of your ancestors, we pray that your reign be long, peaceful, and prosperous.

"May your wisdom continue to inspire unity, growth, and development across Ijesaland.

"May the Almighty endow you with good health, uncommon insight, and the



strength to carry the burden of leadership with grace and honour.

"We look forward to a reign that will uplift the cultural heritage of our land, strengthen traditional institutions, and usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for all Ijesa sons and daughters, both at home and in the diaspora.

"Once again, I say congratulations, Kabiyesi and may your crown never lose its glory."

Ogun State Sets New Standard For National Sports Festivals – *Olopade*



Director-general of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Hon. Bukola Olopade, has given high praise to the just concluded 22nd National Sports Festival, dubbed the 'Gateway Games 2024', stating that Ogun State has established a new benchmark for future events.

Olopade, who also serves as the chairman of the main organising committee, made the remark during the closing ceremony of the biennial sporting event at the MKO Abiola Sports Arena in Abeokuta on Thursday. He urged Enugu State, the next host of the festival, to further elevate the standards of the games.

“Ogun State has done an exceptional job as a host, and this is due to the visionary and intentional leadership of Governor Dapo Abiodun. This is the standard that Enugu State must strive to surpass, and I have no doubt that Governor Peter Mbah will deliver another world-class Games in 2026,”

Olopade said.

Ogun State took the hosting of the National Sports Festival to a new level, culminating in a breathtaking closing ceremony on Thursday.

After nearly two weeks of non-stop competition, the closing ceremony showcased all the elements of a true global sporting spectacle.

From the quality of attendance to the inspiring calisthenics display, musical performances, and the various motivating speeches from top government officials, Thursday's closing ceremony has undoubtedly raised the bar for future games.

Delta State emerged as the winner of the games, successfully defending the title they claimed two years ago in Asaba, with a total of 337 medals, including 126 gold, 100 silver, and 111 bronze.

Ogun State finished in second place, securing 93 gold, 65 silver, and 80 bronze medals, while Bayelsa State took third place with 92 gold, 65 silver, and 71 bronze medals.

Completing the top five were Rivers and Edo States. Rivers finished fourth with 76 gold, 58 silver, and 65 bronze medals, while Edo placed fifth with 73 gold, 101 silver, and 119 bronze medals.

Lagos finished sixth with 38 gold, 43 silver, and 88 bronze medals, while Oyo came in seventh with 38 gold, 37 silver, and 51 bronze medals. The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) ended in eighth place with 14 gold, 8 silver, and 17 bronze medals, while Osun ranked ninth with 13 gold, 3 silver, and 11 bronze medals. Akwa Ibom rounded out the top ten with 12 gold, 11 silver, and 20 bronze medals.

The highly commended Invited Junior Athletes (IJA) finished the festival in an impressive 18th position, winning 2 gold, 9 silver, and 11 bronze medals, inspiring the next generation of Nigerian athletes.

A total of 2,139 medals were awarded at the games, comprising 633 gold, 624 silver, and 882 bronze medals

S/N	STATES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	DELTA	126	99	100	325
2	BAYELSA	92	65	71	228
3	OGUN	93	65	80	238
4	RIVERS	76	58	65	199
5	EDO	73	101	119	293
6	LAGOS	38	43	88	169
7	OYO	38	37	51	126
8	FCT	14	8	17	39
9	OSUN	13	3	11	27
10	AKWA IBOM	12	11	20	43
-	GRAND TOTAL	633	624	882	2139

Thursday, May 28 - 05:00PM

S/N	STATES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
31	SONOMA	0	2	4	6
32	TARABA	0	2	1	3
33	ADAMAWA	0	1	4	5
34	BERITTO	0	1	2	3
35	KOCHI	0	0	4	4
36	KIRIBI	0	0	2	2
37	ZAMAKA	0	0	1	1
38	-	-	-	-	-
-	GRAND TOTAL	006	008	035	2039

Thursday, May 28 - 05:00PM

S/N	STATES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
21	ENUGU	2	9	11	22
22	BAITABA	2	1	2	5
23	ENAKU	1	7	4	12
24	MEER	1	5	4	10
25	NASAWA	1	4	12	17
26	BORNO	1	4	3	8
27	SAUCH	1	2	5	8
28	IBORI	1	0	1	2
29	WILIR	0	4	9	13
30	YOMI	0	2	1	3
-	GRAND TOTAL	006	008	035	2039

Thursday, May 28 - 05:00PM

S/N	STATES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	ABA	10	18	37	65
12	PLATEAU	8	13	24	45
13	KANO	6	8	11	25
14	PAWMA	5	5	12	27
15	CROSS RIVERS	5	2	8	15
16	IMO	4	5	23	32
17	KADUNA	3	8	4	15
18	WATED JUNIOR ATHLETE	2	9	11	22
19	ONDO	2	5	18	25
20	AMBARA	2	5	11	18
-	GRAND TOTAL	006	008	035	2039

Thursday, May 28 - 05:00PM

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Tinubu's Two-Year Achievements Proof of Visionary Leadership – Information Minister . By Shalom Oludele



L-R: Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa; Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris; Director General of Voice of Nigeria (VON), Mallam Jibrin Baba Ndace and former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Tukur Buratai at the inaugural National Dialogue on Citizen Engagement and National Security, organized by VON, in Abuja on Tuesday.

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, has stated that the achievements of the Tinubu administration in just two years stand as irrefutable evidence of visionary and courageous leadership. He made this assertion at the inaugural National Dialogue on Citizen Engagement and National Security, themed “One Voice, One Vision: Uniting Perspectives for a Stronger Nigeria”, held in Abuja on Tuesday.

According to the Minister, the event has come at a time when Nigeria is “at the confluence of purpose and possibility.” He stressed that the forum, initiated by the Voice of Nigeria (VON), is not merely a policy talkshop but a deliberate platform to harmonize policy perspectives with the lived experiences of ordinary Nigerians.

“Just last week,” Idris buttressed, “we commemorated the second anniversary of the Tinubu administration with ample proof of its monumental

positive impact.”

He emphasized that no administration in Nigeria's democratic history has recorded such sweeping reforms and achievements within two years.

“No preceding government has ever achieved what the Tinubu administration has achieved in two years: first, the courage to vanquish the monster of oil subsidy and the forex racket, and then massive road infrastructure, an unprecedented students' loans scheme, and the CreditCorp, indeed, policies that are re-stimulating confidence in our young population.”

The Minister further noted that the Tinubu administration's policies are beginning to yield tangible outcomes.

“After a stormy start, food prices are falling, even as we are stemming the tide of insecurity, while the impact of governance, for the first time in decades, is making a new headway through the local government autonomy, the creation of ministries for regional development, and

the biggest boost in agriculture – the creation of the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development.”

He added that “with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the voices are audibly uniting in further support of a man of vision and courage.”

Underscoring the core objective of the national dialogue, the Minister described national unity and citizen trust as the foundations of national security.

“There can be no national security without national unity. And there can be no unity without trust. In times of uncertainty and insecurity, our greatest weapon is not force. It is trust between the governed and those who govern,” he stated.

He pointed out that the Renewed Hope Agenda is grounded in citizen participation and engagement, where every Nigerian “must feel, be seen, heard, and valued.”

The Minister also praised the Voice of Nigeria for its renewed mandate and evolving role as more than a broadcaster.

“VON is not just broadcasting news, but shaping narratives and forging national identity... ensuring that, whether it is in Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, or English, whether in Berlin or Birnin Kebbi, the voice of Nigeria is heard, respected, and trusted echoing authoritatively from within a united people and secured territory,” he said,

Calling for genuine synergy among all national stakeholders, Idris said: “This forum reflects that vision. It brings together government, media, civil society, and

the security community, not in silos, but in synergy. Not to talk at each other, but to listen to each other.”

The Minister emphasized that Nigerians do not require uniformity to achieve unity; rather, they can embrace their diverse identities while remaining united in purpose.

“This dialogue is a symbol of that possibility as a platform where differences are not erased but embraced, as part of a collective solution. I encourage us to leave here with more than ideas. Let us leave with commitment. A renewed commitment to truth in our media, institutions, to equity in our policies, to transparency in our governance, and to compassion in our communities,” he said.

The event was attended by the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Prof. Nentawe Goshe Yilwatda, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, the Corp Marshal of the Federal Road Safety

Commission, Shehu Mohammed, the Director General of the National Press Council, Dr Dili Ezugha, the Director General of the National Orientation Agency, Malam Lanre Issa-Onilu, the President of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Dr Ike Neliaku, the former Chief of Army Staff, General Yusuf Tukur Buratai and the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Mr Ogbodo Chinasa, Nnam, amongst others.



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OF JOURNALISTS' DEATHS, SECURITY LAPSES AND CUT-THROAT TAXES

Last week was a dark one for journalism in Nigeria. The light of two of its bright stars, Hajiya Amina Alhassan Ahman and Haruna Dauda Biu dimmed and blew out. Amina was cast in the print section of the profession, while Haruna was a star in broadcast journalism.

I first noticed Amina in 2014 at a Leadership Newspaper editorial meeting for editors and senior editorial management staff. The meeting, held every Monday, had each editor defending their paper comparatively against its counterparts from other media houses. Friday Leadership, for instance, would be compared against every paper around the country published on the same day.

Amina was a striking lady with a queenly pose who had a masterful command of English, spoken with the inflexion of the British tone. If you were in another room and overheard her speak, you might assume a Briton was speaking next door.

As a diplomat's daughter, she had the opportunity to study at Kuwait English School (KES) when her late father, Ambassador Yahya Alhassan, was an ambassador in the country. And in her gait and carriage, you would know she was a polished individual.

Haruna, the Voice of America (Hausa Service) reporter for Borno and Yobe states, was a gentleman of the first order. And humble, too. I would call him "maci gauta", or "garden egg eater", because the Babur, the tribe he belonged to in Biu Local Government in Borno State, are known to consider the small bitter types of garden eggs a delicacy, sometimes eaten with pepper. He always answered respectfully.

In life, only Allah knows how every one of us will end our lives. A seemingly inconsequential sickness, thought to be high blood pressure, escalated into something else that caused him partial paralysis. The last time we spoke, he told me he had just returned from a Cairo hospital facilitated by the Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum.

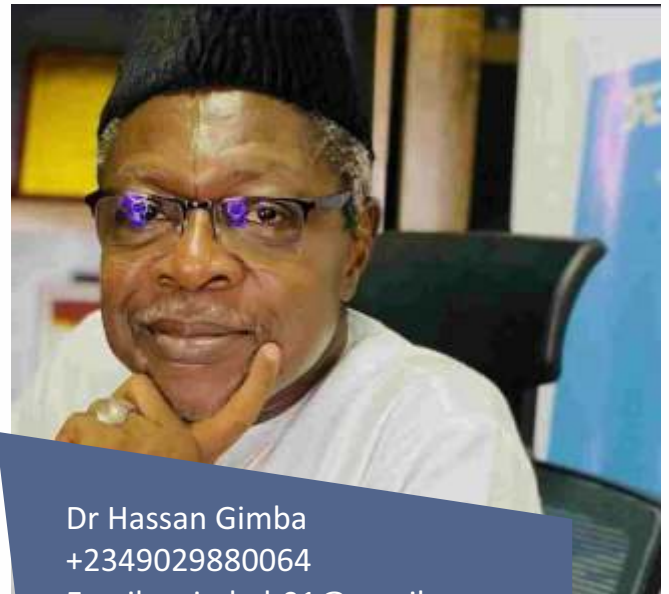
Amina's case differed; she did not tell close friends about her ailment. I am still at a loss as to why she hid it. Being the considerate and kind-hearted person she was, was it that she did not want to bother people or be seen as a liability? She must have been seriously bedridden six months ago, as the mammary cancer spread to her brain about that time. According to one of her sons, she was diagnosed with it about three years ago, but she would not go for chemotherapy until it spread.

After her death, I went through our chats to see if she had left me any hints, and I saw our SMS chat of 12 September 2022. I sent her a message that a man with a so-and-so number had called me from Alliance Hospital regarding her request for an interview on something related to cancer. And she replied to me, "Oh, yes. That must be the MD. I'll call him, thank you."

That was the closest I came to associating her with cancer. At the time, she was my staff. She was an editor and rose to become Neptune Prime's chief operating officer because of her diligence, dedication, and loyalty. She was the type who was ready to take the flak for others if anything went wrong.

As the publisher, you could understand if I assumed she wanted to interview the MD for our paper because she drove our newspaper's content direction and editorial policy. After her death, I realised that she wanted to consult a specialist.

As I said, we first met at Leadership Newspaper. She was a features editor, and I was the stable's Friday title editor. In 2014, I became the spokesman for Dr Abdu Bulama, minister of science and technology, and she was made acting editor in my place. She also rose to become editor of the weekend edition and a member of the newspaper's editorial board.



Dr Hassan Gimba

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Our paths crossed again when I floated Neptune Prime, an online newspaper, in 2016; she was no longer with Leadership. The rest, as is often said, is history.

While I was not very close to Haruna, who was Maiduguri-based, from my few interactions with him and the testimonies of friends, journalism has lost a gem, and humanity has lost a part of it.

As for Amina, I knew her as a very compassionate, thoughtful, considerate, morally upright lady who was chaste and mindful of how God and society would look at her. Her British-intoned "assalamu alaikum" rings in the ears always. She is not just a loss to journalism but to humanity at large.

May Amina Alhassan Ahman be in Jannatul Firdaus with her late father and beloved husband, and may Haruna Dauda Biu find favour with Allah (SWT).

Insecurity, Our Immigration, Our Airports

Recently, many Nigerians heard the news that the wife and mother of Ado Aleiro, a bandit kingpin making life a living hell for Nigerians in the Zamfara axis, were apprehended. Please wait for it; the arrest was made in Madina. No, not Gusau! Not at any of our airports. Not by the Immigration officers who processed their passports and were at the airports to monitor travellers. Our NDLEA officials were napping. DSS? No, Patrick Utomi has taken their attention. Where were the police, NSCDC, FAAN and NAHCO officials?

But that is not even the worst part of it. Wait and watch. No heads would roll. And so, there is no "medicine" against future occurrences.

Don't Tax Us Out of Business

Recently, at the 2025 Taraba International Investment Summit, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, disclosed that foreign investors would come without invitation if local investors were treated well, that is, "if they were making a good profit to offset the cost of production."

He said that for every ₦1 he or any investor made, 52 kobo went to the Federal Government as tax. He should know because, last year, the Dangote Group and its subsidiaries paid over ₦402.3 billion in taxes, making them the highest taxpayers in Nigeria.

Surely, there would be serious problems in our economic development if entrepreneurs who invest their resources to create employment opportunities for our teeming populations are taxed out of business. What of the wise saying not to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs?

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

NEVER EXCLUDE THEM FROM DECISION-MAKING

One of the big mistakes parents make is to think that the children are too immature to understand the running of the family, hence when decisions are made, they are relegated to irrelevance and excluded.

Years back I was to consult with a nutritionist/dietician who I met through a friend. When we had our initial discussion before the real consultation, I was able to see his professionalism and the far-reaching effect his advice and recommendations would have on my family, so I told my wife about it and let her know that we would all be visiting. We did and it was such an eye-opener. I was glad I did.

It necessitated such radical changes in our diet that if my children did not hear the recommendations first-hand, it would be difficult to sell the changes to them. It is not easy to explain to children the dangers of drinking soda, or eating junk food that are tantalising to the taste bud. It is also not easy to withdraw certain types of food and replace with greens unless they are made to see the benefits. I was surprised when I once overheard them explaining the benefits of alkalinity of the body system over the dangers of acidity, to their friends. I was glad the exercise paid off.

From infinitesimal matters like the type of toys to buy for them, what to eat for dinner, which park to go on a Sunday evening, to more important and fundamental issues like which school they are to attend, where the family should spend vacation, where to live etc, it is important to involve them in the decision-making process. In the process, they learn teamwork as well as negotiation and engagement skills. It becomes easier to get them to accept and submit to your authority having seen how fair you have been to them in exercising that authority. Hence it has more to do with fair treatment than the decision going in their favour.

In other words, having their say and the sense of dignity they feel is more important than having their way. In the end, you help sharpen their decision-making skill, an art they will require throughout their lifetime.

.... having their say and the sense of dignity they feel is more important than having their way.

GIVE THEM SPACE

In my first year in the university, the family of one of my roommates lived in the university town. While the rest of us went up and down sweating to get our registration done upon resumption as freshers (in those days it was completely manual, no online stuff), mum did the sweating for him as he just followed her all over the campus.

Twice a week, his mum visited. She would cook meals, soup, and other delicacies and bring them to her son. On weekends, she came to collect his laundry for the week. She would inspect his lecture notes, make his bed, and interrogate us his roommates on our lifestyles. While we were silently upset, our friend was embarrassed. Sometimes, she showed up



Parenting with Femi Adekunle
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thrice within the week, claiming she only came to check after his welfare.

We, however, never ceased to fling jibes at him until his mum's incessant visits became unbearably embarrassing to him.

Looking back, I now know that my roommate's mum practiced what is called helicopter parenting, the habit of over-parenting ("helicopter parents" is a term coined in 1990 by Authors Foster Cline and Jim Fay).

Ever since encountering my roommate's mum, I have seen quite many helicopter parents. Parents who answer for their children when questioned, parents who call their children's class teacher like five times a week, parents who practically write their children's homework for them, and many more.

Is this a suggestion that children be left alone to be on the rampage? By no means! Children need supervision, direction, and leadership. Their malleable minds need to be moulded. It would be the height of parental irresponsibility to abdicate this responsibility. But, this must be done with the utmost calm and confidence devoid of anxiety. Thus, from toddlers to adolescents, children need some measure of age-appropriate independence. This is a truism that has been imbibed by parents who are informed. They know that the more their children are allowed to be expressive, the more mature they become.

They also know that the bigger challenge about parents who hover over their children is that it is less about safety but more about control, less about affection, and more about obsession. Unknown to such parents, they damage their children. According to psychologists, children of helicopter parents are emotionally imbalanced because they have been used to their parents regulating it for them. Among other negative consequences, they also lack the coping skills required to navigate life....the bigger challenge about parents who hover over their children is that it is less about safety but more about control, less about affection, and more about obsession.

The mystique of Pope Leo the XIV from a non- Catholic Admirer

Pope Leo the XIV in the video you are about to watch has proved to me that the first Pope to ever come from America in more than 2000 years of the Catholic Church is the real and only “Akanda Oro, Awikonko, Asoro Iaju Oloro, bi Oloro ba gbo kini Baba Oloro yo se”

Pope Leo is an “Orombo ti ko se di l’Okun and the whole World and Humanity are blessed and lucky to have him as the the supreme leader of the Catholic Church and as the Head of State of arguably one of the smallest countries in the World otherwise called the Vatican or the Holy See.

A Social Media Blogger in Nigeria who calls himself Akanda Abefe Awikonko is truly the Counterfeit “Awikonko Asoro Iaju Oloro” if you dare compare him with a leader like Pope Leo the XIV.

I once pointed out to the self promoting blogger that he sounds arrogant to add the corollary to his statement that “Bi Oloro ba gbo, kini Baba Oloro yo se? He took my advice as an a challenge to his authority and he was terribly upset with me but I told him the truth and I could care less. about how he feels about that.

The blogger did not stop there. He even called himself the reincarnation of “Oranmiyan” of Ile Ife by appearing on his platform sometimes wearing a real traditional crown with several beads on his neck as if he himself is a crowned royal father.

How the guy came about that and who authorized him to wear a crown is still a mystery to me or anybody’s guess.

He relies mostly on oral tradition passed on from person to person to justify his credentials as a certified Yoruba Historian while condemning many of the narratives of Historians like Reverend Samuel Johnson of Oyo or Pa Rashid Olatunji from Ikirun who calls himself Omo Alaafin in a talkshow program on You Tube titled Agbaletu moderated by Dele Adeyanju.

Abefe Awikonko like many uncertified and untrained Historians in our midst, like Almaroof and so many others quite often present fiction as facts by putting their own personal spin on their narrative and hoping to sell that to the rest of us as the Gospel Truth just like Pa Rashid Olatunji was also attempting to do during his interview with Dele Adeyanju on his Agbaletu Talkshow Program.

Even though Pa Olatunji sounds very persuasive in his narrative, but not everything he said was fool-proof and accurate.

His story about Oranmiyan odyssey and linkage to Edo or Benin History thru the Eweka Dynasty which followed the Old Ogiso Dynasty of Benin before ending up in Oyo was half truth and half fiction but based on a variation of Yoruba History which has been peddled around for donkey years by some Yoruba Historians.

Pa Olatunji narrative about the Deji of Akure he named as Oba “Ademulegun” Adesida in his interview with Dele Adeyanju was also half truth and half fiction because the particular Deji he has referenced, is my Uncle.

His name is “Ademuagun” Adesida. Yes he was a lawyer trained in London and in Dublin but he was much junior to Pa Obafemi Awolowo who I also know very well because I once served as Secretary to the Special Task Force on Student Financing that Papa Awolowo had presided over as Chairman.

My Uncle Ademuagun had returned from London to practice Law in Akure in 1954 before his father my grandfather Deji Afunbiowo Adesida the First had died in 1957.

My Uncle got lucky to be crowned the first educated Deji in 1957 and he had reigned for 16 years and 23 days till 1973.

It was true as told by Pa Olatunji that Kabiyesi Ademuagun did not stand up when Premier Obafemi Awolowo entered the House of



Prince Dr. Wumi Akintide
Oyemekun Terrace,
New York City

Chiefs Chambers at Ibadan.

He escaped a retribution and retaliation from the Premier Obafemi Awolowo because my Uncle’s father -in-law, the father of his First Olori, the Eyesorun Adebola Adesida nee Ajao.

Papa Ajao a multimillionaire merchant in Lagos from Awe near Oyo and a leader in the Action Group had intervened on the Deji’s behalf to pacify Chief Obafemi Awolowo before the situation got out of control.



It was true that my Uncle had displayed an unusual courage that could possibly have cost him his throne but for the quick intervention of Papa Ajao. Most of our royal fathers no longer exercise political power like they used to do before the British colonial Administration came to our shores

Abefe Awikonko who claimed that “Baba Oloro” could do him nothing was engaged in arrogant self delusion.

Baba Oloro could sue him for defamation and get him locked up like he has been arrested and locked up a few times as confirmed to the YouTube audience by another powerful and eloquent Muslim cleric named Alhaji Akehugbagold of Ibadan.

I narrate all of these stories because the time has come for Government to regulate all of these bloggers and fake pastors and televangelist who continue to spread falsehood and make false predictions all in an attempt to make money by creating their own platforms which spread fake News and false propaganda and sensationalism sometimes by using Artificial Intelligence improvisation and manipulations to deceive the

Public.

It will get to a point that the Government would have to intervene to check their excesses.

Awikonko by comparison to Pope Leo the XIV is a gadfly.

I watch the Pope’s response to a letter addressed to him by President Ibrahim Traore of Burkina Faso and you can tell that Pope Leo the XIV is the proverbial “Afinju Adaba to njeun lawujo Asa” the gutsy Dove that shares companionship and parity with the soaring Eagle and a courageous leader who would always speak the truth to power without fear or favor.

Long live Pope Leo the XIV.

I rest my case.



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Nigeria's Violent Crimes: Urgent Need to Nip it in the Bud

I was once a victim of 30-minute banditry. My household and I, and a few others, were held captive for 30 minutes in my house by a bunch of 8-armed men in a hellfire traumatic experience from about 8:30-9:00 pm on June 12, 2018. It was an experience you could not pray for your worst enemies to undergo. Watching a video clip of an abducted victim of banditry is much more disgusting until you put yourself in the shoes of the victims and imagine the harrowing experience. How many people can survive such scenes? Some were lucky to make it, but Sarkin Gobir of Gatawa, Isa Bawa, was not that lucky; he was helplessly and gruesomely murdered in cold blood by his abductors, who may still be at large. Many of us wept after watching the video clip showing his helpless plea to save his life with his hands tied behind his back, pleading in the most piteous tones. He was dressed in blood-soaked clothes, earnestly pleading with people to yield to his abductors' demands, or else his life would be forfeit. Tragically, despite their efforts, people were unable to save him as he was executed.

Granted, the Sarkin Gobir case is one of a few high-profile, perilous, violent crimes; however, there are several other incidents involving lower

profiles but resulting in more devastating fatalities across the nation, particularly in the northern regions.

For instance, on April 7, Reuters reported the killing of sixteen people during a clash between local security forces and the Lakurawa insurgents who had raided the villages of Tungan Taura and Tungan Ladan. Kebbi state police spokesperson Nafiu Abubakar was quoted as saying, "The assailants reportedly rustled an unspecified number of cattle, and during a confrontation as they attempted to flee, 16 individuals were killed." In the same month, April, in Plateau state, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported the death of 52 people and 22 others injured due to an attack by unknown gunmen. Earlier, some travelers were apprehended by a vigilante group in Irome and burned to death, with only two people escaping.

The number of people killed by violent crimes is significant, and the trend continues unabated, with every right-thinking Nigerian feeling increasingly disturbed. According to a study conducted by www.crisisgroup.org, "Nigeria's North West is experiencing deadly conflict involving numerous armed organizations, including herder-allied groups, vigilantes, criminal gangs, and Boko Haram. The violence has resulted in the deaths of over 8,000 people since 2011 and has displaced more than 200,000, some into neighboring Niger Republic. Despite several security operations and efforts at dialogue, a lasting peace remains elusive."

The most disturbing fear is that violent incidents, as bad as they are, can be replicated elsewhere in the country without notice, as nowhere guarantees relative security. One should not be in the wrong place at the wrong time; otherwise, the outcome can be very different. May God protect us. Must we continue this way? No, we must rack our brains to find a solution. Yes, there is an urgent need to nip it in the Bud.

First, we must accept that death is the ultimate end for every soul, whether prepared or unprepared, in good health or ill; man and woman must die from something – friendly fire, accidental discharge, a bullet from an enemy, disease, hunger, or overnutrition and obesity. Why must you facilitate the killing of a fellow innocent human being for the material world when you must ultimately leave it behind? When faced with a perilous reality that no one can protect you, I cannot help but agree with my good friend, an ace columnist, Dr. Hassan Gimba, and General Danjuma, a statesman who

recommended that you defend your lands, property, integrity, and families by facing the brigands head-on and may be lucky to tell the story.

Second, leaders at different levels must remember that leadership comes with a significant responsibility to protect the lives and properties of their subjects. The day of reckoning before the Almighty will come sooner rather than later. How can you defend yourself when you possess the instruments of authority and power but fail to protect your people in their hour of need? Why do we allow bandits to operate with impunity, showing their video clips while observing Eid prayer in a serene environment, unperturbed, pretending not to know? Leadership is about leaving a positive legacy that will continue to write your name in gold. Peace is the bedrock of society upon which developments are erected—there is no development without peace. Those who benefit from the crisis, banditry, insurgency, and violent crimes due to their inactions or actions are creating a Frankenstein monster and unknowingly waiting to be consumed by it. Those who live by the sword die by it.

Third, addressing security challenges in Nigeria requires a holistic approach that combines immediate tactical responses with long-term strategic solutions. We must integrate military, economic, educational, and technological interventions to tackle systemic issues such as unemployment, corruption, and social inequality. Addressing the multifaceted nature of complex insecurity necessitates employing both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches.

Militarily, we must strengthen security infrastructure and intelligence gathering and enhance interagency coordination and collaboration among security forces (military, police, and intelligence agencies) to ensure efficient resource allocation and strategic deployment. We must also empower local communities through community policing initiatives, leveraging their knowledge for intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

Economically, we must empower youth to address the root causes of insecurity, such as unemployment and poverty, which fuel criminality and radicalization, by creating job opportunities.

We need to reform our educational system by integrating security studies and digital literacy into school curricula to foster a culture of civic

responsibility and counter extremist ideologies. We must educate our youth about security strategy and crime prevention.

In a non-kinetic approach, we must promote dialogue and reintegration by engaging bandits and insurgents in conditional discussions while ensuring that reintegration programs are accessible for repentant militants and bandits. We also need to reform our legal system and governance. Strengthen the judicial system to expedite trials for terrorism and kidnapping cases while enhancing law enforcement training. There must be accountability in security budgeting and transparency to prevent corruption, alongside the prosecution of officials complicit in criminal activities. Can we decentralize security funding and allocate resources to state and local governments to address regional security disparities? The secrecy surrounding the security vote must be dismantled and made transparent to all relevant parties.

Finally, we must remind ourselves that kidnapping is highly profitable, attracting ordinary individuals and security personnel. A wealth of evidence demonstrates the cooperation and collaboration of state actors in facilitating kidnapping operations, including the provision of weapons, logistical support, and financial gain from ransoms paid to terrorists and bandits. The government must swiftly restructure its security apparatus to identify the corrupt individuals among the security personnel and effectively combat this heinous crime.

In conclusion, the Nigerian government must begin the process of finding a long-term solution to prevent these terrorist attacks. To tackle the issues, the government can implement both rewards and penalties. Considering a gentle approach for kidnappers, bandits, and militants who genuinely wish to repent should be on the table. Nigeria must be prepared to deploy strict measures to secure adequate personnel, tools, and necessary workforce development. Fewer than one million police officers serve in Nigeria, managing over 200 million people across 91 million hectares of the country's geographical area. The population requires more effective and efficient policing by a larger force. Many unemployed graduates, eager to serve Nigeria in any part of the security forces, are roaming our streets. President Tinubu should consider this direction. Massive employment of youth is highly desirable at this moment.

Terror war: Public betrayal, our biggest setback, but we're winning - CDS Musa . By Prof. MK Othman

This edition of Ebony Herald International Magazine features a compelling interaction between renowned columnist and Professor of Agricultural Engineering at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Prof. M.K. Othman, and Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Gwabin Musa, OFR. The discussion delves into the prevailing security situation in the country, offering insights into the challenges, strategies, and the way forward in safeguarding the nation. Excerpts;



Question: How would you assess the security situation in the country now compared to before you were appointed?

Answer:

First of all, I would like to thank you and appreciate your time for visiting our headquarters. This office exists for all Nigerians, including members of the Nigerian Armed Forces. Our mandate is to protect the country.

Since we assumed office, by next month, June 2025, it will be two years, our most significant achievement, in my view, is the increased awareness among Nigerians. We have been able to make people understand that the security situation is a Nigerian challenge, not just one for the armed forces, security

agencies, or government alone. It is a collective responsibility, and for us to effectively tackle it, we need everyone working together.

I served as Theatre Commander in the Northeast at one point, and one of the key factors in our success there was the cooperation of the populace. They provided timely information, which we were able to use effectively. Within the services, we used to have issues with inter-agency rivalry and lack of collaboration, but all that has changed. Now, we sit together, identify the problems, and address them.

Gradually, we are seeing improvements. Last year witnessed a bumper harvest despite security challenges, and this has

helped ease food prices. Schools and markets are reopening. Kaduna and its environs, previously avoided, are now accessible. People can use the Abuja–Kaduna Expressway again, and train services have resumed. These are signs of progress. We are not yet where we want to be, but it is a work in progress, and we are moving in the right direction.

Question: What key strategies have you implemented to tackle insurgency, banditry, and kidnapping for ransom? How are you achieving these objectives?

Answer:

As I mentioned, we are employing both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches. The kinetic aspect involves direct military engagement. The non-kinetic involves good governance, public engagement, and awareness creation. We've realised that kinetic operations contribute less than 30% to the overall solution, while non-kinetic strategies account for about 70%.

We are engaging all stakeholders; communities, citizens, governors, local government chairmen, religious leaders, traditional rulers, market women, motor park operators, everyone. We make them understand that success depends on collective effort. The total number of security personnel nationwide isn't enough to cover every location, so we need the public's cooperation. Criminals and terrorists try to win over the hearts of the people. If the public doesn't believe the government is with them, it becomes difficult.

That is why we are focused on awareness. With increased support, we can do more. We've improved our operations and upgraded our equipment, although one of our biggest challenges is that we don't produce most of what we need. We have to buy almost everything, and even with available funds, it's hard to procure due to global constraints like the Russia–Ukraine war.

There have also been diplomatic hurdles. At times, even with funds, we are denied access to military equipment, which negatively affects us. Thankfully, Mr. President approved the DICON Bill last year. This allows the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria to partner with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to begin local production. That's the way forward. Producing locally ensures control over quality and quantity. It will create jobs, reduce insecurity, generate foreign exchange, and allow us to supply neighbouring countries. It's a win-win for Nigeria.

Additionally, the number of recruits has increased. The President has directed a ramp-up in recruitment to ensure more boots on the ground. He has also approved the procurement of large quantities of equipment—aircraft, drones, armoured personnel carriers (APCs), and more.

We're working closely with the National Assembly to secure these approvals and collaborating with the judiciary and other arms of government. It's all about thinking and acting as Nigerians, defending Nigeria. That's the vision we are pursuing.

Question: Thank you very much. We are witnessing a resurgence of Boko Haram, particularly in the North-East.

Why is this happening?

Answer:

The resurgence is linked to public awareness or the lack of it. Previously, these groups roamed freely, spreading propaganda that the government was doing nothing and that only they had good intentions or the correct religious interpretations.

Now, however, we have Imams delivering accurate teachings from the Qur'an, exposing how these terrorists have distorted religious messages to suit their own agendas. If you observe, many of their commanders live lavishly because they're making money from the insurgency. To them, it's business not a religious or spiritual cause.

This is why public awareness and media like yours are vital. They help expose the lies. We want the people to understand they've been deceived. We're not out to kill anyone, we want them to lay down their arms and surrender. Over 120,000 have surrendered in the Northeast alone. Others from the Northwest and North Central are following suit because they are tired and realise they were misled into taking up arms and spilling innocent blood.

Our appeal is for Nigerians not to support them. These groups continue operating because some people still provide them with fuel, water, food, and other essentials. Worse still, they leak information about military operations. This kind of betrayal hampers our efforts. If we cut off their support network, they can no longer operate. That's why we must all work together.

Question: There are allegations of human rights violations by the military. What are you doing about this?

Answer:

Some people raise these allegations to undermine the military. Let me state clearly: human rights issues often come up when the military starts succeeding.

We work closely with many foreign partners the United States, the United Kingdom, among others. They observe our operations and engage us on human rights matters. Our personnel receive training in these areas. We support humanitarian agencies, work with NGOs, and collaborate with UN organisations.

Our troops are well-trained, though mistakes can occur because we're human. However, these are never intentional. When such issues arise, we investigate and take disciplinary action where necessary.

I recall the Reuters allegation of 10,000 forced abortions when I was Theatre Commander. We called for an independent investigation that lasted a year and a half. It turned out to be false. Yet, the organisation that made the allegation suffered no consequences. Our government and international bodies must take such defamatory acts seriously.

The Nigerian Armed Forces are professional and respectful of human rights. If we weren't, in a conflict like this, we would have resorted to massive bombings. But we are fighting among civilians. These terrorists often hide within civilian

populations, making it hard to distinguish them. That's what makes asymmetric warfare so difficult. We often withhold strikes when we identify civilians nearby. That's the restraint we exercise every day.

Question: Is there an issue with the Lakurawa group around Sokoto, Kebbi, and the North West/North Central axis?

Answer:

Yes, and we want Nigerians to understand this clearly: do not allow any foreigners to settle in your communities, even if they claim to be brothers or harmless.

That's exactly how Boko Haram began. Some Nigerians invited Lakurawas from Mali, saying they were brothers. They funded and sheltered them. But when they could no longer fund them, these groups became aggressive. They began taxing the communities and, when they didn't get enough, started stealing livestock and killing people. Only then did the communities raise the alarm.

This scenario keeps repeating itself. Communities must not accommodate unknown foreigners. No one can love or defend your home more than you. That's the message. There's a global increase in terrorist activities across the Sahel, and Nigeria must stay vigilant.

Question:

Considering the recent assaults on military barracks, the killing of soldiers, and the seizure of military equipment by terrorists, is there a fear the military could be overwhelmed?

Answer:

What we've observed is a sharp increase in terrorist activities in the Sahel over the past three months. Countries like Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and even Benin Republic have been attacked. This pressure is pushing militants into Nigeria, thereby increasing attacks here as well.

We are responding. Just yesterday, I was in Maiduguri for discussions with our troops. We're reinforcing manpower, upgrading equipment, and addressing these challenges. We are also strengthening bilateral relations with countries like Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Chad, regardless of their status in ECOWAS. Their stability directly affects our own.

Question: Synergy within the military is key. How is the relationship among the three services?

Answer:

There is no problem at all now. The Army, Navy, and Air Force work hand in hand. There is no rivalry we are all Nigerians, and we see this as a joint responsibility.

We also collaborate with the police, DSS, NIA, DIA, civil defence, immigration, customs everyone. We hold regular meetings here to analyse issues and find solutions.

This team spirit has helped us achieve significant results. From the start, Mr. President made it clear that he wants unity of purpose. Just today, I returned from a meeting with him, where he reaffirmed the importance of synergy and expressed his satisfaction with our collaborative efforts.

Question: There is also an allegation of rotten eggs among both the military and other security personnel who are benefiting from the insecurity, and they will not want the war against terrorism to end. How are you addressing this issue?

Answer:

I have mentioned that individuals from within contribute to the insecurity. Remember, we always have the good, the bad, and the ugly. The positive aspect for

us is that we continuously monitor their actions; we identify them, apprehend them, and observe what they are doing. Consequently, we prosecute them. In all our regions, we maintain a standing court-martial. Anyone we catch is prosecuted. Numerous individuals have been jailed; we dismiss them, send them to prison, demote them, and punish them in various ways. We don't take this lightly, and we consistently keep a close watch on our personnel.

We also encourage the public if they observe our officers misbehaving, they should report it to us instead of remaining silent. Do not confront the officer directly; instead, report the incident to the proper authorities. Note their names from the name tags at checkpoints or any other location, and report immediately so we can take swift action to apprehend the accused for investigation and prosecution. This serves as a deterrent to others.





IYABO OJO FLAUNTS HER BEAUTIFUL SHAPE IN SEXY SWIMSUIT PHOTOS

Ace Actress, Iyabo Ojo, showed off her beautiful shape in a sexy one-piece swimsuit as she holidayed with family and friends in far away Zanzibar recently. She shared the photos on her Instagram page.

The 46-year-old mother of two took to her Instagram page late recently to post the sizzling snapshots, giving fans a glimpse into her tropical retreat with close family and friends.

The photos, which captured her enjoying beachside bliss in the scenic island nation, quickly drew admiration from fans and celebrities alike, with many praising her confidence, physique, and youthful glow.

Known for her bold fashion choices and vibrant personality, Iyabo Ojo continues to embrace her style unapologetically, showing that age is no barrier to elegance and self-expression.

The vacation appears to be a well-deserved break for the actress, who has had a busy year juggling movie roles, social causes, and running her business ventures.

Coronation:

New Owa-Obokun, Oba Haastrup pledges peace, unity, development. *By Lai Gidado*



The newly crowned Owa-Obokun of Ijesaland, Oba Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, Ajimoko III, has pledged to uphold tradition and lead his people into a future of peace and development.

The monarch made the pledge during his historic and culturally rich coronation ceremony, where he was officially crowned the new Owa-Obokun of Ijesaland at the Owa's Palace in Ilesa, Osun State.

Delivering his inaugural royal address, Oba Haastrup described his ascension as a sacred trust and vowed to be a unifying force for the Ijesa people.

According to him; "This is a sacred trust. As custodian of the heritage of our forebears, I will work with all sons and daughters of Ijesaland to preserve our legacy and build a future of peace, progress, and prosperity," he said.

The newly crowned monarch, a seasoned statesman and former Deputy Governor to Osun State's first civilian Governor, late Senator Isiaka Adeleke, emerged after a

rigorous selection process that followed the passing of Oba Gabriel Adekunle Aromolaran II, who reigned for over four decades.



Representing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the event, the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, congratulated

the monarch and charged him to use his position to foster development across Ijesaland.

He emphasised that traditional rulers are not only custodians of culture but also catalysts for community growth.

The President, through the minister, expressed confidence that

Oba Haastrup's wealth of experience, wisdom and humility would strengthen the legacy of his forebears.

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, who led a delegation of political leaders to the coronation, also extended his congratulations, describing the new king as a man of honour, wisdom, and experience. He predicted that Oba Haastrup's reign would usher in a golden era for Ijesaland.

Oba Haastrup's coronation is being celebrated as both a continuation of an ancient royal lineage and the opening of a new chapter for the Ijesa people.

The coronation ceremony was marked by the vibrant display of Yoruba tradition, including chants, music, dances, and sacred rites that have endured through generations.

The ceremony concluded with blessings from spiritual leaders and captivating performances by cultural troupes, all



paying homage to the rich heritage of the Yoruba people.

The event drew a galaxy of dignitaries, including former President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo; former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar and his wife, Hajia Titi Abubakar; former Governors of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola and Mr. Rauf Aregbesola; Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa; Deputy Governors Prince Adebayo Lawal (Oyo) and Prince Kola Adewusi (Osun); Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Prince Adewale Egbedun; and the CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Mrs. Abike Dabiri-Erewa.

Also present were notable traditional rulers from within and outside Osun State, including the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi; the Oluwo of Iwo, Oba Abdulrasheed Akanbi; the Timi of Edeland, Oba Adesola Lawal; and the Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams. Religious leaders, cultural associations, and prominent sons and daughters of Ilesa also graced the occasion.

As dusk settled over Ilesa, the streets echoed with the timeless melodies of Yoruba music legends such as Chief Ebenezer Obey and Haruna Ishola, marking the dawn of a new reign for Ijesaland under the leadership of Oba Adesuyi Haastrup, the kingdom's 21st-century monarch.







Forever together:

Adedotun and Opeyemi celebrate love



The Holy Book says, “A man shall leave his father and mother to take a wife, and the two shall become one.” That was the case for Adedotun Abiola, son of High Chief Olalekan Yusuf and Pastor Mrs. Olusola Esther Sulaimon, as he signed the dotted line in a marital agreement with his heartthrob, Opeyemi Mary, daughter of Mr. Paul and Mrs. Eniola Bakare, at a very colourful wedding ceremony held at the Chapel of Christ the Light, MKO Abiola Gardens Road, Lagos State Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

Traditional Marriage;

The journey to marital bliss began with the traditional engagement ceremony at the flamboyant White Stone Event Place, Billings Way, Oregun, Lagos, on Friday, May 23, 2025.



The hall was beautifully decorated with colourful balloons, special royal chairs, and other inviting

ornaments.

Bouncers and special security guards were stationed at the venue to provide protection for the guests.

The engagement venue exuded a blend of royalty and glamour and featured a remarkable parade of 'Ijesa' and 'Akure' attires.

The 'Alaga' for the occasion, Lady Damilola, supported by women from both families, thrilled the guests with jokes and humour, it was laughter all the way.

In line with Yoruba traditional marriage customs, the bride's family opened the floor by welcoming the groom's family into the hall with special greetings.

Next was the entrance of the groom, Adedotun, and his friends, all dressed in





matching 'Oyemekun' attires.

Adedotun and his friends greeted the Bakare family, paying the expected traditional obeisance and receiving a warm acceptance as a son. With the approval of the 'Alaga', Adedotun was ushered to his special seat, surrounded by



friends.

A sudden wave of joy filled the hall as Opeyemi was ushered in by a bevy of gorgeously dressed ladies, dancing in the regal fashion of the Omo Owa Apetu Ijesha, showcasing the beauty of the Ijesa people.

She greeted both families and moved gracefully into the warm embrace of the Sulaimon family, where she was joyfully received by the Akure delegation with songs and



praises.

She then joined Adedotun on the royal chair sitting as one for the first time.

Assorted foods and drinks were in abundance,



leaving no guest without plenty to eat and drink.

The menu ranged from pounded yam and amala to fried rice, Chinese rice, pepper soup, roasted chicken breast, fresh fish, soft drinks, wine, and more.

Meanwhile, a Juju band was on standby to entertain guests.

The event continued into the night with Remmy Chanter (Asataintment), who entertained the guests with traditional



Yoruba music in various dialects.

The following day, May 24, 2025, was nothing short of divine, with the weather across Alausa and the entire Ikeja axis of Lagos proving conducive and pleasant.

The sun retreated behind the blue sky, giving way to a cool, breezy atmosphere at the Chapel of Christ the Light, MKO Abiola Gardens Road, Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, Lagos,



where the solemnisation of holy matrimony took place.

Popular hymns and special songs composed by the church choir were rendered to herald the arrival of the couple, much to the delight of the congregation.

The beautiful bride, Opeyemi, shimmered as she made her graceful entrance into the church in the company of her proud father, Mr. Paul Bakare, while the groom, Adedotun, waited patiently at the altar.

Throughout the nuptials, the way the couple giggled, whispered, and savoured every moment of the ceremony showed clearly that they were truly in love.



The officiating minister, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Alaba Olusola, Anglican Bishop of Ijesha North East Diocese, after joining them together, congratulated the couple and advised them to love each other and not allow third parties in their marriage.

He further urged them, as children of God, to make the Bible their handbook and source of daily inspiration.

After the church service, *Ebony Herald International* Magazine correspondent, Pearl Ngwama, spoke with the couple and key family members at the reception held at Balmoral Event Centre, Sheraton, Lagos.

In their chat with our Lagos correspondent, the couple revealed that it was love at first sight that brought them together.

Their journey, guided by faith and divine direction, has now blossomed into a beautiful union. As they begin this



new chapter, they pray for enduring love, mutual understanding, and a home blessed with godly children.

"It's a journey of life, not a destination," said Adedotun, recalling the first time he met Opeyemi during her visit to his cousin's wife. "I said to myself, I won't let this beautiful face go."

He added:

"I met my wife in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, in the U.S. I met her through my cousin's wife. That day she just came around and I saw this beautiful face. I thought, 'I won't let her go.' Long story short, we are here today. We thank God, it's a beautiful story.

"If I start to tell it all, you no say we no go leave here today, they'll finish the programme before I finish. So, we thank God. It was love at first sight. Once I saw her, I knew she was going to be my wife. Definitely. The Holy Spirit just put it there pam!"

Adedotun emphasised the importance of hope and trust in God, saying they're not placing too many expectations on each other, but rather looking to God for a joyful marriage.

Opeyemi echoed the same sentiment, highlighting their shared vision of a marriage that honours God and grows in love and understanding.

She admitted that marriage is not a bed of roses but stressed their commitment to making it work, no matter the challenges.



Her words:

"Like my husband said, you don't set expectations, but we do have a vision and a passion. Our vision is for God to open the doors of understanding so we can grow more and more together.

"Marriage is not a bed of roses, but it's about identifying what we can do to make it work understanding our differences and how best to approach and overcome the little hiccups.

"I have no human role model. I look up to God. If you choose a role model and tomorrow that role model breaks up, what happens to your own belief? So I look up to God always.

"And sooner rather than later, we'll have beautiful children, our family will grow, and our names will be heard all around the world."

The families rejoiced in their union. The groom's parents, High Chief Olalekan Sulaimon and Pastor Mrs. Esther Sulaimon, expressed immense gratitude for the godly wife their son had found.

High Chief Sulaimon, visibly excited at the wedding of his firstborn, believed that God chose Opeyemi for Adedotun just as He had chosen a wife for him.



"I'm confident in the good upbringing of Opeyemi, who has now become my daughter. I thank God and pray that they will end well."

Pastor Esther Sulaimon paraphrased the Bible, saying that a successful man needs a supportive wife.

"I thank God. As I am with my husband, come rain, come sunshine, we are together. We fought, we conquered, and we won. I wish our children the same.

My prayer is that, first, their marriage will be successful. Secondly, that good and godly children will surround their table. And in the next nine months, we'll be going to carry our twins.





There's no doubt about that, because my daughter-in-law is wonderfully and fearfully made, from a good family, just like her husband."

The bride's mother, Eniola Victoria Bakare, also praised God with visible joy for allowing her to witness the milestone and prayed for God's love to forever bind their union.

"I feel great, and I'm happy that it happened during my lifetime, that my daughter is getting married. I'm so grateful to God Almighty who helped me to be a part of it.

"My advice for them is that God will bless them with deep love, and may the peace of the Lord dwell in their lives in the name of Jesus. May the love of God bind them together in the name of Jesus."

As friends and family gathered to celebrate, the Best Man, Olalekan Williams, described Adedotun as a natural family man with a heart full of love. He prayed for enduring love, a joyful home, and wonderful children.

"Today, Adedotun and Opeyemi embark on a new journey, surrounded by love, prayers, and support. May their marriage be a testament to God's love and faithfulness.

"The groom has been my friend forever, and from what I have known about him since we were very, very young till now, he has always been a family man.

"He's someone who loves people, and now that he's getting married, you can imagine how much he's going to love his wife. During the solemnisation at the altar, you could see how emotional he was.

At some point, he was in tears, that's the joy of marrying a beautiful soul. So, this is a beautiful day for him.

"What we wish for them is everlasting love. He's a man with a heart full of love.

Wherever he goes, trust me, that place becomes lively. He brings joy wherever he is. So, we know that their home will be full of joy.

"There's no doubt he's married to a wonderful bride. Opeyemi is a down-to-earth person. Just imagine the combination of a warm, fun-loving man and a beautiful, God-fearing lady.

"We pray that God blesses them with wonderful children, even more wonderful than they are and that they continue to



blossom in every aspect of life," Williams prayed.

In a typical traditional fashion, Oba Dr. Barrister Samson Adeleke Oke, Agunbiade 111 of Ipetu Ijesha, who graced both traditional and white wedding celebrations, prayed for a peaceful union built on tolerance.

"The word I will send to them is 'tolerance'; they should tolerate each other. The key to every successful marriage is tolerance and that is my word of advice," he said.

Although the bride's father, Mr. Paul Bakare, was unavailable for an interview, he was visibly elated, expressing his joy by moving around the hall, thanking friends, family, and guests enthusiastically.

(Pics Bride's father)

The height of his excitement was displayed when he joined his daughter (the bride) on the dance floor. His wife, Eniola, quickly joined them, creating a joyful trio in a heartfelt dance of celebration.

Mr. Bakare later found himself glued to another part of the hall where Yoruba traditional dancers, dressed in full regalia, were stationed, offering captivating beats from their drums to the delight of all in attendance.

There were countless testimonies from guests who spoke to Ebony Herald Magazine about the admirable upbringing and character of the couple. Hopes are high that their marriage is already blessed and bound by unbreakable love.

The white wedding reception was an even grander display of the earlier traditional celebration. The massive double-storey hall was filled to capacity, buzzing with excitement, laughter, and cultural performances.

The Master of Ceremony (MC) kept the crowd entertained with rib-cracking jokes, while different traditional dance groups lit up the stage.

Shortly after the guests were seated, the MC invited the groom's parents to take their royal seats.

They were ushered in with applause and dance by friends and family. The same warm welcome was extended to the bride's parents, further electrifying the atmosphere in anticipation of what was indeed a memorable day.

With joy and jubilation in the air, the groomsmen and ladies of honour ushered in the couple amidst dancing and a display of fireworks.

The couple expressed their happiness with vibrant dance steps. In a show of appreciation and love, the groom hugged his bride and showered her with naira notes.

May 23 and 24, 2025, are dates that will not be forgotten in a hurry by all who witnessed the glorious events, where everyone was treated to sumptuous delicacies and received delightful souvenirs.

APPRECIATIONS

Adedotun and Opeyemi whole heartedly appreciate all the guests, friends, family and well wishers especially the following people

Oba Dr. Barrister Samson Adeleke Oke, Agunbiade 111. Olayiwola Williams, Olalekan Williams, Friends from Baltimore, Friends from Pennsylvania, The groom family, The bride family, The Rt Rev. Dr. Joseph Alaba F. Olusola, Anglican Bishop of Ijesha North East Diocese., Pastor Felix Adenusi; Lead Pastor Gethsemane Sanctuary Baltimore (USA), All Gethsemane sanctuary members (Baltimore), Pastor Olugbenga Jebutu, Lead Pastor Reconciliation and Liberty Bible Church Philadelphia (USA), RCCG Pastors, Past/past Mrs. Kayode Afolayan, Past Mrs Ojo Modupe, Past /Past Mrs Borokini Oluwadamilare,

Past Agbailu, Our Parents, High Chief and pastor Mrs. Olalekan Sulaiman, Mr. and Mrs Paul Bakare, Obagbuagun Family members



Australia-based Philanthropist, Otunba Kenny Aluko, celebrates new Owa Obokun - *Says he was born for the Throne*

Otunba Kenny Aluko is an Ijesha son in the diaspora, based in Australia. He is the founder of the Otunba Kenny Aluko Foundation, operating both in Nigeria and Australia. He is also the "Chairman of Diaspora Ijesa Foundation" A philanthropist and socialite, he spoke with Ebony Herald International Magazine on the newly crowned Owa Obokun of Ijesaland, HRM Oba Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, Ajimoko III

Excerpts;

EH – Can we meet you, Sir?

Otunba – I am Otunba Kenny Aluko, the son of the late Chief Daniel Olajide Aluko and Mrs Abigail Olajide Aluko. I am Ijesha by heritage from both parents.

I am an Accountant, currently working with a multinational insurance company as a consultant.

EH – As an Ijesha man, how do you feel about the crowning of a new Owa of Ijesaland?

Otunba – I can confidently say that I am one of the happiest people in Ijesaland over the ascension of His Imperial Majesty, Owa Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, as the Owa Obokun of Ijesaland.

As soon as the late Owa Aromolaran joined his ancestors, I began telling people that the right person to succeed him was Prince Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, even though I had heard that he wasn't initially interested in the position. I was overjoyed when I later learned that he had decided to enter the race.

Today, I give thanks to God that he has been crowned as the Owa Obokun of Ijesaland.

EH – Do you have a close relationship with the new monarch?

Otunba – I have known His Majesty since before I travelled overseas in the 1980s, through the late Chief Bola Abimbola. From the very first day we met, he welcomed me like a younger brother.

"I still vividly remember when I asked for his assistance in securing admission into the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA). Unfortunately, my father, leveraging his high-ranking military connections, blocked the effort. My father blocked me from being admitted to NDA because he never wanted me to join the military.

When I returned home in 2009 to contest for political office, I went to seek His Majesty's blessing, as he was a respected leader in my party.

He advised me against it and asked why I hadn't returned to see him after completing my MBA, just as he had once



advised. I had no answer, I was too focused on pursuing a political career. To this day, I regret not honouring that invitation.

Nevertheless, His Imperial Majesty, Owa Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, still regards me as his aburo his younger brother.

EH – Your goodwill message to the new monarch and to the sons and daughters of Ijesaland?

Otunba – I pray that peace, wisdom, and divine favour continue to guide His Majesty's reign. I extend my heartfelt wishes for his continued strength, good health, and enduring legacy. May his leadership remain a beacon of hope, unity, and prosperity for all of Ijesaland and her sons and daughters. Long may you reign in wisdom and glory, my uncle and king.

Apere baba yin o ni seru ba yin. E pe bi won ti n pe laye. E o ni fi emi yin se, e o ni fi ikookan ninu iyawo ati awon omo yin se lase Edumare. Ilu atuba atuse lagbara awon to te ile Ijesa do.

With love and much admiration for my amiable and dynamic king.

Long may you reign, Kabiyesi.

Otunba (Apesin) Kenny Aluko



Otunba (Apesin) Kenny Aluko

20 Years On, Deaconess Florence Olufemi Eyebiokin's Legacy Continues to Inspire

...Family and community gather to honour a matriarch of faith, service, and strength. By Binta Haroon



20 years remembrance DEACONESS FLORENCE AYINKE OLUFEMI EYEBIOKIN 24TH MAY, 2025

Residents of Bodija area of Ibadan would always see Saturday the 24th of May 2025 as a memorable day for a long time as family, friends, within and outside Nigeria, including members of the community gathered to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passing of Deaconess Florence Ayinke Olufemi Eyebiokin. The event celebrated her unwavering faith, dedication to service, and nurturing spirit, as her legacy continues to inspire many.

Born in December 1932, Deaconess Eyebiokin's life was a testament to devotion and service. Her passing left a void in the hearts of many, but the ceremony served as a poignant reminder of her enduring impact.

Stories of her kindness, wisdom, and the profound influence she had on people's lives were shared during the celebration.

Mrs Titilayo Olufemi Ojomu, the third of Mama's six children, said the celebration marked the first time the family had formally remembered her in such a way, describing her as



“a mother in a million.”

“The importance of celebrating her is to let people know that she has not been forgotten and will never be forgotten because she will always be on our minds,” she said.

According to her, Mama cannot be forgotten because she was warm, friendly, and a mother who led and nurtured children to become great in life.

Mrs. Ojomu appreciated all the siblings Mama gave birth to, saying they were all doing well.

Mama's legacy, such as her teaching, preaching humility, and being accommodating continues to live on.

Dr Olalekan Peter Olufemi also described Mama as “never to be forgotten,” calling her “a mother of all mothers.”

“She wasn't just a mother – she had a very kind and big heart. Very generous, very loving.”

Olufemi urged people to emulate his mother's mentorship and inclusive love, noting how she raised many of the half-



siblings within the family.

“She never discriminated. She raised everybody equally. She was a godly woman, a deacon in the church. So, to emulate her means to be loving, godly, and accommodating,” he said.

He advised the younger generation to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit, just like his mother, who was industrious and hardworking.

“In spite of her father's riches, she never sat idle. She ran her own business and built her own house, in addition to what her father had.”

He emphasised the importance of investment diversification, which his mother prioritised despite her father's wealth.

“These are virtues and legacies she left behind. I encourage people to pursue anything that brings a good return on investment. These days, people avoid the kind of hustle our forebears engaged in. But they can still make money online. They should avoid fraud and evil practices. Use the internet and technology to earn real money,” he advised.

Her niece, Mrs Abosede Lawal, praised Mama for her kindness to the Salami family.

“She was like a mother to us. I lost my mum 39 years ago. They were siblings and I really miss Mama. She was always there for me. I'm the only girl from my mother and the firstborn. I don't know how best to describe her.”

“Mama made me who I am today. She taught me to be brave and do everything a man can do. She filled the gap left by my mother. Her children supported us in everything. I thank God for today.”

Mrs Lawal described Mama as a wise counsellor who knew how to uplift sorrowful hearts, multiplying the goodness she left behind.

“Mama is someone to be celebrated forever. She was a good woman who must never be forgotten. She worked so hard to ensure her children were successful, and I'm following in her footsteps,” Lawal said.



One of Mama's daughters-in-law the wife of her last-born Mrs. Abidemi Olufemi, described Mama as an amazing woman whom she saw more as a grandmother, owing to the deep bond they shared.

“Twenty years have gone by, yet it feels like yesterday,” she said.

“She was such a leader. I always tell my daughter to be like her grandmother. A great leader. I talk to her about Mama all the time.”

She also recalled how Mama was her companion and ally, especially during disagreements with her husband, Segun.

The joyful gathering witnessed family, friends, and well-wishers whose lives had been positively impacted by Mama's legacy, which played a role in their success.

Mama's baby of the house Mr. Segun Josh Olufemi said he



missed Mama more than all, being the last born of the family, I was not opportuned to enjoy her more like my senior brothers and sister. For the period we were together on earth I really enjoyed my mother and if there is an opportunity for another world, she is going to be my mother because she

nurtured me to who I am today. She's greatly missed

I want to appreciate my brothers and sister for keeping us together as one big loving family

I want to equally appreciate all my friends and family that grace today's event, especially my friends from Ireland, Mr Dare, Mr Lateef, Mr Ilesanmi, Mr Anisere, Chief Oyinmolagba, Chief Bobasaye, Alhaji Gani, Alhaji Musa, Mr Ayeni, Mr Seyi, Mr Agbenla, Obanla, Mr Lawrence, Chieffoo, Mr Alaba & Ojaycee. I pray that Almighty God will bless your homes. Finally, to my beautiful wife for the unwavering support God will continue to strengthen her.

The celebration was filled with laughter, excitement, and expressions of gratitude for a life well spent.

As the family gathered to remember Deaconess Florence Ayinke Olufemi Eyebiokin, the ceremony not only honoured her life but also reinforced the values she upheld: faith, service, and community. Her legacy continues to inspire, reminding all of the profound impact one individual can have on many lives.

The event featured heartfelt tributes, prayers, and reflections, ensuring that her memory lives on in the community she so dearly loved.

Ebony Herald International Magazine crew was in attendance to bring you the event in pictures.





Forever together:



ADEDOTUN
and
OPEYEMI

Celebrate Love

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