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I Alhaja Hon F.I. Gidado the Iya Adinni of Akure Kingdom Felicitate with our father, His Imperial Majesty Oba (Dr) Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi CFR, Odundun II the Deji and Paramount Ruler of Akure Kingdom on the occasion of your 10th Coronation anniversary. Kabiyesi May your legacy continues to inspire generations to come!!

Odio oooo - Kabiyesi
Omo eye tee - Ori Ade
Ah! Ahh!! Ahhh!!!
Oba li je baaa



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Public betrayal, our biggest
setback, but we're winning
- CDS Musa

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Nigerian wrestler Esther Kolawole clinches gold at Spanish Wrestling Grand Prix



Nigerian wrestling sensation Esther Kolawole continued her meteoric rise with a commanding gold medal win at the 2024 Spanish Wrestling Grand Prix in Madrid, defeating American Haylie Jaffe 10-0 by superiority in the final on Saturday.

Kolawole, already qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympics, was dominant throughout the tournament.

She overpowered Spain's Lydia Perez 10-0 in the quarter-finals, battled to a 4-1 win against Poland's Alicja Nowosad in the semi-finals, and wrapped up her campaign with a clinical shutout against Jaffe in the final.

This victory marks a leap for Kolawole, who won bronze at the same event in 2023.

Her gold medal highlights her growing prowess and reaffirms her position as a rising force on the global wrestling stage.

The African champion is using the Spanish Grand Prix, held from July 4 to 7, as part of her preparations for the upcoming World Wrestling Ranking Series in Budapest, Hungary, on July 14.

Both events serve as tune-ups ahead of the 2025 World Wrestling Championships in Croatia this September.

The Nigeria Wrestling Federation's emphasis on exposing athletes to top-tier international competition appears to be paying off.

Esther Kolawole's gold medal follows her 2023 bronze, while compatriot Ogunsanya Christinah also impressed with a bronze finish in the 53kg category.

Kolawole's dominant showing in Madrid further solidifies her status as one of Nigeria's brightest wrestling talents and boosts expectations for her upcoming international appearances.

Transfer:

Messi in shock move to Saudi Arabia

Inter Miami superstar, Lionel Messi, is in talks with Al-Ahli about a stunning move to the Saudi Pro League side later this year.

The transfer could see Messi become rivals within the same league again with Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo currently signed a new two-year contract with Al-Nassr to continue playing in the Middle East.

Messi's current deal with the MLS side will expire in December 2025.

And as it currently stands, there has been no sign of a possible renewal.

That has opened up the possibility of Messi leaving Miami next year and several clubs are keen on his signature.

According to L'Equipe, Al-Ahli are interested have reportedly been working for "weeks" to convince the 38-year-old.



Fans queue for Cristiano Ronaldo

exhibition in Hong Kong



sized statues of the former Manchester United and Real Madrid player, including one in mid-air celebration and another in traditional Saudi dress.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is my idol... he's special," said 14-year-old Alvin Lai, who was first in a queue of more than 100 people.

"He's the most hardworking person out there," said university student Henry Singh.

"He's 40 years old and still going very strong."

Ronaldo signed a new two-year contract with Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr last month, calling it a "new chapter" in an Instagram post.

Al Nassr are due to play in a pre-season tournament in Hong Kong next month.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo will be greeting fans at the museum "very soon", said Tomas Froes, a representative of the footballer's family office.

The 12,000 square feet (1,110 square metres) exhibition sends a "strong message for everyone to achieve their dreams", Froes told AFP.

Organisers have said the Hong Kong exhibition will run for a year before heading to mainland China.

Hong Kong football fans queued for hours on Monday to snap pictures of Cristiano Ronaldo's trophies and jerseys at an exhibition billed as the first of its kind outside the superstar's native Portugal.

Visitors at the opening of the "CR7 LIFE Museum Hong Kong" at a luxury shopping mall posed next to life-

2027 and return of the predators: A call for Youth awakening



In 2014, I wrote an editorial titled: 'Nigeria at a Crossroad'. I wrote that piece based on what I saw in General Muhammadu Buhari, something very different from what many shouting Sai Baba saw in him.

Most Nigerians then formed their opinion of General Buhari based on his actions in 1984, during his rule alongside the late Babatunde Idiagbon. Buhari, the no-nonsense man. Buhari, the action man. Buhari, the honest man.

But in that editorial, I asked: Is this the same Buhari of 31 years ago? Can Buhari act alone without Idiagbon? Can Buhari act like a soldier among politicians? My answer was no.

I argued that Buhari was not the messiah. Rather, we were simply in undue haste with Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. I wished Nigerians had given him a little more time.

Now, with the 2027 game already on the field, politicians are ganging up and regrouping again. But this time, I foresee something worse on the horizon, if we don't CALMDOWN.

Nigerians must stop being in such a constant rush. We must understand that no pain, no gain. The fox and the lions who drove us into the wilderness are regrouping once more, pretending to be on a rescue mission.

I looked through the list of these so-called "men of timber and calibre" claiming to be regrouping to save Nigeria, and I was shocked. Not a single fresh face in Nigeria's political power house. All I saw were former governors, former ministers, former senators, and former house members.

These are the same people who ruled from 1999 to 2023. They left office barely three years ago, and now they are the ones complaining?

One of these "hungry" men just celebrated his 60th birthday in a ₦30 million rented hall, excluding food, drinks, and other expenses amounting to nearly a billion naira, yet he claims we are hungry. We, or who?

Another former minister recently held a political reunion in one of the South-West states, where millions of dollars were reportedly shared. He now says, we want to rescue Nigeria. From whom, exactly?

As always, I say this again: I AM NOT A POLITICIAN.

Nigerians, let us calm down. None of these old foxes or lions can solve our problems. They are the problem.

Nigerian youths, arise! Shine your eyes! Don't be deceived, these old brigade cannot help you.

Conclusion:

The youths must now form a strong coalition, join a political party, ensure they are in the majority, negotiate with the ruling party, and plan to take over from the old men.

Youth in positions of authority must learn to be disciplined and resist greed. Let the world see signs of true leadership in you.

We cannot reach our goal in haste. Let us look, listen, and learn.

Don't be deceived, the hungry lions and leopards cannot rescue us. They are planning to devour us. God bless Nigeria.

Lai Gidado
3rd July 2025

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Olajumoke at 81: Aiyedatiwa hails legacy, endorses education initiative



watch them emigrate and contribute to the growth of other countries.”

Describing this brain drain as a “legacy of a conquered people,” Mimiko urged policymakers to recognise the situation as a national emergency.

He emphasised that the political will to address the crisis must be driven by a genuine concern for the millions of Nigerians trapped in cycles of poverty and preventable disease.

“A nation that cannot care for its citizens cannot expect to prosper,” he added. “We must build a healthcare system that works for all.”

The lecture drew a wide audience from the education, health, and political sectors, and was a major highlight of the event celebrating Senator Olajumoke's milestone.

Ebony Herald International brings you pictures from the event



Olajumoke at 81: Aiyedatiwa hails legacy, endorses education initiative



He reminds us that politics should be a vehicle for service, not merely a career."

Aiyedatiwa further urged young people to emulate Olajumoke's values, stressing the need for a new generation of leaders committed to service rather than self-interest.

Commending the newly launched initiative, the governor pledged the full support of the Ondo State Government to collaborate with the programme in achieving its noble goals.

"This initiative highlights the critical need to prioritise human welfare," he stated.

"As a government, we are ready and willing to partner with this vision in any capacity necessary to see it succeed."

He concluded by applauding Senator Olajumoke's life of purpose, integrity, and dedication, describing him as a man whose legacy will endure for generations to come.

As part of the event's highlights, former Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, delivered a compelling public lecture centred on the urgent need for reform in Nigeria's healthcare system.

Mimiko, a medical doctor and advocate for health sector development, decried the alarming state of public health in the country, warning that continued neglect could have dire consequences for national development.

Citing sobering statistics, he noted that Nigeria accounts for 28 percent of global maternal deaths, while life expectancy stands at a dismal 55 years among the lowest globally, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

He attributed the crisis to chronic underfunding, pointing out that Nigeria devotes just 4.7 percent of its national budget to healthcare far below the 15 percent target set by the African Union in the Abuja Declaration.

"No nation can develop without subsidy," Mimiko declared. "We must deliberately invest in healthcare the same way developed nations do."

"Funding is the foundation upon which all meaningful development rests especially in health."

He also called for urgent incentives for health professionals, arguing that poor working conditions and inadequate facilities are driving Nigeria's best brains abroad.

"Nigeria is inadvertently subsidising the healthcare systems of wealthier nations," he said. "We train doctors with our scarce resources, only to



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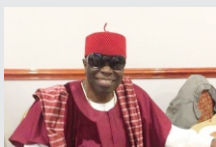


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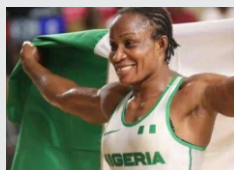
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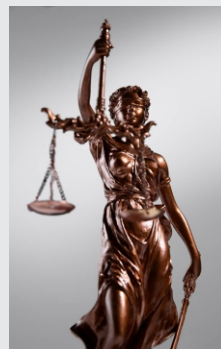
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Olajumoke at 81: Aiyedatiwa hails legacy, endorses education initiative

...as Mimiko delivers stirring lecture on Nigeria's ailing health sector



Ondo State Governor, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, has paid glowing tribute to Senator Bode Olajumoke, describing him as a seasoned technocrat and a symbol of selfless leadership whose contributions remain a source of inspiration.

The Governor, spoke at the event marking Olajumoke's 81st birthday, held at the International Culture and Events Centre (The DOME), in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

Represented by his Deputy, Dr. Olayide Adelami, Aiyedatiwa also applauded the unveiling of the Bode Olajumoke Education and Hospitality Initiative, designed to promote access to quality education and sustainable human development.

He lauded Olajumoke not just as a political figure but as a man whose life has been marked by meaningful service to humanity, underscoring his enduring commitment to the promotion of human

dignity and social upliftment.

"Senator Bode Olajumoke is a man who has made a profound impact on the lives of others," the governor said. "His life is a testament to what leadership truly means service above self."



Entertainment

"HOW I BLOCKED MY HUSBAND TWO DAYS AFTER THE HOLY SPIRIT TOLD ME HE IS MY PARTNER"

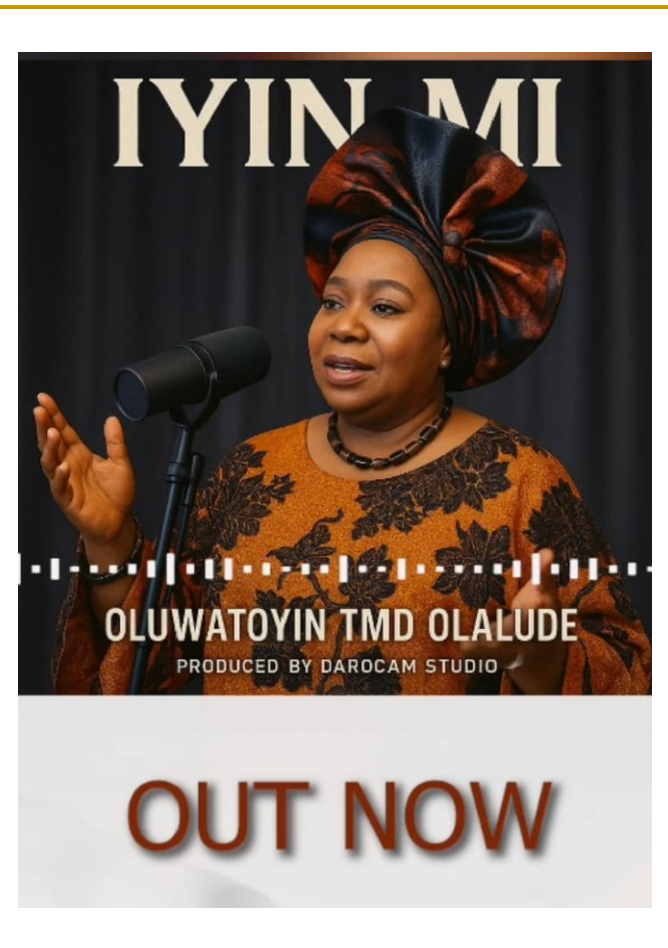
— Ruth Kadiri opens up on how she met her husband and turning down 3 advances



events together, and she posts him. She said people don't know him, so they think she is hiding him.

In an interview in May with Chude Jideonwo, Ruth recounted how she handled trolls who mocked her over the size of her engagement ring. The mother of two admitted that she can be a petty person at times, and to deal with the trolls, she stormed their pages one after the other to lash out at them.

Last year, Kadiri had penned a sweet note to her husband to celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary. She stated that she couldn't have wished for any other person in the 5 years of their marriage, stating her happiness and peace had been derived from being married



Nollywood actress Ruth Kadiri has shed light on how she met her husband. In an interview with Diary of a Naija Girl on her podcast, Dear Ife, she recounted how she met her husband and how God spoke to her about him. According to her, she met him at work and initially declined to talk to him, but she agreed after pressure from her friend. She said they talked about business and importation, and when she stood up to leave, the Spirit of God told her he was her husband. Unfortunately, she blocked him two days later.

Kadiri said she didn't know they would be married six years ago. The light-skinned movie star said going public with her man made her more committed to her relationship.

The mother of two also bragged about being a catch during her younger days, as she knew whoever married her would be lucky. Kadiri also revealed that she turned down three proposals.

"Six years ago, I thought we wouldn't marry each other. I was a catch. I knew anybody who would marry me would be lucky. I knew all that about my life. Who was I now going to marry? I said no to about three people. I said yes because God told me he was my husband.

I went to work. He saw me and wanted to talk to me, but I said no. My friend said I should talk to him, and I agreed. We talked about business and importation.

As I stood and walked away, the Spirit of God told me he was my husband. Two days later, I blocked him".

Also in the interview, Ruth addressed claims of hiding her husband. She said she isn't hiding her man as they attend

A Beacon of Light: Celebrating Hon. Alabi Johnson's Ascension to Commissioner



In the heart of Ondo State, where the aspirations of the people pulse with hope and resilience, a luminary has risen to new heights, carrying the torch of progress and innovation. Hon. Alabi Johnson, a man whose dedication to service has illuminated countless lives, has been confirmed by the Ondo State House of Assembly as a Commissioner—a fitting recognition of his transformative contributions as Special Adviser to the Governor. With a legacy already etched in the annals of Ondo's development, Dr. Johnson's ascension is not just a promotion; it is a clarion call for continued excellence, a testament to his unwavering commitment to the people, and a beacon of hope for a brighter future.

As Special Adviser, Dr. Alabi Johnson redefined what it means to serve with vision and vigor. Tasked with addressing one of the most pressing challenges facing the people of Ondo State—access to reliable and equitable electricity—he approached the role with a blend of ingenuity, determination, and an unyielding belief in the power of transformative governance. Under the steadfast support of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, Dr. Johnson spearheaded initiatives that shattered the barriers erected by systemic inefficiencies in the power sector. His crowning achievement, the **Odatiwa Electricity Meter Rollout**, stands as a monumental triumph, a game-changer that has liberated communities from the oppressive yoke of estimated billing.

For too long, the people of Ondo State grappled with the stranglehold of electrical distribution companies, whose practices often left households and businesses in the dark—both literally and figuratively. Dr. Johnson, with his characteristic resolve, demystified this entrenched system. Through novel solutions and a people-centered approach, he brought transparency and fairness to electricity distribution. The Odatiwa Electricity Meter initiative is more than a policy success; it is a symbol of empowerment, restoring dignity to households by ensuring they pay only for what they consume. This groundbreaking program has not only illuminated homes but also ignited hope, proving that governance can be a force for tangible, life-changing impact.

Dr. Johnson's work as Special Adviser was marked by an unrelenting focus on the people. His ability to translate vision into action, to turn policy into progress, earned him the admiration of communities across Ondo State. The Social Democratic Party (SDP) in Ondo State rightly

singled him out for commendation, noting his "remarkable contributions to the state's power sector" during his tenure as Special Adviser. His efforts have laid a foundation for sustainable development, ensuring that the light of progress shines even in the most remote corners of the state.

Now, as he steps into the role of Commissioner, Dr. Alabi Johnson carries with him not just the weight of responsibility but the trust of a people who have witnessed his ability to deliver. His confirmation by the Ondo State

House of Assembly on or before June 20, 2025, is a resounding endorsement of his competence and character. The Assembly's decision reflects the collective recognition of a leader who has proven himself worthy of greater stewardship. As one of the 12 nominees submitted by Governor Aiyedatiwa—and among the four awaiting screening at the time—Dr. Johnson's confirmation is a moment of pride for all who believe in the power of dedicated leadership.

In this new chapter, Dr. Johnson's appointment is a call to amplify his impact. His track record suggests that he will approach this role with the same tenacity and innovation that defined his time as Special Adviser. The people of Ondo State can look forward to a Commissioner who

listens, who acts, and who delivers. His work in the power sector is but a glimpse of what he is capable of achieving in this elevated position. Whether tackling infrastructure, education, or economic empowerment, Dr. Johnson's leadership promises to be a catalyst for holistic development.

As we celebrate Hon. Alabi Johnson, we honor not just the man but the ideals he represents: service, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to the common good. His journey from Special Adviser to Commissioner is a testament to the truth that dedication and results will always find their reward. The people of Ondo State stand behind him, confident that his tenure as Commissioner will bring even greater strides in their shared pursuit of progress.

Here's to Dr. Alabi Johnson—a visionary, a trailblazer, and now, a Commissioner. May his leadership continue to light the way, not just for Ondo State, but for all who believe in the transformative power of service. Congratulations, Dr. Johnson, on a well-deserved ascension. The future is brighter because of you.



Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria and Africa

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria and across Africa is not just a disturbing trend, it is a full-blown crisis. It festers in the shadows of our homes, our streets, our institutions. Like a serpent underfoot, it strikes when least expected, sinking its fangs into the lives of women and girls who only want to live, love, and dream without fear. For too long, we've turned a blind eye. But the time has come to tear off the blindfold and face the storm head-on.

Walk through the crowded markets of Lagos, the silent streets of Maiduguri, or the serene villages of Eastern Nigeria, and you'll hear them, the whispered stories, the tear-soaked memories, the silences that scream. From the young girl whose dreams were dashed by a trusted uncle, to the mother who carries her scars like unwanted tattoos, every woman knows someone who has suffered, or has suffered herself.

Take, for instance, Ochanya Ogbanje. In 2018, at just 13 years old, she died after years of sexual abuse by her guardian and his son in Benue State. Her story, heart-wrenching and raw, caused national outrage. But as with many such cases, justice lagged. How many more Ochanyas must die before we see the urgency?

Then there is Uwaila Omozuwa, a bright 22-year-old university student in Benin City. In 2020, she went to a church to study, a place that should offer refuge and peace. Instead, it became her final resting place. She was raped and murdered on holy ground. The #WeAreTired and #JusticeForUwa movements that followed her death were not just hastags, they were a collective cry, a nationwide grief that demanded to be heard.

Similarly, the brutal murder of 22-year-old Oluwabamise Ayanwale in 2022 shook Lagos and beyond. She boarded a government-operated BRT bus, thinking she was safe. But safety proved an illusion. Her fearful voice notes, sent to friends while sensing something was wrong, still echo in our hearts. She vanished and was later found dead. A life so full of potential, ended by the very system meant to protect her.

And the pain isn't limited to Nigeria. In South Africa, femicide has become a grotesque norm. Uyinene Mrwetyana, a 19-year-old university student, was raped and killed in a post office by a government employee in 2019. Her death sparked mass protests, as women, clad in black, marched to say: enough is enough.

In Kenya, hundreds of schoolgirls, some as young as 10 have been impregnated by teachers, relatives, and so-called guardians. The perpetrators? Often shielded by silence, culture, or corruption. The victims? Silenced by shame and forced to drop out of school, their futures traded for a culture of impunity.

Yet, even in the darkest corners, light persists. Organizations like WARIF (Women at Risk International Foundation), Mirabel Centre, and Stand to End Rape (STER) in Nigeria are doing the hard, necessary work. They offer survivors medical care, psychological support, legal help, and a hand to hold when the world turns its back. In South Africa, groups like Rape Crisis and Tears Foundation are lifelines for many.

Governments have started to stir from their slumber. The Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act of 2015 in Nigeria was a step forward. States like Lagos, Enugu, and Ekiti have passed it. But laws are only as strong as their enforcement. And enforcement, sadly, remains a mirage in too many places.

Complete Woman

By Oreoluwa Dikko



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What, then, must be done? First, we must re-educate our boys. From the cradle, they must learn that strength is not domination, and masculinity is not violence. Consent must be taught as essential, not optional. Schools must become safe spaces, not danger zones. Gender education must be embedded in the curriculum, not tagged on as an afterthought.

Police officers and judges must be trained to handle GBV cases with empathy, urgency, and integrity. Too often, survivors are re-traumatized at police stations or courts, treated as suspects instead of victims.

Religious and traditional leaders, and even the cultural gatekeepers, must speak up. The pulpit must become a platform for justice. Silence in the face of abuse is complicity. We need voices that break the chains of patriarchy, not reinforce them.

The media must also rise to the occasion. We must stop glorifying perpetrators and blaming victims. Language matters. Representation matters. Women are not footnotes in their own stories.

And what of us the mothers, sisters, friends, neighbours, citizens? We must not wait for another funeral to raise our voices. We must speak up in boardrooms, classrooms, churches, Mosques and homes. Challenge the rape jokes. Call out the misogyny. Believe survivors. Share their stories if they ask us to. Show up in solidarity. Advocate for change. Let our silence no longer be the weapon used against us.

This is a call "a cry to every woman and every ally: the time to act is now. Not tomorrow. Not when the next Uwaila or Bamise is taken from us. Now. Because every girl deserves to come home safe. Every woman deserves to walk without fear. Every story deserves justice."

Gender-based violence is not an African curse, it is a global epidemic with local solutions. But the burden, and the power to change, lies with us. Let us not wait until the pain hits home. Let us stand now, together, with courage, with compassion, and with a fire that refuses to go out.

We owe it to Ochanya. To Uwa. To Bamise. To Uyinene. To every unnamed victim whose story was never told. We owe it to the girls yet to be born.

Because their freedom is our fight. Because their safety is our legacy. Because their lives matter.

And we will not be silent.

Question; What kind of support (logistical, aerial, technological) has been most crucial for the government to prioritise to end the reign of terror in Nigeria?

Answer;

Yes, the most important thing I want to emphasise is that we don't produce some crucial military equipment. However, since the President has signed the DICON bill, we are bringing in companies to initiate production. We will also purchase from them and build our capacity. We have begun producing items such as APCs and more. This is an ongoing effort, and we will continue to focus on these areas to enhance our capabilities.

The President is providing us with significant funding. You know, military, armed forces, and defence are not the only challenges; there are obstacles everywhere, so we need to prioritise because we can't obtain everything we require. However, what we have been doing at our local level is building our engineers' and technicians' capacity to repair and maintain the vehicles even those that have been damaged. We can bring them in and fix them again.

Question. Are the military being overwhelmed?

Answer;

Not at all. Like I said, they always look for a soft spot like a village and attack. But what is also making our job a bit more difficult is the lack of infrastructure. That's why I'm talking about the non-kinetic approach, which is not the military's responsibility. We don't have roads, and these guys know that.

So, they plant improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and once you enter the area with IEDs, everybody could die. If you go to hospitals, you'll see soldiers with legs cut, hands cut so many terrible injuries. So even when we get intelligence, we must proceed cautiously because of IEDs. We need someone on the ground with a handheld detector, going ahead. Just imagine moving like that for 10 kilometres. That's why people sometimes say, "We called them, and they're not coming." But if soldiers rush in, they will die so they have to go slowly.

It's one of the issues we discussed with the President: our governors should view this aspect as part of the dividends of democracy namely, the provision of roads. If there are roads, it will make our job easier. Reinforcement and support response times will improve, and market access will be easier.

Now, imagine transporting tomatoes from the North to the South. Normally, it should be cheap. But due to transportation and poor roads, the cost becomes significantly higher in Lagos. Therefore, if we have good roads, it will reduce cost and help decrease insecurity.

Question: There are still some villages that are under the control of bandits. How are you addressing that?

Answer;

Like I said earlier, our people should stop accommodating them. I'll give you an example: one of the bandits' leaders

was injured and taken to a hospital in a village. By the time we received the information and got there, the villagers had already evacuated him from the hospital room because they are getting peanuts from the bandits.

That's why we say that if the government does more, the people will not be enticed by this kind of money. That's why the non-kinetic aspect is very important good governance. You can see that the North lacks infrastructure, no schools, no hospitals, no water, no electricity. These are the real challenges.

Question; What about the issue of security votes?

Answer;

Well, I can tell you the truth: all the funds we receive are paid as and when due to cover our soldiers' allowances and feeding. We feed them well, although there may be one or two complaints here and there. However, we take action when necessary.

Now that costs have gone up significantly, these are the challenges we are grappling with. Nevertheless, we are not doing badly.

Question: Lastly, what is your message for Nigerians?

Answer :

For Nigerians, it is crucial that we love ourselves more. I had the opportunity to travel abroad, and in most countries, people take pride in themselves and their country. In Nigeria, however, I see that some people are happy when soldiers are killed, and I can't understand why. They celebrate on social media. But when we kill the terrorists, nobody talks about it; they remain silent.

So, what is the aim? Why celebrate when soldiers are killed? They don't realise that these soldiers are the shield between them and the terrorists. If all the soldiers are killed, they will be the next victims. They fail to see that the soldiers protect their ability to go to the farm, school, church, or mosque by standing guard day and night.

I just returned from Maiduguri, where the temperature reaches 44 degrees. Soldiers endure the sun, rain, dust, and all kinds of weather, making sacrifices. They have left their families some haven't seen their children in three to six months. So, when I see someone rejoicing over a soldier's death, I am deeply disturbed. I say no.

When the terrorists are done with the soldiers, civilians will be next. However, when you support the soldiers, pray for them, and commend them, they will be motivated to do even more.

Therefore, I appeal to Nigerians and to those aiding terrorists, directly or indirectly. Some commercial drivers take fuel to them. Some carry food. Some even bring women to them, just for money which is blood money. If we catch anyone doing so, we will treat them like a terrorist.

Thank you very much.

Thank you for the opportunity.

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.



THE PARLIAMENT

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



Reps C'ttee Reiterates Commitment to Strengthening Nigeria's Air Defence



The Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Air Force, Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum, has reaffirmed the committee's commitment to strengthening Nigeria's air defence capabilities through robust and sustained legislative support.

Hon. Rurum made the statement during the committee's 2025 oversight visit to Nigerian Air Force (NAF) bases in Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri, and Makurdi. He said the visit was

in line with the constitutional mandate of the National Assembly to promote transparency, accountability, and improved operational efficiency within the NAF.

According to him, the oversight exercise focused on assessing the state of infrastructure, personnel welfare, budget implementation, and operational readiness of NAF units stationed in these key strategic locations.

Speaking at the Nigerian Air Force Base in Kaduna, Hon. Rurum said:

"As members of the Tenth House of Representatives, we are guided by the principles of accountability, transparency, and service to the Nigerian people.

"The Armed Forces remain the backbone of our national security architecture, and the Air Force is particularly pivotal in our counter-terrorism efforts, internal security operations, and safeguarding the sovereignty of our airspace.

"Kaduna holds a strategic position in the operational structure of the Nigerian Air Force. It hosts some of the most vital training schools, air logistics facilities, and operational units. Our presence here

today is to listen, inspect, evaluate, and report back to the National Assembly with a view to improving legislative support for the Air Force."

In Kano, Hon. Rurum led the delegation to the 403 Flying Training School (403 FTS), the 465 Nigerian Air Force Hospital (465 NAFH), and the 455 Base Services Group (455 BSG).

“These establishments are critical to the training, welfare, and operational support of our Air Force,” he said. “We commend the leadership and all officers serving in these formations for their tireless service and contributions to the defence and stability of our nation. Your professionalism, courage, and sacrifice do not go unnoticed.”

He noted that the committee's interaction with officers and inspection of facilities in Kaduna revealed recurring challenges such as chronic underfunding of critical operations and infrastructure, delays in capital releases, poor welfare conditions, inadequate accommodation for personnel, delayed payment of salaries and allowances, as well as aging and overstretched operational platforms.

“We are deeply concerned about these issues, especially as they directly affect morale, operational readiness, and the overall effectiveness of the Nigerian Air Force,” he stated. “Let me assure you that the Committee will not treat these observations lightly.”

At the Maiduguri Air Component of Operation Hadin Kai, the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Rufus Adeniyi Ojuawo, expressed appreciation to the officers on the frontlines and assured them of legislative and executive collaboration to address the country's security challenges.

“We are deeply honoured to be here in Maiduguri, the epicenter of our nation's war against terrorism and insurgency, to carry out this critical part of our constitutional mandate,” he said.

“This oversight visit is not just a routine inspection. It is a golden opportunity to witness firsthand the operational realities confronting our gallant airmen and to deepen our understanding of what it truly means to serve on the frontlines.

“Our presence here underscores our solidarity with the Nigerian Air Force, especially those deployed in active combat zones. As the Deputy Chairman of this Committee, I want to state clearly and sincerely that I am one of you. I am a retired Air Vice Marshal. I feel your pulse. I understand the unique burdens you bear, the danger you face daily, the long nights on alert, and the weight of duty that rests on your shoulders. I have worn the uniform, I have stood where you stand, and I carry your concerns with me into every discussion we have at the legislative level.”

While addressing personnel at the Makurdi NAF Base in Benue State, Hon. Ojuawo commended the Air Force for maintaining professionalism, discipline, and unwavering



commitment despite numerous operational challenges.

“We have observed firsthand the passion and sense of duty that defines the personnel here in Makurdi. Your dedication to national service, even in the face of constraints such as inadequate infrastructure, delayed releases of funds, and evolving security threats, is truly commendable,” he said.

“It is because of your sacrifices that millions of Nigerians continue to live in peace and security. Our Committee remains fully committed to advocating for improved funding, timely releases, and targeted investments to address critical gaps in personnel welfare, accommodation, and operational assets. We will take all your concerns back to the National Assembly with a firm resolve to ensure that the Nigerian Air Force gets the resources it needs to function effectively.”

Also speaking during the visit to the Maiduguri Base Services Group, the Commander, Group Captain Nwachukwu, expressed appreciation to the lawmakers for their commitment to strengthening Nigeria's air defence architecture. He highlighted several operational challenges faced by the unit, including inadequate funding, the need for regular training and retraining of flight cadets, and the shortage of suitable accommodation for personnel.

Correspondents observed that across the four locations visited, particular attention was paid to challenges relating to funding gaps, delayed capital releases, and accommodation shortfalls, all of which have the potential to affect morale and efficiency within the Air Force.

During the visits, the committee interacted with senior officers and personnel, received detailed briefings on ongoing operations and logistics, and reaffirmed the National Assembly's resolve to provide meaningful and sustained legislative backing to bolster the capabilities of the Nigerian Air Force.

The committee's findings from the oversight tour will inform its formal recommendations to the House of Representatives and serve as a guide for future legislative interventions in the defence and security sectors.

Continue from June edition

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: 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?



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NIGERIA'S PERENNIAL FLOOD: OCCURRENCE OF PREVENTABLE DISASTERS

Today, I am writing as a professional water resource engineer with over twenty years of experience in irrigation water management and hydrology, as well as a professor of extension who must communicate complex information to non-professionals clearly and straightforwardly. Through my training and current role as a trainer, or even as a trainer of trainers, I am a key stakeholder in water resource management in this country. Therefore, it deeply pains me to see preventable flood-related losses occurring at the beginning or end of the rainy season in recent years.

Sometimes, I write articles with a heavy heart, reflecting on our nation's tendency to be nonchalant about severe calamities and preventable disasters. In our lackadaisical approach as a developing nation, we often ignore impending disasters until they occur. Then, our leaders begin to shed crocodile tears, and before you say "Jack," an investigation panel would have been formed if the disaster is significant enough. In many cases, the hidden goal of the panel is to avoid asking embarrassing questions about the preventable incident. By the time the panel or committee's report is submitted, if it ever is, the excitement surrounding the incident has faded. The victims—the dead—have been buried, and the injured and property losers have accepted their fate as part of their destiny. The nation then moves on, waiting for another cycle of disaster to strike. These disasters include plane crashes, road accidents, fire outbreaks, and banditry activities. Sometimes, the bandits or insurgents boldly announce their plans to attack communities, and little or nothing is done until they arrive. Can we break this cycle of recurring calamities? A continual flood disaster is one such destructive event, causing devastating and unquantifiable losses of lives and property.

In the past five years, I have written four articles on the occurrence of floods in Nigeria: one in 2020, another in 2021, and two in 2022, all with strong warnings to prevent future occurrences. Yet, floods have still occurred in 2024 and this year, 2025.

Some of my articles can be accessed via;
<https://deephoughtwithmkothman.com>.

blogspot.com/2022/11/nigerias-perennial- flood-happening-of_24.html

In 2024, over 300 people died, and 1.2 million were affected by floods in 31 states across Nigeria. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported that cholera claimed more than 350 lives, over 10,000 suspected cases recorded in Nigeria as a result of flood occurrences in many communities nationwide. From August to September 2024, severe flooding events devastated multiple communities across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states. The flooding overwhelmed local capacity, destroyed homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and left tens of thousands of people in urgent need of immediate humanitarian aid, including shelter, food, medical care, and clean water.

Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, was severely affected by the 2024 flood, which was caused by the breach of the Alau Dam. Built in 1986, the dam was intended to supply irrigation water and manage flooding from the Ngadda River. Before 2024, the dam had failed twice, in 1994 and 2012, leading to flooding in nearby communities. The National Emergency Management Agency reported that over 70% of Maiduguri's residents were displaced, with at least 150 people confirmed dead and many others missing from the 2024 Maiduguri flood.

This year, on May 29, 2025, a severe flood hit Mokwa in Niger State. Heavy rainfall lasting several hours caused intense flash flooding. The Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) reported that 265 houses were affected across three communities, along with the destruction of two roads and two bridges. Official records listed 155 deaths, but eyewitness reports suggest the actual number was much higher. A few days later, the death toll rose to about 300, and more than 100 people were still unaccounted for. Around 3,018 displaced individuals lost their homes, many seeking shelter at Mokwa Central Primary School. Several others sustained various injuries. What made these floods preventable, or how could mitigation measures have reduced their impacts?

Before answering the question, let us examine the gravity of the adversity faced by the flood victims. Have you witnessed people displaced by a flood? I had a terrible experience in 2020 when I visited displaced people in Agubu, a suburb of Hadjia, three kilometres away on Kano Road. The people were in droves, packed close together, camped in an open space without any camping facilities, at a Filling Station located opposite their submerged houses. They looked remarkably disturbed and dejected. They were worried about the fate of their few belongings remaining in their half-collapsed houses, their partly submerged and partly destroyed crops along the Hadejia River, and how to survive the year, reconnect with their loved ones, and begin life all over again. Some of their houses were completely demolished, while parts of other houses collapsed; it was only the Friday Mosque that remained standing in the flood. Will the remaining structures in the village collapse? Their homes and farms were destroyed by the River Hadejia flood a week earlier. It was as if the river was angry, overflowing its banks and flooding every structure nearby. Sandbags were hurriedly lined up to prevent water from flooding a significant part of Hadejia town. The way the sandbags were made and placed was apparently part of the community efforts as a short-term measure to safeguard their village. Two days later, water was flowing underneath the sandbags, with some being washed away. It was a terrible experience that even a stonehearted person must shed tears of sympathy.

What are the causes of floods, and how have we failed to prevent their occurrence in recent years? To be discussed next week.

Reps Pass For Second Reading Bill To Establish Correctional Reformation And Reintegration Trust Fund



Nigerian House of Representatives has passed for second reading a bill for an Act to establish Correctional Reformation and Reintegration Trust Fund (CRRTF).

The bill which seeks to ensure sustainable financing for inmate rehabilitation, skill acquisition was sponsored by Rep. Steve Fatoba representing Ado Ekiti / Irepodun / Ifelodun Federal Constituency, Ekiti State (APC) at plenary on Wednesday.

Leading the debate, Fatoba said that the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) has a mandate that includes the safe custody, reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offenders into society.

He, however, said that limited funding and inadequate rehabilitation infrastructure had hindered the realisation of the set goals.

According to him, many ex-inmates face stigmatisation, unemployment, and relapse into criminal activity due to the absence of structured post-release support.

"The proposed amendment seeks to establish a Correctional Reformation and Reintegration Trust Fund (CRRTF) to provide sustainable financing for inmate rehabilitation, skill acquisition, mental health support, and post-release integration.

"This fund will bridge the gap between incarceration and productive citizenship," he said.

He explained that the aim of the fund is for vocational and educational training programmes, psychological and drug rehabilitation services and post-release support system including employment schemes and halfway homes.

The lawmaker said that it is to reduce recidivism by equipping ex-inmates for societal reintegration and enhance the correctional system's alignment with international best practices in offenders rehabilitation.

"The establishment of a Fund is a proactive step toward transforming Nigeria's correctional system into a tool for nation-building, not just punishment.

"This amendment will ensure that inmates leave correctional facilities not just reformed, but also equipped to become responsible and contributing members of the society," he said.

The rep said that bill suggested that the fund will be funded by proceeds from vocational agriculture, construction and other activities or services rendered by the inmates.

According to him, it will also draw funds from donations from the religious bodies, 1 per cent of net profit of banking and insurance companies, 1 per cent of net profit of alcohol and tobacco products companies as well as fines, penalties, and forfeitures from criminal cases among others.

The sponsor explained that the fund will be used for vocational training workshops and educational programmes.

He said it will also be used for rehabilitation of drug-dependent inmates, pre-release orientation and reintegration counseling as well as establishment of transitional halfway homes.

Fatoba said that it also be used for monitoring and evaluation of rehabilitation outcomes as well as start-up fund for the inmates upon discharge or release.

Fatoba urged members of the house to support the all important bill to be read the second time and referred to the relevant committee for further legislative input.

Reps Pass For Second Reading Bill To Establish FCT Area Councils Service Commission

Nigerian House of Representatives has passed for second reading a bill seeking to provide legal backing for the Federal Capital Territory Area Councils Service Commission.

The proposed legislation, titled A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Area Councils Service Commission and for Related Matters, aims to institutionalize the commission as the central body for human resource management and capacity building across the six area councils and affiliated agencies within the FCT.

While leading the debate on the general principles of the bill, Hon. Moshood Olanrewaju Oshun explained that while the commission currently functions in a



coordinating capacity for agencies such as the Abuja Broadcasting Corporation, the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, and the Abuja Infrastructure Investment Centre, it lacks the statutory foundation to fully execute its mandate.

"This institution lacks legal backing as there is no legislative framework establishing it," Oshun told his colleagues during plenary.

He noted that formalizing the commission through an Act of Parliament would not only give it the necessary legal status but also strengthen governance structures in the nation's capital.

"The bill seeks to give the commission the required

legal backing to enable it enjoy its status as an establishment of the Federal Government," he said.

The motion for the second reading of the bill was moved and seconded without opposition, indicating broad support among lawmakers.

The bill has now been referred to the relevant House committee for further legislative work, including a possible public hearing.

When passed into law, it is expected to enhance transparency, efficiency, and professionalism in the administration of the FCT's area councils and related entities.

Rep Committee pledges end to Insecurity situation in Plateau



"These tragic developments are not isolated—they reverberate beyond Plateau, affecting neighbouring states and undermining national stability. It is for this reason that the House of Representatives, at its plenary on the 8th day of May, 2025, in its wisdom and responsiveness to the yearnings of our people, mandated the formation of this Committee.

"Our assignment is clear: to convene a Special Security Conference that will bring together critical stakeholders—security agencies, traditional rulers, community leaders, civil society

organisations, youth and women groups, researchers, and political actors—to engage in sincere, in-depth discussions and generate sustainable solutions.

"This is not just another conference. It is an opportunity for truth-telling, healing, dialogue, and decisive recommendations. Our aim is not just to diagnose the problem—much of which we already know—but to chart new pathways towards lasting peace, security, justice, and reconciliation.

"As members of this Committee, we must discharge our duties with integrity, impartiality, and utmost sensitivity. We will be expected to: engage stakeholders across affected communities and beyond; identify root causes and trigger points of the conflicts; design the framework and agenda for the Conference; ensure inclusion, giving voice to all segments of society and produce a comprehensive report with actionable recommendations.

"We must remember: the eyes of the people are on us. This task is not about politics—it is about people. About communities. About peace. About the soul of our nation. Let us work collaboratively and diligently. Let us listen more than we speak. Let us lead with empathy and courage."

Nigerian House of Representatives Adhoc Committee on security challenge in Plateau state and beyond has assured that it will come up with holistic recommendations that will ensure justice and fairness to all concern, while guaranteeing security of life and property.

The ad-hoc Committee is mandated by the House to convene a Special Security Conference on the security challenges in Plateau State and beyond.

Speaking at its inaugural meeting, Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Wale Hammed said the committee will engage with various stakeholders including: security agencies, traditional rulers, community leaders, civil society organisations, youth and women groups, researchers, and political actors, among others to finding the way forward.

Dr. Hammed said the security challenges in Plateau state have persisted for far too long, saying "We are all witnesses to the unfortunate and recurring cycle of violence that has left many communities in sorrow, displaced countless families, destroyed livelihoods, and eroded trust among ethnic and religious groups.

A Nation in Crisis:

Nigeria's Political Disarray Through My Eyes (Part 1)

I am neither a Pastor nor a Prophet, and I don't claim or pretend to have a direct hotline to God. I am also not Nostradamus, Professor Harry Houdini, or Professor Peller, the India-trained magician and master illusionist.

Nigeria is currently in total political disarray, a situation that could fast-track the long-expected breakup of the country.

Take it or leave it, I am going to speak my mind, come rain or shine, as an independent-leaning Democrat and political analyst who, at 82, knows that my days in life are numbered, whether I like it or not.

My mother died at 85, and my father at 94. If I survive up to or beyond the age of 94, that would be a miracle, and I would consider myself the luckiest person in my extended family.

So what do I have to lose if I see the truth but refuse to call it as I see it? Those of you who know me well know that I am someone who believes people may deceive me, but the one game I never play is deceiving myself.

My good old days and my productive years are all but gone. As a 9/11 and COVID epidemic survivor in America, the fact that I am still alive today is a miracle, if you know what I have passed through, the mountains I have climbed, and the Rubicons I have crossed.

I am not afraid of death at this point. I am ready to answer the call at any time because God has been very good to me. I would always be the first to admit that.

As the only child of my mother, with eight direct children of my own and fourteen grandchildren (as of the last time I checked), I have ceased to be a major factor in my own life's calculus.

What I live for right now is not myself but the survival and future of all my grandchildren and the few more I am praying to God to give me from two or three of my children who are still hoping and praying, with me, that I live long enough to see their own children. My grandchildren are what I am living for. You all can quote me on that.

I couldn't care less what anybody says about me. I have seen a lot in my life. I call myself the proverbial kernel that pays a courtesy visit to the home of a bush rat (eusa, in Akure dialect), but manages to come back alive and whole.

I am the lucky "Erun ko y'ule eusa ko bo, upon li pin."

I see that Atiku Abubakar who is about the same age as I am, or perhaps slightly younger, is ganging up with Nasir El-Rufai, Peter Obi, Rotimi Amaechi, and General David Mark from Benue, who is one of the luckiest men from the Benue-Plateau area, like General Yakubu Gowon.

The gentlemen I have listed are all scheming and ganging up to take out the current President, "Emilokan" Bola Ahmed Tinubu, because they all want to be President or Vice President of Nigeria at all costs.

Atiku is the most desperate, because he knows that time is running against him. He still wants to be President, as if it is his birthright.

He wants to be President even if it means kicking the bucket the day after his inauguration.

I know Atiku Abubakar very well, although he may not remember me. He was a colleague of one of my best friends and classmates at Obafemi Awolowo University between 1963 and 1966.

I am talking about the late High Chief Lisa Jigan and the Loboshin of Ondo Kingdom, Alex Opeyemi Akinyele, who was a contemporary of Atiku at the old Customs Department Headquarters in Lagos for many years.

Aleco ended up becoming the Public Relations Officer of the Customs, while Atiku who joined the department around the same time was quickly catapulted by his fellow Fulani friends in power, like General Yar'Adua, as I vividly recall.

A few short years later, Atiku was promoted to Comptroller and Head of Customs, where he made a fortune thanks to his name recognition, his state of origin, and his knowledge that he was born to rule as a Fulani sacred cow.

Come on, Nigerians, give me a break!

It is the same Atiku who is now ganging up with the "hungry" Rotimi Amaechi and El-Rufai, who has spent half his life holding one big job after another in government, becoming a kingmaker in



Prince Dr. Wumi Akintide
Oyemekun Terrace,
New York City

Nigeria for much of his adult life.

The diminutive man is disgruntled right now because he was not made a Minister by President Emilokan. Though nominated, his appointment was torpedoed by the Nigerian Senate, but Rufai would not take no for an answer. Tinubu must lose his job because he didn't force the Senate to confirm his nomination by force.

Also in the gang-up is General David Mark, who once openly threatened to kill his boss, IBB, if he did not annul the election of MKO Abiola in 1993. Yet, years later, he was rewarded, rather than punished by being made Senate President for eight years. He is now again surfacing as the Chairman of the new ADC party, which his gang-up crew has all but hijacked from the original founders in a desperate attempt to defrock Emilokan in 2027.

Also in the gang-up is Peter Obi, a great opportunist who joined the weak Labour Party in 2023 and instantly became its flag bearer and thanks to his state of origin.

I agree he was a good state governor, but he did not have to pay his dues before bulldozing his way to the top of the Labour Party ticket.

Peter Obi managed to score 6 million votes in the last election, pulling an upset in Lagos the commercial capital of the Yoruba Southwest and of Nigeria, now referred to by some Igbos as "no man's land," because they aim to take over Lagos and drive the Yorubas into the Atlantic Ocean, if allowed.

It is the same Peter Obi who is now telling the Hausa/Fulani that the old North, as the food basket of Nigeria, is the greatest asset of the country, which he could easily turn into an Eldorado in one six-year term, if the Northerners massively vote for him in 2027 to send the Yoruba President, Emilokan, packing.

What I am describing above is why Nigeria is in total disarray right now and the situation will only worsen if the gang-up succeeds. We know the track records of all these Oliver Twist-type individuals, and what their party, the NPN, now metamorphosed into the PDP did while ruling Nigeria for 30 uninterrupted years after 38 years of military rule dominated by the same Hausa/Fulani bloc.

These are the same people now saying the South is a fiefdom given to them in perpetuity by their Caliphate, the one and only Uthman Dan Fodio, and the British colonialists led by Lord Lugard, with his lopsided Amalgamation Proclamation of 1914.

Come on, men. It's not going to happen. If this gang-up will not allow the Yoruba to have their eight years in the Presidency, then forget it, Nigeria is not going to survive.

My Part 2 will address other concerns and explain why the gang-up against Tinubu is going to fail, and fail woefully, if Tinubu can offer meaningful solutions to the major problems facing voters, in a way no reasonable person can ignore or dismiss with a wave of the hand.

I rest my case.

ENJOY THEM IN SPITE OF THEM

Have you become exasperated while screaming, yelling and agitated? You are not alone, many parents have. From keeping their toys in place, to washing the dishes, to doing their laundry, parents have a hard time endlessly dispensing instructions which sometimes, you have to repeat often enough to make them sink.

When my kids all went to the boarding house, we had a foretaste of the 'empty nest syndrome'. We missed them sorely and that was when we suddenly realised that the time we have to spend with them is indeed short and must be so maximised that the positive reminiscences must outweigh the negative.

While giving discipline, correction and chastisement their due place, you must know when to loosen up and relax the rules for the sake of relationship. Can you enter your kids' room and roll with them on the floor in the midst of dismembered toys sprawled and scattered everywhere? Can you de-emphasise schoolwork a little during holidays and allow them time to play and have a work-life balance, which they also, like you, deserve? Can you for a moment pause from that important meeting with your kinsmen and spare a minute to answer their nagging question rather than rebuke them harshly for rudely interrupting family discussions? Can the dishes be suspended while you play their favourite game with them?

A time is coming when you will long for their mischievous pranks and will never find it. Even before they leave the home, they will withdraw in their teenage years. The hands of time are stiff and cannot be manipulated. When time presents you with the benevolence of its fluidity, realise that the only direction it can go is forward. Hence, the time is coming when old age will catch up and it would seem as if time had flown faster than it did. At that time, there will only be either of two declarations you will make, but you won't have the luxury of making both, i.e. 'I wish I did', or 'I'm glad I did'. Grant an indulgence or two and stop complaining endlessly. Condone the chaos once in a while, and discover they'd become cherished souvenirs. Enjoy the pranks now. They will fill your memory bucket to last a lifetime. This is the discovery that grandparents have made – a benevolent opportunity granted by the Almighty; a second chance to loosen up, and they seize its hands and legs. This is why it appears they spoil their grandchildren. Yes, it's their responsibility to spoil, and yours to train them!

.... the time we have to spend with them is indeed short and must be so maximised that the positive reminiscences must outweigh the negative.... Condone the chaos once in a while, and discover they'd become cherished souvenirs.

DON'T SPEND TIME, SPEND PRIME TIME

For my twins, I discovered something that I regret not starting as early enough as when they were toddlers. Since the day they were born, we have always treated them as twins. We bought a pair of everything: clothing, shoes, toys, etc., and understandably so – for convenience. They sleep in the same room, attend the same school, and even have the same circle of friends. You hardly call one without calling the other. Even when people ask after them, they ask 'how are the twins'?

And for you, the parent, in my locale, your identity changes. You become Baba Ibeji or Iya Ibeji (twins' dad or twins' mum).



Parenting with Femi Adekunle
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It is as though they are not two individuals! This is the experience of twins and their parents.

As the years went by, my wife and I discovered that we needed to connect with them more and give each of them the attention he deserved. This means we have to treat them as individuals and not as twins. It dawned on us that we have indeed been unfair to them having consistently robbed them of their identity and individuality. I decided I was going to design an outing for each person, at which meeting we would discuss about him and him alone.

The first of such happened when they were around age 11, and I regretted not having started early enough. For the first time, each of them shared personal struggles, fears, pains, issues and even futuristic plans that brought me close to tears, and I discovered that spending time with children is not as pre-eminent as spending quality time with them. Ever since, we all look forward to such bilateral outings.

Come to think of it, we actually do spend time with our children, literally speaking – driving to school while we listen to music, sitting together in the living room each person with their tablet, watching programmes together on TV which is not of interest to all, etc. These activities deceive us to think that we are with our kids, but in qualitative terms, we are not. This is why the emphasis is on spending choice, valuable time with them that ends up becoming invaluable memorials.

Create memories. In my home, my wife and I decided to intentionally have fun in the process of which we didn't realise we were unintentionally creating memories. I go out in the backyard to bathe in the rain with my children, play soccer with them with their deflated balls, and do a lot of crazy stuff. I snap pictures a lot, capturing awkward moments that I keep, and we laugh over years later. A sage said "to be in your children's memories tomorrow, you have to be in their lives today". Let's make it difficult for our children to recover from the memories of their childhood.

Let's make it difficult for our children to recover from the memories of their childhood.

WHAT IS A JUST WAR WITH ISRAEL EYES ON WEST BANK?

Every Nation has a guiding spirit. Israel has "Altruism, Truth, Justice and Peace".

How ironic!

Prior to the ongoing war between Israel and Iran, many political pundits suspected that the threat of force, not necessarily one strength that Israel could muster, in conjunction with calls to apply sanctions in addition to foreign pressure would lead to change of Iranian regime's behaviour to settle for early transition? and avoid inflammatory comments.

A chaotic era always seemed to appear before history undergoes a major change. Will Israel-Iran war be a game changer? We are in the dark time. Is war the only way to unite people? If people are saved from war, will this cause any problem in history?

Sad enough, America always get sucked in the whirlpool of time. Today is a friend, tomorrow is an enemy and vice versa, until it loses the sight of where it stands and where it is meant to go. Why won't we try to change the history so that history may change the future for us?!!

Israel is claiming to fight Iran to avoid total annihilation from Iran's nuclear capability. It has remained dogmatic that Iran's nuclear capability is a "threat to its existence". So as far as the state of Israel is concerned, its military confrontation is "Justified". This brand is totally bought by the US political leadership and her allies, prompting them to support Israel in deed and in kind.

Everybody has the ability to be convinced of a different truth. So how do you make a decided mind to change its direction? How do you get them to not only believe your narrative, your agenda, your truth, but depend on it? Make your rules the rules to live by.

But "truth" is the conclusion based on one's subjective being. It is a concept that changes with how one interprets reality. This makes it feel like a spell. This may seem that their "truth" only works on STUPID. How is it possible both to know something is true and yet to convince oneself that it is false? Wouldn't the falsehood be palpable and thus unbelievable? We are so familiar with self-deception, and we all practice it so often, that we often forget how perplexing a phenomenon it is.

Israel's control of the West Bank and Gaza is, as already known to be "unsustainable" for nearly 60 years, yet it goes on. By the year 2030, that's 30 years since the Oslo II accord of 2000 that divided the West Bank into its current patchwork of Areas A, B, and C, it is worth nothing that this awkward arrangement, has lasted longer than both the British mandate for Palestine and Jordan's control of the West Bank. It is, in fact, the longest lived governmental



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system for this area since the Ottoman era. But at what cost to human lives?

THE DIPLOMATIC COST OF A TWO-STATE SOLUTION

What makes this arrangement so unsustainable? It's morally wrong to deny Palestinians sovereignty in their own land and enforced occupation erodes the moral character of Israel, the occupier.

Specifically, a critical element of the status quo is Israel's sometimes explicit, sometimes implicit commitment since 1967 that, under the right circumstances, with the right partner, with the right guarantees, and with the right countervailing benefits, it would withdraw from some, most, or even nearly all of the Palestinian territory. That was the bargain at the heart of UN Security Council Resolution 242, on which all subsequent Arab-Israeli diplomacy has been based. That was the bargain that helped fuel the post-1967 U.S-Israel strategic relationship and Israel's transformation into Western strategic partner in the Middle East.

And this was a critical element of Israel campaigns and the bargain that produced the relative stability in the West Bank over the last twenty years of the administration of Mahmoud Abbas.

If there are any doubts about the relative stability of the last twenty years, just look at the numbers deposed by Robert Satloff who is the Segal executive Director at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and its Howard P. Berkowitz chair in U.S. Middle East Policy. He said, in the eighteen years between 2005 and 2022, before Hamas's October 7 attack reverberated in the West Bank, Israel suffered a total of 334 deaths from such attacks. By comparison, in the eighteen-year period from 1968 to 1985, before any withdrawals, the total was 542; and in the fifteen years between 1986 and 2000, before the explosion of the second intifada, the total was 472. These figures are by far negligible compared to the lives of the Palestinians lost in the same periods. According to google search,

Total Palestinian casualties for this period stood at 144,963, including 66,789 fatalities.


Timeline chart

Palestinians killed from 2008 to September 2023.


To continue next month

HIS GLORY INNOVATIONS

African & Intercontinental Wears



**LACES
ASO-OKE
GELE (HEAD TIE)
SENEGALESE
TURKEY SUITS
USA SUITS
UK SUITS
MEN APPARELS
LADIES TOPS
SKIRTS
PANTS, TROUSERS
LEGGIES
CHILDREN'S WEARS
TIES & BELTS
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Nuclear Truths and Selective Justice: The Treaty and the West's Dance With 'Hypocrisy'

It is a new word, huh? Hypocrisy. Well, it is not a word in usage. But come, you must have seen its closeness to hypocrisy. OK, hypocrisy is the act of pretending to have virtues, beliefs, or feelings that one does not possess, especially when those pretended beliefs contradict one's actions. Now, interchange it with hypocrisy. You get it.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), established in 1957, is an autonomous international organisation within the United Nations system. It carries out programmes to maximise the contribution of nuclear technology to society while verifying its peaceful use.

Related to this is the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT came into force in 1970 as an international agreement aiming to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. It has about 191 states currently adhering to its statutes.

Although the IAEA is not a party to the NPT, it operates under the NPT, fulfilling specific roles as the international safeguards inspectorate and as a multilateral channel for the transfer of peaceful nuclear technology applications. Article III administers international safeguards to verify that the non-nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT fulfil the non-proliferation commitment they have made "to prevent diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

Article IV says the agency facilitates and provides a channel for endeavours aimed at "the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon states party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world."

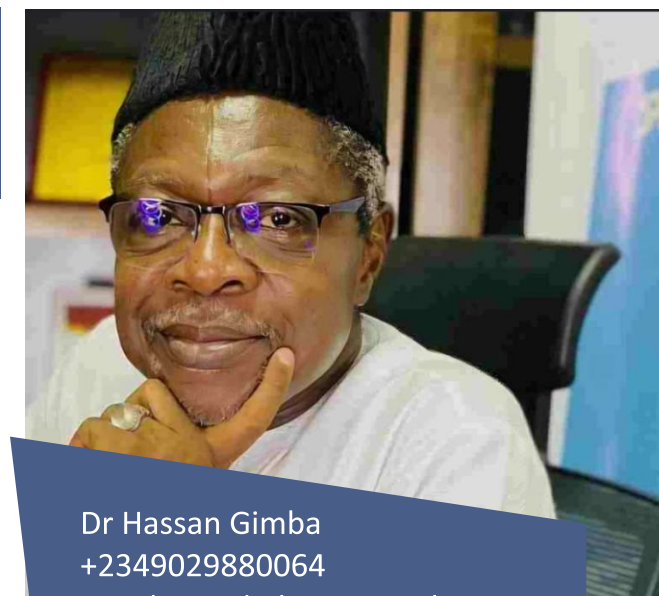
Any nation that signs the NPT is expected to behave "responsibly" by being open to the world about its nuclear programmes through the IAEA. Refusal to do so can be subject to various interpretations. Not guided by any international obligation, being answerable to none could be an indicator that a nation has an intention of going rogue, producing nuclear armaments and using them at will.

Iran has been accused of desiring to produce the "bomb", an allegation it has vehemently denied. To prove its sincerity, it falls back on a fatwa by its Spiritual Leader, Ali Khamene'i, banning the production of nuclear weapons. Their nuclear policy, according to the fatwa, is to pursue nuclear power for civilian purposes. But Iran was not believed because it was dealing with people whose word is not their bond, who think everyone is like them.

Now, this is where our story becomes interesting. Iran insists it has no nuclear weapons and is a party to the NPT, so it allows regular IAEA inspections. On the other hand, Iran's accuser-in-chief, Israel, possesses a nuclear arsenal estimated to be between 80 and 200 warheads. Yet, it is not a party to the NPT and does not allow IAEA inspections. Despite all this, it is Iran that is under constant international pressure and sanctions because it is suspected that it wants to produce the bomb. Israel, whose officials have recently started talking of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is, on the other hand, being pampered.

Perhaps this is why, confident of Western backing, Israel attacked Iran while the country was at the international negotiations table. Many consider the attack to be a violation of international law and international humanitarian law. Yet, Israel and its backers want the world to see them as advocates for peace and a rule-based world order.

However, this is far from the truth to any discerning mind. In the first place, Iran had agreed to limit its nuclear activities in a comprehensive agreement called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of



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Action (JCPOA), which placed significant restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief that was reached between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, the U.K., and the US, plus Germany), along with the European Union, and signed in Vienna on 14 July 2015 after 20 months of negotiations.

President Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the deal in 2018, claiming it failed to curtail Iran's missile programme and regional influence, only for him to come and "order" Iran to "negotiate" within a two-month ultimatum. Some observers of Middle East affairs opine that it is a ploy for Trump to fulfil Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu's plan of "seven wars in five years."

Professor Jeffrey David Sachs, an American economist and public policy analyst who is a professor at Columbia University, said: "Israel, under Netanyahu, has planned seven wars in five years to overthrow foreign governments that oppose Israel's domination and recreate the map of a 'New Middle East' without a Palestinian State. Rather than making peace, Netanyahu makes endless war."

In a write-up in many international policy journals entitled Defending the US from the Israel Lobby, Sachs said, "The governments to be fought and dismantled are those of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran."

Iran is the only one of the seven countries remaining to be fought. But Israel does not fight directly; it uses America. It's like the case of the tail wagging the dog, with Israel being the tail and America the dog.

Little wonder Trump came out gloating when Israel attacked Iran in the wee hours of Friday, 13 June, an attack meant to instill fear in the Iranians, stop them from attending Friday prayers and topple the regime. Trump claimed to be aware of the attack that killed Iran's military commanders and civilian nuclear scientists in their sleep. Trump, who claims he has stopped wars in the world, then gave Iranians hours to vacate the nation's capital and surrender unconditionally. He did not care, nor did his European counterparts deem it necessary to condemn an attack carried out during an international negotiation.

If the war on Iran is all about nuclear weapons, then it should not have happened.

Tulsi Gabbard, United States Director of National Intelligence, had in March this year testified before the US Congress that Iran was not pursuing a nuclear programme. Still, when told this by the press, Trump quipped, "I don't care what she says."

To continue next month

Muslim women make history, commissions first Akure Orphanage Home amidst funfair



commitment to supporting the children and the institution.

From neighbouring Ekiti State, Secretary to the State Government, Alhaja (Prof.) Habibat Adubiaro, congratulated the Akure Muslim women for the noble achievement.

Alongside her husband, Alhaji Engineer Sulaiman Adubiaro, she made a generous donation towards the project.

Speaking at the occasion, Alhaja Dr. Munirat Ogunlayi, one of the initiators of the home, expressed profound appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the project from inception to commissioning.

She called on government agencies and well-meaning individuals to further support the cause.

She noted that Bright Futures Home, the first Muslim-owned crèche and orphanage in Akure, is a purposeful initiative designed to uplift and cater to vulnerable children within the Muslim community.

The Iya Adinni of Akure Kingdom, Alhaja Hon. F.

I. Gidado, also addressed the gathering, thanking all donors for their support.

She made a heartfelt appeal to the Ondo State Government for sustained backing, adding with a touch of humour, “To all our doctors, please, our Oliver Twist wants more.”

The Royal Father of the Day, the Deji of Akure, Oba Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade Aladelusi, Odundun II, led a delegation of traditional rulers to the occasion, giving the project a stamp of royal approval.

A major highlight of the event was the presentation of awards of appreciation and recognition by the Grand Imam of Akure, His Eminence, Alhaji Sheikh (Dr.) Abdul-Hakeem Yayi-Akorede, to some eminent personalities who had made significant contributions to the project.

The commissioning of Bright Futures Home stands as a testament to the power of collective will and the unwavering commitment of Akure Muslim women to nurturing and protecting the next generation.



Nigeria Police Ondo Command Bust Human Trafficking Syndicate, Rescue 40 Ghanaians



The Nigeria Police Ondo State Command has dismantled a transnational human trafficking syndicate operating in Akure, Ondo State capital, rescuing 40 Ghanaian

nationals allegedly trafficked into Nigeria under false pretenses.

In a statement issued by the Command's Public Relations Officer, DSP Ayanlade Olayinka Olushola, the rescue operation was carried out by the Tactical Intelligence Response Squad (TIRS), following a petition forwarded through the Interpol Liaison Office at Force Headquarters in Abuja.

The petition highlighted the case of a Ghanaian citizen, David Angerinya, who was reportedly lured to Nigeria in 2024 with promises of employment. Upon investigation, the TIRS team, led by DSP Lekan Alabi, uncovered a wider trafficking operation.

Three suspects were apprehended during the raid: Hayford

Nyamekye, Awine Alex, Kojo Felix.

“David Angerinya was successfully rescued,” said DSP Olushola. “Further investigations revealed that an additional thirty-nine Ghanaians had also fallen victim to the same trafficking syndicate.”

According to police sources, many of the victims lacked valid travel documents, while others held expired papers. Investigators believe the syndicate preyed on vulnerable individuals from West African nations, luring them with promises of jobs in Nigeria and fake visa arrangements to Canada and other Western countries.

“These criminals exploit desperation and poverty,” said DSP Olushola. “Their actions are not only illegal but deeply inhumane.”

The Commissioner of Police, CP Adebawale Lawal condemned the actions of the syndicate and affirmed the Command's commitment to protecting all residents and visitors in Ondo State.

“This is a serious case of human rights abuse,” CP Lawal said. “Our command will continue to collaborate with national and international partners to clamp down on human traffickers and ensure justice for the victims.”

All three suspects are currently in police custody and assisting with ongoing investigations. Authorities are also pursuing the owners and caretakers of properties where the victims were housed, as they may be complicit in the illegal operation.

CP Lawal also urged the public to stay alert and report any suspicious activities. “We are calling on all well-meaning citizens to work with the police. Human trafficking thrives in silence—speak up,” he stated

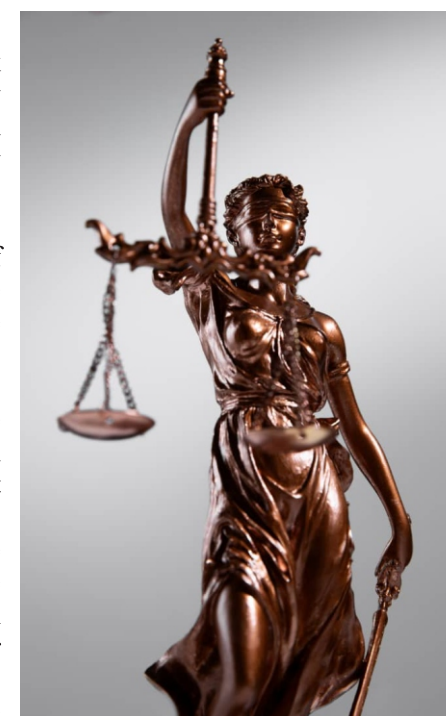
N51.5m fraud: Court arraigns Union Bank Staff in Ibadan

Okuniji Okuniyi, a 40-year-old banker with Union Bank in Ibadan, was on Thursday arraigned before the Iyaganku Magistrates' Court for allegedly defrauding two financial institutions of N51.5 million.

He is facing a four-count charge of obtaining money under false pretences and stealing, to which he pleaded not guilty.

According to the Prosecutor, Inspector Akeem Akinloye, the alleged offences occurred between December 2024 and March 2025 at Fullrange Microfinance Bank, Adamasingba, Ibadan, where the defendant was said to have fraudulently obtained N16.5 million from the bank, represented by one Mr Olayinka Awoniyi.

Akinloye further informed the



court that between April and May 2025, Okuniyi allegedly defrauded another company, Pitch Capital Ltd, of N35 million.

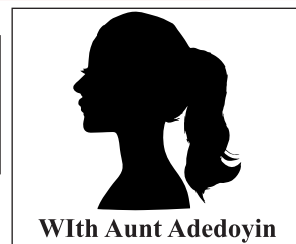
The firm, represented by Mrs Yetunde Aishat, was reportedly deceived into believing the funds were required as proof of transaction for the processing of a Canadian visa for the defendant's wife, Oluwafunmilola.

Instead, the prosecutor alleged, the defendant diverted the money for personal use.

The offences, he noted, contravene Sections 419 and 390(9) of the Criminal Code Laws of Oyo State, 2000.

Presiding Magistrate, Mrs Olabisi Ogunkanmi, granted Okuniyi bail in the sum of N7.5 million, with two sureties in like sum, deemed to be reliable.

The case was adjourned until October 21, 2025, for hearing.



How Common House Rats Can Kill — Shocking Truth Behind Silent Deaths in many Homes

REVEALED: Think rats are harmless? Discover how these common rodents can spread fatal diseases, cause house fires, and trigger deadly allergies. This report exposes it all.

..... Rats May Look Harmless, But Experts Warn They Can Spread Deadly Illnesses and Even Cause Fatal House Fires In a chilling revelation that many people overlook, health experts have raised alarms over the deadly risks posed by common house rats — warning that these seemingly harmless rodents are more dangerous than most people think. Far beyond being a mere nuisance in homes, house rats (*Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus*) are known to be lethal carriers of disease, fire hazards, and silent killers that thrive in unhygienic and poorly maintained environments. The threat they pose is both direct and indirect, and the consequences can be fatal.

Rats Spread Deadly Diseases That Can Kill

According to public health specialists, one of the most dangerous aspects of rats is their ability to spread life-threatening diseases to humans through urine, droppings, bites, and fleas.

LEPTOSPIROSIS (WEIL'S DISEASE):

Spread through rat urine-contaminated water or food. Can cause liver failure, kidney damage, and internal bleeding. In severe cases, can lead to death if untreated.

LASSA FEVER:

Common in West Africa and transmitted by Multimammate rats. Spread through food or surfaces contaminated with infected rat excreta. Kills thousands annually and causes organ failure, hearing loss, or death in severe cases.

HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME (HPS):

Transmitted through inhalation of airborne particles from rat droppings or urine. Causes acute respiratory distress and has a high mortality rate. Spread through fleas that feed on infected rats. Can cause bubonic, septicemic, or pneumonic plague, all of which can be fatal.

RAT-BITE FEVER

Transmitted through bites or contact with rat saliva. Leads to fever, rash, vomiting, and joint pain, and can progress to sepsis and death if untreated.



RATS ALSO CAUSE HOUSE FIRES THAT CAN KILL

While most people focus on the health risks, another underreported but deadly risk posed by rats is their habit of chewing through electrical wires, especially in ceilings and behind walls. "Rats are responsible for many unexplained house fires. When they chew through insulation on wires, it can spark short circuits that ignite electrical fires," said a safety official. In densely populated urban areas, such fires can spread quickly and cause loss of lives, property, and livelihoods.

FOOD POISONING AND CONTAMINATION

Rats frequently invade food storage areas, contaminating food with droppings, urine, and saliva, which can lead to Salmonella, E. coli infections, and severe food poisoning — especially dangerous for children, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals.

"Once rats get into your kitchen or food pantry, it's only a matter of time before someone falls seriously ill," warned Dr. Esther Umeadi, a public health specialist.

ALLERGIC REACTIONS AND ASTHMA TRIGGERS

Studies have shown that rat hair, droppings, and urine can act as strong allergens, triggering serious asthma attacks and

respiratory distress, particularly in children. These reactions can lead to hospitalization or death in severe cases if not promptly addressed.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Experts urge the public to take proactive steps to keep homes and environments rodent-free, such as: Sealing holes and cracks in buildings. Keeping food covered and stored properly. Maintaining clean surroundings. Using traps or approved rodenticides. Seeking professional pest control when infestation is suspected. They also stress the need for government public health campaigns, especially in slums and rural areas where rat populations thrive.

REAL DANGER, REAL CONSEQUENCES

What most people see as "just a rat" could be the cause of a deadly illness, a burnt house, or even an epidemic outbreak. As we continue to grapple with public health challenges, the importance of rodent control and environmental hygiene cannot be overstated.

Muslim women make history, commissions first Akure Orphanage Home amidst funfair

It was a day of joy and celebration in Akure on Saturday as the Bright Futures Home, a multi-million Naira crèche and orphanage established by the Akure Community Muslim Women, was officially commissioned amidst funfair and widespread acclaim.

The colourful ceremony attracted an impressive array of dignitaries from political, religious, and traditional institutions across Ondo and Ekiti States.

Ondo State Governor, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, ably represented by Commissioner-designate Alhaji Hamidu Takuro, applauded the initiative and assured that the state government would partner with the Muslim women to support the home financially.

In a remarkable show of support, Senator Niyi Adegbonmire, SAN, who represents Ondo Central Senatorial District, pledged to sponsor five children from the home from nursery school through to university level.

Equally generous was the Chairman of the Nigerian Postal Service, Barrister D. I. Kekemeke, who, as a special guest, promised to provide essential supplies to the home as part of his personal contribution to the welfare of the children.

Minister of Youth, Ayo Olawande, also pledged to install streetlights to illuminate the home's environment, while reaffirming his



The Skies wept, the Earth rejoiced: Chief Racheal Jegede's journey home in grandeur



The Skies wept, the Earth rejoiced: Chief Racheal Jegede's journey home in grandeur

-By Binta Haroon



It was a farewell like no other, drenched in emotion, soaked in tributes, and blessed by the heavens themselves. As torrents of rain graced the skies, it seemed even nature bowed in honour of Chief Racheal Olaribiwa Aмоке Jegede.

Over three unforgettable days, from the Bell Funeral Home in Ado-Ekiti to the moving wake-keep, the colourful artiste night, and her final interment in Odo-Ayedun, Ekiti State, family, friends, and well-wishers gathered to celebrate a life well-lived and a matriarch who touched hearts across generations.

receive the great matriarch.

Her children, friends, and extended family gathered to receive her remains at the Bell Funeral Home, where undertakers were fully prepared to escort her to her hometown for the final rites. She was ceremoniously conveyed from Ado-Ekiti to Odo-Ayedun on the evening of Thursday, 3rd July 2025.

A grand night of tributes followed on Friday, 4th July, after a sermon that preceded the artiste night, which lasted until



The rain was seen as a sign of the heavens' readiness to



The Skies wept, the Earth rejoiced: Chief Racheal Jegede's journey home in grandeur

dawn.

Delivering the sermon, the Very Rev. J.S. Ogunleye spoke on "Living Eternally in Heaven," urging the congregation to live Christ-like lives. He emphasised that good records and a faithful life are the only certificates for eternal life. He



described the glowing tributes as both challenging and inspiring.

Julius Olusola Jegede, the matriarch's third child and first son, described his mother as hardworking, loving, and selfless. He lauded her strength, generosity, and leadership,

highlighting her role as a successful businesswoman, a high chief in Ayedun, and a respected women's leader.

"She stood by her husband, defended her children, and was always there for me when I was treated unfairly," he said emotionally. He urged the family and community to emulate her lifestyle of love, resilience, and service.



Yetunde Omoduni Oritoke Ogunsanya, her sixth daughter, described Mama as tolerant, graceful, and dignified. "Though not

formally educated, Mama travelled with me abroad for over two decades and built relationships, even with foreigners," she recounted.

She praised Mama's humility and warmth, promising the family's continued commitment to the church. "We will not depart; our spirit and body remain here."

Elder James I. Oluyi, a close neighbour and family member, described her as a rare gem. "It's hard to find someone completely loved by all. She was peaceful and never in conflict. Her character made everyone in the family adore her."

A representative of the Ogunmowowe family called her a unifying figure across her paternal, maternal, and marital homes, known for her exemplary conduct and sense of responsibility. A relative added, "She always checked on her siblings. Her presence at every occasion earned her admiration and respect."

A benefactor also recalled, "Mama was very generous. She always brought plenty of foodstuffs when she visited." She

prayed for her eternal rest.

In an interview with Ebony Herald, Mrs Olutope Foluke Anike Fasuyi, the first child, described her mother as "a mother in a million," adding, "I miss her cuddles, her affection, everything. She died when I needed her most, after losing my daughter."

She fondly recalled Mama's daily calls and spiritual support, her vibrant home full of children watching films, and her deep connection with the community. "Some came every morning just to see her. Whatever she had, she shared."

She encouraged her siblings to uphold Mama's legacy of unity and generosity.

Olukayode Jegede, Director of News and Current Affairs at the Broadcasting Service of Ekiti State, described his mother as a woman who "came, saw, and conquered."

"There was nothing we couldn't do for her in her lifetime, and now we are doing our best to give her a befitting farewell."

Calling her the epitome of goodness, he added, "Every mother should emulate her. She would spend her last kobo on us. Her shoes are too large to fill."

In conclusion, he said, "I'll miss her deeply. I am Olukayode Jegede, omo Olaribiwa. That name now brings both pride and pain. But I take solace in knowing she is in a better place."

In her tribute Mrs. Yeunde Oritoke Ogunsanya stated that Mama was the epitome of love, humility, and affection. Her home becomes home to everyone that comes in contact with her..

She is an irreplaceable jewel.



The Skies wept, the Earth rejoiced: Chief Racheal Jegede's journey home in grandeur



The Skies wept, the Earth rejoiced: Chief Racheal Jegede's journey home in grandeur



The Skies wept, the Earth rejoiced: Chief Racheal Jegede's journey home in grandeur

A loving and caring mother.

She remains my mother forever.

Mr Akinloye Jegede, the youngest child, described his mother as a phenomenal woman who transcended language and tribal barriers. "Mama had friends from all ethnicities despite not speaking English," he said. He highlighted her legacy as a church and community leader, as



well as a respected trader.

The monarch, the Owa of Odo-Ayedun-Ekiti, His Royal Majesty, Dr Solomon Ilesanmi Ajibade (JP), Ajigbotoluwa I, could not attend the ceremony due to traditional restrictions but described Chief Racheal Olaribiwa Amoke Jegede as a rare gem and a pillar of unity.

"She was a devout Christian and a Chief under my

authority. Her support for my reign, honesty, and truthfulness were second to none," he said.

He acknowledged the success of her children globally and urged the community to continue her legacy of love, peace, and godliness. "Without unity, we can achieve nothing. Let us continue in the way of God."

At the funeral and outing service held at Methodist Church Nigeria, Diocese of Ayedun, on Saturday, 5th July 2025, Very Rev. Titiloye Olusola Kehinde preached a message titled "Death Not the End."

"Death is a transition," he said. "It doesn't discriminate, and it comes for everyone. But for those who live in Christ, it is not the end."

He urged everyone to examine their lives and relationship with God, stating that true reward lies beyond this world.

Bishop Titus I. Omoniyi, in a message delivered earlier, praised Mama Jegede's legacy and the devotion of her children. "She was a respected elder and lived a life worth emulating."

Rev. Kehinde, who permitted the reading of Mama's epistle by her first child, Mrs Olutope Fasuyi, stated that it was a reflection of her impactful and godly life. He encouraged the



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congregation to take lessons from her values, especially her punctuality. "Though some arrived late, Mama never did. Time is precious."

The burial ceremony was graced by dignitaries, well-wishers, and groups from within and outside Nigeria, amongst them are;

The Delight women in agriculture,
Staff of the ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs,
Ekiti State Chief of Staff, Hon. Niyi Adebayo.
Global President TAMPAN
Otunba Bolaji Amusan (Mr Latin),
The National Chairman Narrative Changers, Eng Shitu,
Pastor Mrs. Funke Fenwa,
Ekiti State ministry of information, Voice of Ekiti State,
Fiwasaye Old Student Association FOGA,
H.E Hon. Minister for special duties and
intergovernmental affairs,
Hon. Jisallo Sefinaih (represented)
The Agbajowos
The Ondo state President, NCWS, Bishop Oluseyi

Idusola and her entourage, The Ondo state Chairperson of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists NAWOJ, Comrade Tola Gbadamosi, the Vice President NAWOJ B Zone who is also the General Manager Breez FM, Akure, Comrade Adeola Adekunle, Women in Agriculture and people with disabilities.

Chief Racheal Olaribiwa Amoke Jegede was more than a mother, wife, and leader. She was a woman of substance, pious and virtuous to the core, whose life was anchored in faith, family, and service.

Her story is a living testament to what it means to live purposefully, give generously, and love unconditionally.

She did not merely pass through this world; she changed it for the better.

And now, as she rests in the eternal peace of her Creator, her light continues to shine in the lives of her children, the hearts of her community, and the pages of history.



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