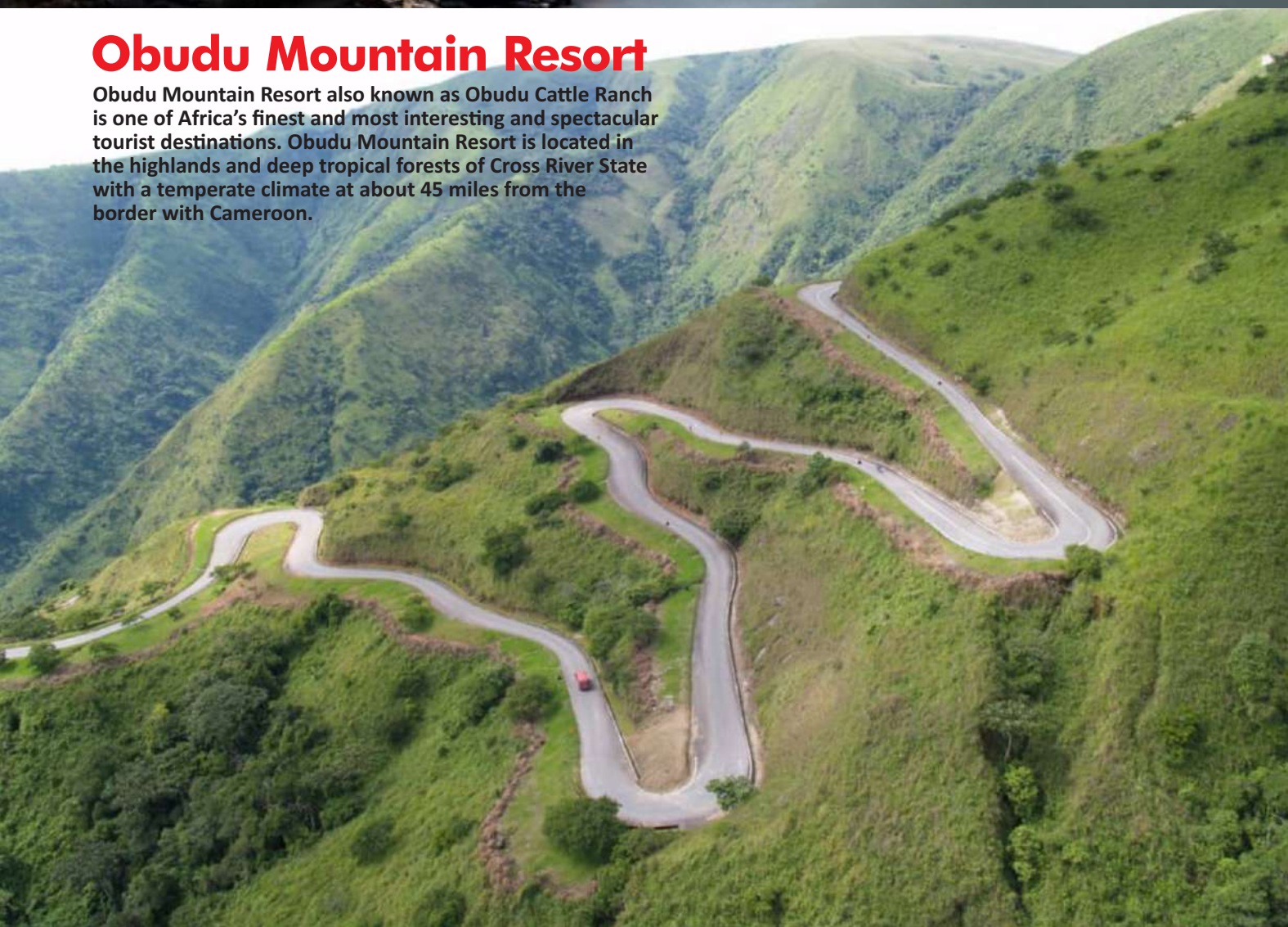


## Gurara Waterfalls

Gurara Waterfalls is located in Gurara, a local government area of Niger State, North Central Nigeria. The waterfall is approximately 30 metres in height and it lies on the Gurara River along the Suleja-Minna Road.

## Obudu Mountain Resort

Obudu Mountain Resort also known as Obudu Cattle Ranch is one of Africa's finest and most interesting and spectacular tourist destinations. Obudu Mountain Resort is located in the highlands and deep tropical forests of Cross River State with a temperate climate at about 45 miles from the border with Cameroon.



# RULERS' WORLD

Innovative leadership news media **₦500**

**JULY 2020 EDITION**

**ISSN: 2153-4977**

USA...\$4.00 / ₦K 2.50 / Le 10.000 / South Africa R20  
Ghana Cedis 10 / Liberia \$2 / France E3.50 / Germany E3.50



**Ayade declares  
tax holiday for  
low income earners  
in Cross River**



**Oshiomhole,  
Obaseki,  
godfatherism and  
Edo's gathering storm**

**COVID-19  
Pandemic  
in SPORTS**

**Focus on  
365 Days  
of Gov. Seyi Makinde**





## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Effective June 8, 2020

Please note that 7.5% VAT is expected to be added to the net payment  
(Please, note that RULERS' WORLD is printed in all Colour)

PRODUCT RATES	#	PUBLIC NOTICE	#
Full Page	499,262	Full page	546,000
Half Page	249,631	Half Page	273,000
One –Third Page	166,420	One-Third Page	182,000
Two-Third Page	332,841	Two-Third Page	364,000
Quarter Page	124,815	Quarter Page	151,800
Centre Spread	1.2Million	Centre Spread	1.550Million
Half Centre Spread	600,000	Half Centre Spread	775,000

### POLITICAL ADVERTS / SUPPLEMENTS

Full Page	646,000
Half Page	388,000
Quarter Page	251,800

### WRAP AROUND

Cover + IFC	#12.5M
Cover + OBC	#15M
Cover+ IFC+ OBC	#17M
Cover+ IFC+ OBC+ IBC	#20M
Cover+ IFC+ OBC+ IBC+ Centre Spread	#25M

### SPECIAL POSITIONS

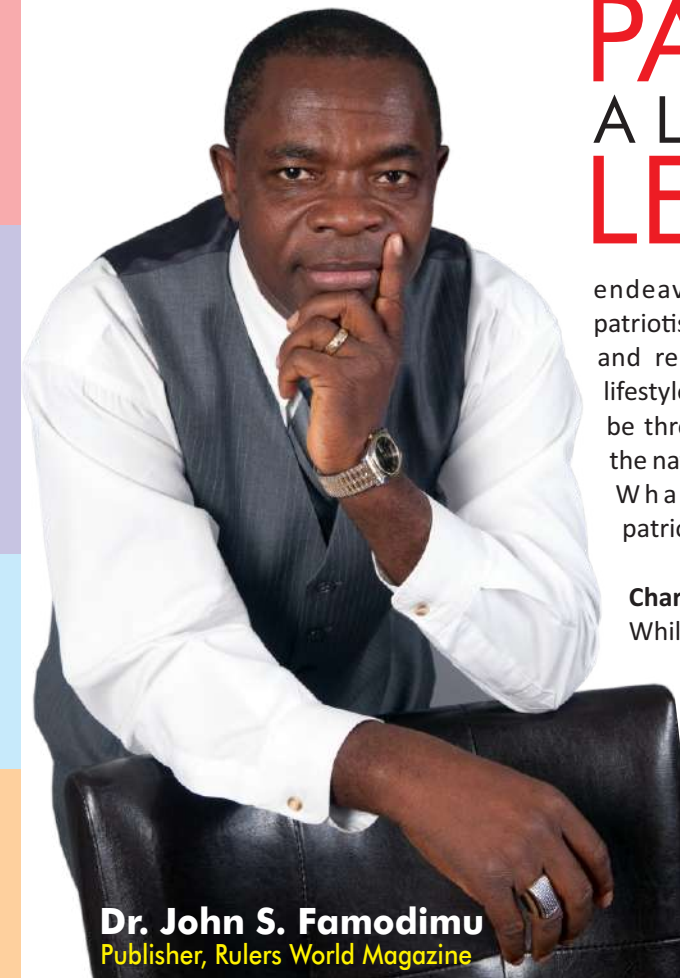
Inside Back Cover ( IBC)	#6.5M
Inside Front Cover (IFC)	#7.5M
Front Cover	#12M
Back Cover	#8.4M
Above Mast Head	#1.5M
EIGHT IN ONE( Pull-out with Flanks @ the centre)	#3.95M

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- \*Please note that all bookings must be pre-paid
- \*Series discounts –negotiable from 5 insertions
- \*Final artworks in Cds or Flash Disk is required
- \*All AAAN member agencies are entitled to 15% commission

For further enquiries ,please contact  
**The Marketing Department**  
on Advert Hotlines  
**08066462214 or +18453541900**  
E-mail add rulersworldadvert@gmail.com

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER



**Dr. John S. Famodimu**  
Publisher, Rulers World Magazine

# PATRIOTISM: A LIFESTYLE FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

endeavour in the society to see patriotism as a key factor to rebuild and reintegrate into the economic lifestyle of a nation and this can only be through their patriotic service to the nation and the people they serve. What is the importance of patriotism?

### Characterisation of Patriotism

While the research on patriotism has elicited some levels of confusion, researchers have come to some consensus regarding the definition of the term. Patriotism, according to authors, Conover Pamela and Stanley Feldman, is often considered as the deep feeling of affection and attachment to one's nation

or the extent of one's pride in and love for the nation. Nevertheless, scholars have broadened the definition through categorizing it into various dimensions based on different scales. Symbolic patriotism scale, which was developed by the American National Election Studies, combines pride in and love for America with pride in its anthem and flag, Huddy Leonie and Nadia Khatib said in their 2007 American journal of political science article titled: 'American patriotism, national identity, and political involvement'.

The major classification includes uncritical or blind patriotism and constructive patriotism. Blind patriotism is defined as the intense alignment with a nation and an uncritical support or acceptance of the consequences, as well as disregard of the effect this could have on the outside groups. It could also be considered as the unwillingness of

people to criticize or accept criticism of the nation. From a leadership perspective, blind patriotism is associated with authoritarianism and tendency to support and defer to authority figures unconditionally. On the other hand, constructive patriotism entails the attachment to a country featuring critical loyalty, questioning and criticism of leadership, and a desire for positive change, Schatz Robert and Ervin Staub wrote. Unlike blind patriotism, constructive patriotism includes the attachment to and the attention to the wellbeing of the group, and an inclusive orientation to the other people outside the group.

### Characteristics of a Patriotic Leader

According to Livi Stefano and his colleagues' 2014 work titled 'Values, ideological attitudes and patriotism', the roots of patriotic leadership could be associated with the value dimension of the conservatism versus openness-to-change axis. A truly patriotic leader gears towards stimulation and self-direction of the people, as well as benevolence, hedonism, and universalism. A patriotic leader demonstrates several characteristics, which are expected from any patriotic citizen. First, the leader understands that the violation of one citizen's rights puts the rights of all other people at risk. As such, many patriotic leaders endeavour to protect the freedom and rights of all people without endorsing any laws that lead to the discrimination of any group.

Second, a patriotic leader understands the importance of defending the importance of upholding the rights of others even

## PATRIOTISM: A LIFESTYLE FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

when they conflict with personal beliefs. In this case, the leader applies the basic principle that humanity applies to all and not only a group of people or nation.

Third, a truly patriotic leader understands the importance of checking the balance and upholding the division of power among the three branches of the government. Therefore, the leader is expected to reject attempts that could undermine or circumvent the balance.

Fourth, a patriotic leader is expected to challenge and hold other leaders accountable for their actions that could portray loss of patriotism. Consequently, he or she is expected to speak openly about the misconduct of others and hold them accountable to ensure that service to the nation is based on integrity.

Fifth, a patriotic leader acknowledges the core principles associated with individual rights to security and privacy. The understanding amounts to the protection of the citizens against illegal searches and seizures to ensure the preservation of freedom. Sixth, the leader is expected to respect diversity and cultural orientations of all people. In essence, this implies that the leader should promote the general welfare of the entire population and seek alliance with other groups that could lead to the success and wellbeing of the entire human race.

### Patriotism versus Nationalism

Patriotism has a significant difference from nationalism. Nationalism is widely accepted because most people understand the nation-state as the fundamental carrier of popular democracy. From a liberal perspective, nationalism is considered as a tamed identification with a nation-state that characterizes reconciliation of nationalism obligation on the socio-cultural context with liberalism obligation on the individual autonomy, Fossum, John Erik said in his 2011 publication titled: 'Nationalism,

Patriotism and Diversity—Conceptualising the National Dimension in Neil MacCormick's Post-sovereign Constellation'.

On the other hand, Livi Stefano explained that nationalism is founded on the ideology that envisages other nations from a comparative point of view and characterizes the desire to portray superiority of one's nation. Nationalism demands a submissive attitude to the state and the leaders. Consequently, dissent and criticism are considered as signs of unjustified disloyalty and rebellion.

Taking it a bit further, Latcheva Rosalina in a 2010 journal article, 'Nationalism versus patriotism, or the floating border? National identification and ethnic exclusion in post-communist Bulgaria', explained that in many instances, adherence to nationalism leads to the development of policies geared towards isolation, ethnic cleansing, and deportation of foreigners.

Essentially, the above characterisation shows a significant contrast with the attitudes and principles of patriotism. For instance, Livi considers constructive patriotism as a behavioural attachment to the nation with aspects of aptitude, flexibility, and willingness to regard to the welfare of the country. Essentially, this is unlike nationalism where one can easily criticize and accept criticism of the country or its leaders. While both nationalism and patriotism are based on norms and values related to national identity, patriotism is oriented towards passions and sentiments of human cohabitation, Latcheva said.

Moreover, studies have shown that nationalism characterizes blind support for the nation and the leaders, while constructive patriotism has a negative correlation with such blind support. It is also worth noting that nationalistic sentiments have shown a significant positive correlation with derogation and isolation of out-groups while patriotism has a negative

correlation with ethnic exclusion.

### Importance of Patriotic Leadership

Leaders should understand that their duty is to serve the people rather than their self interests. As such, it is paramount for them to develop an understanding of the nature of patriotic leadership. Developing patriotism through putting the welfare of the state and all people first is requisite for democracy.

Patriotism creates participatory citizenship that ensures that the leader engages the populace in the affairs of the country and puts the interests of the nation above self. As a patriotic leader, one understands that criticizing misdeeds of other people is a way of protecting democracy and serving the interests of all. Moreover, leaders should develop patriotism before seeking elected positions as a way of enhancing self determination. Essentially, the existence of critical and flexible sentiments towards national identity could enable the leaders to discharge their responsibilities with the aim of promoting accountability and public interest.

The development of patriotism before seeking elected positions is also important in the quest of discouraging authoritarianism. The critical approach towards leadership taken by patriotic leaders implies that they cannot allow encroachment of the country by leaders who seek to subdue the rights of the citizenry. Lastly, patriotic leadership is crucial in the overall economic development of the people because the leader understands that the contribution of everyone in the society matters to the country.

Leaders and emerging leaders all over the world are invited to put the love of their nations above their own interest by developing patriotic minds. No one should contest for leadership service because of personal gain. Accountability must be enforced at all levels.

## CONTENTS



### GSM: One year of taking Oyo from poverty to prosperity

6

### 9 AFTER 18 YEARS OF NEGLECT Gov. Ayade brings succour to Bakassi IDPs

### 11 OSHIOMHOLE, OBASEKI, GODFATHERISM AND EDO'S GATHERING STORM

### 19 Ayade declares tax holiday for low income earners in Cross River



### 21 'How we eradicate negative stereotypes about Africa, sharing beauties of her vast cultural resources'



### 24 Abiola Ajimobi Life, Times and Politics

### 34 Why Rape is rampant in Nigeria

### 37 Life and Times of Majek Fashek

# RULERS' WORLD

ISSN: 2153-4977

....News Media

## TEAM

### Publisher

Dr. John S. Famodimu

### Editor

Prince Wale Matt'Olapade

### Writers

Kunle Bakare  
Tunde Olasupo  
Florence Olugbodi  
Oyewole Oyedapo

### Graphics

'Dele Olasupo

### Printing

Femi Ilori

### Contributors

Wole Opatola  
Sade Parks  
Abubakar Muhammed  
Bidemi Onifade

### Marketing/Advert

Adetunji Olaniyi

Letter to the editor must include writer's full name, address and telephone number, may be edited for purposes of clarity of expression, orderly presentation of materials or space, and should be addressed to [president@rulersworld.com](mailto:president@rulersworld.com) or [rulersworldng@gmail.com](mailto:rulersworldng@gmail.com)  
Tel: +234 817 380 0172

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not the publisher.

Rulers world is published by **Rulers World Master Communication Limited.**

For subscriptions and advert enquiries, please call: Phone: +19143383107, 08066462214, 08079750148  
e-mail: [subscribe@rulersworld.com](mailto:subscribe@rulersworld.com) or [rulersworldng@gmail.com](mailto:rulersworldng@gmail.com)

### BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR ADVERT PLACEMENT

ACCOUNT NAME:  
Rulers' World Master Communication Ltd.

BANK NAME:  
United Bank for Africa (UBA)

ACCOUNT NUMBER  
1017761728

ACCOUNT TYPE  
CURRENT ACCOUNT

ISSN: 2153-4977  
Copyright @ 2020 Rulers World  
All rights reserved.



# GSM: One year of taking Oyo from poverty to prosperity



The journey of a thousand miles, they say, begins with a step. The administration of Governor Seyi Makinde took its first step in office on May 29, 2019.

One year and a month down the line, the story cannot be said to be all smooth and sweet, as the administration has experienced its ups and downs.

However, from the smooth flight into the future on the May 29, 2019 inauguration day, which was filled with so much expectations from the people of Oyo State, who voted massively to unseat an incumbent party, to the bumpy ride occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor Makinde administration has continued to show tell-tale signs of a government determined to make a positive mark on the state.

From the different indices of probity and accountability and good governance to the development of human capital and infrastructure overhaul, the administration has somehow managed to remain within the ambit of its electioneering promises. Indeed, for watchers of developments in Oyo State, the fact that the governor has managed to go a year in office without any moral blight or executive blunders is a true mark of his Omi Tuntun sobriquet.

In one year, the administration has brought about a transformation in the education sector, with school enrolment already tripled. The reform was predicated on the Governor's campaign promise to make education free and qualitative. And true to his words, on the Inauguration Day, Governor Makinde scrapped the

N3,000 education levy burden placed on parents and students by the immediate past administration.

The administration had also reviewed the 2019 budget, increasing the education budget from less than 4 per cent to 10 per cent and in the 2020 budget, the administration allocated 22 per cent to education.

With the exemplary free qualitative education programme introduced by the administration, which has reduced all barriers from the paths of parents and wards who desire to be educated, the administration has garnered accolades from far and near.

Apart from education, the administration has achieved remarkable strides in the security and health sectors in just one year. In its first 100 days in office, the government procured and distributed fully-

equipped 100 KIA Automatic vehicles to all security agencies in Oyo State.

Also as a part of the administration's achievements in the area of security, it set up a special security outfit known as Operation Amotekun and also procured 37 Vans for the use of the outfit. Similarly, it established a Police Mobile Force Squadron and procured trucks for its operations. In the health sector, there have been massive renovations and equipping of hospitals across the State. One area where Makinde has excelled in its first year in office is in the area of workers' welfare, with the government having facilitated the payment of gratuities to more retirees than the previous government paid in 96 months. From available records, the Makinde government has paid N3.3 billion in gratuities compared to around N1.2 billion paid in 96 months by the previous administration.

In 12 months, the GSM government has truly begun the journey of taking the state from poverty to prosperity along the four service point agenda of Security, Health, Education and Economic Expansion through Agribusiness and Agriculture Value chain. But will the ship berth in a fair haven? Tomorrow holds the answer to this poser.

## Sector by sector analysis

Education: Rebuilding hopes through free qualitative education

The main point of Governor Makinde's campaign was about the emancipation of the people and he has made it clear that the only to achieve that is through investments must on education.

Governor Makinde's feats in the sector include:

- Free qualitative education through
  - i.) Scrapping of N3,000 Education Levy imposed by the previous administration.
  - ii.) Release of Education Grant per term in place of scrapped N3000 Education Levy
  - iii.) Review of Education Budget from 4 percent to 10 percent in 2019 Budget.
  - iv.) Allocation of 22 per cent to education in the 2020 Budget.
  - v.) Printing and distribution of text books, exercise books to all students
  - vi.) Printing and distribution of compendiums for SSSIII students
  - vii.) Creation of electronic and virtual

version of textbooks for secondary school students in the state

vii.) Establishment of extra mural classes for SSSIII students

viii.) Collaboration with private sector players to institute a School-on-Air programme to teach students during Covid-19 pandemic.

ix.) Allocation of 500 Megabytes for students to access education textbooks during Covid-19 pandemic.

x.) Massive reduction in out-of-school children through BESDA intervention.

- Rebuilding of education infrastructure through the Ministry of Education, SUBEB and SDG OFFICE.

xi.) Completion of 307 educational projects, including construction, renovation of classrooms, boreholes, toilets, solar power installations, school fencing and landscaping, among others.

xii.) 236 ongoing projects in the education sector.

xiii.) Supply of furniture materials to schools (Completed and ongoing projects)

xiv.) Ongoing construction of infrastructure in state's Technical Colleges and School of Science.

- Subventions and capital projects in tertiary institutions

xv.) Release of N200 million to the Polytechnic Ibadan for accreditation of courses.

xvi.) Release of N500 million to LAUTECH

xvii.) Voting of at least N100 million each for capital projects in

state-owned tertiary institutions and regular release of funds to drive same.

• Bursary Awards

xviii.) Payment of N500,000 Bursary to Oyo State students in the Backlog Session of the Nigerian Law School.

Health: Rebuilding a sector in decay

In Governor Makinde's belief, "access to good healthcare is non-negotiable. It is the responsibility of government to ensure there are adequate medical and healthcare facilities for all persons. Therefore, in the first two years of our administration, no new healthcare centre will be built. The focus will be to upgrade the existing ones by renovating and equipping them."

In line with that belief, the administration has begun the rebuilding of the health sector through the following:

- Commissioning of the Improved Adeoyo State Hospital, Ring Road with Radiology Equipment Modern Theatre Automated laboratory and



## SPECIAL REPORT

### General Facelift

- Commissioning of the Oranyan Maternity Centre Rehabilitation Project on September 5, 2019.
- Ongoing renovation and construction of model Primary Health Care Centres across the five zones of the State.
- Relocation of Jericho Specialist Hospital, Jericho to newly constructed Maternal and Padiatric Hospital, Jericho.
- Free cataract operation, eye drugs and eye glass distribution for 9,737 residents of the State in collaboration an NGO, Al-Basar Organisation.
- Introduction of State Drug Distribution Centre.
- Appointment of Consultant Doctors, Specialised Nurses, Nurse Tutors and Hospital Administrators.
- Procurement of 10 well-equipped ambulance vehicles, with three as ICU-capable ambulances.
- First ever full accreditation of the Oyo State College of Nursing and Midwifery.
- Commencement of the Free Health Mission across the State, which was halted by the outbreak of novel Coronavirus in the State.

### Security

- Procurement and distribution of 100 Automatic KIA Vehicles for all security agencies in the State.
- Procurement of security gadgets as well as communication equipment for the State.
- Launching of Security Code 615, which has helped in bridging communication gap between citizens and government for emergency situations.
- Introduction of the Oyo State Security Network codenamed Amotekun and procurement of 37 Pickup Vans.
- Establishment of Police Mobile Force 72 Squadron and presentation of security trucks for its operations.
- Light-Up Oyo State Project with Smart LED Street Lighting system to fight crime and illuminate state capital, with Phase I already completed while the Phase II is set to begin.

Economic Expansion through Agriculture and Agriculture Value: Shared prosperity the GSM way

In the agriculture sector, in the last one year, the administration has embarked on:

- Upgrade of Farm Settlements into Farm Estates under the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency.
  - Embarked on Agribusiness Planning Retreat at Shonga Farms, Benin Republic.
  - Strategic partnership with Agriculture Research institutes with a view to redefining the way agriculture is done in the State.
  - Payment of N350 million counterpart fund for RAAMP and declaration of State credit effected by the World Bank, with 1,000 kilometres of rural roads to be constructed through the intervention so as to grant greater access to rural agricultural areas.
  - Distribution of improved seedlings to 10,000 farmers as part of COVID-19 palliative to guarantee food security in the state.
- Outside agriculture, the goal of repositioning the economy of Oyo State has also seen massive concentration of efforts on Investment Promotion and Public-Private Partnerships. To drive this, the Oyo State Investment Promotion Agency (OYSIPA) was established by Governor Makinde and within the government's first year in office, the following has been achieved in the area of investments.
- Resuscitation of the Pacesetter Asphalt and Quarry Plant, Ijaye, which has been moribund for over 10 years.
  - Improvement of Ease of doing Business through accelerated approval of Certificate of Occupancy
  - Introduction of PPP initiatives to revive moribund Agbowo Shopping Complex through concessionaire.
  - Roll-out of N1 billion SME/MSME Support Fund in conjunction with Bank of Industry as part of post-COVID-19 Economic Plan.
  - Ground-breaking of the Ajoda New Town Housing Project (360 units medium and low-cost houses)
  - Ground-breaking of the Pacesetter-Wood Estates Project (11 units premium 5-bedroom terraces houses) at Bodija Estate
  - Ground-breaking of the Pacesetter-ProjectScope Estate Project (45 units premium 5-bedroom town houses) at Bodija Estate.

- Ground-breaking of the Bodija Recreation Centre, a multipurpose, self-sustaining sports and recreational facility established on Build, Operate and Transfer basis.

### Infrastructure

For Governor Makinde, infrastructure-building must be purpose-driven and targeted at improving the economy. This singular resolve must have informed the government's decision to build the Ibadan-Iseyin Road. In his first year in office, several road projects abandoned by the last administration have been completed, while the government is currently constructing two major roads that strikes at the heart of the government's agriculture revolution agenda.

These are:

65km Ibadan-Iseyin Road

Awotan-Akufo Road.

Outside these two roads, the government has marked the following roads for rehabilitation/construction, while another 1,000 kilometres of the road is scheduled for attention under the RAAMP scheme.

- Airport-Ajia-New Ife Expressway
- Apete-Awotan-Akufo Road, Ibadan
- Saki-Ogbooro-Igboho Road
- Under G-Stadium-LAUTECH Road, Ogbomoso
- Takie-FGGC Road, Ogbomoso
- Isaba-Ogundoyin Road, Eruwa
- Gedu-Oroki-Sabo-Asipa Road, Oyo
- Akingbile-Lagbeja-Ajibode Road, Ibadan.

### Welfare

- Release of N3.3 billion in one year to offset arrears of gratuities owed since 2012.
- Prompt and full payment of pensions with workers' salaries on the 25th of every month.
- 100 per cent commitment to workers' welfare through the increment of Car and Housing loans in just one year in office.
- Restoration of 300 workers whose appointments were illegally terminated by the immediate past administration.
- Approval of promotion and promotion allowances to teachers from 2011 to 2016 as well as approval of 2016/2017 promotion.



# AFTER 18 YEARS OF NEGLECT

## Gov. Ayade brings succour to Bakassi IDPs



Emotions ran high, weekend, as Cross River State Governor, Professor Ben Ayade, handed over an ultra modern housing estate to displaced Bakassi indigenes who became refugees following the ceding of the oil rich peninsula to Cameroon in 2002.

Situated at IfiangAyong, the fully furnished 2-bedroom housing units is a reprieve to the refugees who have for almost two decades been living in squalor at a primary school in Akpabuyo Council Area of the state.

Senator Florence Ita- Giwa, a prominent Bakassi indigene, who has been stridently championing the cause of the displaced people wept as Governor Ayade, assisted by the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence EdidemEkpoOkonAbasiOtu V, handed over the keys to the buildings to the overjoyed beneficiaries.

Some of the beneficiaries, mostly looking frail, also shed tears of joy as keys to their houses were handed over to them.

There were emotional scenes when a key to one of

the houses was given to one of the oldest IDPs who is also a widow.

She could not contain her joy as Ayade shared a meal with her in her new house including a donation N500,000 to her.

Speaking at the event, Governor Ayade expressed delight at the completion of the housing scheme and subsequent delivery to the displaced persons, adding that their suffering has always tugged his heart.

"My first tear for the people of Bakassi was when I was a senator on the floor of the Nigerian Senate which prompted me to push for a bill for the establishment of social housing and the making of provision of housing a right," said Ayade.

Expressing delight at the realisation of the housing project, the governor said he felt a sense of fulfillment to see "my sons, my aunties, my mothers and fathers who lived in a clustered accommodation in a primary school with mosquitoes feasting on them now moving into their new homes.

"Today, by the grace of God, by the instrumentality of the holy ghost, we are here gathered to celebrate the plethora of opportunities where people will be living in a world class estate."

The governor bemoaned the loss of the peninsula, saying the ceding did not follow internationally prescribed processes.

"Today is not just about the joy to the people of Bakassi, it is the supremacy of the governance of a sensitive people over the failure of the Federal Government to be responsible for the pain of the people of Bakassi.

"The ceding of Bakassi did not follow any legal authority. It is inconsistent with the provisions of our constitution because the Constitution is very clear that for you to cede any territory of Nigeria you must have a proper plebiscite, you must have the domestication of such ceding and ratified by the National Assembly. Until you do so, whatever you have done is null and void."

The governor stated that by resettling the returnees in decent houses, their misery had come to an end.

He announced the donation of N50 million and other economic incentives to enable them earn a living.

"This is the first social housing scheme in Nigeria in absolute terms where the ownership is in perpetuity, where the property is yours to keep forever. We will continue to expand it. This is not a shelter, this is housing. It has amenities; it has power, it has water, it has all the utilities you will need. It has solar lighting; it has the generator and the third grid which is the national grid. But today I am going to assure you that we have acquired boats which are by the water side to enable you to do fishing for those who can fish.

"We have also made provisions for a takeoff grant of N50 million to support all of you who live here who want to start small businesses. And the good news here is that I have no elections to run so you can see clearly this is not politics, it is from my heart. But I call on the people of Bakassi to be strong because your kids will grow to become leaders someday and when they grow they will do much more than I have done here today."

Governor Ayade appealed to President Muhammadu to fulfill his campaign promises to the Bakassi people whom he said have suffered untold neglects in the last 18 years.

Earlier, Senator Ita-Giwa who is the Chairman of the resettlement allocation committee said her committee went through a rigorous process to ensure equitable allocation of the houses to the Internally Displaced Persons.

Describing the expansive estate as a "new city in a remote place," Senator Ita-Giwa thanked the governor for fulfilling his promise to Bakassi people.





# Of widowhood and the COVID billionaires

Shade Parks

A sobering incident occurred in the Imalefalafia area of Ibadan shortly before the onslaught of COVID-19. A woman had hopped onto a bike but begged the rider to abort the ride barely two minutes into the trip. Naturally the bike man was shocked, but the reason for the abrupt halt was even weirder: she wanted N200 in exchange for her body. No, she said, she wasn't one of those ladies of the night, the mobile powerhouses of disease attired in false fronts and hunting the streets for the next victim. Not at all. She was a widow and she and her brood, two boys and a girl, had had nothing to eat for two days. Well, men would always exact dividends on every kobo spent on a woman and so.

The bike rider wanted to do more but could not: she was only the second customer he had picked up that day. The first had paid N50 for his short trip, and the woman's profuse thanks as he handed her that lifeline would disturb the gentleman for the rest of the day.

We take a trip to another area in the same city, this time with a different timeline. We are at a police station somewhere close to an area called

Challenge, where a termagant had come to report her neighbour's act of domestic terrorism. She had just settled her pot of soup in its place in her room and was about to get the bowl of *eba* into her room when she heard her phone ringing and made a dash for it on her bed. But by the time she returned back to the veranda her *eba* had disappeared. But sensing the antics of an enemy close by, she had boldly invaded Mama Shade's room and, lo and behold, her *eba*! What did the thieving woman have for stew? Ordinary water seasoned with salt. Like the woman on *okada*, Mama Shade and her children had eaten nothing for two days.

The investigating police officer, an

inspector, refused to open a case file. Livid with rage, she laid into the complainant, asking her why she could not distinguish a clear case of chronic hunger from a police case. "When you saw her and her children eating your *eba* with water and salt, you should have known that it was hunger that drove them to that kind of desperation! I will pay for your *eba*, but as a woman myself, I don't think this one is a police case. Sorry, I can't lock Mama Shade up!"

The kind hearted inspector then went round the desks, obtaining whatever her colleagues could spare, and the bitter tears of the offending widow as the N10,000 donation was handed over to her was said to have bowed the hearts of even her usually callous colleagues. All along she had been muttering: "I'm sorry, I won't do it again," choked with tears.

As COVID-19 made its determined entrance into Nigeria's shores and government's imposed lockdowns while asking entire neighbourhoods to manage three "congos" of rice, hunger, Nigerians' loud neighbor, struck with deadlier force, confirming the husbandlessness of the Nigerian

population. It was not just the hilarious Ikorodu, Lagos-based lady who crafted a clip shouting "*Ebi de o, ebi de. Ebima ma n pa single mother, ebi de*" (Hunger has come, hunger is killing single mothers) and lamenting that wives had now hemmed in the men she and others used as lifelines that was a metaphor of governance failure: the majority of the population was. Before COVID-19, Nigeria's unemployment statistics were quite scary, but it has been a state of war in the last three months. In all sectors of the economy, job losses have been the norm rather than the exception. Those lucky to escape the many staff 'rationalizations' in the aviation, banking, hospitality, and other sectors are merely hanging by a thread, desperately clutching at survival straws. As you may be aware, Fitch Ratings downgraded the three highest rated banks in the country to Long-Term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) 'B' and Viability Rating (VR) 'b'. That is not surprising because even prior to the pandemic, its outlook for the Nigerian banking sector was negative.

The Excess Crude Account, Nigeria's rainy day fund, has dwindled to an all-time low at just \$72 million. In the same vein, diaspora remittances, usually about for 6 per cent of Nigeria's GDP, dropped by 50 per cent in February. Over 10,000 jobs have been lost in the aviation sector, over 10,000 staff are said to have been laid off since business nosedived in March. The International Air Transport Association's (IATA) estimates that the COVID-19 crisis put 124,000 Nigerian jobs at risk, with N324 billion of its GDP in jeopardy. But the political class has been deadlier than the coronavirus, and to this

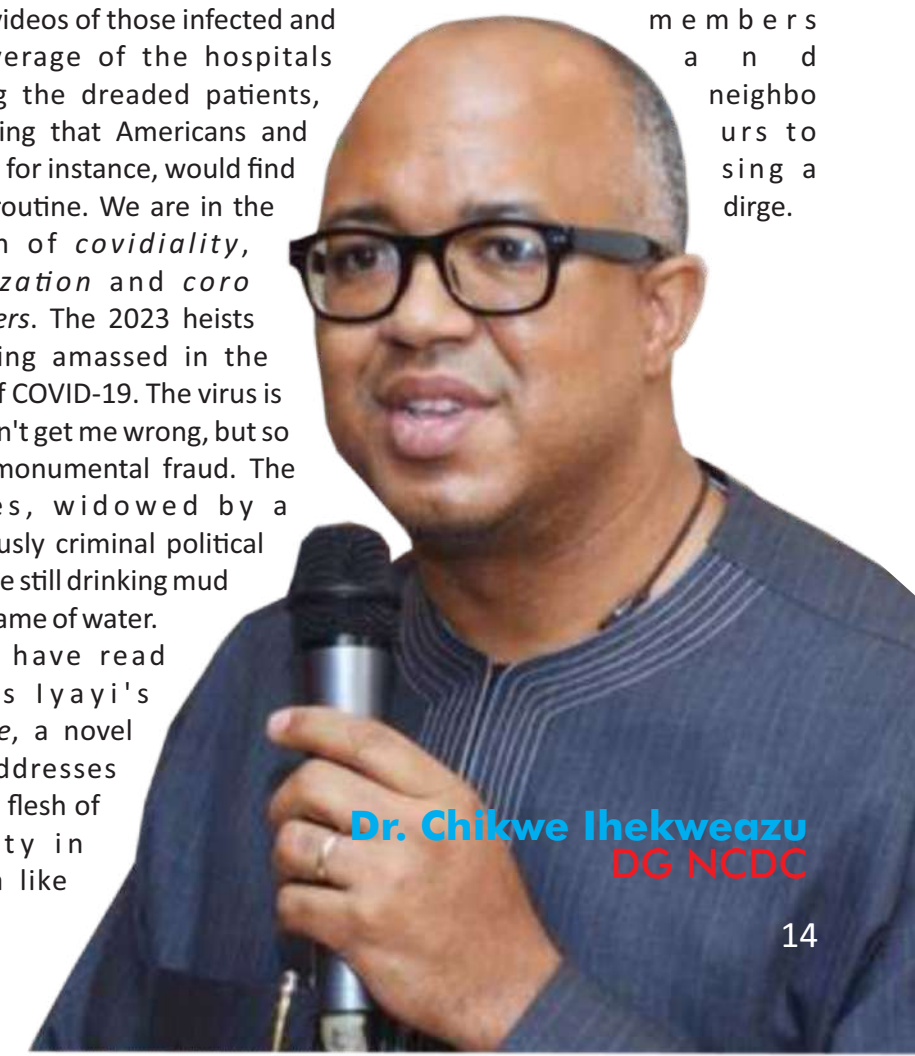
them I now turn.

Those who promised change in 2014 changed the promise immediately they got to power. They have grown progressively worse ever since. To say the very least, governance remains a criminally joyous enterprise, with Covidial billionaires parading the stairs of Government Houses with unusual spring in their steps. Last month, a South-South governor with only 12 cases of the coronavirus claimed to have expended N12 billion on the scourge. The Lagos State government is spending N50,000 on each test, while the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), which claims to be spending a modest N10,000 per person for that same purpose, has been busy churning out figures that defy the principles of tests and measurements.

These days, the daily figure is invariably over 500 or 600 infections, even on holidays. There are no videos of those infected and no coverage of the hospitals treating the dreaded patients, something that Americans and Britons, for instance, would find rather routine. We are in the season of *covidiality*, *covidization* and *coro fraudsters*. The 2023 heists are being amassed in the name of COVID-19. The virus is real, don't get me wrong, but so is the monumental fraud. The masses, widowed by a rapaciously criminal political class, are still drinking mud in the name of water. If you have read Festus Iyayi's *Violence*, a novel that addresses the raw flesh of poverty in Nigeria like

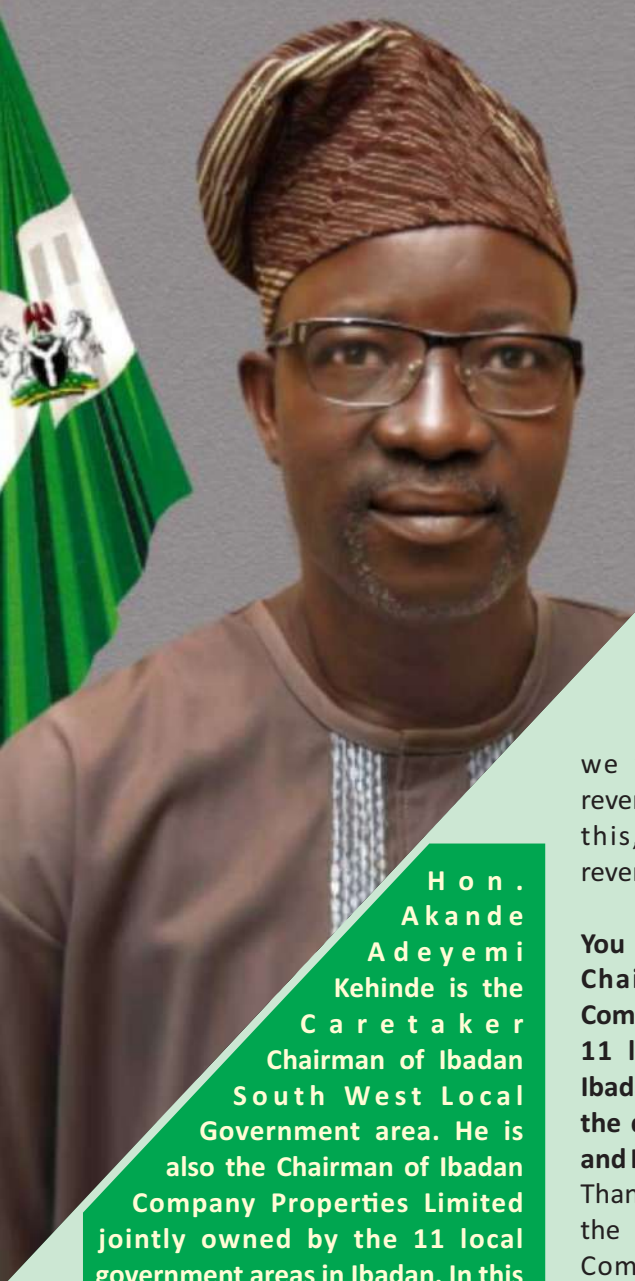
no other work of art has ever managed, you may perhaps have felt that Iyayi, who by the way died in a road crash quite symbolic of the horrors he deplored for most of his adult life, kind of exaggerated the spectre of a woman savouring a bottle of soft drink for the first time in her life while on a mission to commit adultery in order to rescue her husband from financial handicap. But in dramatising the horrendous conditions in which the majority of Nigerians remain trapped even today, Iyayi was only being faithful to his craft: poverty in Nigeria is an enforced religion, and politicians, the taskmasters working for the globalist order: a communist suzerainty where dissent is treason. Like the woman eating *eba* with water and salt, Nigerians have been stripped bare, shorn of human dignity by a rapacious political class deviously collaborating with demons to commit murder and brigandage, then joining distraught family

members  
and  
neighbours  
to  
sing a  
dirge.



Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu  
DG NCDC





## INTERVIEW

# It's erroneous to say Ibadan has no master plan

– Ibadan S/West LG Boss

**Hon. Akande Adeyemi Kehinde is the Caretaker Chairman of Ibadan South West Local Government area. He is also the Chairman of Ibadan Company Properties Limited jointly owned by the 11 local government areas in Ibadan. In this interview, he shares his thoughts on the notion that Ibadan has no master plan among other issues. Oyedapo Oyewole brings in the excerpts.**

**Globally, the coronavirus pandemic has slowed down a lot of things. What has it cost your local government in terms of revenue generation?**

Actually COVID-19 pandemic has been quite a challenge to everybody in this country and the Ibadan South West Local Government is not excluded. In terms of internally generated revenue, it has cost us a lot because of the lockdown imposed and as a result of markets that closed down. People couldn't move around and display their goods; traders could not open their shops; virtually all the places where

we were supposed to collect revenue were affected. As a result of this, our internally generated revenue has been affected.

**You were recently elected as the Chairman of Ibadan Property Company Limited jointly owned by 11 local government areas in Ibadan. What is your plan towards the development of this company and Ibadan as a whole?**

Thank you for that question! Being the Chairman of Ibadan Property Company limited has given me additional responsibility which I do accept with pride and commitment to uplift the way this company had been run prior to my taking over as the Chairman. If we go back and look at the principle behind the establishment of this company, it is, as it were, to fast track the development of Ibadan in terms of provision of affordable housing and other amenities that people would need. It is unfortunate that the company has been run aground. I will try everything possible to uplift the company and make it more viable compared to what it used to be in the past and to bring more innovations to what we need to do to enhance the development of Ibadan as a whole.

**What is your take on this notion that Ibadan doesn't have a master**

**plan?**

Actually Ibadan does have a master plan and it's quite unfortunate that past governments did not pay attention to the adoption of the master plan. Like I said earlier, with this extra responsibility of being in charge of Ibadan property, we'll go back to that master plan to see what we could do to make our plan for the development of Ibadan to be immediate and to make sure there is good input in making Ibadan master plan a reality.

**One year down the line in the SeyiMakinde administration, how will you rate his performance so far?**

As a matter of fact, if we really want to compare the administration of our God-sent Governor, SeyiMakinde, to the previous governments within that same period, we will see that he has brought landslide development to Ibadan. First of all, it is very common in our country whereby when new government comes to power, it tends to abandon the projects embarked upon by the previous governments and continue with another plan which makes Oyo State to have a lot of abandoned projects, but fortunately for us, we have a God-fearing governor who knows the importance of these projects no matter who started



them. He has insisted that they have to be completed because it is the resources of this state they used towards the execution of those projects. That is one thing the governor has been doing. Apart from that, governor SeyiMakinde has been taking his own personal initiative to make sure that he left Oyo State in a better position than he met it. We could see that in how he has been handling the COVID-19 issue. He actually showed them that Oyo State is the pacesetter because if you could see what the federal government is doing now, it is what Governor Makinde has been doing to contain the pandemic.

When he came to government, we knew the situation of all our public schools then. They were dilapidated. Look at what he is doing at LAUTECH; he has cancelled the education levy in all public primary and secondary schools. Just like our governor, I myself am a beneficiary of the public school. Look at agri-business, many youths these days are using the governor's initiative to engage in farming because they've seen the importance of agriculture in any economy and that is what Governor Makinde has been doing apart from all other things regarding our infrastructure and things that have to move Oyo State forward. Our people have not seen anything yet, they just need to exercise patience and cooperate with us.

**What is your plan to innovatively bring the dividends of good governance to the people in your local government?**

This is an ongoing process because since I became the caretaker committee chairman of this local government, I've been making efforts to make sure that

our people really enjoy real dividends of democracy. One of it is that we have visited our moribund skill acquisition centers and renovating them so as to ensure that our youths are engaged. We have many youths out there without being gainfully employed and are roaming the street which poses security threats to others. We have visited our health centers and are renovating every one of them. We also ensure that security of the lives of our people are very paramount to us because without adequate security there can't be any meaningful development and it's going to be difficult to achieve anything. Thank God that our people are cooperating with us in our local government and we are moving it forward. Let me use this opportunity to tell them to just be patient with us. As time goes on, the dividends of democracy will get to the least bottom of the hierarchy of the people in our local government.

**What is your take on the controversy surrounding the sacked local government Chairmen in Oyo State?**

I don't want to pre-empt the court since the case is in court already. I don't want to jump the gun, but no matter where there is illegality, it would not be sustained for long. But we leave that for court to decide.

**On a final note, what is your message for people in your local government?**

My message to them is to please continue to cooperate with us so as to deliver on all our promises and bring development and real dividends of democracy to their doorstep. I once again want to thank them for cooperating with us most especially in the area of security.



# Ayade declares tax holiday for low income earners in Cross River

**Prof. Ben Ayade**  
Governor, Cross River State

As part of COVID-19 palliatives and in furtherance of the state tax exemption law, the Cross River State, Governor, Ben Ayade, recently inaugurated the Anti-tax Agency with a charge to ensure that small scale businesses and peasant farmers enjoy tax holiday. He insisted that the poor must be protected. Members of the Agency include Bishop Emma Isong who is the chairman, Rev. Fr Julius Ada as the Secretary. Others are Pastor John Ekpenyong and Rev Sister Patricia Olorunmole.

The governor frowned at the activities of illegal tax consultants who he said impose unnecessary tax on the poor and vulnerable in the state and urged members of the Agency to immediately swing into action. "I charge you that this responsibility comes with its own troubles. You have a choice to do that which is good and the selection of this team is based on your history; it's based on your profile, the understanding of your closeness to God and that you will do that which is fair to all manners of people equally and fairly. "We charge you to ensure that the poor masses of Cross River State and the small business owners do not come under the harsh hands of the desperate search for

**"He insisted that the poor must be protected"**

money by tax consultants", Ayade told members of the Agency which is composed of Christian clerics. Continuing, he implored the members: "Your responsibility from today going forward is to put an end to illicit taxes on people. We have a tax law here that prescribes the people who are exempted from tax. All those categories of people and those that from time to time will be so announced by the Governor, including every single hotel that has less than 50 rooms in Calabar and the whole state, today are exempted from payment of taxes. "We have exempted all Okada riders, taxi drivers, airport taxi drivers, small saloon owners, small catering and restaurant points popularly called mama put. All those people who sell basic things struggling to earn a living; they have been exempted today from paying tax. We have exempted them because it is better for me as a Governor to rather task my brain, than to tax my people." He said he was not interested in generating income from all sources, including imposing a tax burden on the small scale



business and service providers. "My governance does not entail that income must come from all sources. If we don't have enough, why do you put pressure on your brother or sister whose situation is much worse? Why do we expect that people who don't have scholarships for their children, struggling to pay school fees, struggling to get uniforms, struggling to secure their small businesses, struggling for water, struggling with power and government is providing almost nothing? Why do you tax them? I think it is injustice. "This is part of my post COVID-19 response. So as part of the post COVID-19 response action plan of Cross River State, we are exempting a larger part of the public from tax", he quipped. Ayade advised small scale business owners to resist illegal tax collectors, saying: "Anyone who comes to you to demand tax, you have a right to say stop, the Governor has said we should not pay tax and if we have to pay tax, then let me contact the anti-tax agency to tell us whether we fall under the category to pay tax or

not. " He urged members of the agency to take their assignment seriously as all eyes are on them. "I charge you to take this task very seriously. I want to hear you, everyday on radio and TV listing those who are to be exempted and telling them what to do if any tax consultant or any person comes before them. I have abolished tax consultants in this category. No tax consultant is allowed and I give you the powers to arrest any tax consultant you see and we will try him under the Cross River State Tax Exemption Law and jail him for putting pressure on already pressurised people.

**" we are exempting a larger part of the public from tax"**

"Today is the end of the bullish drive for tax and I know that the team I have assembled is not a team that will collect patronage, it's not a team that will close their eyes to injustice. I choose only people who are close to God." Replying, Chairman of the Agency, Bishop Emma Isong commended Ayade's passion for the downtrodden and promised he and his team would deliver. He thanked the Governor for finding them worthy of serving the people of the state. "Your Excellency, today you have proven to the world the kind of politician you are. By inaugurating this agency, your passion for the downtrodden has been proven to the whole world. On behalf of members of this Agency, I wish to thank you immensely for the opportunity. "It has always been my passion on how we can encourage small businesses to thrive. You have proven to me by this appointment that you are detribalised and I want to thank you so much for believing in me", Bishop Isong said.



# 'How we eradicate negative stereotypes about Africa, sharing beauties of her vast cultural resources'



High Chief Nathaniel Styles Jr.

*High Chief Nathaniel Styles Jr is the Co-founder Osun's Village Miami, Florida. In this interview with WALE OLAPADE, he speaks on the 14th anniversary of the African cultural enclave in Miami, ideologies and other sundry issues.*

**The Osun's Village Miami, Florida celebrated its 14 year anniversary recently. What has been the achievement so far?**

We just celebrated our 14th anniversary. We've served as a vital link in the United States, bridging gaps and creating harmonious relationships between multicultural community residents in South Florida and the living cultures of West Africa. There is an emphasis on the Ifa/Orisa traditions of the Yoruba People specifically, as there are so many of the cultural practices have been maintained, despite the travesty of the transatlantic slave trade.

On January 20, 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic, our Executive Director and Co-founder Otunba High Chief Nathaniel Styles received the Martin Luther King Freedom Award as a Business and Cultural

Pioneer in the USA. In celebration of the 400 year presence of the earliest documented Africans in America, 1619-2019 Chief was acknowledged by the United States Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, for his outstanding contributions in promoting Africa and her traditional values throughout the diaspora, and listed in the United States Congressional Record and permanently placed in The Library of Congress.

For the very first time in history, an Arugba was selected in the USA, by the oracle in Osun Osogbo. In September 2019, after a series of necessary traditional rituals performed, Osunsewa Kiana Marley was presented to the public, and carried the offerings to Osun during the annual tribute to our mothers: Yemoja and Osun. August 2019, Our Executive Director was acknowledged by the

State of Osun as the first Yoruba Pilgrim through an initiative called KareleOodua. Chief was officially appointed Cultural Ambassador of The Yoruba Kingdom.

2018 - Featured in and served as production manager of the Africa Movie Academy Award winning 'Bigger Than Africa' documentary, which follows the Trans Atlantic slave trade route from West Africa to six different countries - USA, Nigeria, Brazil, Republic of Benin, Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba - to find reason for the survival of this particular West African culture.

We've established an International Artist Residency. Our inaugural Artist In Residence, Prince Emmanuel Abiodun Aderole, from Nigeria, was showcased along with the Afro Cuban Master Drum Maker and Omo Ana Luis Torres' honors during the National Folk Heritage Awards in Washington, DC. This is

America's highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

**What is the ideology behind the creation of the enclave and how practically has it met the aim of setting it up?**

The ideology is to be a catalyst for the preservation and promotion of living indigenous culture. Many cultural remnants have been retained in the ancestral memory of those in the diaspora throughout the various migrations, yet there is little to no knowledge of their historic origins. We endeavor to create ongoing dialogue, synergy and engagement through people to people multicultural activities, including civic engagement, cultural exchange, bi-lateral trade and festival production.

The emphasis is not the physical location, but the consciousness or cultural awareness that we've stimulated. The popularity of social media has created enormous opportunities, and potentials that we're yet to fully capitalise on.

**What are your most celebrated moments at the Osun village Miami and how had it been able to rally devotees in the past?**

One of the most celebrated moments was our appearance in the internationally televised "Sacred Journeys" television documentary in 2014. The



documentary shows us worshipping Osun along the bank of the Miami River at Sewell Park, in the City of Miami, Florida, the first settlement and trading post of the Miccosukee Native Americans. For the first time, Yoruba Spirituality was acknowledged as a major world religion and we are a part of that history.

Our Pilgrimage from Miami, Florida, to Nigeria's Osun Osogbo Festival, was documented as part of a series along with the Christian Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Islamic Pilgrimage to Mecca, along with several other major world religions and viewed by millions all over the world.

**What is the Africanism initiative(s) surrounding the village?**

We serve as an incubator of African centred traditional art, culture, language and spirituality. We chose the name Osun because of the cultural significance she has to those in the diaspora. Reflecting upon the plight of socially and

economically marginalised people of colour globally, we couldn't over emphasise the significance of initiatives and movements like Osun's Village Miami and others, educating and reinforcing positive cultural identity.

**You are the creator of the village and the initiative. Do you have any regrets so far and how have you been able to conquer them?**

I am the co-visionary of the 43 city block Osun's Village Miami and African Caribbean Cultural Arts Corridor along with the award winning Architect Harlan Woodard.

**What are your challenges since the inception of Osuns village Miami?**

Most challenging has been the inability to mobilise government officials both in USA and Nigeria to fully realize the vast potential the initiative has to help stimulate the local economies of the artists, crafts men, cultural anthropologists and practitioners in their local communities, utilizing cultural heritage to drive tourism and create jobs for local community residents.

**Does the village have any spiritual connection or links with Africa?**

As Africans born in America, beyond a shadow of a doubt, we maintain a deep spiritual







connection to Africa. We've been initiated to Ifa, Osun, Obatala and several other Orisa. We maintain direct links to both Alaafin Oyo and Ooni of Ife. Yoruba spirituality has miraculously survived the transatlantic slave trade, despite the travesty of the Middle Passage. African Americans are highly "religious" and many are embracing Ifa and Orisa practices. In Brazil, there is Candomble, Cuba has Santeria/Lukumí and in Trinidad, many are Sango Baptist.

#### How do you sustain the village?

The village is a project of our N G O / M u t u a l B e n e f i t Organisation. We don't use the antiquated term Not for Profit Organisation. We sustain the village through the support of our advisors, family and friends, as well as by the services we provide.

**You are spiritually connected to Africa in many aspects. What is your source of attraction?**

The Spirit of Africa is in our DNA. Remember all human life began in Africa. The African origins in highly melanated individuals can't be denied. We embrace our ancestral origins with great pride. One might say that we're on a journey of self discovery.

#### How many African countries have you visited?

Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo.

I also know the village has a great number of talents which you have grown over the years. Could you take me into your journey of discovering, building and mentoring talents?

Due to our heavy travel schedule and the vast contacts, our founders have made throughout the African diaspora we're very widely known. We support the development of artisans, traditionalists and craftsmen in

Africa and the diaspora.

How has the Osun's Village been able to impact positively on its immediate environment?

Osun's Village Miami has had the greatest impact on the immediate environment by our ability to bring together individuals of various cultures and traditions. We've ultimately been very effective in eradicating negative stereotypes of Africa and sharing the beauty of her vast cultural resources.

What is your calendar of events like?

Everything planned has been postponed indefinitely through the end of the year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### What is the effect of COVID-19 on the operations of Osun's Village Miami?

Our international travel programs, as well as public gatherings and celebrations, have all come to an abrupt standstill.

#### How have you manage the situation so far?

We've managed by engaging in events and activities virtually: Facebook Live, Instagram Live, Zoom etc.

#### How did you manage the affairs of the village since the pandemic and what plans do you have for post COVID-19 recovery so as to fit into the new normal of business and global activities?

We've managed our affairs throughout the COVID19 pandemic by utilising the vast selection of virtual resources available to us. With that in mind, we're further developing virtual activities to keep the communities we serve globally, engaged.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Life and Times of Majek Fashek

KUNLE BAKARE

The death of Nigerian singer, song writer, guitarist and reggae music lord, Majek Fashek, recently in New York, United States, threw Nigerians and reggae music lovers all over the world into a nostalgic mood owing to the past brilliant records and achievements of the "rainmaker" in the music industry.

His death brought into memory the exact picture of a musical lord who the country lost to the cold hand of death, Nigeria's nonchalant attitude to celebrating her heroes both alive and in death seems not to understand that a real talent has gone.

He was born in 1963 to the family of Faseke who hailed from Ilesa, Osun state, while his mother hailed from Benin in the present Edo State, which explains the influence of the Edo appearance on his outlook and experience in his music. He learnt to play the guitar and the horns at a tender age of his life while he used to composed songs for the

local Aladura church which he attended with some others who collaborated with him to form a band known as the Jastix, which became a house band on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Benin's musical panorama.

In 1987, he went on a solo career and dropped his earlier stage name, RajeshKanal, to adopt MajekFashek as a shortened form of his real name experienced instant success on the stable of a local music label which recorded and marketed him.

His first album, prisoner of conscience, blew up the charts, garnering virtually all the awards in the music industry and after he had reached the peak locally, the international market hijacked him and it was time to move on leaving the local label.

He signed up for the label which made him more popular at the global stage and on which he released the evergreen track, 'send down the rain'. The track, no doubt, still holds fans



spellbound in the dancehall till date.

For him it was a ladder to ride on the crest of fame and fortune: his various shows were sellouts on a regular basis. He featured on many night shows in national stations in the United States and his net worth buoyed exponentially. MajekFashek through the instant successes collaborated with many international A-list musicians, releasing best selling and chatbuster albums.

But then, there was a snag: as his success and popularity was spreading like wildfire, so also were the reports of drug addiction. The once handsome man with lots

of hopes and promises to put Nigeria's name on the global scene was tagged a drug addict. This affected his career as he was unable to attend musical shows and his productivity level nosedived.

Sometimes in 2015, it was widely reported that MajekFashek was bankrupt as a result of drugs which led him to various rehabilitation centers in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. At that time, people who met him confessed to seeing a different Fashek; one who looked frail and unhealthy; one who needed help to regain his strength and memory. While friends and fans rallied round him and



attended to his immediate transformation, in September, 2019, rumours of his death rented the air but it was quickly dispelled by one of his close associates.

As sad as the rumour was it served a good goal: assisted to re-unite the reggae music lord with his family in the U.K. Sadly, he took the final bowl on June 2, 2020, in New York city. It was revealed that he battled alongside his drug rehabilitation binge.

How fame ruined his career

Apart from the track, 'prisoner of conscience', another hit track that put Majek in the corridor of fame was, 'send down the rain', a track which he rendered on stage and brought an instant rain from heaven. Majek could be termed a demi-god, just like Fela Anikulapo Kuti, whose numerous lyrics still

find a place of pride in today's music.

Fela, the Afro beat king was also known for addiction to marijuana, but in all, they claimed it's a source of inspiration. Brenda Fese, another popular musician of the yester years was also caught in the web of drug addiction. For MajekFashek, who was thrown into sudden limelight, managing fame seemed a herculean task. He had to stay indoors some times because he lacked the much needed cash to throw at fans anytime he came across them.

Another thing which would not be forgotten in a hurry about Majek is his hands always being in chains (handcuffs) and the bells which he rang to tell people that the kingdom of God is near "repent

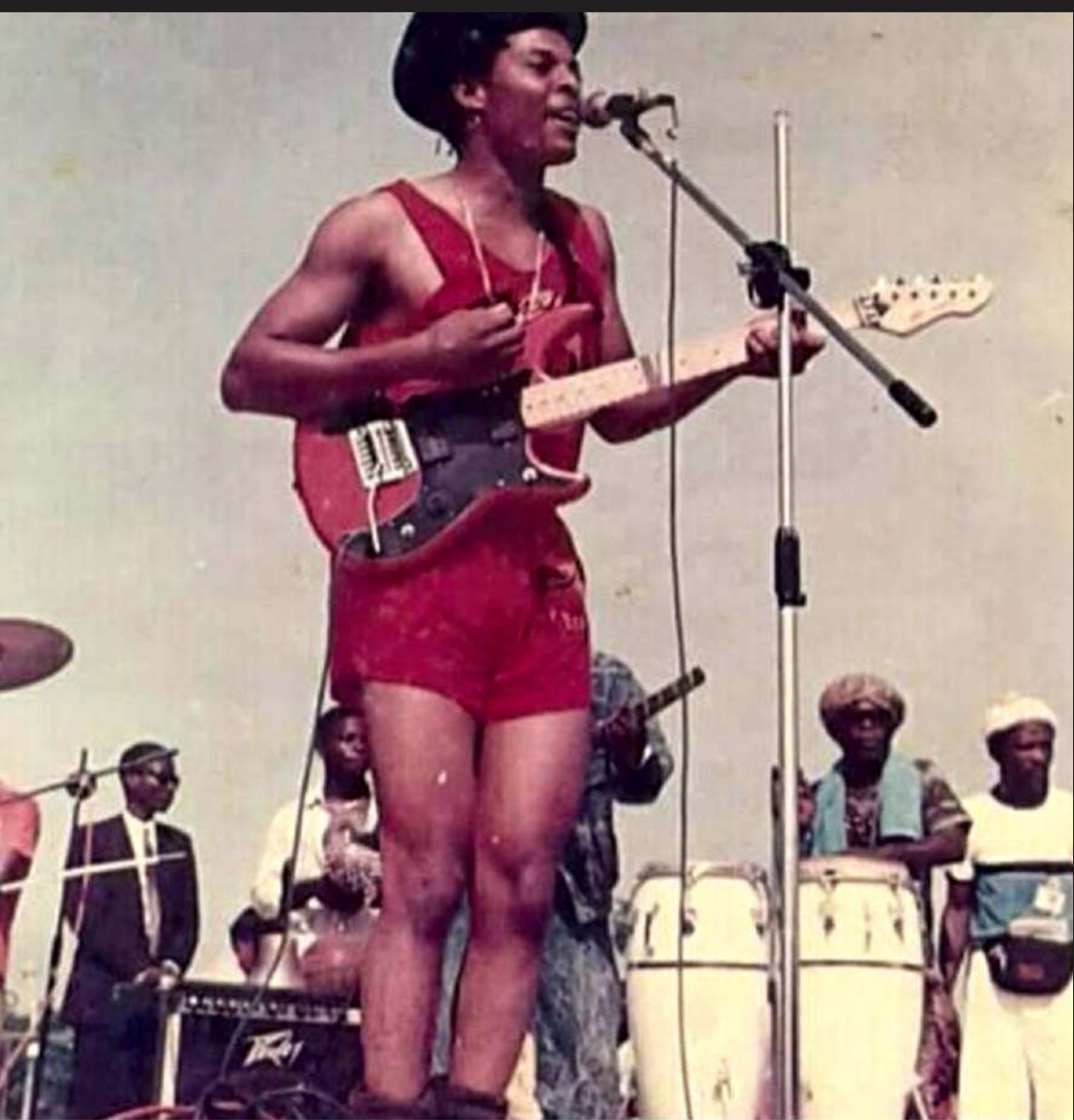
the kingdom of God is near", he would shout.

Although his name is Majekodunmi, he did not speak nor understand Yoruba, as he grew up in Benin and of course he maintained the same format of entrance into any concert he did anywhere in the world throughout his career.

All sides of MajekFashek's story may not sound great but still need to be told so the younger and current music stars in Nigeria could learn. Managing fame could be a daunting task but must be done painstakingly if music stars want to realise their full potentials. Drug addiction is another killer of talents and potential and the current crop of musicians must do well to desist from it.

Jim Hendris, Janis Joplin, Micheal Jackson, Witney Houstin, Fela Anikulapo Kuti and others who became idols, all succumbed to drug addiction and also failed to manage fame.

Naira Marley, Davido, Phyno, Vector da viper, Olamide, Tiwa Savage, Fire Boy and many other Nigeria's promising musical idols should learn from the not too savoury story of Majek and others. The story of MajekFashek is an attestation that Nigeria has lost a musical idol whose statue would have been erected at the entrance of his home state but for the cancerous affliction, which binged not just him but continues to afflict some musical stars, drugs.



# COVID-19, Scepticism and need for caution in Nigeria

OPINION

By Gabriel Oshokha

Today, the entire globe including Nigeria stands transfixed in awe of COVID-19 pandemic that is gradually reducing human population on a daily basis. Sadly too, the pandemic has not spared world economies which are now comatose.

At its wake, the global healthcare sector was caught unawares, and in a panicky manner it came up with safety measures like wearing face masks, regular sanitising of hands and social distancing. These measures were intended to curb the spread of coronavirus pandemic. However, the safety measures could not save countless lives so far lost to the pandemic in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Germany, among other countries.

The safety measures recommended by the managers of our healthcare have not averted cases of deaths occasioned by COVID-19 in Nigeria, Ghana, South African to mention but a few.

Lately, Brazil joined the league of other countries that have been doggedly putting up stiff resistance against the spread of the pandemic. But it has not been winning the fight against coronavirus as it has lost no fewer than 50,000 people to the virus. Evidently, the reported cases of mass deaths claimed by the pandemic point to the fact that the virus should not be treated with kid gloves. And the innocent victims of COVID-19 should serve as a warning to governments in power that it is criminal to play politics with humans.

In Nigeria, the Federal Government in its wisdom, at the outset of the pandemic, locked down the Federal

Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Lagos and Ogun states to contain the spread of the virus. It also imposed dusk-to-dawn curfew across the 36 states of the federation to check human and vehicular movements, among other measures, to stop the spread of the virus.

Other states of the federation also toed the Federal Government's line by embracing similar precautionary measures tailored to the peculiarities of their states.

Besides, the Federal Government also placed the herculean responsibility of testing people that show symptoms of the disease on the shoulders of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). It also constituted a task force to oversee the activities of NCDC. State governments also set up testing, as well as isolation centres for COVID-19 patients. And these proactive measures against the spread of the pandemic have yielded fruitful results in the collective fight to prevent the pandemic from spreading and claiming more lives. As of Tuesday, June 29, 2020, 24,567 cases have been recorded in Nigeria, with 565 deaths.

Former Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, Mallam Abba Kyari and ex-managing director of the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC), 67-year-old Suleiman Achimugu were among prominent Nigerians that bowed to the pangs of the virus. These two instances attest to the fact that coronavirus is real and no respecter of persons.

It is becoming worrisome, however, as the rate of compliance with the safety measures by some Nigerians seems to be diminishing, not minding the fact that seven

deaths were still recently recorded on June 22, 2020 due to the pandemic.

There is therefore palpable fear that some states in Nigeria might record more cases of the pandemic if urgent punitive measures are not taken by appropriate authorities to check the trend.

Incidentally, some of these Nigerians who do not believe in the existence of coronavirus are surprisingly the ones dwelling in clustered areas of the cities where the virus thrives.

And yet they mingle with other people on tricycles, commercial motorcycles and taxi-cabs on a daily basis. Since the virus travels in the air, according to healthcare professionals, chances are that cases of COVID-19 might skyrocket should the federal and state governments fail to make wearing of face masks, particularly, a punishable offence.

And so as the federal and state governments are regularly reviewing COVID-19 policies that may expectedly culminate in reopening of schools nationwide, they should also implement policies that will harshly speak to violators of COVID-19 safety measures.

According to history, just a few survivors of the Spanish Flu, which also claimed millions of lives in 1918, would sermonise doubting Thomases who care to listen to the rampaging coronavirus whose traits are akin to the 1918 flu.

This caution should therefore not be treated with levity as there are yet no known tested vaccines to cure COVID-19 pandemic.



# Why Rape is rampant in Nigeria

Gabriel Oshokha

FEATURES



Typically misunderstood and sometimes used interchangeably with the term sexual assault, rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without the person's consent. Anyone that has monitored recent cases of rape reported in our national dailies closely would agree with me that the delinquent menace demands urgent government intervention, with a view to repressing it. Truth be told, the issue of rape is not new in our society, but what is strange is the frequency of the unlawful act, particularly at a time Nigerians are burdened by COVID-19 challenges. And so the question is: what exactly is the motive of rapists?

Recently, UwaOmozuwa and Bello Barakat were raped and murdered, and the incidents generated national outcry and peaceful protests by some women groups in Ibadan, Oyo State capital. The case of Uwa, a 22-year-old Microbiology undergraduate of the University of Benin, Edo State capital, was quite touchy. She was reportedly raped by her assailants while studying in a church in Benin City. And the amazing aspect of the gory incident was that Uwa's attackers not only desecrated the House of God but they also shed blood on the altar of the Most High God. Eighteen-year-old Barakat, a student of the Institute of Agricultural Research and Training (IAR&T), Ibadan, was also

reportedly gang-raped and stabbed to death by hoodlums at her parent's house in Ibadan. Though the barbaric condemnable act was greeted with wild public reactions. Disturbing still, a national daily on June 17 reported a damning case of defilement of a six-year-old minor by a 20-year-old man in Anambra State in the eastern part of Nigeria. The victim was said to be a daughter to the offender's neighbour. The police even confirmed that the offender confessed to the offence. A screaming headline in a daily newspaper on Monday, June 15, 2020 quoted the Nigeria Police as having arrested about 799 suspected rapists and other gender-based violence across the country between January and

**“The case of Uwa, a 22-year-old Microbiology undergraduate of the University of Benin, Edo State capital, was quite touchy. She was reportedly raped by her assailants while studying in a church in Benin City. And the amazing aspect of the gory incident was that Uwa's attackers not only desecrated the House of God but they also shed blood on the altar of the Most High God.”**



May this year. The disclosure, though true, sounds incredible. The police revealed that 'ritual purpose' is the underlying motive for rape cases. And If not, how can anyone give an explanation for sexual intercourse with a three-year-old minor. So, it becomes crystal clear that Nigerian rapists are mainly after the 'blood of their victims' for 'money ritual' in order to become wealthy overnight, and not for the satisfaction of their sexual urge. Again, re-examination of the case of Uwa and Barakat unmasked the fact that the duo were killed for ritual purposes. While Uwa was reportedly hit in the head with a fire extinguisher found at the spot where she was killed, Barakat was stabbed to death. So, the common denominator in both cases is the quest for human blood for ritual purposes, and this calls for collective efforts to shield the girl-child against the devices of rapists on the prowl. This is the hidden truth behind cases of rape in Nigeria, that is steadily rising. Arguably, too, though COVID-19 pandemic that led to lockdown of schools in Nigeria may be partly responsible for the spike in the number of rape cases, drug abuse by youths may also have fueled current incidents of rape. It will therefore be laudable and timely if both federal and state governments could adopt a bottom-up approach towards tackling delinquent acts in Nigeria. The onslaught can start by clamping down on sellers of illicit hard drinks of different brands on display in most roadside kiosks and motor parks in major cities and suburbs. Because some Nigerians are of the strong view that consumption of intoxicating liquid has a tendency of spurring youths to engaging in criminal acts, particularly rape. In view of this, the National Drug Law and Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) should rise up to its responsibility and rid Nigeria of drug abuse. The recent pronouncement by the Ekiti State governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi, that cases involving rape are no longer bailable in the state should be backed up by suitable law by our lawmakers. Indeed, rapists should be made to die by hanging as a deterrent to others with such criminal intention. The time to act is now!



# CBN governor confirms exchange rate unification plans

## Says unification will be around NAFEX rate.

BUSINESS

*The Governor of the Central Bank, Godwin Emefiele, has confirmed that the Central Bank will continue to pursue unification around its Nafex rate.*

The Nafex rate is the forex window where Investors and Exporters transact dollars on market-determined prices. The CBN Governor said this at an Investors Conference with the Federal Government of Nigeria by CitiBank. The conference which was held online was titled 'COVID-19: Economic and Budgetary Update.

Nigeria was represented by the following government officials: Zainab Ahmed – Finance Minister; Godwin Emefiele – CBN Governor; Patience Oniha – DG DMO; Ben Akabueze – DG Budget Office; and a representative of the Minister of Health.

According to Godwin Emefiele, "We will continue to pursue unification around the NAFEX Market". The CBN Governor also mentioned that as of December, 2019, Nigeria saw a "relatively stable market because the NAFEX rate and rate that the Central Bank does transactions outside the NAFEX was close to themselves."

Mr. Emefiele also commented on the disparity between the parallel market and the NAFEX rate, claiming it is a market for people who are "doing dealings that are not recognised by authorities"

According to Emefiele, "The CBN has always maintained that the black market is not a good determinant of the value of the naira. You'll find that people who are in a hurry and do not want to procure the kind of documentation required, will sometimes rush to those markets. But we have used the period of this pandemic to prove that anybody dealing in that market is dealing in an illegal business."

He also claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic has buttressed claims from the bank that most of the pent-up demand was not realistic. He cited the impact of the global lockdown on flights as a clear example. "These airlines are not flying and sometimes you find dollars being sold through the BDC's into that market just to be seen that we are doing everything possible to moderate the rate," Emefiele said.

He continues that because "airlines are not flying, and

people are not traveling so there should therefore not be any demand for forex exchange in that market".

Insisting that the trades in the black market are counterintuitive, he went further to accuse those trading in the black market as those dealing in corrupt practices. "It could only be those who are dealing in what is simply called corrupt practices that would be dealing in that market and we are not about to talk about unification of our exchange rate around people who are dealing illegally," Emefiele added.

He also claimed anyone who was willing to deal in forex should utilise the "recognized" NAFEX market which is why "unification will have to be around the NAFEX"

The Federal Government disclosed plans to unify the exchange rate in order to generate more revenue and manage the rate in a sustainable manner. The IMF had previously pointed out that unifying the exchange rate would impact the economy more positively than the multiple exchange rates, which creates a lot of opportunities for arbitrage. The unification also curtails situations where public and private sector decisions are distorted as a result of uncertainties.

The CBN Governor also responded to questions about lack of liquidity in the NAFEX window. In response to how the backlogs would be alleviated, he said that "the external reserve still remains about \$36 billion and will imagine it is enough to make somebody do business in Nigeria."

The CBN also attacked claims about higher dollar demands citing the shut down of manufacturing in the country as an example. "When somebody comes today to tell us they want to open fresh LC (Letter of Credit) we begin to wonder the motive behind that" he chided.

The CBN Governor also tried to calm frayed nerves explaining that some of the dollar demands were also from foreign investors and some people who wanted to "front load" their dollar demands, that they do so in an "orderly fashion" and that they will be paid their money claiming Nigeria met all demand for those who were patient in 2016 when Nigeria was in a similar FX crisis.



Godwin Emefiele



# Spontaneous

With Wole Opatola Twitter and Instagram @woleopatola

## STEPHEN KESHI

### The Last Kick Hurrah

Referee An Yan Lim Kee Chong from Mauritius had just blown his whistle. It was the final whistle and the players in green had been thrown into a state of delirium. The match, in cold conditions at the intimidating Stade 5 Juillet 1962, in Algiers has just ended in a 1-1 draw and history has been made. Nigeria and not Coted'Ivoire will be making her debut at the FIFA senior world cup. Going into the match, the Algerians had nothing but pride at stake whereas the Super Eagles needed a draw to go through and Finidi George had opened scoring in the 20th minute only for fearful striker, Abdelhafid Tasfaout to bring the game level in the 66th minute. The last 20 minutes of the game had everyone holding their breath.

It was a nervy finish but at the end, the West Africans celebrated Captain of the Super Eagles, Stephen Okechukwu Keshi had been crying but according to the commentator, Fabio Olanipekun, it was tears of Joy. The big boss, 13 years after turning out for the Super Eagles for the first time in 1981 as

a 19 year old has just led 17 other gallant fighters to the very much dreaded Algeria on the cold night of October 8, 1993 and here, they

are with the world cup ticket.

Unknown to many, Stephen Keshi had planned to call it quit with the national team had the mission failed. That explains the tears and reason 'the big boss' was overjoyed and overwhelmed with emotions. He must now consider giving the national team one more year of his career. He must keep fit and fight for a nations and world cup shirt.

Keshi at this time had just left RC Strasbourg in France for RWD Molenbeek in Belgium. It was now time for that one more final push for another glory with the Super Eagles.

Fast Forward to the 1994 AFCON in Tunisia, Stephen Keshi made only 2 appearances as the Super Eagles defeated all-comers to win the Unity Cup for the second time in history. The first was the opening game against Gabon and the last was the epic semi-final battle with the defending champions, Coted'Ivoire. Keshi nonetheless lifted the AFCON trophy as captain on 10 April 1994.

Stephen Keshi made the USA'94 world cup team but by then, his place had been taken by Chidi

Nwanu. Keshi only filed out in the game against Greece on June 30, 1994 and it was a 2-0 victory which guaranteed Nigeria, a second







SPORTANEOUS

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SPORTS

### Gainers and Losers.

The most dreaded news of a global shut-down eventually happened in March as more and more people tested positive to a strange type of virus later identified as the Corona Virus which brought sports to a standstill, as never witnessed before.

In what however could possibly look too ridiculous to be true, sporting activities never stopped in some parts of the world even at a time the Covid-19 pandemic was ravaging the globe and threatening to wipe out human existence. Various sporting events worldwide got cancelled as one athlete after another from different countries of the world got infected with the unusual virus. To prevent a communal spread, sporting events had to be suspended globally and a war against the invisible enemy was declared. It may as well amaze you that in some countries despite the inherent dangers, sports and sporting activities, never stopped.

Boxing after basketball is the second most popular sport in Nicaragua. Every kid in Nicaragua knows Chocolatito (Roman Alberto Gonzalez Luna) the national champion and first Nicaraguan to win a world title in four different weight-categories.

As at the last week of April, Boxing took centre stage in Nicaragua with a televised well-attended eight-fight card in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. Promoter Rosendo Jose Alvarez Hernandez, a retired former two-time world champion even offered free tickets to the event whilst openly dismissing the threat of the virus. "Here we don't fear the coronavirus and there is no quarantine. Nicaragua is a poor country and the boxers have to eat. They can't stay shut up in their house", the popular pugilist who fought in the flyweight, light-flyweight and mini-flyweight declared.

Though Nicaragua is one of the countries with no stay-at-home or social distancing measures in place, everyone wore a facemask inside the venue as required by the Nicaragua Sports Commission. It was only once the boxers were inside the ring, did they take theirs off. Their trainers and other corner men all wore masks through out, as did everyone else around the ring, including the cameramen and photographers, who were on or near the ring apron. Same for the ringside officials, judges and referees.

The whole night looked a bit unusual but it soon became the

new normal and since then, football and other sporting activities have been taking place in the Central American country with Nicaragua becoming more popular-even amid the global coronavirus debacle.

Bate Borisov is the only Belarusian team to have qualified for the group stage of the UEFA Champions League and one of two to qualify for the group stage of the UEFA Europa League along with Dinamo Minsk. Both clubs have been very busy as the Belarusian Premier League in spite of all football schedule around the world grinding to a halt, kick started its season mid-March and saw its popularity soar among football fans particularly in Europe as the league became the only competition on the Continent to continue amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

The decision to carry on and allow fans into the stadiums has helped the Belarus Football Federation get broadcasting deals with sports networks in 10 overseas countries, including Russia, Israel and India where fans have been left with nothing to watch.

The Vysheyshaya Liga as the Belarusian league is known, averages 2,500 match day fans per game and before entering the



round ticket to face Italy. Nigeria eventually crashed out after losing 1-2 to Italy and that was thought to be the end of Stephen Keshi's time with the national team but Amodu Shaibu who took over as Super Eagles Coach after Clemence Westerhoff had other ideas.

Nigeria, by virtue of being African Champions must represent Africa at the 1995 King Fahd Cup (Confederations Cup) in Saudi Arabia. Amodu Shaibu came up with his list and included Stephen Keshi. 'The big boss' was back in the Super Eagles. The team played three matches against Japan (3-0)

Argentina (0-0) but missed out on playing in the final on goal difference and had to settle for the third place play-off against Mexico which she lost on penalties after a regulation and extra time 1-1 draw.

An opportunity for Stephen Keshi to bow out on a winning note however came a few days after the Mexico match as Saudi top club, Al Ahli requested Nigeria to play a friendly with their club as they marked the 10th year anniversary of their second of two of Saudi league titles won under former coach, Tele Santana.

The Saudi Club offered Nigeria the sum of a \$100,000 and the

team quickly flew to Jeddah to play what turned out to be Stephen Keshi's unofficial testimonial match. The match ended 2-1 in favour of the Super Eagles and it was indeed a befitting way to be eased out of the national team set-up for Stephen Keshi who was carried shoulder high after the game by the rest members of the team on that fateful day in January 1995. Stephen 'the big boss' Keshi died on June 7, 2016 but not before winning the AFCON for Nigeria in 2013, becoming only the second man in history to achieve such a feat as a player and coach.



stadium; fans had their temperatures checked while very few wore facemasks. Many even cheered on their teams while shirtless in the stands.

Belarusian clubs have all seen their numbers increase on social media, particularly amongst the English speaking countries.

World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) after a brief period of relaying pre-recorded fights started broadcasting LIVE after wrestling was declared an "essential service" in Florida, USA.

The WWE had previously come under scrutiny for continuing with recording events despite coronavirus, with some stars choosing not to participate over health concerns.

The WWE then signed a multi year agreement with Chinese digital streaming company, PPTV. Per the agreement, the company will air the leading shows- Raw and Smack down in Mandarin, beginning June 28, 2020.

Since the announcement, the WWE stock has risen by 4.2 per cent in China.

The Losers

According to data compiled by John Hopkins University, the sports sector across the world stands as one of the most hit since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus which has led to the postponement or outright cancellation of major sporting events across the globe.

The 2020 Olympic games earlier scheduled for this summer is one of the most regrettable as it has now been postponed till 2021. The development has now necessitated the shifting of the World Athletics Championships scheduled to take place in Oregon in August 2021 to 2022 to avoid clashing with the rescheduled Olympic games. Still on Athletics, the Tokyo Marathon which usually attracts 300,000 participants, was restricted to only 200 elite runners in March. The Boston Marathon, originally scheduled for April 20 and later postponed for five months, has been cancelled for the first time in its 124-year old history.

In Tennis, the Wimbledon Open which should have been on-going as you read, has been cancelled for the first time since world war 2.

For football, the Euro 2020 tournament has been shifted to 2021 while some of the European nations have gone on to put an end to their league season with the French the first to arrive at such definitive decision. The French Government said the remainder of football and rugby seasons won't be completed due to the coronavirus pandemic in an announcement in April.

"The 2019-20 season of professional sport won't be able to resume", Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said. He said all events where more than 5,000

people gather, including sporting events, would not be allowed until at least September. France's Ligue de Football Professionnel declared the Ligue 1 and 2 seasons over in April, days after the government said major sporting events would be banned until September.

Ligue 1 and Ligue 2, the top two divisions in French football, each had 10 matches remaining in their schedule. The top 14 rugby league was at the semi-final stage.

Paris Saint-Germain, who were 12 points ahead of Marseille when the season was suspended in mid March due to the Covid-19 outbreak, have been declared Ligue 1 champions.

The PSG boss Nasser Al-Khelaifi said his club was dedicating its ninth league win to "all the healthcare workers and other everyday heroes who have earned all our admiration with their commitment and self-sacrifice for long weeks".

It is however not all doom and gloom as some of the major leagues of the world are beginning to go back to the pitch, beginning with the German Bundesliga in May followed by Portugal, England, Spain and Italy in June.

As the rate of infections in European countries and other parts of the world stabilizes and dips, more and more sporting actions will be expected to kick start and bring back the old good times and feelings again.

## Benin Republic makes incentive provisions for tourism stakeholders to ease COVID-19 impact

The Benin government has made different ranges incentives as measures to drastically reduce the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism sector in the country.

The government in a statement released recently, said travel agencies in the country are exempted from paying for their office rents for the next three months and a forfeiture of three months electricity bill.

In addition, the government stated that 70 per cent of three months salaries of hotels and tour operators workers that are legally engaged will be taken care of by the state, adding that loans with zero interest to be refunded in three years' time.

The statement said: "In order to understand objectively the magnitude of the impact of the crisis, the Government organized exchanges with the various economic actors. It emerges from this participatory approach that several economic agents are affected, in particular artisans, businesses as well as poor and extreme poor households.

"In addition, in order to promote the effectiveness of the barrier measures taken by the Government, several activities have been suspended. This has had negative consequences on the viability of the affected companies.

"To mitigate the effects of these

shocks, the Government has therefore initiated a program to support the productive sector. This includes measures in favor of formal businesses, artisans and small informal service trades as well as the vulnerable, the poor and the extreme poor.

"Evaluated at CFAF 74.12 billion, the measures contained in the said program are articulated in three main points.

"First, support amounting to 63.38 billion FCEA for the benefit of businesses.

This allocation is intended to cover, as the case may be, 70 per cent of the gross salary of employees declared over a period of three months, the reimbursement of VAT credits, the exemption from payment of the tax on motor vehicle for those who have not yet paid it for the year 2020 or for its conversion into a tax credit, for the year 2021, for those who have already paid it, for the payment of commercial rents over three months for the benefit of declared travel agencies.

"It is also intended to take full charge of electricity bills for three months for hotels and travel agencies for CFAF 4.1 billion.

"This point also includes a bonus fund of 30 billion FCFA to support a financing line of 100 billion FCFA at zero rate for the benefit of targeted economic actors via banking establishments and decentralised financial systems (SFD). Credits to be granted via banking institutions at zero per cent interest rate will be repayable over a period of three years maximum. As for the credits granted by the DFS, they will be repayable over a period of one year maximum.

"Secondly, support of 4.98 billion FCFA intended for artisans and those exercising small trades.

"It takes into account 55,000 people in these categories (activities such as: hairdressing, sewing, welding, carpentry, small sellers, etc.) who have registered on the digital platform opened for this purpose, as well as in town halls and promotion centers social.





# CREATIVE WEARS

## source of my fashion sense

—Olamide, CEO, Myde Clothing

*Most importantly, what you wear can affect how you feel about yourself, so it's important to wear not only something that you absolutely love but also one that increases the level of your self-confidence. The CEO of Myde Clothing and a BSC Public Administration graduate from OAU, Adepeju Olamide, in this interview with FLORENCE OLUGBODI, she speaks on her fashionpreneur field.*

I make all kind of female clothing and there are plan in the pipeline to going into male fashion line very soon.

**How long have you been in the business?**

Have been into fashion business for more the five years but getting to perfection on the clothing fashion line took me solid five years to creatively garner all the paraphernalia of a detail finishing on cloths that I design.

**Do you have any challenges since the inception of your business?**

I have a lot of challenges at the initial stage which was always the teething period for any new apprehentice but the stage I am now, I am on top of my game, but one thing I always tell people any time they ask me this question is that nobody is 100 per cent perfect because of the dynamic nature of the fashion and clothing world. So you have to meet up with the trend by learning newer design through creative sense.

However many things goes with the business, not yet perfect in some areas and some of the challenges is always when some customers complains and even insults you on just minor issue, but notwithstanding I get to learn and improve on that.

Another challenge is competition, a lot of people are into fashion line so you have to always think of something new, something different and creative so as to standout from what others can offer.

**How have those challenges shaped the way you do things?**

It has made me to become a critical thinker and took me beyond the box to create something different and unique.

**Any regret so far that makes you to want to quit?**

No, I never had any regret that has ever made me want to quit. Though there are so many bad days you feel sad, go to bed thinking, but I will always wake

up to think of ways to make things better, I never thought of giving up.

**How do you source for your startup capital for your fashion business?**

As for me, I didn't start with a big capital; I started small with just a machine as a student in my hostel. I sew for students and from there, I kept on growing till I am able to grow into the present level I am today.

**How do you source for materials you used in sewing all those beautiful outfits?**

Sourcing for materials is not a big deal; I travel to big market to get different types of materials I want. The thing in fashion line is that you must have the creative mind to combine material to give you something unique putting the design and colour of the material into consideration without leaving behind what is trending in the fashion world.

**How lucrative is fashion business?**

Fashion business is very lucrative and I will advice people to go into it

**Do you think of expanding your business anytime soon or in the future?**

Yes I think of expanding every time and I believe the will of God

will be done very soon. I have a dream and I know where I want to be.

**What advice do you have for those who want to become a fashionpreneuers?**

My advice to them is to be consistent in whatever they do, consistency matters a lot. They should have a dream and focus ad don't stop learning, which will motivate them to push harder to get to a more enviable level in the trade.

**Looking at your profession critically, what will you say is your source of motivation?**

Looking at the profession, fashion motivate me a lot, ever since I was young, I love fashion and the creativity sense that goes with it. Whenever I see fashionable wears, I am always motivated to create something nice with trendy details and I also get motivation from my clients. There support and encouragement are the source of my motivation to do more and that has been keeping me in the fashion line.

**What kind of outfits do you specialise in?**







## SPECIAL FOCUS

# Cross River: How Speaker Eteng Williams redefines legislative narrative in one year

It is exactly one year today that fate beckoned on Rt Hon Eteng Jonah Williams when members of the Cross River State House of Assembly on June 11, 2019, unanimously elected him to occupy the exalted position as Speaker of the ninth Assembly. His election as Speaker was greeted with great excitement from people of all walks of life considering his enormous legislative experience, competence and capacity.

Immediately he assumed office, he announced his readiness to operate an open door policy and began to identify himself with all stakeholders that can make governance work for the progress of the state. He emphasised the importance of oversight functions to members and made same a priority. This was demonstrated through the numerous tours embarked upon by the House Committees to government projects across the state, visits to MDA's and private companies operating within the state. Rt Hon Eteng Jonah Williams came on board with leadership of simplicity, meekness, humility and above all hard work that has propelled the legislative arm in the state to enact laws for the overall development of the people. A year down the line, with support of his colleagues, he has achieved more than his expectations. Within 365 days, the ninth Assembly has received and considered no fewer than 20 bills, including the 2020 Appropriation Law, which was signed into law on December 31, 2019 despite the challenges of time. Another milestone recorded by the 9th assembly under the leadership of Rt. Hon. Williams was the passage into law a Bill for a law

to make provision for the establishment of the Cross River State House of Assembly Service Commission. It could be recalling that several attempts were made in the past assemblies to pass the bill into law but all to no avail. Occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the house has also passed a bill for a law to make provisions for the prevention and control of Coronavirus and other dangerous infectious diseases; establish a Trust Fund for Coronavirus and any other disease that may be of an epidemic or pandemic in nature in Cross River State and for other matters connected therewith. The law in question was assented to by the Governor on April 9, 2020. There is no doubt that the house led by the speaker has identified the need to ensure people oriented legislation and hence it brings the human face to all legislation proposed. The screening and approval of state officers which includes the Acting-Chief Judge of the state, commissioners, statutory boards' members, commissions and agencies by the state house of assembly have contributed in no small measure in the management of the state and cannot be left out. Under his leadership, support and cooperation, the state has successfully conducted local government elections and sworn-in 18 council chairman and councilors across our local government areas bringing the third tier of government closer to the grassroots. There is no gainsaying that the smooth cordial working relationship with other arms of government is a deliberate effort of Rt. Hon. Williams to create a rancor-free atmosphere that will encourage steady growth in all sectors in the State. In his words, "We are not elected to be engaging in physical combat but rather, we are elected to represent our people in lobbying for their well-being for the progress of all. We will continue to engage and lobby when necessary for the people" However, it is also good to note that under his leadership the welfare of the members has greatly



attracted enhanced attention as that has further boosted the productivity of the assembly in moving motions with resolutions passed promptly. In his personal capacity, the speaker has been able to secure benefitting jobs for more than 15 persons within and outside of his constituency at both state and national level aside the fact that he has influenced over 20 political appointments in his constituency and beyond. As a promised keeper, he has facilitated the completion of a six-classroom block with toilets in Agoi-Ibami in Yakurr local government area. This is a laudable feat within one year. He has also identified and made himself available to the people during their trying moments as well as celebrated with them during their happy moments which has earned him the moniker 'the people's speaker. During the one year under review, Rt Hon. Eteng Jonah William has been able to distinguish himself as a dependable leader who has endeared himself not only to the members of the ninth assembly but also the staff of the assembly, political associates, his constituents, and above all the entire state and the country at large. Going forward, the speaker has reiterated his commitment to continue to provide purposeful leadership for the legislative arm of government in the state, urging the people to continue to cooperate and support the vision and administration of Governor Ben Ayade as that will enable him perform beyond expectations. Hope Obeten is the Chief Press Secretary to the Speaker, Cross River House State House of Assembly.

## LAGOS REITERATES COMMITMENT TO BOOST ENTERTAINMENT, TOURISM

The Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to the growth and development of the entertainment and tourism sector in the state.

This statement was made during the account of stewardship to celebrate, one year in office of the Administration of Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in Lagos recently.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner for Tourism Arts and Culture, Mrs Uzamat Akinbile Yusuf, said that the administration would not relent in giving its unflinching support to the entertainment and tourism sector, adding that the sector remains one of the prioritised development agendas of the administration- THEMES project.

The commissioner noted that Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board had in the last 365 days recorded an impressive level of progress in ensuring adequate monitoring, enforcement and censoring of film production, marketing and distribution across the state.

While calling on film practitioners and other stakeholders in the industry to fulfill their obligations by obtaining necessary permits and documentation, she specified that monitoring and enforcement is crucial in the film industry in order to curb the sale and distribution of uncensored and pirated films. "This, on its own is to boost the film industry by ensuring that film productions are protected as an intellectual property."

Akinbile Yusuf noted that the number of registered and licensed cinemas in the state is now 20 with the addition of seven new ones in the last one year.

She said further that as part of effort to assist movie practitioners to gain legal financial support, the state government also endorsed Messrs James Amuta Production Company Ltd and Lafrique Promedia Limited (Entertainment 9JA) during the period under review.

She explained the effort of the administration in bringing to a halt the deficit in film production infrastructure by designing the concept of Film Village.

"The good news we have for you today is that we have been able to secure 85 hectares of land at Ejirin in Epe Division of the state for film production. This will serve as an avenue to build and explore the entertainment sector bringing to fore the talents and creativity of entertainers alike."



# Impact of Covid-19 on Nigeria Manufacturing Sector

## FEATURES

Tunde Olasupo

In a bid to contain the impact of the COVID-19 on the society, the end-users of consumer goods all over the world have been living under prescribed orders by the government of nations, and so there have been lifestyle changes to adjust to the development.

There has also been a drastic reduction in household spending and product retailing, as a majority of the people have resorted to buying essential stuff only. Social gatherings and religious activities have been shelved. Schools and entertainment centers have been shut down, while sporting activities have been almost non-existent.

The lockdown has indeed caused unquantifiable disruption in the demand for goods and services around the world because of the abatement of social interaction. The closure of borders has also had a terrible effect on exportation of products and importation of raw materials. The reverberation of this pandemic throughout the world has seriously taken its toll on the economies of the world and essentially the manufacturing sector.

Just when Nigeria was tending her nest towards revitalisation of the manufacturing sector of the economy, the pandemic distorted government intention. Part of the effort being made is to tweak the nation from an oil economy to a futuristic and more productive activity that would secure the social-economic prosperity of the nation amid the plummeting oil revenue.

With the unprecedented disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic practically in all directions, the manufacturing sector seems to be mostly hit due to the bottlenecks faced in goods production and its supply mechanism. Not a few manufacturing companies have experienced a reduced product demand. The manufacturers of essential goods like food and beverages and pharmaceuticals have, however, remained vibrant because of the criticality of their products to human survival. Even with this status, all organisations have had a story to tell especially in the area of protection of the workforce from human-human transmission of the virus.

A staff of Flour Mills of Nigeria who spoke with our correspondent said, the organisation is among those that offer essential services, but have had its own share of the effect of the pandemic because the number of workers in the production line has been relatively reduced, making it difficult to meet demands for products.

He, however, said that despite the fact that his organisation increased the prices of their products; the demand for products has been overwhelming. He believed with the level of sales being recorded during this pandemic, the company's profit will increase with a higher margin compared to the previous year.

The General Manager of Handyware Nigeria Limited, Mr Oluwalambe Julius, in a related interview with our correspondent, said, "for us at Handyware Nigeria Limited, we produce seasoning, flavours and food ingredients, and it has been ups and downs, in the sense that at the beginning of the pandemic, there was a drastic drop in production and supply of products, that it was almost

impossible to operate because there was a total lockdown.

"Our staff could not make it to the office because of harassment by the security operatives. Our containers could not be released from the port. Eventually, we had to shut down the factory and place our staff on compulsory leave." He added that they had a colossal loss in March and April. With the ease of lockdown in May, he said, business came back to life.

"You cannot get into our factory without proper hand washing, drying and sanitising. You cannot also get into our production facility without using facemask. What we did differently was to extend the practice to every office and the entire factory premises."

He also believed that every local manufacturer in his sector will have a good business in the next one year considering the fact that most manufacturers and consumers will want to look inward for raw materials sourcing because of the high rate of forex and delivery time for imported products.

While organisations in the essential services are hopeful of a better future, studies revealed that some companies have started counting losses, as they are faced with monumental impacts. From the interview with the president of the Nigeria Manufacturers Association, Mansur Ahmed aired on the CNBC Africa Network; the sector's CEOs Confidence Index for the first quarter of the year 2020 fell below 50 points benchmark, indicating that Nigeria's manufacturing sector requires a lifeline to recover fully from the impact of COVID-19.

CEO confidence index is obtained from the monthly survey of 100 chief Executive Officers of different industries. The survey is conducted, analysed and reported by the conference board, and it seeks to gauge the economic outlook of CEOs, determining their concerns for their businesses, and their view on where the economy is headed.

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria said it has rolled out some guidelines for its members as they resume operations, following the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown in the country. The Association's Acting Director-General, Ambrose



Oruche, delved into the short to medium term implication of the pandemic on Nigeria's manufacturing sector while he was engaged in an interview with CNBC Africa. Although most of the companies have planned different survival strategies that would ensure their businesses exist beyond COVID-19, he foresaw a weaker sector, if the government does not make good his promises of intervening in the sector. A poultry farm manager who spoke with our correspondent said that his organisation has taken a decision to reduce non-essential spending and investments to safeguard its cash flow, while he calls for more government

interventions in the sector. Mr Mansur Ahmed said the NMA had a meeting with the Central Bank of Nigeria and he believed the outcome of the meeting would bring respite to the manufacturing sector as more financial relief programmes in tax holidays and cash flow interventions are being injected into the sector.

Mansur Ahmed, while answering questions on CNBC Africa, said, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria has proposed to the Central Bank Governor that in the short-term, the government should support its operations and maintenance of its workforce. In addition to that, foreign exchange and ease of importation of raw materials is being sought.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Nigeria on March 16, 2020, released a circular on its policy response on the pandemic to reflate the economy. It had stated in its release that N1 trillion in loans to boost local manufacturing and production across critical sectors and a one-year extension of a moratorium on principal repayments for CBN intervention have been considered for the critical sectors which included manufacturing.

It stated also that the interest rate on the intervention loans have been reviewed from nine per cent to five per cent. It was further stated that regulatory forbearance to banks to restructure terms of facilities in affected sectors had been granted.

It is hoped that with the effort of the government and the initiative of the manufacturing organisations, there will be little or no job losses in the sector and better days are certain.



# Just make it simple with mules, sneakers expression

Bidemi Onifade

**F**ashion as we know is the aesthetic expression of style at a time, place. Different seasons have seen and witnessed fashion trends which both the young and old have rocked, explored and embraced. The current trend in shoes is what I will be exploring today. The major shoes trends today are snickers, mules, Mary Jane heels to name but a few, each of these footwear trends did not failed to carry along both sexes of course except Mary Jane heels.

## SNEAKERS

Given the history of snickers, which were strictly for athletics purpose, the story obviously is not the same any more. Sneakers are currently more of fashion affairs for outing/ hangout/ dress up than just sporting accessory.

Sneakers are unisex since it can be worn and rocked by both sexes, irrespective of designs and colors. Currently, the designs are bolder and extreme dramas are hinged on the creation and manufacturing of these footwear.

The saying 'the more dramatic, the better' makes these designs nothing short of amazing and jaw dropping, some have sketches done on them, while some just have a different shape that has nothing contemporary about them.

Individuals have been able to switch style and brands with different designs of sneakers to suit their styles. The most fashionable sneakers are the delightful combination of African print materials with sneakers huh! Yes, you heard me right.

Sneakers have been combined with clothing styles that can be termed outrageous but come out stylish and chic at the same time. For example; sneakers styled with Ankara, Adire (tie and dye) attire that comes in shirt and trouser (sokoto ati ewu).

They have gracefully crept into our hearts and have successfully worn us over and it has eventually become the order of the day in the



fashion world.

## MULES

Mules are known not as a recent footwear fashion trend, it is a re-invented trend with different touch of class according to the individual's taste, creativity and exposure. Mules have dramatically evolved through the 16th century to 21st century. These changes have been significant as they express the creative lifestyles of humans across these centuries.

Mules currently come in flats and heels. Mules have exciting clauses that have distinguished them and make them everyone's sweetheart. Firstly, Mules designs are uniquely male and female oriented. Each gender has its own unique designs attributed to it making it available to everyone regardless.

Secondly, mules can be accentuated with different materials that not only showcase class and glam but project the beauty of individual legs and feet, materials such as; Silk materials, leathers, and animal print designs, They are equally accentuated with statement making accessories like; Swarovski crystals, Furs, animal print designs and some gracefully embroidered.

Mules cannot go wrong when styled with casual clothes and semi-formal dressing. Mules are not for the official work hours except semi-formal dressing is permitted while you are working your job. They are beautiful when marched with the African male shirt and trouser (buba and sokoto), while ladies can style them on gowns with floral/ animal print materials.

Mules as earlier said are not new fashion trend, mules might just leave our trends scenery soon but it's definitely coming back with touches that define the time and period of it re-invention.



# Abiola Ajimobi

## Life, Times and Politics

"I am a Nigerian with a humble beginning. I came from a humble background like some of you. My father was a tailor, while my mother was a trader. So, your background should not be a hindrance to your success," Sen. Abiola Ajimobi said this while addressing the 799 participants at the 2019 Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) conference for emerging entrepreneurs, held at the Ibadan Business School, Bodija, Ibadan sometimes when he held sway as the Executive Governor of Oyo State.

The eventful but appreciably political odyssey of Senator Isia'q Abiola Ajimobi, the immediate past Governor of Oyo State and the first Executive Governor to serve the Pacesetter State for two consecutive terms ended on Thursday 25th June, 2020. To the shock of many who had expected him to continue to play the role of a leading figure in Oyo State politics, he breathed his last at the first Cardiologist Hospital, Lagos, having been diagnosed of a novel coronavirus disease.

Prior to his administration of the State between May, 2011 and May, 2019, he had been a member of the Red chamber of the National Assembly having been elected to represent Oyo South Senatorial district between 200e-2007 under the Alliance for Democracy (AD).

Before the news of his death was made known on Thursday June 25, 2020, there had been rumour of his death on social media for several hours the week that preceded his eventual death.

The controversy surrounding his death came at a time when he was appointed to take up the position of acting National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) following the sack of the erstwhile National Chairman, Comrade Adams Oshiomole by the Court of Appeal. Born on the 16th of December 1949, Abiola Ajimobi moved from being the son of a tailor, who washed dead bodies at a mortuary to governing Oyo State and Chairing the largest political party in Africa.

He started his education career at Saint Patrick's primary school, Oke-Ado, Ibadan. He completed his primary education at Ibadan City Council primary school, Aperin.

He later proceeded to Lagelu Grammar School, Agugu, Ibadan for his secondary school education. While at Lagelu Grammar school, he was active in athletics, table tennis, and football including serving as the school's games prefect. As a result of this, he was nicknamed "Archipelago."

Abiola Ajimobi continued his University education in the United States of America where he studied Business Administration and Finance at the state University of NewYork, in Buffalo, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree. He did his MBA in Operations, Research and Marketing with a concentration in Finance at Governors State University, University park, Illinois. Upon his return from the United States of America, Ajimobi had a beautiful career in the private sector. Now in Nigeria, armed with his certificates, it did not take him a long time before he got a job with ELM consulting firm as a consultant and then another job as the Finance and Administrative Manager at Modular, a company owned by late Architect L a y i B a l o g u n .

After six months in Modular, he moved to Nestle as Operations Controller. In 1979/80, National Oil, which was then 40 per cent Shell and 60 per cent Nigerian, was expanding its Credit Department and the future governor was head-hunted by the then General Manager, Mr Moshood Akanbi. In two years, he rose rapidly from Credit Manager to Consumer and Product Manager. Abiola, the boisterous, highly fashionable, best dressed man in National Oil had found his groove.

In 1986, National Oil restructured; it created eight major districts for effective performance: Lagos, Ibadan, Kano, Kaduna, Ilorin, Jos, Enugu and Port Harcourt. Abiola Ajimobi was made the first District Manager in Ibadan. Like other District Managers, he was fully empowered to expand the market which he did creditably. Abiola Ajimobi turned himself into a high-flyer of the corporate Nigeria. In no time, he was made Lubricants Manager, a much bigger position that generated 40 per cent of the company's profits.



Because he did so well as Lubricants Manager, he was made Aviation Manager. By virtue of these positions, he travelled extensively around Nigeria. At that time, National Oil was controlling 70 per cent of the market share in the oil and gas sector. The company then added eight retail operations to its expansion portfolio. Ajimobi was later made the manager of all the eight districts and retail regions.

Ultimately, Dr Mike Adenuga Jr. bought over the National Oil and gave it his own name: Conoil. After a keen competition, Abiola Ajimobi was made the Managing Director of Conoil. The position he held until he resigned his appointment in the year 2002.

In 1980, Abiola Ajimobi married his 'masterpiece of nature', Florence and their marriage was blessed with five wonderful children, four girls and a boy.  
His Politics

Ajimobi's love for good governance and thirst to lead, was, however, misunderstood by many. His desire to manage the affairs of others could be said to be 'hereditary' because he is from a long line of individuals who have held leadership positions at one time or the other.

His grand father was Sobaloju of Ibadan land. His Uncle, N. A. Ajimobi was the Minister of Works and Transport in the then Western Region. His father, late Alhaji Ganiyu Ajimobi, was also a member of the House of Assembly in the old Western Region.

After leaving the private sector, Ajimobi entered the murky waters of politics, first as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria between 2003 and 2007 when he was elected to represent Oyo South Senatorial district under the platform of Aliance for Democracy (AD).

However, after one term as Senator, he wanted to be Governor but he did not get the ticket of his party, Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN).

He eventually dumped the ACN for the All Nigeria Peoples Party, (ANPP) in 2007 to contest for the gubernatorial seat in Oyo.

Even though he secured the ticket of the ANPP, he lost that election to former Governor Adebayo Alao Akala of the PDP who was then the Deputy Governor to former Governor Rashidi Ladoja.

After polling 420, 852 to defeat his closest rival the incumbent, Alao Akala, who polled 387, 132 in arguably

the most 'hotly contested' election in the history of the state, Ajimobi was declared winner of the 2011 gubernatorial election in Oyo State.

On the 29th of May, 2011, Ajimobi was sworn-in as the new Governor of the state for his first term.

In May 2015, Ajimobi was sworn-in for the second time. Thus, he became the first person to win a re-election bid in Oyo State two consecutive terms. His Jinx-breaking victory at the polls earned him Koseleri (which literally means unprecedented).

In 2019 general elections, Ajimobi contested for the senatorial election to represent Oyo South senatorial district again. He, however, lost the electoral bid to the candidate of the PDP, Dr Muhammed Kola Balogun. Under his administration as the Executive Governor of Oyo State between 2011 - 2019, the people of Oyo State inhaled a refreshing air of a new order and he was nicknamed the 'Builder of Modern Oyo State' because of many laudable projects he executed and restoring of peace and security in the State.

Before his death, he had set up a reconciliation committee headed by the former Governor of Oyo State, Otunba Christopher Adebayo Alao Akala with a mandate to reconcile all the aggrieved members of the APC ahead of the 2023 general elections.

On June 16, 2020, he was appointed as the Acting National Chairman of the APC by the National Working Committee (NWC) of the party.

Abiola Ajimobi was said to have fallen ill as a result of coronavirus disease he had contracted and was admitted at First Cardiologist and Cardiovascular Consultants Hospital in Lagos where he died on the 25th June, 2020 at the age of 70 years.

His last wish was to die at 96. He made this known during his interview programme at a private radio station in Ibadan in 2019. Ajimobi, during the said live interview programme, revealed that he was the first man in his lineage to clock 70.

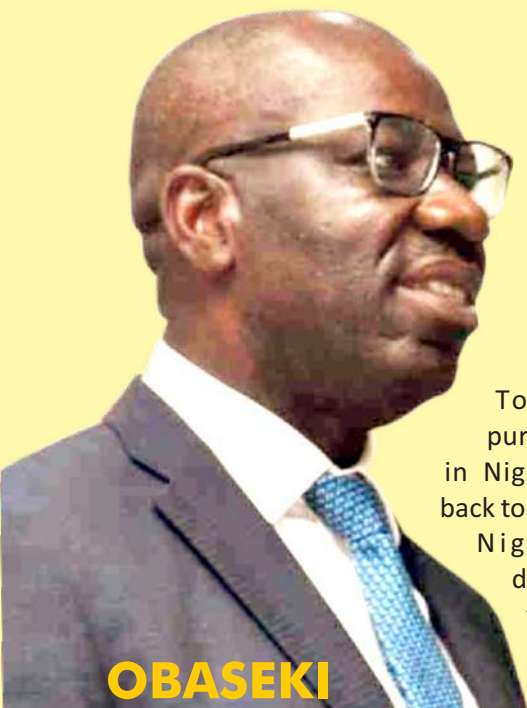
As Senator Abiola Ajimobi was interred in his Oluyole residence on Sunday 28th June, 2020, it goes without saying that members of his party, All Progressives Congress (APC) both at the State and national levels and the people of Oyo State would miss a politician who believed that "a good leader will take his people to where they want to be but a great leader will take his people to where they ought to be."



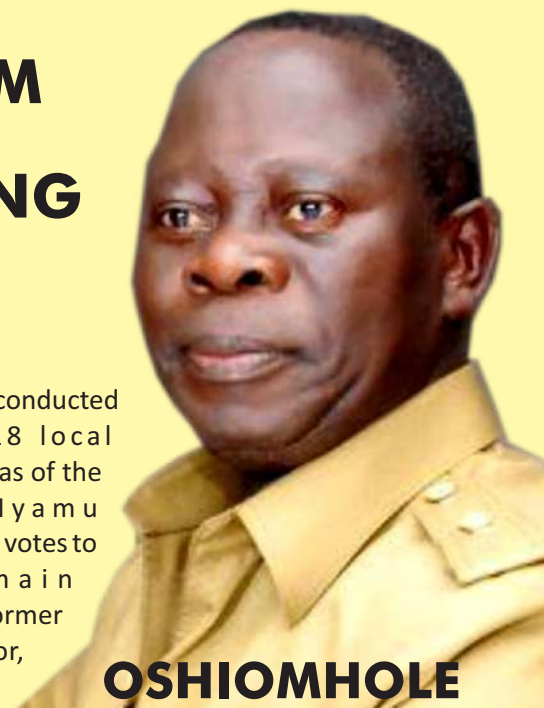


# OSHIOMHOLE, OBASEKI, GODFATHERISM AND EDO'S GATHERING STORM

Sule Mohammed



**OBASEKI**



**OSHIOMHOLE**

To all intents and purposes, godfatherism in Nigerian politics dates back to the colonial era when Nigerian politicians deployed every trick in the book both to displace the colonialists and to consolidate their

sided primaries conducted across the 18 local government areas of the state, Ize-Iyamu obtained 27,838 votes to beat his main challenger, a former deputy governor, Dr Pius Odubu, who got 3,776 votes. A certain Osaro Obaze came third with 2,324 votes. As if to highlight the absurdity of the entire process, the 'results' were announced by Senator Hope Uzodinma, governor of Imo State, a governor whose imposition by the Supreme Court defied both logic and the figures announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), as he came fourth in the actual voting. On his part, in a classic move on June 25, Governor Godwin Obaseki emerged the standard-bearer of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the September governorship, after ratification by party delegates following the withdrawal of his main rival, Kenneth Imasuagbon. The PDP primary was supervised by the Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed, and his Zamfara and Oyo counterparts, Bello Mattawalle and Seyi Makinde.

In backing Ize-Iyamu and effectively shutting out the sitting governor and his former protege, Godwin Obaseki, from the governorship primary and eventually the party, Oshiomhole apparently borrowed his script from Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a former governor of Lagos State who decides who gets what politically in the state since surviving the Olusegun Obasanjo political tsunami that uprooted all but one of the then Alliance for Democracy (AD) governors in the South-West zone in 2003.

Obasanjo, seeking a second term of office and coveting the support of his ethnic brood which he had lacked in 1999, had struck a deal with the six governors (Bola Tinubu, Lam Adesina, Segun Osoba, Adebayo Adefarati,

Niyi Adebayo and Bisi Akande) whereby they would support his presidential bid while he would in turn rub their backs at the state level. But it was a calculated plot on the part of the ex military Head of State to send them into political retirement. Surviving the ordeal, Tinubu has since put the state's power apparatus under lock and key, anointing and dethroning governors, National Assembly members and members of the state House of Assembly, with clinical finish. Ahead of the 2019 governorship election in Lagos State, Tinubu had deflated the support base around Akinwumi Ambode, the then sitting governor, and thrown up another chosen one, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu. Ambode, sensing the collapse of his second term ambition, announced during a desperate press conference that the candidate being put forward by his estranged godfather was an ex-psychiatric patient and a criminal. He was comprehensively routed at the ensuing "direct primaries," a euphemism for political funeral through contrived figures, although the political grapevine claims he is now being prepared for a senatorial compensation.

Oshiomhole, sensing that Tinubu's one-term-support approach had kept him at the reins of power in the Center of Excellence, apparently wants to replicate that template in Edo. Tinubu has an abiding project of denying his successors a second term of office, lest they consolidated their power like he did during his second term of office and threw him out of reckoning like he did his Afenifere godfathers. So far, only Babatunde Fashola, the most famous of his (Tinubu's) successors, has survived the plot. In Edo, Oshiomhole removed the "shock" from Obaseki's political tyres, weaving nasty questions around his academic credentials even though he (Oshiomhole) has no educational qualifications worth noting. The PDP, intent on profiting from the APC crisis, quickly received Governor Obaseki into its fold while Ize-Iyamu, himself formerly of the PDP, made a show of his victory, taunting Obaseki to return home. Ize-Iyamu, who spent the last campaign season denouncing APC, now has the job of denouncing PDP while Obaseki does the same to APC in an enthralling drama of political swapping that promises to keep the Edo populace and the larger Nigerian public entertained for weeks, seemingly thawing the harshness of the coronavirus pandemic.

And so Adams Oshiomhole, who spent the better part of last year denying that he was interested in becoming the godfather of Edo politics, is currently the state's de-facto godfather. The ex labour leader, who rode to power twice in the face of a fading godfather, the late "Mr Fixer", Chief Tony Anenih of the PDP, and announced to whoever cared to listen that he had

banished godfatherism from Edo State, had deployed a retinue of disgruntled former aides of Obaseki in a media war against the University of Ibadan classics graduate for over two years, and is now prepping himself up for a larger than life role in the state's politics.

Prior to the sacking of the Oshiomhole-led NWC of the APC, this writer had noted that Oshiomhole's decision to copy from Tinubu's playbook had its own attendant risks. This writer then posed the following questions: "Does Oshiomhole for instance have access to Tinubu's kind of financial war chest? Does he have Tinubu's kind of hold on the media and can he combine national politics with state politics and win both?"

Events since then have demonstrated the limitations of Oshiomhole's political vision and confirmed the writer's position. He and his team have been sacked in a strategic purge by President Muhammadu Buhari, and his APC chairmanship days are over. In going after Obaseki, Oshiomhole apparently failed to note the desperation by the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) wing of the APC to clip the wings of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) elements in the party following the exit of the PDP wing ahead of the controversial 2019 general election, with a view to presenting the party's candidate for the 2023 elections. It will be recalled that APC was former through a tripod of ACN, CPC and rebel PDP members, and had been immediately mired in crisis when the PDP element, having conceded the presidency to the CPC wing and the vice presidency to the ACN wing of the party, insisted on, and succeeded in producing the Senate Presidency via Kwara tactician, Dr. Bukola Saraki. Saraki spent his entire Senate Presidency battling coups by the Buhari-led CPC with taxit support of some ACN elements.

Part of Tinubu's power derives from the fact that he has never left the Lagos landscape to call the shots in Abuja, and now that Oshiomhole has been forced to return home to Edo, he will be a wounded lion on two fronts (Obaseki and APC), torn between teaching Obaseki the political lesson of his life and working for a party that has already disgraced him and all pro-Tinubu elements. Although both Oshiomhole and Tinubu have been playing it cool, trying to rationalize their fall and reaffirming their support for Buhari, feelers from the political grapevine indicate that there are underground moves behind the scenes to ensure that the Tinubu camp does not lose out in 2023. It is therefore only a matter of time before a new political coalition surfaces and the APC takes on a more fragmented, CPC outlook even if an ex-Tinubu protege is made the new substantive chairman of the party to keep up appearances. It seems clear that, whatever the results, Oshiomhole's latest endeavour is bound to leave many casualties its wake.

hold on the public purse. Since 1999, Nigerians have been treated to drama between godfathers and their proteges. There was the interesting case between Obasanjo and Yar'Adua, who on assuming office in 2007 reversed most of the Otta farmer's policies. The succeeding era saw Obasanjo and Goodluck Jonathan exchanging public brickbats, with Obasanjo accusing Jonathan of training snipers abroad with a view to wiping out his political adversaries from the face of the Earth.

At the state level, the bitter battle between Governor Rashidi Ladoja and his godfather, Lamidi Adedibu, proponent of amala and gbegiri politics and Oyo State political warlord, resulted in the invasion of the state House of Assembly by thugs, with numerous casualties. In Enugu State, Sullivan Chime succeeded Chimaroke Nnamani only to fight him to a standstill. Regardless of the publicly advertised reasons for the feuds though, issues of control of the public till and access to power and privileges are always implicated. Nearly all of the country's godfathers have been credibly accused of financial crimes and, with a few exceptions, most have serious questions surrounding their academic qualifications, their age and their family life.

The Edo case

On Monday, June 21, Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu, the candidate backed by Adams Oshiomhole, ex-National Chairman of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), clinched the party's ticket for the forthcoming governorship election in Edo State. In a predictably one-



# CHRISTIAN SINGLES CONNECTION

## ATTENTION: CHRISTIAN SINGLES

Out of every two marriages, one ends up in divorce today before they reach their second anniversary. Statistics have concluded that spouses that did premarital counseling in a Christ-centered therapeutic clinic have a more stable-happy marriage. More and more single parents are in the society today than what have ever been in the past decades.

Unfortunately, survey revealed that one out of five marriages among Christian ministers also end up in divorce before the end of their fifth anniversary. Secularism and pluralism have taken over the spiritual health of many churches.

As part of the goal of this publication, we shall be publishing singles that are looking for mates in Rulers' World monthly publications. Your needs will be published on our website. If you are 21 years old and above and you are looking for a Christian mate, if you want a happy marital life, forward you picture and the following particulars to us:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age or Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Educational level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Church/Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Racial/Ethnic Background: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hobby: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please state briefly the type of personality you would like as a spouse stating the following:  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country(ies) of origin interested in: \_\_\_\_\_  
Racial/Ethnic Background: \_\_\_\_\_  
Career or occupation of interest to you: \_\_\_\_\_  
State other interest briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

Some psychological inventory shall be used in doing this matching. Since this is a Christian connective service, it shall be biblically Christ-centered. Same sex connection is not welcome and unacceptable. We uphold the biblical teaching that homosexuality is abomination in the sight of the living God (Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:26 – 32). We forbid premarital sex because it is termed to be a sin of fornication in the sight of God (Hebrew 13:14).

Forward all information to:  
The Christian Singles Connection  
Rulers' World Communications Inc.  
P.O Box 467, Thiells, N.Y 10984, United States of America

The above information may be  
attached with a copy of your picture and sent to  
contact@rulersworld.com  
**www.afrochristiansconnect.com**

Note that the confidentiality of your information is guaranteed.  
You are at liberty to reveal your information to the mate of your choice.

## AVIATION

### Air travel won't return to pre-crisis levels until 2023, IATA chief warns

The trade group's chief, Alexandre de Juniac, said that demand for air travel had dropped more than 90 per cent in Europe and the U.S. since the start of the pandemic.

He warned that recovery will be even slower if lockdowns and travel restrictions are extended.

The impact on air travel from the coronavirus will be felt for many years to come, according to the International Air Transport Association, which estimates that passenger traffic won't rebound to pre-crisis levels until at least 2023.

The trade association for the world's airlines said that demand for air travel had dropped more than 90% in Europe and the U.S. since the start of the pandemic, and warned that recovery will be even slower if lockdowns and travel restrictions are extended.

"We are asking governments to have a phased approach to restart the industry and to fly again," Alexandre de Juniac, the IATA's director general and CEO, told CNBC's "Squawk Box Europe" on Thursday. De Juniac is hopeful that some flying will resume by the summer.

"We are aiming at reopening and boosting the domestic market by end of the second quarter, and opening the regional or continental markets — such as Europe, North America or Asia-Pacific — by the third quarter, and intercontinental in the fall," he said.

"So for summer we hope that you will see flights within Europe coming back, with I hope interesting prices and very safe processes of control."

The European Union's external borders remain closed to non-EU nationals until mid-June. The European Commission has recommended a phased approach for its member states to reopen borders that would start with countries with low levels of coronavirus infections.

Budget carrier Wizz Air will restart routes from London's Luton Airport starting June 16, Lufthansa is planning service expansion in June and IAG will resume some flights in July, among others.

#### Mandatory quarantine 'useless'

But any hopes for a boost to the industry with some resumed travel will be dashed if governments institute mandatory 14-day quarantine periods for travelers upon arrival, de Juniac warned.

"We are advocating with governments not to implement quarantine measures that will retain people for two weeks that will arrive anywhere," he said.

"We think that it is useless provided we have implemented the health and sanitary controls that we are discussing with governments. It is absolutely key for the tourist industry which is so important for so many countries in Europe."

Scores of countries including Australia, New Zealand, China, Spain and potentially the U.K. are requiring international travelers to quarantine for two weeks upon arrival, with varying degrees of enforcement: in Australia, arrivals are escorted to a hotel where they must remain for 14 days, while in other countries they are

expected to "self-quarantine" at home. Hong Kong issued state-monitored tracking bracelets that arrivals must wear to ensure they do not leave their area of quarantine. Such policies will no doubt deter many people from wanting to travel.

De Juniac believes quarantine periods are simply not necessary as long as airlines and airports uphold stringent sanitation and monitoring practices.

"Is it possible to have an aircraft full and without risk of contamination? Our answer is yes," de Juniac said, "provided we implement control and sanitary processes for passengers just before the flight by asking for temperature control, by the obligation to wear a mask, by cleaning the aircraft properly and disinfecting properly, by limiting the distribution of food to prepackaged food, by limiting cabin luggage to one luggage to avoid disembarking and embarking process to be too overcrowded."



Alexandre de Juniac





COVID-19,  
scepticism and need for caution

**31** | CBN governor confirms exchange  
rate unification plans  
Says unification will be around NAFEX rate.

**39** | *Spontaneous*  
**STEPHEN KESHI**  
**The Last Kick Hurrah**

**41** | **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SPORTS**  
Gainers and Losers.

**29** | Benin Republic makes incentive provisions  
for tourism stakeholders to ease  
COVID-19 impact

**26** | **CREATIVE** source of my fashion sense

**17** | Cross River: How Speaker Eteng Williams  
redefines legislative narrative  
in one year

**18** | **LAGOS REITERATES COMMITMENT**  
**TO BOOST ENTERTAINMENT, TOURISM**

**32** | Impact of Covid-19  
on Nigeria  
Manufacturing Sector

**28** | Just make it simple  
with mules, sneakers expression