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A NEW NIGERIA IS COMING

BIDiENT

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WHY OBI WILL WIN IN 2023

Story on PG 2,&3



2023 ELECTIONS:

Obi Has United Nigerians, Home And Abroad: Dr. Yunusa Tanko

- Ethnic Candidates Not God For Nigerian Politics: ADP Presidential Candidate
- Nigerians Want A President Who Will Reinvent Nigeria: Dr. Neliaku

BY: SAM GBEKE

Campaigns for the most exalted office in the country has started and political parties are already working hard to produce the next Nigerian president after president Muhammadu Buhari come 2023.

Most Nigerians are of the opinion that they should try a more competent hand come 2023, because other than one of the leading candidates have been tried before now.

The Nigeria youth population is yearning for the candidate of the Labour Party (LP), and former governor of Anambra state Peter Obi.

The spokesperson of the Peter Obi/Ahmed Dati Campaign Council, Dr. Yunusa Tanko says Obi has united Nigerians at home and abroad and will change Nigeria from a total consumption nation to a production nation.

Tanko stated this in a telephone interview where he said Obi's changes of winning the 2023 presidential election is very high.

"We have a very bright chance because we are a people driven campaign, the people are the ones driving this campaign and the people are the ones saying they want Peter Obi to drive them to the new destination and a new Nigeria. To take back their country from those who have put them in the charcoals of poverty and unacceptable situation.

"Nigeria moving from a consumption nation to a production country: very serious and easy to do", he said

According to him, "Considering the fact that a lot of people are beginning to discover the country has been stolen to the point of stupor, and discovering the theft that is enough to take care of the Nigerian people and the ASUU strike. The theft that is taking place on the south south part of the country is enough to increase the



Peter Obi at Harvard

"So, his candidature has been able to unite Nigerians outside the country; giving them hope that Nigeria will be better as they are all determined to come back home and build a new nation under the presidency of Peter Obi.

country's GDP and make Nigeria a better place to live. Also the presidential candidate have been able to identify at the northern part of this country will be the new haven of fund raising and changing Nigeria from consumption to production.

"In his explanations on how Obi hopes to turn Nigeria from a consumption nation to a production nation he said,

"This he has been able to articulate by saying that we will transform agricultural sector and the vast land into productive use. Which has already been agreed upon and we are going to have a major support from the mobilisation and the strength of the northern youths; moving them into our farms with dignity and respect and they will end up more productive and it will transform our country

from a consumption nation to a production nation."

When asked the impact of Obi's traveling on his chances of winning the presidential election and the Nigerian economy should he emerge president? He said, "You will agree with me that Nigerians in diaspora have been contributing immensely to the economic development of Nigeria. Every year they billions of dollars to the country and I want to make an impression that these young boys and girls did not leave this country on their personal volition. They left because the country is badly run, so go outside the country to build their future. And you will agree with me also that we have them there; we have intellectuals, technocrats and other professionals who would have added value to Nigeria but they are all scattered around the world. There have been

a lot of agitations from Nigerians in the diaspora but since Peter Obi emerged the candidate of the Labour Party have you heard any agitation coming from outside the country? Definitely no, what you hear is full support.

"So, his candidature has been able to unite Nigerians outside the country; giving them hope that Nigeria will be better as they are all determined to come back home and build a new nation under the presidency of Peter Obi. That is the major reason Peter Obi outside the country has mobilising, galvanising and uniting Nigerians. Which he has successfully done. Nigerians should be grateful that Peter Obi has been able to set the minds of Nigerians in diaspora home." He emphasised

On the performance so far of the

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SDP Chieftains Worried Over State of Nation

SAM GBEKE-ABUJA

Chief Olu Falae and other chieftains of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) such as former Minister of Education, Prof. Tunde Adeniran, and the National Chairman of the SDP, have all called to question the poor state of the nation's affairs, especially the economy and insecurity. They spoke in Abuja at the official opening of the party's new Secretariat. Falae, a former national chairman of the party spoke with emphasis on the insecurity that has engulfed the entire country unlike in the past. He recalled his kidnap experience at the age of 77 at his farm, saying that all hands must be on deck to rescue the country. He said: "Nigeria today is in crisis. And you cannot move from one town today to another without the fear of being kidnapped. "I, myself was kidnapped for four days, seven years ago in my farm. When I was a child, I travelled from Akure to attend school by myself. No kidnapper, no problem. "At 77 years old, I was kidnapped. That tells you the dramatic decline in Nigeria. Only a party properly structured can change it. Not this so called big parties. "When I say they are not parties, they say they control the federal government, state governments. Controlling government does not define a party." Prof. Adeniran who succeeded Falae the national chairman of the SDP after the 2019 elections, expressed worry over what he called, "cynical manipulation of the political process." Adeniran said Nigeria can only



Chief Olu Falae

work through a liberated ideology backed by a workable legal status. "Democracy can only be consolidated in Nigeria through a liberated ideology that serves as a guide to action and supporting structures especially with a workable legal system. "This is the time to confront the provocative question on democracy on our fatherland. "I remain deeply concern about the prevailing political climate. The cynical manipulation of the political process which

has become more worrisome. "Widespread insecurity, the state of poverty in our fatherland and the multiple challenges requires our efforts of people from all walks of life to fix it," he said." The National Chairman of the party Shehu Gabam, while speaking said the SDP would rescue Nigeria from the brink of collapse, if elected come 2023. "Administratively, we are prepared. In terms of campaign we are prepared. We have all the arsenal to transverse Nigeria.

We know this country, I have visited all the states in Nigeria. "We have the determination, we have the energy and we are not likely to be deterred or intimidated by anybody. "I am very happy that our presidential candidate is a courageous person. He is hardworking and we will add our strength and value from the presidential, governorship and state houses of assembly to win the election," he added.

But the Nigerian youths have realized that over the years, they were being set up against their own brothers and sisters with ethnic and religious balderdash and they are now very determined to take back their country. The APC's attempt to ridicule Christians with a Sunday morning rally will not work. Most Nigerians of all religious backgrounds have their eyes firmly on the ball. They will vote for detribalized Nigerians who have the competence, integrity & capacity and who are physically & mentally healthy to turn their country around positively. They see those qualities in the Labour Party duo of HE Peter Obi and Senator Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed. And they have long made up their minds.

2023: Peter Obi Is A Man To Watch Out For

BY DANJUMA LAMIDO

In this nation, it is improbable that a presidential candidate who is not supported by one of the two major political parties will be a contender. That person won't even amass a significant amount of support.

The few people who may surround such a person are probably their family members, close friends, and others who have been paid to do so.

On the other hand, it appears that things are changing as we approach the elections in 2023, which are not too far away.

Labour Party's Presidential candidate, Mr. Peter Obi seems to be changing the paradigm and bringing a new wave into the Nigerian political arena. His cause is fast gathering momentum.

Obi had first declared his intention to vie for the highest political office in the country under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party. But Obi, in what I call a strategic political calculation quickly resigned from the PDP and joined Labour Party to pursue his ambition, going ahead to clinch the party's Presidential Ticket. That, I consider a smart move.

Obi knew he stood no chance in the PDP, since his kind of politics does not reckon with that of the party. If you must win the Presidential ticket of the PDP, you must be ready to get involved in the "dollar play," and it is obvious Obi wasn't in for such. Hence he looked for another platform to pursue his ambition.

It is evident that Obi's party, Labour, does not have the required structure or even finance to wrestle the Presidential seat with the big wigs, but Obi's persona has since



elevated and brought upon the party a good number of supporters and volunteers which I believe the party has never had since its formation.

Obi's supporters have completely taken over the social media space. I know elections won't be conducted on social media anyway. But even out of social media, a good number

of Nigerians are also routing for him. They cut across young and old people from different ethnic and religious divides. Obi's supporters and volunteers are numerous.

It's true that not all Obi's supporters are registered voters. While some

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Hired Crowd or not, APC should exercise some Sensitivity

BY TAI EMEKA OBASI

This election will not be based on religion. That is one of the very strong messages HE Peter Obi continues to drum in as countdown to the February 25 D-Day continues. Like my very respected principal, I am not interested in making religion an issue in this campaign. But shouldn't a party with a Muslim-Muslim ticket be sensitive enough to avoid a rally on Sunday morning?

The more progressive Nigerians avoid divisive issues of tribe and religion in this campaign, the more the old order brigade continue to force them in to serve as a pivot point. And the reason is quite obvious. They are seeing a truly united Nigeria evolving through the Obi-Datti Movement; a movement that will force them aside. And they're fighting back, holding at straws with just their flailing fingernails. Ethnic and Religious politics they used to divide an otherwise great people who love one other across boundaries remain their only known route to survival.

But the Nigerian youths have realized that over the years, they were being set up against their own brothers and sisters with ethnic and religious balderdash and they are now very determined to take back their country. The APC's attempt to ridicule Christians with a Sunday morning rally will not work. Most Nigerians of all religious backgrounds have their eyes firmly on the ball. They will vote for detribalized Nigerians who have the competence, integrity & capacity and who are physically & mentally healthy to turn their country around positively. They see those qualities in the Labour Party duo of HE Peter Obi and Senator Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed. And they have long made up their minds.



#ObiDattiIsTheOnlyWay.

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Pantami Mulls Legislation to Protect Data

SAM GBEKE - ABUJA

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Pantami says Nigeria needs a principal law to protect its generated data.

Pantami spoke at a one-day stakeholders workshop in Abuja organised by the Nigerian Data Protection Bureau (NDPB) with support from the Nigerian Identify for Development (ID4D), to gather contributions from stakeholders before the proposed data protection bill is sent to the executive for onward delivery to the National Assembly as an executive bill.

“The data being generated today is mind boggling, and because of the huge data being generated, we must have a legislation in place to ensure that there is confidentiality and privacy of that data so that the data will not be abused.”

Speaking further he said, “In order to ensure confidentiality, privacy and security of our citizens data, we commenced the process of having a principal legislation in Nigeria Data Protection law.”

“The quantity of data generated in Nigeria in the last three years increased by 202 percent.”

Pantami said the process was initially coordinated by NIMC but President Muhammadu Buhari later approved a full blown agency, the NDPB.

He explained that the first industrial revolution was about data generation. He said citizens submit their data to government or private institutions, some countries commercialise data and that is why the Nigerian government is we are very proactive in order to



Dr. Isa Pantami

ensure that there is no vacuum.

In addition, he said relevant government bodies needed to protect citizens' data, and that was the reason why they put in place a regulatory framework pending when a data protection law will be enacted.

“We came up with the Nigeria Data Protection regulation and relying on our regulatory powers, immediately commenced enforcement because a subsidiary legislation is considered a law up to the Supreme Court. The reason for having it is to ensure that there is no vacuum.”

“The 1999 Constitution specifically states that citizens correspondences and communication must be private and confidential and the Section 37 of the constitution, data protection was clearly mentioned except under the Cyber Crime 2015 where there is a provision of lawful intercept where security agencies establish a prima facie case before intercepting

certain communication.

“It is a criminal offense to access data in Nigeria without permission”, he added.

Chairman, Senate committee on ICT and Cybersecurity, Yakubu Useni, in his goodwill message said:

“This bill is for all of us. It has been modeled skeletally and we are here to add flesh to it, to make it a fully fledged bureau. Without legislation backing it, it can't function very well. We should all make our contributions when it is uploaded on the website.”

The Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB), Vincent Olatunji, for his part, stated:

“For us in the digital economy family and indeed in Nigeria in the sense that we are laying another foundation for digital economy in Nigeria. Everything

we do in digital economy is about identity and this identity must be protected and safeguarded.”

He advised stakeholders to go to the agency's website and make their contributions to the draft before it is submitted to the executive.

“With all the inputs we have gotten from the stakeholders we got a draft from the consultant and at the end of today we will update it and upload it on our website and will leave it there for one week for stakeholders to make further input before it goes to the National Assembly as an executive bill.”

The Coordinator of NID4D Project, Solomon Odole, in an address earlier, explained that the process of protecting data in Nigeria started in 2019 with the National Data Protection Regulation as a subsidiary legislation enacted based on the provision of the NITDA Act 2007.

parliament through a resolution, adopted and communicated same to the NSCDC headquarters.

He said “this ugly precedence has become a frequent occurrence in the NSCDC and currently, indigenes of other states are being employed, promoted and allocated in the place of the quota for Rivers State indigenes.”

Moving the motion, Abiante further expressed worries about Nigeria's current utilization of the same vertical and horizontal revenue allocation formula and allocation principles.

“ Instituted during a military regime three decades ago in

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Peter Obi's Facts

1. Peter Obi built ANSU Teaching hospital Awka.
2. Peter Obi built ANSU Igbariam campus.
3. Peter Obi built Head bridge to Umuaya Expressway, expanding it to 10 lanes
4. Peter Obi built Agulu Lake Hotel 4 a Four Star resort
5. Peter Obi paid off 32b gratuities owed since military era.
6. Peter Obi built Nkpor fly over.
7. Peter Obi built Obosi Flyover (Julius Berger using it for their bypass now to construct 2nd Niger bridge)
8. Peter Obi bought over 20000 vehicles from Innoson and paid cash. He gave the vehicles to secondary schools, traditional rulers and vigilante groups.
9. Peter Obi dualized Zik Avenue to Agu-Awka road with RCC. Construction company
10. Peter Obi installed the first public dialysis machine in Anambra state at General Hospital Onitsha.
11. Peter Obi built Nigeria Stock Exchange at Onitsha
12. Peter Obi procured over 1m computers for all secondary schools in ANS.
13. Peter Obi gave all first class graduates from Anambra State, 1m naira grant each
14. Peter Obi paid anybody from Anambra above 80 years of age 10k per month, till he left office.
15. Peter Obi built over 800 km of rural and urban roads including Aguleri to Adani Enugu road.
16. Peter Obi rehabilitated and gave all secondary schools in Anambra a giant 50kva generator each, still in use till today.
17. He gave all Mission secondary schools 100m each naira, as grant.
18. Peter Obi attracted SAB Miller Brewery to Onitsha. This Brewery is giving Nigeria Brewery a run for their money till date with Hero and other brands of beer, malt etc
19. Peter Obi left over 75b naira in state coffers while handing over to his successor in March 2014.
20. Peter Obi built the first Anambra state Secratariat named after Jerome Udorji in Awka.
21. Peter Obi bought over 10 Armoured Personnel Carriers for security agencies in ANS.
22. Peter Obi was impeached and removed from office illegally twice, yet he was able to achieve all these and much more.

Use Nigerian Architects For Sensitive Security Buildings: NIA Tells Government

SAM GBEKE - ABUJA

The Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) has advised governments at both federal and state to stop using foreign architects to design sensitive security buildings.

The First Vice President of the institute and chairman ARCHIBUILT Exposition 2022 committee, Mobilaji Adeniyi gave the advise on Wednesday at the ongoing ARCHIBUILT Exposition 2022 taking place in Abuja from 5-7 of October.

Adeniyi said government should stop giving the design of sensitive security buildings to foreign architects rather they should be given to Nigerian professionals

She said, “though govt is patronising Nigerian architects and local building materials, but they have to do more. Because they now have the local content policy which means govt should be patronising its professionals.

“Before that we have been advocating; we have we have a lot of incursion if foreign professionals on our turf, many of our iconic buildings in Nigeria are designed by expertes engineers which ought not to be so.” She added

She called on the government to open up the architectural sector for competition to allow Nigerian professionals to compete with the foreign professionals who are brought in to design major and iconic buildings. “If govt is putting so much in training professionals; it should be using its professionals. We looking forward to competitions where major and iconic buildings will be thrown open to the Nigerian architects to show our expertise. So we don't always have to bring in foreign architects. Particularly buildings that have sensitive security issues; we make sure that it's our own professionals that are designing them.”

The president of NIA, Enyi Ben-Eboh, said the exhibition intended to showcase local building materials.

“We get together manufacturers, suppliers, distributors of building materials into one space and the interaction with other stakeholders. We also use it to promote local manufacturers with the state of the economy we tend to encourage them with a lot of building components.

“We keep talking about housing



Mobilaji Adeniyi

stock and deficit, if we don't bring down cost of materials we can't bring down deficit that is required to put up these buildings. It is an avenue for manufacturers to come up with local alternatives”

The Vice Chancellor of Bingham University Karu, Abuja, Prof. Williams Qurix, said they have developed a new architectural curriculum that will introduce

architectural entrepreneur.

“Globally and indeed as it concerns Africa, entrepreneurship as a discipline is something we are emphasising, the reason is that it has the key to industrial development and by implication national development so the curriculum is being engineered to be such that entrepreneurship has the most important place.

“Up until now, we were teaching entrepreneurship generally and this apply to all disciplines but the new curriculum by NUC has introduced discipline entrepreneurship course which address peculiarities of our disciplines and prepare our architect “archiepreneurs”, he said.

Prof. Cordelia Osasona, of the Obafemi Awolowo University,

in her lecture advised Nigerian architects to imbibe the culture of traditional architecture in their designs for peculiarity.

“Our Architects must develop the culture of involving traditional architecture in their designs to show our peculiarity.”

Obi Has United Nigerians, Home And Abroad

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Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) particularly regarding the distribution of permanent voters cards(PVCs) he urged the electoral body to ensure it provides additional 12m Nigerian voters with their PVCs and charged Nigerians to call on INEC do it before the election in other not to disenfranchise them.



“As far as I am concerned, all the mechanisms that INEC has put in place from the Ondo, Ekiti elections look a bit okay. But with regards to the PVCs; I just launched a demand for your PVC campaign on my Twitter account. That every Nigerian has the right to be given their PVCs before the election. Let me be clear; 12m Nigerians registered to add to the 83m registered voters now we have 96m registered voters, out of those 12m voters majority are between the age of 18-35, which Peter Obi has been able to mobilise to come out and register.

“It is our own presumption that an attempt is being made to deny that particular age group of eight million from getting their PVCs thereby affecting our votes. But we are saying it is not only our votes but the whole of votes of Nigeria are being undermined. Therefore, we all as Nigerians should come out enmas and demand that INEC release those PVCs on time PVCs and make sure that anybody will not be disenfranchised from voting the candidate of his or her choice. INEC should know that the future of this country depends on a free, credible and fair election on which the Nigerian.”

The presidential candidate of the Action Democratic Party (ADP), Yabagi Yusuf Sani, has accused most of the leading presidential candidates of being ethnic

The campaigns have started and because this time around INEC

put on our neck that every four years we come together to do a jamboree (elections) that produces some people who get there. And the reality is that they get eating by the system because the problem from what I now see is not necessary in terms of how many electrons we are going to have

“We have been going through circles since 1999 because we have not been able to advance critical structures in government; if you cannot have good governance, you cannot have development and that is why it will appear that if the nation takes one step forward and ten or twenty steps backward.

“Not until we sit down and discuss Nigerian and begin to think of how to reinvent Nigeria to make our nation to be prepared leadership and development we will continue to have problems, because we have internal trappings, internal colluding structures that we are imbedded in our system.”

and even other staff and the young ones in INEC are willing to make Nigeria to have good election.

I believe INEC will do a good job because from my interactions with INEC and what they have done and shown so far.

When it comes to PVCs distribution it's not the sole responsibility of INEC one; we as Nigerians should perform our civic duty by going to pick up our PVCs from wherever we registered because INEC cannot bring it to us beyond that point.

The Director Group of 19 (G19), and campaign Director for the Prof. Jerry Gana, 2019, presidential campaign Dr. Ike Neliaku in this interview said Nigeria needs a leader that can reinvent Nigeria because the Nigeria is programmed; it's programmed not to work.

Neliaku said Nigeria is just going round circle without making any progress.

“I feel that we are going circle and in circles because we have rings

down and has not allowed him to perform.

“Tafawa Balewa and Awolowo saw these things years ago.” He added He said he doesn't believe that any of the current presidential candidates can change the system.

“I don't believe that there is any hope to be desired from the people that you have mentioned. I have a fair idea of who they are, what they represent and I believe it is that whole thing again because it is like running an Olympic game every four years. As a matter of fact a politician told me (elections) is their own Olympic. And every four years when they come, what they make they keep for the next Olympic (election).

“They have come for their Olympic; they will steal mandates and leave the people worse that they met them.”

According to him, “it is not about competence per say; it shows that we have a terrible system and we need to bend backwards and face the challenges of our system then we will be in a position to have governance that can work. If you look at a situation where in the last 62 years we have been producing leaders and I can't imagine anybody who would desire to lead a country like Nigeria and then intends to fail, no the reality is that they all desire to succeed.”

On the youths clamour for Peter Obi, he noted that it may not be the solution but a process towards the solution.

“What Peter Obi and the young people are doing is part of the process but I don't think it's the ultimate solution because I had an idea of how Yar,Adua failed. It was Yard'Adua who looked at his people in the face and said after you have done eight years as a Director or Permanent secretary you have to go.”

politics or his past record in public office and style of governance?

As governor of Anambra State, it is a known fact that Obi managed the state's resources judiciously and paid more attention to things of value, like education. It is also said that he handed over 75billion naira to his successor, while vacating office after his tenure as governor.

For me, one thing I have seen in him is sincerity. Obi is sincere, even when he speaks, you see it in his words. So far, he is the only aspirant who I feel has better knowledge of reviving the economy through local production and one who will prioritize education. Under Obi, maybe our universities will no longer

go on strike. The issues between Federal Government and ASUU may also be a thing of the past.

Personally, I like Obi. I like his politics. I like his person. I like the fact that he doesn't try to be like other politicians just to win the people over. He tells you he doesn't share money and he doesn't. Love him or hate him, it doesn't change him. He is just himself.

I am well aware of the fact that Peter Obi's fan base is still expanding. Every day, more and more people board his ship. However, he still has work to do. The majority of Obi's supporters are situated in urban areas outside of the East, where he is most likely to enjoy



Danjuma Lamido writes from Abuja



Continued from page 4

1992 when 6 States and 185 Local Government Areas were created and Nigeria's population rose from 88 million to over 200 million, and the current national clamour for restructuring, devolution of powers and true federalism amid the obvious changing realities of insecurity and socio-economic hardships across the country contrary to the above mentioned statutory provisions including Section 162(2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

“Also worried that RMAFC's new proposal to the President in April 2022 for a revenue allocation formula is for vertical revenue allocation alone and is alleged to have utilized the over thirty (30) years old allocation principles and recent data that is inaccurate and unverified with no consideration being made at the moment for the more contentious horizontal allocation formula which determines the actual impact on the lives of Nigerians in the federating units.

The recruitment which is also alleged to currently being implemented with inaccurate and unverified data from which flawed indices are computed and utilized by the Accountant General for revenue disbursement other allegations are that the actual indices utilized by the Accountant General for revenue disbursement to the states are sometimes at variance with those provided by RMAFC because of inducement from the states.

“Also aware that the last time RMAFC claimed to have undertaken a comprehensive review of the vertical and horizontal revenue allocation formula which entailed collection and verification of data from the 36 States and 774 Local Government Areas of the federation was in

2012, which exercise was fraught with speculations about the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the exercise considering allegations that several states were not visited at all because of the lack of RMAFC's capacity to do so. Consequently, there are doubts about the comprehensiveness of the recent exercise embarked upon by RMAFC in 2021 (almost 10 years later) that culminated in the submission of the new revenue allocation formula proposal to the President in April, 2022.

The House further expressed concerns that the inability of RMAFC and the Presidency to provide a new and acceptable vertical and horizontal revenue allocation formula for adoption and enactment by the National Assembly at the intervals envisioned by the constitution appears to have resulted in the administration of the Federation Account by the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF), RMAFC and other Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) members in breach of statutory provisions of Section 162(3) (4)(5) and (7) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which implies that infractions have been committed and might require appropriate sanctions.

“Also concerned about allegations that certain states unduly influence RMAFC and the Accountant General of the Federation to their advantage in the provision and utilization of data and computation of indices and the utilization of indices for revenue disbursement respectively and the agitation by several states in the country about being shortchanged in revenue allocation considering the present realities in their communities and the significant deduction from remittances to the Federation Account by certain agencies of the Federal

Government (which RMAFC has statutory power to obtain related information from) under the guise of “cost of the collection” which does not appear to be statutory or properly monitored and determined by RMAFC and the National Assembly.

The house therefore in its investigation will establish the indices utilized by the Accountant General of the Federation for revenue disbursement to the 36 states and 774 Local Government Areas of the federation from 2012 to 2021 including details of the actual amounts disbursed to each state for this period

The actual amounts disbursed to the 36 states and 774 Local Government Areas of the federation from 2012 to 2021 from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Federal Ministry of Finance;

Allocation principles utilized by RMAFC in the proposal of new vertical allocation formula and consider efficacy and suitability of same in line with current and changing realities and the proposed principles for a new horizontal allocation formula;

Total remittance to the federation account by related agencies of the Federal Government from 2012 to 2021, the “cost of the collection” deducted for the entire period, statutory backing for same and utilization from 2012 to 2021;

The violation or otherwise by the Federal Ministry of Finance, CBN and other members of the FAAC in the administration of the federation account considering provisions of Section 162(3)(4)(5) and (7) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and report back within 8 weeks for further legislative action.

Plan International To Empower 15M Nigerian Girls in Five Years



BY SAM GBEKE

Non-governmental organisation, The Plan International (PI) has launched a One billion dollar global strategy fund to empower about 15M girls in Nigeria the year 2027.

Country Director of PI, Charles Usie, disclosed this in Abuja at the Global Strategy Launch 2022-2027, with the theme 'Girls Standing Strong to Make Global Change'.

Among the targeted 200 million females worldwide, 15 million Nigerians will benefit according to Usie, who noted that the goal was to give the girls the confidence to address their problems.

In his words, “Nigeria is one of our biggest country programmes worldwide. Now, in the previous strategy, we had a target of 100 million girls and women. From that target, Nigeria was responsible for reaching 10 million, which is 10% of the global target. In this new strategy, starting from 2022 to 2027, the target is likely to get as much as 10 or 15 million girls for Nigeria for the next five years.

“So the new strategy brings a new focus to girls and young people in many folds. By this we mean we want, in the next five years, to build that strength in a movement of young people and girls to tackle the issues that young people face particularly young girls. We are an organization that has made the issues of young girls and our primary objective. So in Nigeria, what strategy will help us to these: one; articulate what exactly are we doing? In the area of education, health care, livelihoods, protection? What's on sanitation? What are we

going to do for young girls when it comes to all of these services? That's the first thing. The second question will be? Where will these girls be? What is the state of Nigeria and that is why we are doing this in conjunction with the Federal Minister Of Women Affairs”

According to the global chief executive officer of PI, Mr. Stephen Omollo, societies prosper and experience favorable and long-lasting effects when attention is paid to the rights of girls in the areas of politics, health, and education. He also noted that the plan was intended to address humanitarian issues as they affected women and children.

“We are looking at how to expand its reach and work with the partnership and grow investment to work with young people in Nigeria. We are here in Nigeria to launch this global strategy, which really pleases us as Plan International, working with partners, and in Nigeria to progress the issue and advance children's rights and equality for girls.

“We are here to discuss issues on how we can together, accompany the government of Nigeria, to say that we can address the humanitarian context in the country and address issues that impact on children.”

On her part, the Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, who was represented by the Director, of Child Development Department, Ali Madugu, assured the group that the ministry would continue to support efforts to advance the rights of girls and that a budget line for girls' education would be added going forward.

POLITICS

A NEW NIGERIA IS COMING



Failure at some point in your life is inevitable, but giving up is unforgivable.

— Joe Biden



INSIDE POLITICS

PDP MOCKS APC OVER NON-VALID CANDIDATES FOR 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS



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TRENDS AND PROSPECTS OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMY:



PG 11

Nigeria to heave a sigh of relief soon



BY FERDINAND OLISE-ABUJA

Over the years Nigeria has been robbed of her peace dignity, position in the sight of international communities.

In Nigeria's journey of twenty one years of democracy, Nigeria has not enjoyed to the fullest the dividends of its democracy, owing to corruption, marginalization of poor masses, excessively looting the economy without mercy.

They gather more than they can eat down to their next generation.

KICKER

Kicker texts comes here

This has widened the gap between the common man and the rich in Nigeria.

Also, political thuggery has over the years become order of election days.

The country has witnessed days when political desperados parade

themselves in deceitful manners to gain poor masses votes by pretending they have their interest at heart.

Some of the deceitful ways are seen when political desperados come down to the level of poor masses with selfish intent to either fry akara with them, or eat roasted corn with them on the street.

This is a display full of deceit, selfishness, and mundane thinking.

It is glaring how Mr Peter Obi has changed the narrative in the Nigeria's political terrain with his antecedents.

A new Nigeria would soon be birthed with the emergence of the next President of Nigeria come 2023, of which majority are clamouring for Peter Obi to emerge the next President and liberate the country from the shackles of political fraudsters, poverty, corruption, and recutate indigenous companies to boost the economy and raise its Gross Domestic Product, GDP.

Since the announcement of Mr Peter Obi as 2023 Presidential Candidate, and his antecedents known, there have been

Continues on page 5

Continued from page 4

overwhelming excitements, especially with the youth

There is also excitement by the youth, mixed with anger of hardship meted on them, hence their ardent support for Mr Obi being sustained by passionate commitment with strong hope in the future

Peter Obi is a movement heartily supported by millions of Nigerians, especially the youth.

There is a battle for the soul of Nigeria to be redeemed, as millions of Nigerian youths are determined to save their country from consistent suffering and hardship meted on them in past administrations.

Within few months, the Obi story has become a folklore, rewriting the awkward narrative in Nigeria's political terrain.

This is historical and would be more historical come 2023 when the new Nigeria would be birthed.

Not only in Nigeria that the fragrance of Mr Peter Obi is felt, but in the diaspora as Nigerians in the diaspora are eagerly and earnestly waiting to have their diaspora voting put in place. They drum support for Peter Obi ceaselessly.

Come to think of it, is Mr Obi perfect?

No human being is perfect but is he different in his political moves and administration? Yes he is different and outstanding, and that sets him far above his contemporaries.

How could have youth who are finding it difficult to feed comfortably due to lack of finances, follow a man who said he doesn't give "shishi" and yet drum harder support for him?

It is simply glaring that Mr Peter Obi is a Man with vision and purpose. The youth are smart to see and recognise the beam of hope with Obi and follow him ardently.

This followership is seen on Nigerian streets recently during campaign match for Obi, with hope seen on the faces of millions of Nigerian youths who have nicknames themselves "Obidents".

This is a hope of a new beginning that will erode youths sufferings, marginalisation, poverty, economic hardship, negligence of the economy, and massive corruption.

The most striking thing is that, for the youth, it does not matter if the Big Brother Naija the TV reality show which activates the interest of millions of youths in Nigeria, was ongoing or about to end.

The youth are convinced that they have something more important to channel their time and energy to, which is a rally of hope and renaissance.

It is heartwarming that the much talked about in Nigeria's political terrain today is Peter Obi. For many, there is something divine about Mr Obi, which has brought new awakening in Nigeria. Some are convinced that the Hand of GOD is on him.

Everyone is awakened to the new political development in Nigeria. Such support, enthusiasm and hope have not been seen before in Nigeria.

It is obvious that people are currently steering towards supporting Obi in unison and peace. Obi has become a unifying factor in Nigeria's politics today, setting the pace and changing the narrative.

Rally for Obi has unified many Nigerians especially the youth. This unity is seen in the heavy turn outs of Nigerians in his support.

However, given the nature of Nigeria's socio-political atmosphere over time, it was unimaginable that millions of youths with different backgrounds would be so united by a single consciousness geared towards the emergence of a new country, brought to light by Peter Obi.

This unity couples with angry response to the many years of ruin carefully and primitively orchestrated by bad governments over the years.

Youths who have over the years suffered same pattern of hardship and negligence now come under one body to move for a revival of the nation for the good of all.



Quality Legislation Will Enhance Clean Energy - Hadejia

BY CHIAMAKA LIVINGSTONE



The Chairman, Senate Committee on Climate Change, Senator Hassan Hadejia, has assured that the Senate is ready at the legislative level, to support the move for healthy method of cooking in the country.

Senator Hadejia, who stated this in Abuja at the Nigeria Clean Cooking Forum 2022, stressed that concern for health of Women and Children especially in rural areas who face challenge of smoke from cooking, should be on the front burner.

On his part, the House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change, Honourable Ibrahim Bukar, who was represented by Okota Ayederi, called for collaborative efforts to encourage policies that would support clean cooking to save lives.

Speaking on energy in the humanitarian context, the National Energy Specialist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Yakaka Bukar-Maina, said access to energy is critical in conflict affected areas, especially affecting women and Children who go scouting for firewood far from their residence.

She added that over three million people are in need of energy but access was the challenge.

PDP Mocks APC over Non-Valid Candidates for 2023 General Elections



BY CHIAMAKA LIVINGSTONE

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has mocked the All Progressives Congress (APC) that it has failed to produce legally valid candidates for the 2023 general elections, a reason why it further mocked the party that it cannot participate in the elections.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja, the Spokesman of the party, Honourable Debo Ologunagba, said that Governor Mai Mala Buni, midwife the process leading to the emergence of the National Working Committee, NWC, of the party in violation of section 183 of the Constitution.

Consequently, Ologunagba advised the Presidential Candidate of APC, Bola Tinubu, not to bother wasting his time.

"The APC has become prostrate, handicapped and incapacitated to

campaign as it has no legally valid candidate for the 2023 general elections.

"Recall that the PDP had on February 22, 2022 and March 8, 2022 cautioned that with its foisting of an illegal and unconstitutional leadership, the APC has become 'legally defunct, structurally crippled and no longer a legitimate and valid vehicle to field candidates for elections under our laws.

"The PDP had cautioned all aspirants in the APC then not waste their resources, time and energy in the APC as they will be on a journey to nowhere. Today, the chicken has finally come home to roost.

"As you are aware, the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on Friday, September 30, 2022 nullified the candidature of Governor Gboyege Oyetola's in the July 16 2022 Osun State Governorship election on the ground that his nomination was invalid, having been conducted

The APC has become prostrate, handicapped and incapacitated to campaign as it has no legally valid candidate for the 2023 general elections.

and submitted by Gov. Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State, in violation of Section 183 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999

(as amended).

"For emphasis, Section 183 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) provides that a state governor 'shall not, during the period when he holds office, hold any other executive office or paid employment in any capacity whatsoever."

Ologunagba further said that the judgment reaffirmed the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the case of Jegede vs INEC that a violation of any provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) particularly as it relates to Section 183, portend grave consequences.

"The import of the September 30, 2022 judgment of the Federal High Court is that every decision made by Governor Mai Mala Buni as Chairman of the APC is null and void as you cannot place something on nothing and expect it to stand.

"Consequently, the Congresses

as well as the National Convention which produced APC Excos including the Sen. Adamu Abdullahi-led NWC is void.

"In effect the primaries and Presidential Convention conducted by the Sen. Adamu Abdullahi-led NWC, including the nomination of Sen. Ahmed Bola Tinubu as Presidential Candidate of the APC is invalid, null and void ab-initio.

"In any case, the APC candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu has nothing to offer being the architect of the woes, calamities and life-discounting experiences faced by Nigerians in the last seven and half years.

"Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu should go home and face the issues of inconsistencies in his educational qualifications, name, ancestry, age as well as corruption allegations" he said.

Trends and Prospects of Nigerias Economy:

"Trends and Prospects of Nigerias Economy: Broader implications For Africa's Development.

It is a pleasure be back to the grounds of this great citadel, Oxford University.

Today, I will speak briefly and then interact with you on "Trends and Prospects of Nigerias Economy: Broader implications For Africa's Development."

You will no doubt have heard the name Nigeria mentioned with various superlatives: the world's most populous Black Country with a population of over 217 million; Africa's largest economy, and a significant trading partner with the United Kingdom.

Nigeria, indeed is a large and prosperous nation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) ranks Nigeria the world's 27th largest economy in the world. That is significant, but here is the reality.

Nigeria is also a challenged country. In February 2023 She will hold her next presidential elections; in doing that she will like the U.K. canvass for electoral legitimacy, that will hopefully translate to governance legitimacy. We are involved in that process. Our primary goal is to enhance government performance legitimacy and reform the machinery of government. And sustain huge investment flow.

Nigeria and the UK are historically linked by democratic values, and by global trade and commerce; and inextricably so, by the global supply chain.

While we don't expect that Nigeria will always remain the centre of U.K. Strategic engagement in Africa, we envisage that for long she will enjoy a prominent status in geopolitical and geostrategic consideration.

Nigeria remains a key member of the Commonwealth. A united, secure, stable and productive Nigeria, is of great interest to the U.K. Given her historical leadership role in West Africa and Africa as a whole. Her role remains vital to U.K. strategic interest in Africa.

Nigeria- UK collaboration and constructive engagement in and era of globalization is anchored on three main policy areas: trade and investment, economic assistance through a variety of instruments; collective security and humanitarian support.

From my vantage position, I believe U.K's long interest and support for Africa should transcend the promotion of democracy, and include a broad range of economic-related issues, in particular support for Africa Continental Free Trade Area.

Current Outlook

Nigeria the U.K. and many other countries were adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the post-pandemic period, the so-called recovery mode and economic recovery— Nigeria is showing discernible she strength on the back

HE Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Labour Party(LP), who as part of his efforts to reawaken the zeal of Nigerians in the Diaspora towards national development, and enlist the support of the international community in putting Nigeria on the path to true development if elected president in 2023, has been crisscrossing the globe, was at the prestigious Oxford University in the United Kingdom where he unfolded his plans for transforming Nigeria. Below are his remarks at the institution.



Peter Obi

of services and agriculture, with GDP growth reaching 3.6% year on year in the first quarter of 2022.

While Nigeria is dealing with inflation like so many countries right now, we have a healthy economic report card and look to more prosperous times ahead, given the country's huge growth potential. But we must have peaceful and credible elections to sustain the required stability for growth.

But investor interest is increasingly motivated by other opportunities that we offer, notably in agribusiness (Nigeria and the 52 other African nations are home to 65% of the world's arable land), in infrastructure and manufacturing, in technology, and the production of consumer goods.

Of course, we want this investment because this is what will help us create jobs, strengthen our economy even further and improve the quality of life of our people. It is also good business sense for investors. Africa is the last frontier for smart investors and Nigeria offers some of the largest investment opportunities.

Nigeria is poised to lead African countries as we leverage more private funds to meet our continent's infrastructure financing needs. Those needs are estimated to be between \$68 billion and \$108 billion annually.

Accordingly, we anticipate opportunities for leveraging more private capital to finance regenerative infrastructure

My country—richly endowed with God-given resources—has over 84 million hectares of arable land. To put this in geographical context, Nigeria's arable land is larger than the entire land mass of Turkey. And barely 40% of this arable land is cultivated today. Nigeria's arable land is her new oil and gold

projects—as part of public-private partnership. Availability of such funds will help free public funds to projects shunned by the private sector.

In the face of all these challenges, though, the UK remains one of the largest foreign investor in Nigeria today, those UK firm conversant with Nigeria, understand, despite some reservations, that Nigeria has a large and growing consumer

market.

My administration, when I am elected President of Nigeria, will make sure that we do everything to sustain these crucial investment inflows.

I do not like to talk much about Nigeria's "potential" because 'potential' is a word that we have come to overuse. We should have long reaped the fruits of that potential by now if we had had the serious leadership commitment to do so. That said; let me say that Nigeria does have the potential to be a key exporter of agricultural produce to the world.

My country—richly endowed with God-given resources—has over 84 million hectares of arable land. To put this in geographical context, Nigeria's arable land is larger than the entire land mass of Turkey. And barely 40% of this arable land is cultivated today. Nigeria's arable land is her new oil and gold.

The Obi-Datti administration, from its inception, will continue to encourage investment in infrastructure—energy, transport, irrigation, and telecoms—to grow these and other sectors. We are eager to quickly close the infrastructure gap between now and 2030. That is the Nigeria and the Africa that we want by the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals target year. That is the Africa we want by our own African Union 2063 framework.

We are not proud of this, and my administration, when we come in, will tackle this challenge head on. We will have zero tolerance for corruption. You can expect a sledgehammer approach.

We look forward to the international community supporting Nigeria's efforts to promote economic growth and social inclusion; to our boldly tackling corruption from its roots. Furthermore, we will enforce the legal framework protecting foreign investors and their indigenous partners. This is the only way to tamper capital flight.

Points of Policy Interest

Nigeria will remain a highly

valued contributor to the global economy. We will invest in security, in diplomacy, and in economic engagement with our partners like the UK and other democratic nations.

With the kind of reforms that my government will make, we will ensure that investment—both domestic and foreign—will grow our agriculture sector to feed Nigerians and the wider world.

My last points could easily have been my first, but I preferred not to lead with them. It is the issue of corruption and investment protection. It is no secret that corruption has been endemic and one of the biggest obstacles to our economic progress in Nigeria.

We are not proud of this, and my administration, when we come in, will tackle this challenge head on. We will have zero tolerance for corruption. You can expect a sledgehammer approach.

We look forward to the international community supporting Nigeria's efforts to promote economic growth and social inclusion; to our boldly tackling corruption from its roots.

Furthermore, we will enforce the legal framework protecting foreign investors and their indigenous partners. This is the only way to tamper capital flight.

I will be willing to answer questions of interest, concern or clarification. I thank you for your kind attention.

PETER OBI: THE MAN, HIS STRIDES.

NAME : Mr. Peter Gregory OBI, (CON).

CONTACT DETAILS

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*E-mail: poanambra@gmail.com

DATE OF BIRTH : 19th July 1961,
PLACE OF BIRTH: Onitsha, Nigeria
NATIONALITY: Nigerian
MARITAL STATUS: Married with two children

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED

- Christ the King College, Onitsha (W.A.S.C.)
- University of Nigeria, Nsukka (B.A. Philosophy)
- Lagos Business School, Nigeria (Chief Executive Program)
- Harvard Business School, Boston, U.S.A. (Mid to Mid Marketing)
- Harvard Business School, Boston, U.S.A. (Changing the Game)
- London School of Economics (Financial Mgmt/Business Policy)
- Columbia Business School, New York, U.S.A. (Marketing Mgmt)
- Institute for Management Development, Switzerland (Senior Executive Program)
- Institute for Management Development, Switzerland (Break-Through Program for CEOs)
- Kellogg Graduate School of Management, U.S.A. (Advanced Executive Program)
- Kellogg School of Management U.S.A. (Global Advanced Mgmt Program)
- Oxford University: Said Business School, (Advanced Mgmt & Leadership Program)
- Cambridge University: George Business School (Advanced Leadership Program)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- Governor, Anambra State of Nigeria (2006-2014)
- Honorary Special Adviser to the President on Finance (till May, 2015)
- Member, Presidential Economic Management Team (till May, 2015)
- Vice-Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum (2008-2014)
- Chairman, South-East Governors' Forum (2006-2014)
- Former Chairman: Board of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Former Chairman: Fidelity Bank Plc.
- Former Chairman: Guardian Express Mortgage Bank, Ltd.
- Former Chairman: Future Views Securities, Ltd.
- Former Chairman: Paymaster Nigeria Plc.
- Former Chairman: Next International (Nigeria) Ltd
- Former Director: Guardian Express Bank Plc.
- Former Director: Chams Nigeria Plc.
- Former Director: Emerging Capital Ltd
- Former Director: Card Centre Plc

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)
- Member, Nigerian Chartered Institute of Bankers

- Member, British Institute of Directors (IOD)

MEMBERSHIP OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES

- In my capacity as the Governor of Anambra State, I served as a member of:
- Federal Government Committee on Minimum Wage
 - Federal Government Committee on Negotiation with Labour on Subsidy
 - Federal Government Committee on Mass Transit
 - Federal Government Committee on Natural Resource
 - National Economic Council Committee on Power Sector Reform
 - National Economic Council Committee on Sharing of MDGs Funds
 - National Economic Council Committee on Accurate Data on Nigeria's Oil Import and Export
 - Agricultural Transformation Implementation Council
 - Sub-Committee on Needs Analysis of Public Universities in Nigeria
 - National Economic Council Review Committee on the Power Sector

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

2015: Golden Jubilee Award from Catholic Diocese of Onitsha for outstanding contribution to quality healthcare delivery in St. Charles Borromeo Hospital in particular and Anambra State in general, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the hospital.

2014: Nigerian Library Association Golden Merit Award for remarkable improvement of libraries in Anambra State, exemplified by our Government's construction of the Kenneth Dike Digital State Library, remarkable upgrade of the Onitsha Divisional Library, and provision of library facilities in secondary schools across the State.

2014: Champion Newspaper Most Outstanding Igbo Man of the Decade.

2014: The Voice Newspaper (Holand) Achievers Award for Outstanding Example in Leadership and Governance.

2013: Silver Bird Man of the Year (with Governor BabatundeFashola of Lagos State).

2012: Business Hallmark Newspaper Man of the Year.

2012: The Golden Award on Prudence – by the Methodist Church of Nigeria as the Most Financially Prudent Governor in Nigeria.

2012: Leadership and Good Governance Award by The Ezeife Leadership Foundation Award for restoring peace and harmony to Anambra State.

2012: Best Performing Governor on Immunization in South-East Nigeria – by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

2012: Outstanding Financial Planner and Manager – by the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion for my resourcefulness and creativity in governance.

2011: Zik Leadership Prize.

2010: ICT Governor of the Year – by the West Africa ICT Development Award.

2009: Champion Newspaper Nigeria's Most Trustworthy Governor Award.

2009: Thisday Newspaper Most Prudent Governor in Nigeria.

2007: The Sun Newspaper Man of the Year Award.

The Nigerian MDGs Office/UNDP Best Governor in the Implementation of the MDGs in Nigeria

INTRODUCTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER MAJOR CHANGES IN NIGERIAN POLITICS

- He was the first gubernatorial candidate in Nigeria to legally challenge to its logical conclusion, his governorship electoral victory that was denied him. He won in the Courts and reclaimed his mandate.
- He was the first Governor in Nigeria to legally challenge his wrongful impeachment and was reinstated by the Courts.
- He was the first Governor in Nigeria to seek the interpretation of tenures of Governors when INEC allowed elections to take place in Anambra State when his tenure had not expired; the election already concluded was cancelled and he was allowed to complete his tenure.
- He was the first Governor to serve a 2nd term in both the new and old Anambra State, that is, almost 40 years after creation of the State.
- He was the first Governor, whilst still in Office, to be appointed a Special Adviser to the President.
- He was the first serving Governor to be appointed into the Presidential Economic Management Team.
- He was among the first Governors to be honoured with a National Award in 2011, while still in office.
- Though the only Governor whose political party was in government in only one State, he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum twice.
- Though the only non-PDP Governor in the South-East (made up of 5 States), he was elected by the other 4 PDP Governors as their Chairman for 8 years rather than the usual one year.

FUNDAMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS AS GOVERNOR OF ANAMBRA STATE (PARTIAL LISTING)

1. Anambra was the first State to commence Sub-Sovereign Wealth savings, the first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa. At a time many other Governors were leaving huge debts, I left the equivalent of \$500 million Dollars in investment as well

as local and foreign currency, including \$156 million in Dollar-denominated bonds.

2. For the first time in the history of Anambra State, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of notable countries such as United States, Britain, Russia, European Union, South Africa, Belgium, Israel, the Netherlands, Canada, among others, visited the State. Before my tenure, Anambra was practically a pariah state blacklisted by the Diplomatic Corps and international development partners.

3. Development partners such as UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, DFID, the European Union etc., which hitherto were not in Anambra State started working with the State. Anambra was consistently adjudged one of the best states in development partnership and commitment to reforms for good governance.

4. He was recognised as Best Governor by the Millennium Development Goals Office (OSSAP-MDGs) and the UNDP in the implementation of their programmes in Nigeria.

5. The Nigerian Debt Management Office (DMO) rated Anambra as the least indebted state in Nigeria. In spite of visible and measurable achievements recorded in various sectors, the State under him did not borrow or raise bonds for her various projects.

6. The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria rated Anambra State as the most financially stable state in the country.

7. The State's ground-breaking return of schools to their original owners - Voluntary Agencies (Churches) on 1st January 2009, and subsequent partnership with the Agencies in Education, saw the State move from 24th position out of 36 States to Number One in National Examination Council (NECO) and West African Examination Council (WAEC) examinations for three consecutive years. This made the World Bank to commission a study, led by the renowned Prof. Paul Collier of Oxford University, on this revolutionary partnership and phenomenal achievement.

8. The State also entered into strategic partnership with the Churches in the Health sector. This symbiotic relationship resulted in a tremendous boost to health care because of the services offered by health institutions owned by Voluntary Agencies, while the State restored grants to the agencies and made available to them more than 50 million Dollars in various types of support.

9. Through partnership with the Church in the Health sector, his Government funded the transformation of :-

- a: Iyenu Hospital, Ogidi;
b: Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Ihiala;

c: St Charles Borromeo Hospital, Onitsha;
d: Holy Rosary Hospital, Waterside, Onitsha; and
e: St. Joseph Hospital, Adazi-Nnukwu.
His Government also built the Joseph Nwilo Heart Centre in St. Joseph, Adazi-Nnukwu, where heart operations are now being performed.

10. His Government won the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (1 Million dollars) as the best-performing state in immunisation in the South-East. With complementary funding from our Government, they used the money to build 10 Maternal and Child Care Centres across the State, particularly in rural communities, in partnership with the Churches.

11. The State was the first to procure and distribute more than 30,000 computers to secondary schools, including 22,500 from HP. The Managing Director for Personal Systems Group HP Inc, Mr. FabriceCampoy described the deployment as the biggest of such projects in the Middle-East and Africa.

12. Anambra State Government provided Microsoft Academies to more than 500 secondary schools, which the Head of Microsoft in Nigeria (Mr. Ken Span) described as the biggest such deployment in Africa so far.

13. The State provided Internet access to more than 500 secondary schools, which the CEO of Galaxy Backbone (Mr. Gerald Ilukwe) characterized as incomparable to any in the country.

14. More than 700 buses were provided to secondary schools in the State by our Government.

15. Boreholes were provided in schools all over the State.

16. Numerous classrooms were built in all the 177 communities of the State.

17. As part of the efforts to turn around the economy of the State, a number of companies were attracted to build their facilities in the Anambra State. A case in point is SABMiller, the 2nd largest brewery in the world, which built their first Green Field facility in the State, which is today one of the most successful facilities they operate globally.

18. A number of other companies followed the SABMiller initiative and were all supported and encouraged under our Government; a good example is INNOS Motor Manufacturing Company, from which our government bought more than 1,000 vehicles.

19. Anambra State for the first



time started close collaboration with recognized government security agencies (the Police, Army, Navy, Department of State Security, Civil Defence, among others), offering them various types of support including provision of more than 500 security vehicles. The improvement in security was phenomenal, such that the former IG of Police (Abubakar Mohammed) lauded Anambra State for not witnessing any bank robbery in my last three years in office.

20. To further enhance security, Anambra State provided at least one security vehicle to each of all the 177 communities in the State as well as various organizations such as markets and Churches.

21. His Administration conceived and built, from

scratch, the first state-owned Teaching Hospital, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu teaching Hospital, Awka.

22. His Government commenced the planned development of the Igbariam Campus of the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu University, including the fencing, construction of internal roads, electrification, construction of the Faculty of Law, Auditorium, Administrative Block, Faculty of Agriculture, Management Building, among others).

23. His Government attracted the World Bank support on erosion - National Erosion and Watershed Management Project (NEWMAP) - to Anambra State.

24. His Government was the first to do Poverty Mapping in Nigeria, as a guide for the effective implementation of our poverty-alleviation strategies.

25. His Government, for the first time, undertook the aerial mapping of Awka as well as the production of Structure Plans for Awka Capital Territory, Onitsha and Nnewi.

26. During his tenure and with his Government's support, Anambra State became an oil producing State.

27. He built the first Secretariat Complex to house State Government Ministries that were hitherto scattered around the State.

28. His government commenced the development of the 'Three Arms Zone' comprising

Government House/Governor's Lodge, Legislative Building/ Speakers Residence, and Judiciary Building with Chief Judge's Residence.

29. By the end of his tenure in 2014, more than twelve (12) health institutions, including two hospitals, had secured accreditation; when we took off in 2006, no health institution in Anambra State was duly accredited.

30. Anambra State was the first to undergo national peer review, which scrutinised State Governments for good governance, through the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM), an initiative of the Nigerian Governors' Forum in collaboration with the DFID.

We will give Nigeria back to our youths-Peter Obi

How do you see yourself making a difference in Nigeria?

We will offer a new brand of transformative and purposeful leadership. Nigeria is not bereft of good governance ideas and plans. However, a combination of institutional weaknesses and lack of political will, meant that various policies and strategies are poorly implemented leading to poor outcomes for the people. Hence, the overall goal of my administration shall be to streamline governance, make it more responsive, transformative, effective, less transactional, and therefore efficient and cost-effective.

What kind of leadership do you hope to provide Nigerians?

Thinking through 2023 and beyond, we must think seriously about a leadership that is imbued with competence, capacity, credibility and commitment. Accordingly, we will pursue intangible assets of good governance, rule of law, security of lives and properties; we will ensure that we have these assets in place and stress asset optimization.

Africa has looked to Nigeria for leadership but has found it absent and wanting. What would you do to restore leadership?

Our foreign policy has always been Afrocentric. So, Africa will remain the centrepiece of our foreign policy. We will strike a strategic balance that allows us to promote and protect national interest, while meeting our ECOWAS obligations. We will rebuild Nigeria's military power, promote economic growth, and enhance its technological prowess with a view to improving Nigeria's diplomatic influence in sub-regional, regional and global affairs.

Restoring leadership will require that we reassert proactively, Nigeria's leadership role in African affairs through constructive engagement, peacekeeping duties, and using existing sub-regional and regional forums as well as bilateral platforms for dialogue on current and emerging challenges. We will continue to enhance our sphere of influence via peacekeeping, and trade and investment initiatives.

The sense of being part of a united country has been eroded. How do you see yourself reuniting Nigerians?

Securing, uniting and making Nigeria productive require steady and trusted hands. We shall ensure that in moving Nigeria forward, no state or community will be left behind. Pursuant to its statutory responsibility to protect, our government will promote equity in power and resource sharing. There must be a renewed sense of patriotism; that will come through leadership by example.

Do you think that states and regions need more autonomy?

You are indirectly asking about restructuring. I consider restructuring a process, not a one-off event. Yes, if we have a real federation, the federating units will enjoy discernible autonomy. Resources will also be shared equitably. A higher derivation paid to oil or solid minerals producing states will not be tantamount to other states not receiving federal allocations that should keep them viable. We must transcend the rhetoric that bedevils a robust debate on some of these

Labour Party (LP) Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi says one of the priorities of his administration if elected in 2023 would be to give Nigeria back to its youths. Obi, who was at Harvard University in the United States recently as part of his continued engagement with the community and Nigerians in the Diaspora, unfolded his plans for Nigeria. Excerpt



Peter Obi

national questions. In the past, the ethnic identity of the President has resulted in a preponderance of unqualified people being appointed to key position. How will you address this problem?

We will respect the principles of federal character, affirmative action and gender balance; but no longer at the expense of merit.

How do you propose to address the security challenges in the north and those of oil theft?

The relevant security institutions and agencies exist. The supporting national security enabling documents and strategies also exist. We will tweak the security architecture, which will entail reform of the security sector and governance. We will restructure, reequip and reorient the Nigerian Police: This will include three-level policing- Federal, state and community. We will build a compact, robust and ready Mobile Police Force with rapid response deployment capabilities; and legislate the establishment of state police based on community policing. We will raise the population to police officer ratio to a higher level.

There would be a properly manned, equipped and technologically driven security system with particular emphasis on re-focusing the military on external threats and border protection and police on internal security threats and law enforcement;

swift prosecution of criminals, bandits and terrorists; enhanced coordination among security agencies; and upholding the rule of law.

Operational Coordination...

We would integrate the activities of the National Intelligence and Security Agencies by establishing a central reporting intelligence loop under the authority of the Minister of National & Homeland Security; Establish a National Command and Control Coordination Center for the efficient management of actionable intelligence, resource allocation and force deployment. Membership should consist of representatives of all security agencies on a need-to-know basis.

Oil Theft...

I believe in continuity in governance. But each extant policy must be considered and if need be, reviewed on its merit. The oil theft is not petty pilfering. It is organized crime by a syndicate that involves a certain degree of sophisticated intelligence and logistical arrangement. We must admit that oil theft is happening because there is domestic and external collusion. The government and the people have the collective responsibility to protect national assets. On my watch those responsibilities will be accorded high priority.

Regional Security

Foreign and National Security policy initiatives, might in the long term entail rebuilding, repositioning and sustaining ECOMOG, as the arrowhead of a West African Security partnership. This is to counter terrorist threats and international subversion of the sovereignty of the West African region of which Nigeria must reestablish her place as a regional power.

Will you be maintaining the policy of fixed exchange rates coupled with heavy government borrowing? Will you be adhering to the fiscal responsibility laws?

We will abide by the fiscal responsibility laws. Despite the exigency and convenience which the two-tier foreign exchange regime offers, it has become an albatross. Hence that arrangement will be critically reviewed, adjusted or even eliminated. We will explore ways of cushioning the forex demands by mainstreaming those components of Diaspora remittances that remain opaque and informal. With proper policy and planning, we can expect to boost and leapfrog the current \$20 billion in remittances to \$40b to \$60b annually. That will translate to about 14% of our total GDP.

The youth have often felt left out in the country especially in the light of central Bank policies on tech companies. Will you reconsider these policies? How do you propose to address the brain drain?

We are challenged by high youth unemployment, which stands at 33.3%; 54% for the youth; and 20 million out-of-school-children. We must give this country back to the Nigerian youths. Half of our 200 million people are below the age of 30.

Harnessing our national youth strength and demographic dividends intelligently, must start with curbing the high youth unemployment and creating funding access to enable our youths become entrepreneurs and drivers of our Small and Medium Scale enterprises (SMEs).

We will work to bring down the unemployment rate to fewer than 20 percent over the next four years, if elected. Part of our objectives on the economy will be focused on supporting job creation given its impact on the economy as well as poverty alleviation.

We will review the legislation guiding the fund access modalities to Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), to redress prevailing bottlenecks, create greater transparency, and ensure increased flexibility, and optimum availability of funds required to meet the educational need of the Nigerian students they are meant to serve.

We will explore ways and means of tapping in on technology transfer from the Diaspora; we will also explore ways of reversing the enormous brain drain that has been debilitating for our country. We will trigger every known technological and knowledge transfer initiators. Nigeria's brain drain will be turned into brain gain.

Will the corrupt be allowed to keep their loot? How much focus will be given to probes?

We will have zero-tolerance for corruption; block leakages and cut the cost of governance.

Our total commitment to transparency and accountability in government business is the only credible way to achieve limited to zero corruption.

The policies required to fight corruption already exist; it is the political will to implement them that has been lacking. My governance modalities have always been forward looking and will remain so. We will negotiate the return of our stolen national wealth from the custodial countries.

Will you be maintaining the subsidies on electricity and petroleum?

There are two elements of subsidy- the corruption component and the real subsidy component. The oil subsidy arrangement as it stands is fraught with criminality. It is unacceptable.

For the corruption, we will deal with decisively which will reduce the subsidy cost by over 50%. There will be weighted measures and counter-balance policies and programmes to cushion the impact of the removal of oil subsidy, if and when it is removed. The difference is that now, only some sacred and self-entitled few benefit from the oil subsidy. That narrative will change.

We will support local refining for domestic use and priced strictly in Naira. Starting with all government vehicles, we will transition to gas powered cars.

While we support private enterprises will you take measures to ensure that Nigeria does not get dominated by a small group of oligopolists and monopolists?

Free enterprise is about market forces and keen competition. These will occur at different levels. If we liberalize access to funding, SMEs will flourish; they have a role to play the giant companies no longer play.

We will enforce the legal framework protecting foreign investors and their indigenous partners. This is the only way to tamper monopoly and capital flight.

In respect of gender equality in business and politics, Nigeria is behind many African countries. Will you be taking this as a priority?

As governor of Anambra State, my administration achieved close to a 60-40 gender balance in appointive and elective positions. The national target has hovered around 30-35%. We intend to progressively aim for between 35-40%, with aggressive gender mainstreaming action plan and rigid benchmarks.

The Central Bank has lost the confidence of many inside and outside of Nigeria. What do you propose to do about this?

As part of our monetary policy, we will seek to reestablish the independence of the CBN; and commit to a credible and transparent plan to normalize the exchange rate and bring inflation to single digits.

We will remove import and forex restrictions and insist on a single forex market. The current system penalizes exporters who bring in forex by forcing them to sell at a rate that they are unable to source for forex when they need to purchase forex. This multiple exchange rate regime encourages capital flight and deters investment, which has further worsened Nigeria's forex situation.

Do you see yourself deepening or reducing ties with China?

Our trade policies will always be predicated on what is in our best national interest. Trade partners who offer us comparative advantage will be considered. However, we will give primacy to our Africa Trade Treaty obligations.

Beneficiaries of China's goodwill and investments in Africa are many. So too are the countries defaulting on their Chinese loans. The trend is deeply alarming. Salutary, as it may seem, we must approach such engagement with our national interest uppermost in our minds.

What policy will your administration have



Nigeria Youth

towards Russia and Ukraine?

We maintain very cordial relations with Russia and Ukraine. Evidently, this war, in conventional terms, will need to be resolved at the negotiations table. We support the cessation of hostilities agreement under the auspices of the United Nations.

As young people we are concerned with university education. What will you do about the ongoing strike by university teachers?

We will pursue the global best practices and standards within available resource. Certainly, in the medium and long term, 14% budgetary funding for education is within the realm of possibility. We will strive to be globally competitive by increasing funding ad ensuring that the (TETFund) resources are re-directed to funding of the Universities and other higher institutions robustly with a view to ending the perennial strikes by University Staff and workers.

What would be your top priorities on getting into office?

- Production-centered growth for food security and export;
- Securing and Uniting Nigeria;
- Effective legal and institutional reforms (rule of law, corruption and government effectiveness);
- Leapfrogging Nigeria from oil to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR);
- Expanding physical infrastructure through market-driven reforms (unleashing growth-enabling entrepreneurship and market-creating innovations);
- Human capital development that empowers competitiveness; and
- Robust foreign policy that restores

Nigeria's strategic relevance.

How did Nigeria address the COVID challenge and what will you need to do to address future epidemics and pandemics?

Nigeria's initial response to the COVID crisis was lackluster and uninspiring; but her efforts when compared to those of bigger and better developed Western countries were not that poor.

What was lacking was experts who were proactive and could prioritize; people who understood how to manage complex emergencies. There were evident critical gaps in response capacity. We will address such gaps by putting in place a national resilience strategy.

Do you think that government needs to be slimmed down?

Certainly, We have a bloated federal bureaucracy; hence we are spending more on recurrent expenses. And we are borrowing frivolously. I am not against loans per se; but we must stop borrowing for consumption. All loans must be invested in regenerative projects. We must operate within available resources and strive for a balanced national budget as cost saving measures. Ending the leakages including the subsidy regime and improving our tax regime should do the magic.

In a Presidential system Presidents often find that they are hamstrung by the legislature especially when that body is dominated by members of opposition parties. How will you handle the National Assembly in this regard?

Presidential power as we know is the power of persuasion. Members of the

National Assembly have vested interest in making their constituencies work. Their respective constituencies invariably form the presidential or national constituency. Policies that present win-win scenarios for national and federal constituencies will definitely attract bi-partisan support.

Do you have any plans to address the issue of the humongous salaries and allowances earned by National Assembly?

Simply, we have to cut costs. There are no two ways about it.

The structure and size of the civil service remains a major constraint for development in the country how do you plan to deal with the issue?

Lack of political will and lack of synergy between the Executive and Legislative arms has resulted in a costly inertia in tackling our oversized government. The result is persisting turf fights and competition among several overlapping agencies, and the resultant wastages. Cost-cutting measures must start with rationalization and harmonization. Pruning the size of government will be imperative.

The Oronsaye committee report of April 2012, recommended the abolition and merger of 102 government agencies and parastatals, while some were listed to be self-funding. What was called for was extreme but practical rationalization measures.

Will you be implementing the Oronsaye report?

That is an affirmative. That is the only way to make governance efficient, cost-effective and productive.

Meet Senator Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed (PhD)

Founder/Prochancellor

Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed is an established educationist, businessman, and public servant, who is running for the position of the Vice President of Nigeria in the 2023 general elections under the platform of the Labour Party. Datti was previously a Member of the Federal House of Representatives, representing the people of Zaria Federal Constituency of Kaduna State in the 5th National Assembly and shortly in the 7th National Assembly. Senator Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed (PhD)

Founder/Prochancellor
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to bring to fore the plight of his people, while contributing to the proposition and passing of policies and laws, many of which today the country is still benefiting from. In 2011, Datti ran for and won the Kaduna North Senatorial seat but was unable to see out his 4-year term as the election was challenged in court, resulting in his victory being overturned. Establishing a Technocratic Legacy All through his life, Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed has shown a unique quest for knowledge, only rivalled by

his desire to implement policies that work in the interest of Nigeria and Nigerians. His belief that Nigeria needs capable hands that understand where the world is headed and possess the skills to properly position for that future has been the guiding light for the profile he has built. Since completing his Master of Science in Economics degree back in 1995, he has received a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Wales, and a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Westminster, London.

He has also received different levels of executive management and strategic leadership training from the Harvard Business School, Boston, London Business School, and the London School of Practical Economics. Given the dire state of affairs of the country, Datti has since picked a keen interest in national and international security management, stepping outside of his economics and management background, to receive training on national and international security, from the Harvard Kennedy School, Boston,

Massachusetts. He has consistently shared a number of practical ideas for tackling Nigeria's security challenges and its corruption problem which has been one of the major drivers of the rapidly expanding terror across regions. Sen. Yusuf Datti is currently the Pro-Chancellor of Baze University, the Managing Director and Chairman of Baze Construction Ltd & Baze Research & Data Service Ltd, all organizations of his which employ over 1000 Nigerians at home and in the diaspora.



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PETER
OBI

FOR PRESIDENT

YUSUF
DATTI

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OMIC GROWTH : EMPLOYMENT : PRODUCTION : EDUC

#ObiDat2023 #ObiDatti2023 #OBIdient

LIFESTYLE

Nigerian Celebrities Divided Over Choice Of President As 2023 Election Campaigns Begins

BY CHILAKA PATRICK

The race to the Nigerian presidency in 2023 has thrown up camps within the entertainment industry in the country.

All over the world over, celebrities have been known to play vital roles in the shaping of opinions among the masses of the people every election season.

In Nigeria, while some celebrities have taken a front seat to ensure that their candidates emerge victorious in all elective positions being sought for others have thrown in their hats in the ring to contest for positions of interest.

Funke Akindele, Tonto Dike, Hilda Dokubo and Femi Branch, are some of the notable faces from the Nigerian entertainment space seeking elective positions into the Federal House of Representatives or the office of the Deputy Governor of their respective states.

As the political campaign gathers momentum up across the country, some of these celebrities have been playing active roles in sensitizing Nigerians to play their part in deciding who becomes the next president of Nigeria.

With entertainment celebrities who have openly declared their preference for particular candidates, there have emerged within the industry, camps especially along tribal lines, which seem to be driving a wedge in their relationships.

The candidates attracting the attention and support of the celebrities are Mr. Peter Obi of the Labour Party (LP), Senator Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and former vice-president and presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar respectively.

Entertainers like Psquare, Phyno, Flavour, Ruggedman, Chidi Mokeme, Kate Henshaw, Okey Bakassi, Noble Igwe, Tacha, Charlyboy, Eldee, Ikechukwu, Samklef, Daddy Freeze and others from the South-South and South-Eastern part of the country have thrown their support for Obi, using their massive social media followership in driving the 'A New Nigeria is Possible' mantra needed to get their candidate into office.

Bakassi rooting for Obi wrote: "I



Caption

like the substance-based campaign he's running. I admire his courage and principles....waiting for his next move."

The PSquare brothers were not left out as they organised a Coalition for Peter Obi's Peace Concert, which held on August 8. The brothers are also the arrowheads leading other entertainers from the South East region galvanizing support for Obi. Peter Okoye recently took to Twitter, writing: "We are Fully Obidient and Yusuf. God bless our incoming President (Obi) and Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We are OBIdiently YUSful."

A glance at the South West suggests that some of the celebrities from the region have made up their minds to support and vote for Tinubu while South East seen as the exclusive preserve for Obi, is a no go area for other candidates.

It is believed that celebrities from



I like the substance-based campaign he's running. I admire his courage and principles....waiting for his next move.

the South-West, whom are yet to declare the candidate of their choice, might later roll out the drums for APC's Bola Ahmed Tinubu based

on their geographical leaning and how politics is played in the country.

Singer Olawale Olofooro, popularly known as Brymo, who openly supported Tinubu in the past, trended on Twitter.

Brymo had described Tinubu as a "city boy" saying the APC flagbearer is a candidate with a plan for the country.

He told critics to look beyond Tinubu's age and focus on his experience as a former Governor of Lagos State.

Celebrities who in a viral video have declared their support for APC's presidential candidate under the aegis of the League of Actors include: Fausat Balogun, Jide Kosoko, Yinka Quadri, Taiwo Hassan, Faithia Williams, Femi Adebayo, Sola Kosoko, Saheed Balogun and a few others.

Others like Gbenga Adeyinka, Eniola Badmus, Toyin Adegbola aka Toyin Tomato, Lateef Adedimeji

and Joke Silva have jumped on the Tinubu bandwagon.

The list however is bound to grow as campaigns continue to gather steam.

Uncertainty however hangs over which celebrities will support the PDP's Atiku as none has yet to publicly make their intention known but it is believed that singer, David Adeleke more widely known as Davido, is likely to pitch tent with the PDP flagbearer given his relationship with the new elected Governor of Osun State, Ademola Adeleke (his uncle) who staunchly supported in the last governorship election in the state.

However the campaigns decide to play out, attention will rivet on the supporters of Tinubu and the Obidients, the vocal supporters of Obi who have been active on the scene.

GLOBAL AFROBEATS KULTURE FESTIVAL DEBUTS IN LAGOS

BY CHILAKA PATRICK

Nigeria's entertainment haven, Lagos will host the maiden edition of the Global Afrobeats Kulture Festival from December 28-29 2022.

Designed to showcase the quality of Afrobeat music in Nigeria and the world, the event is powered by Inspiro productions, organisers of Nigeria's premier and popular jazz festival, the Lagos International Jazz Festival.

The 2022 edition of the festival is themed, 'Harnessing the Creative Economy for Youth Empowerment and National Development

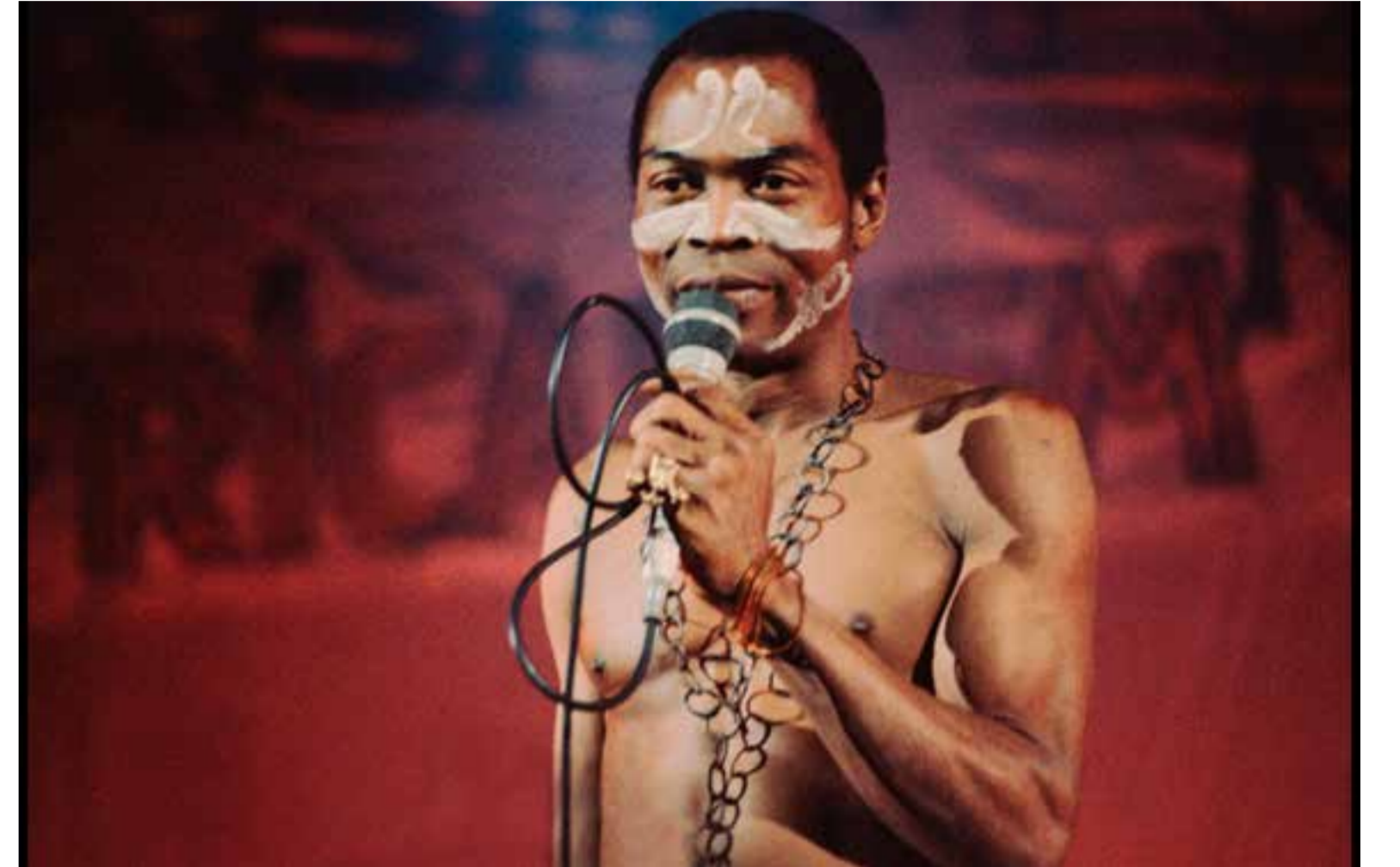
Tagged Lagos Global Afrobeats Kulture (LAGOS GAKFEST), the event is being put together in partnership with SloweGanzi USA, GQ Acoustics and Zome International.

Ayoola Sadare, founder and festival director, giving an insight into the programme, said since Lagos was the world's Afrobeat capital and the music genre being the fastest growing across the globe currently, it was necessary that the city hosted the festival.

"Lagos Is The Afrobeats Capital Of The World & since it is also one of the fastest growing music genres currently on the global scene now, its imperative that the city hosts a festival worthy to showcase that status," he said.

He said artists to perform at the event as well as the venue will be disclosed in due course.

"From a tourism point of view, people want to know where the Lagos mentioned in many Afrobeats hits is and visit same. For example quite recently it was part of the title of Wizkid's global awards winning



Fela Anikulapo-Kuti

'Made In Lagos' album. Afrobeats is to Lagos, Nigeria what Kingston, Jamaica and New Orleans, Louisiana are to Reggae and Jazz aficionados respectively and are attracted to those cities", Sadare said.

He said December was chosen to kick start the event because of the season of Yuletide and its importance as a holiday period that would afford people time to come around for the event.

He noted that although, Afrobeats is also now played by many other pop musicians in other African

countries, its pioneers and trail blazers are undoubtedly Nigerians with Lagos being the bastion of Afrobeats as over 80 percent of its proponents reside in the city.

Starting from Lagos the music has moved to the African continent and exploded globally in places like UK, the US and is rapidly spreading to other parts of the globe.

"GAKFEST is planned as a multi-city touring event to showcase the genre in these other cities. Our technical partners SloweGanzi USA led by Mr. Wole Akande, GAKFEST

Executive Vice Chairman, are instrumental to making this happen.

"Afrobeats artists are fast gaining recognition and reshaping the sound and texture of pop music globally, winning global awards like the Grammy, BET and others. They are also touring globally, selling out at never-before-done venues like the London 02, Paris Accor, Los Angeles Hollywood Bowl, New York Madison Square Garden among others", Sadare said.

The rise in interest in Afrobeats is underscored by the fact that the

Grammys recently announced that the genre is being considered to be given a category at the influential annual musical award.

The Global Afrobeats Kulture Festival is planned to be part of a multi-city, multi-sound touring music festival kicking off in Lagos Nigeria, and designed to offer visitors and residents in and other major cities like London, Paris, Amsterdam and a few US cities of the world, an exceptional display of entertainment the genre offers.

GT Fashion Week To Showcase Nigeria's Finest

BY CHILAKA PATRICK

Fashion entrepreneurs based in Nigeria will have an opportunity to showcase their products and class at the GT Fashion Week holding in November.

The GT event is a platform put together by one of Nigeria's leading financial institutions, GT Bank to attract and promote the best minds in the creative sector. The programme will run from November 12- 13, 2022, at the GT Centre in Lagos.

The GT Fashion Weekend is a free business platform combining elements of global fashion trends, the delicate nuances of African

streetwear styles, and human creative enterprise to create one of the most delightful experiences in fashion retail.

Speaking on this year's event, Group Chief Executive Officer of Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc, Segun Agbaje, said:

"We have kept our vision of supporting small and medium enterprises in focus through the uncertain times of the past two years.

"Just like our core values as a financial institution, our promise of Promoting Enterprise will never change. We will continue to lend the full weight of our franchise to improving the lives

and livelihoods of every African, not only through servicing the full range of our customers' financial needs with innovative products and services, but also by creating and championing initiatives that help businesses and economies thrive."

He added that fashion is primarily a form of self-expression, and in the light of develops on the local and international scene since the last edition of the show in 2019, his organisation is glad to be able to explore the possibilities within the fashion industry locally and abroad, particularly as people increasingly return outdoors after the COVID-19 pandemic and get to experiment with new fashion and style ideas.



This year's event will feature masterclasses, runway shows, free retail stalls, and a streetwear village.

All-comers are in for an immersive shopping experience as indigenous small businesses showcase their fashion collections and style

accessories.

Over the years, the event has brought together renowned fashion icons and engaging style personalities to interact with young Africans who are passionate about fashion.

Nigerian Entertainers Bag National Awards

Nigerian Entertainment Industry stood its full height at the recent National Awards, which took place in Abuja.

The awards, which confer National honors on well distinguished Nigerians by the President of Nigeria for their outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the country, saw the Entertainment industry been ably represented by some of its leading personalities across genres.

Leading the cast were musicians Innocent Idibia, known the world over as TuFace, Danmini Ebuloluwa Ogulu who goes by the moniker, Burna Boy, and Teniola Apata (Teni).

Actor and President of the Actors Guild of Nigeria (AGN), Mr. Emeka Rollas and top producer Mo Abudu, were two influential figures in Nigeria's film industry popularly known as Nollywood, who mounted the rostrum on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 as President Buhari conferred national honours on Nigerians.

The event, which held at the International Conference, also saw Nigerians from other works of endeavor receiving various categories of award from President Muhammadu Buhari.

The AGN president was conferred with the award of Member of the Order of the Niger (MON) alongside TuFace and Teni while Burna Boy got the higher medal of the Member of the order of the Federal Republic (MFR). Abudu on the other hand, got the prestigious Officer of the order of the Niger, OON medal.

President Buhari at the event also honoured his Senior Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Femi Adesina alongside other 432 others. Adesina was given the Officer of the Niger(OON) medal.



Tuface Idibia

Filmmaker Gets Appointment

BY CHILAKA PATRICK

Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party and former Vice President of Nigeria, Atiku Abubakar has appointed renowned Nollywood filmmaker Dr. Don Pedro Obaseki as his Presidential Media Consultant.

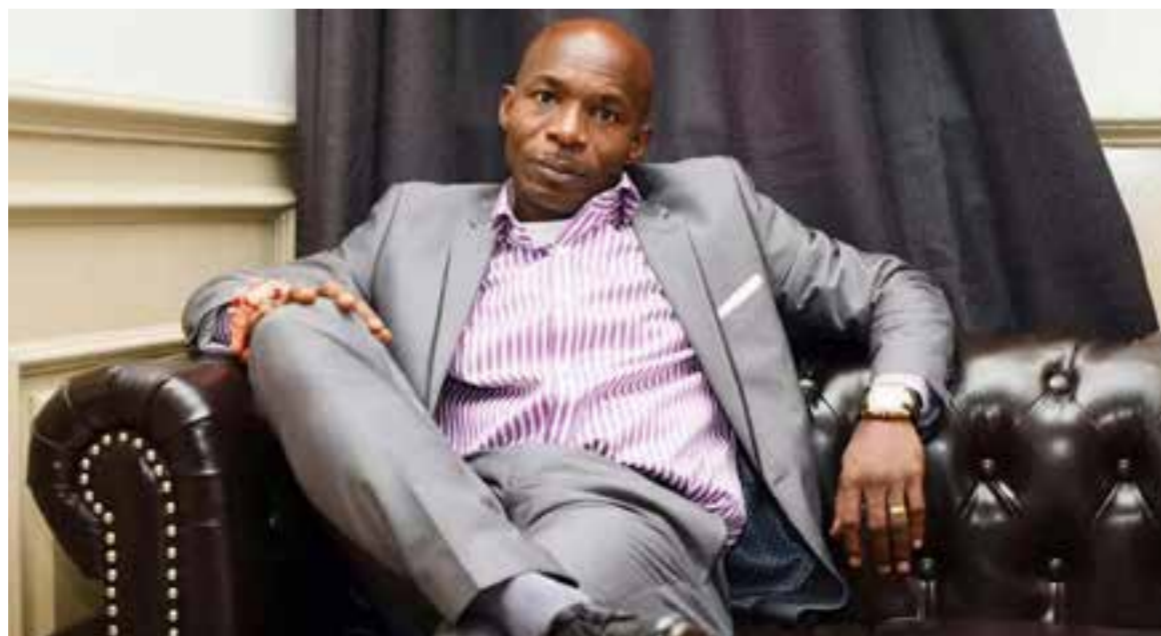
In a statement signed by Mr. Paul Ibe, the Media Adviser to Atiku Abubakar, the former Vice President also appointed Chief Dan Ulasi as Technical Adviser to

the Presidential Candidate on Contact and Mobilization

Ulasi, an indigene of Anambra State is an experienced politician who has served the Peoples Democratic Party in different capacities both in Anambra State and at the national level.

Obaseki, is a seasoned media personality from Edo State with rich experience in political communication.

The appointments take immediate effect



Don Pedro Obaseki

American Rapper Kanye West feels the sting of Twitter over vile anti-Semitic rant

Twitter, the micro blogging site has suspended popular American music star, Kanye West early Sunday morning over comments he posted on his handle that he wanted to go "death con 3" on Jews.

His comment came just hours after Elon Musk welcomed him back to the platform.

In a bizarre and vile rant, the rapper also known as Ye wrote, "I'm a bit sleepy tonight but when I wake up I'm going death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE. The funny thing is I actually can't be Anti-Semitic because black people are actually Jew also. You guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda."

According to twitter, his comments go against the ethics of the site and as such deemed it necessary to suspend any further activities from his handle.



Rapper Kanye West

James Bond 007 Franchise Clocks 60 In Hollywood

The James Bond 007 series, a famous British spy thriller recently hit 60 years on screens across the world.

The Bond franchise entered its 60th year on October 6th 2022 and on this occasion tributes have been paid by many famous personalities around the world.

Agent 007 was the first film featuring James Bond released on the October 6, 1962. The premiere of agent 007 took place in London.

Following the legacy of the franchise, Dr no continued in the sequence. Dr no featured Sean Connery, the same was directed by Ian Fleming in the 1960s. Over the years, James Bond and his franchise movies have earned their own action category, its own subgenre and franchise. The James Bond franchise is based on spy novels by Ian Fleming.

According to the producers of the brand, the films of the James Bond franchise have undergone the test of time. The makers continuity was maintained with time. This boosted their level of patience and eventually, people started loving the films with many hits given to the audience.

According to reports, the interest and craze for the 60th year of Agent

007 have been seen increasingly in the world's largest corn maze which is located in suburban Chicago.

The adventure park has decided on the theme of 2022 as "The James Bond". This is in the honour of Agent 007 completing 60 years.

In the USA, October 4th was declared James Bond day. A Hollywood reporter says the Bond series has managed to collect \$8.5 billion worldwide this year.

The franchise has seen leading personalities taking the role of the British spy agent including Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan, and Craig Daniel who will be replaced by a new entrant into the 007 spy thriller.

Classics like Live and Let's Die, Dr No, The Man with the Golden Gun, Octopussy, From Russia with Love, Die Another Day, Casino Royale, You only Live Twice to mention are some of the series from the 007 collection that have serenaded the screens across the world these past 60 years.

There have been speculations that the likes of Tom Hardy and Idris Elba to mention a few are the likely figures the producers of the James Bond franchise might consider for the role of a new 007, as a new movie shoot gets underway.



James Bond

EDITORIAL

A NEW NIGERIA IS COMING



A NEW DAWN BECKONS

Nigeria is in the throes of change. It is change, the ramifications of which cannot be fully grasped presently. Nigeria is a nation, long trammled by the centrifugal goblins of ethnic and religious intolerance, inordinate rent seeking of its political and economic elite, and the criminal irresponsibility of its ruling class, which has hobbled its march to greatness, is stirring. It citizens, long accustomed to feigning helplessness and cynicism against the wanton and shameless pillaging of the national patrimony by generations of its ruling elite, are casting off their lethargic apparels of indifference and are insisting on a new deal. Spurred by its youths, millions of Nigerians across tribe, faith, class and gender, are uniting in an unprecedented wave of nationalistic and patriotic fervor, to demand their country back from the usurpers and mercenaries whose greed and ineptitude has plunged their beloved land into the enervating maw of unremitting hardship and want. Across the country, a new movement beholden to no one and nothing but to the idea that a new Nigeria anchored on the cherished principles of unity, tolerance, justice, equity and equality is possible. This movement, imperceptible at first, has grown to become the defining rubric for yearning for a real change that supplants the current asphyxiating and enervating climate of despondency, intolerance, fear and mistrust. The change they seek is one that frees the creative energies of Nigerians thwarted and throttled for decades by the shenanigans of a prebendal and opportunistic ruling class. In the breasts of Nigerians, hope springs eternal, hope instigated and nurtured by the candidacy of Peter Obi, a man at once austere and visionary. He embodies hope for tomorrow and is a metaphor for the new possibilities they seek. Obi is no saint. Flesh and blood like everyone, he encapsulates in his being the virtues of decency, honesty and fidelity in nation ravaged by libertinism and hedonism. The Obidient movement, so-called by adherents, represents an abiding faith in the man whose name has spawned the



movement, to turn around the harrowing narrative of missed opportunities, state sustained corruption, the inexorable diminution of man, and the abject disdain for the rule of law and due process. That faith finds nourishment in Obi's performance in Anambra State, a state haunted by the unrelenting demons of violence, kidnapping and other malfeasance before his coming. Under Obi's watch, the state lagging behind in key indices of human development became the most peaceful havens and bastion of security. Nigerians yearn for the same for their beloved nation. For the first time in living memory, the primordial barriers of religion and ethnicity have been brushed aside as the people cast Obi as a modern day Moses to liberate them from deprivation. No doubt, Nigeria perches at the intersection of history. The Nigerian condition today closely mirrors situations in societies throughout history. At critical moments in the lives of nations, individuals have arisen to lift their societies off the mire of underdevelopment and anomie. America

had its Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) who through the New Deal, a package of social and economic reforms that prised America free the clutches of the Great Depression in the 1930s. Turkey had its Mustafa Kemal who transformed Turkey from its ignoble status as the "Sick Man of Europe" to a modern state. Obi is poised to lead Nigeria to a new dawn. It was Franz Fanon, the Martiniquian writer, philosopher and psychiatrist, who admonished years ago that "every generation must out of relative obscurity seek to discover its mission, and then fulfill it or betray it". Nigerians of all backgrounds must arise and forge a new nation from the ashes of this fractured land. The youths have taken a stand; the elite class must close ranks know always that as Fanon said, "if any philosophy is here being preached, it is that man must not only exist but must leave well, the measurement of any intellectual activity, being the welfare of the people". A new Nigeria is possible. It beckons and Nigerians must seize the moment.



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Peter Obi: Leadership Opportunity of A Lifetime

BY FEMI SALAKO

A political campaigns for the 2023 general elections have commenced in earnest, the Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi is certain to steal the show and also spring a lot of surprises in the run up to the election. A foretaste of what the supporters of Peter Obi are prepared to give during the electioneering campaign period was seen in Abuja, Kaduna Kano, Jos, Bayelsa, Nassarawa and a few other states when the Obidients trooped out in their thousands just to test the microphone. When the train of Peter Obi took off a few months ago, so many naysayers did not give it any chance to go any far. As the movement began to gather momentum on social media, support for him was described as mere ranting on social media spaces. Some even described Obi as a social media president only seeking national relevance.

Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, was even emphatic at a time when he declared that Peter Obi could not gather up to a thousand supporters in his state. However, by the time the moving train landed in Kaduna State, the diminutive governor was shocked to his marrows by the number of people that trooped to the streets for Peter Obi. Recently, a former Minister of Aviation, Femi Fani-Kayode added a spiritual dimension to the Obi train that is fast moving across the country. He noted in a tweet that the soaring popularity of the Labour Party's candidate definitely has a spiritual side to it. He thereafter went ahead to add that the popularity of Peter Obi could still not match that of Senator Bola Tinubu, the presidential candidate of the All Progressive Congress (APC). The tweet by FFK read:

"@realFFK, Obi is moving fast and strong. There is a spiritual dimension to his rise. At this rate he and his Obidients may soon topple PDP to become Nigeria's main opposition party. Yet the two of them put together cannot stand against the fire and fury of the BATISTS and JAGABANISTS of the APC!"

Despite attempt to water down Obi's growing acceptance among Nigerians by suggesting that Tinubu is more popular; the tweet by FFK is nonetheless a confirmation that the ruling party is becoming uncomfortable with the increasing popularity of Peter Obi amongst the Nigerian electorate. It is also suggestive of an electoral upset that could be witnessed in the 2023 presidential election.

It is however disturbing that some entrenched political principalities are no longer comfortable with the soaring popularity of Peter Obi that they have resorted to attacking the Obidients during their political outings. Two recently conducted opinion polls have given unassailable victory to Peter Obi in the 2023 presidential election. As expected through, results of these survey polls have not go down well with the leadership and members of the All Progressive Congress, and the Peoples Democratic Party. Interestingly, the Obidients have relentlessly doubled their efforts by seeking new converts across the country on a daily basis.

Meanwhile, one question that has since become a recurring decimal is the reason for the ever increasing popularity of Peter Obi among Nigerians, especially the youths. It is now a known fact the popularity of Obi cuts across religion and ethnicity. The answer is not so far-fetched simply because the mass of the youths are of the firm belief they can only find political and economic salvation in Obi. This is particularly on account of the lack of moral integrity and pervasive corruption

that have continuously undermined Nigeria's development, which they believe can only be addressed by Obi. Among Nigerians Obi is known for his moral integrity and firm determination to battle corruption in Nigeria at the slightest opportunity.

Also, the nation's economy that is manifestly in ruins can only be repositioned and given a new lease of life by the highly enterprising, creative and resourceful Labour Party candidate. The man has consistently told Nigerians that their country needs to move from a consuming nation to a producing one as this is the only way to promptly arrest the galloping inflation and steadily declining value of the naira.

The rate at which Nigerian medical practitioners are leaving in droves to Western countries has undeniably become most worrisome. The nation's health sector is practically in shambles as most of the health practitioners have lost faith in the system.

Peter Obi has thankfully, been consulting very widely with health professionals and has also been making strenuous efforts on how to open a new and better chapter for the nation's health sector.

Another colossal failure of the ruling APC is in the area of security. This failure has apparently made life very difficult for Nigerians to the extent that the National Assembly had to threaten President Buhari with impeachment. Obi for his part has left no one in doubt about his clear cut and inclusive plans to promptly address the near collapsed nation's security. He has always emphasized that no effort and resource will be spared to ensure security of lives and properties of Nigerians. He has equally spoken on his determination to deploy latest technology to frontally confront insurgency, banditry, kidnapping, oil theft and other violent crimes across the

The University of Nigeria in Nsuka graduate and two term Governor of Anambra State possesses the requisite experience needed to return Nigeria to the path of good governance. He likewise combines invaluable private sector experience with that of the public sector. While he was still in his 30s, he served as the Chairman of Fidelity Bank, Guardian Express Mortgage Bank, Future Views Securities, Paymaster Nigeria Plc, Next International Limited and the Security Exchange Commission. He equally gathered invaluable private sector experience when he served as the Director of Guardian Express Bank Plc, Chams Nigeria Plc, Emerging Capital Limited, Card Centre Plc and Data Corp Limited.

The vastly educated Obi attended a number of Ivy League universities across the world where he undertook various courses. Some of these universities include the Harvard Business School, London School of Economics, Columbia Business School, Lagos Business School and the Institute for Management Development in Switzerland. Other schools he attended include, the Kellogg School of Management of Northwestern University, Said Business School of Oxford University and the Judge Business School of Cambridge University.

At the moment, Nigeria is clearly at a make or mar cross point. Things have never been this bad in the country and none of the people who were part of the nation's problems can ever claim to have the solution. Youths of Nigeria must take charge of their destinies and never allow the lifetime opportunity of Obi to elude them. After all, he evidently stands out amongst all the presidential candidates as the only one who can do things differently and do away with the entrenched and enthroned business as usual style of governance in the country.

A Kindergarten Finger Pushes Uche Ekwunife to Blunder!

BY PAT UCHENDU

Those who fail to understand the innate power on a podium always run under the platform with self inflicted bruises. Some politicians are made or destroyed on the podium. That perhaps best describes the political loss Senator Uche Ekwunife wrought on her political career at the flag off of PDP 2023 presidential elections campaign in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Ever since she lost the Anambra State gubernatorial election, Ekwunife has been showing signs of uncertain political illness. Yesterday, the diagnosis was confirmed. Peter Obi is her fever and now she has a lot of redeeming to make!

She had said that the presidency is not for kindergarten politicians. Leaving it hanging at that would have made her statement anybody's call, but to later confuse herself that we need someone to move us from "consumption to production" as a nation made her poor showing a caricature in ambivalence! And in situations of a campaign flag off, there's no room for semantics or qualification after a blunder.

If, like some have argued that she called the younger presidential candidates kindergarten, that leaves her antagonist to the likes of Peter Obi, Omoyole Sowore, Adewole Adebayo, Kola Abiola, Dumebi Kachikwu, Christopher Irene

Imumolen etc. But she also qualified her confusion with moving from "consumption to production"; a central theme enunciated by Peter Obi and runs central to his capacity to salvage Nigeria. Inversely that was a direct shot at close quarters at Atiku Abubakar. Know this: Peter Obi remains an Egret. The more dirt you throw at him, the brighter he shines for the 2023 elections!

#LetUsTakeBackOurCountry

Uchendu writes for PO Express Media, POEM.

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE: NO LONGER BUSINESS AS USUAL



BY IMAN AMIR

Political parties and candidates require money to publicize their electoral platforms and to pursue effective campaigns. Attempts to regulate campaign finance reflect the commonly held belief that uncontrolled political fund-raising and spending can undermine the integrity of the democratic process and erode the confidence of the electorate in political institutions.

A global phenomenon, the massive growth in campaign finance is not peculiar to Nigeria as campaign expenditures have grown in many countries since the turn of the 21st century.

Campaign finance raises fundamental ethical questions for democratic regimes. Most often, debates about campaign finance revolve around the protection of freedom of expression and the prevention of corruption: two democratic principles that can enter into conflict with one another.

On the one hand, jurists have often considered financial participation in a campaign (either through donation or spending) to be a form of political expression that must be constitutionally protected from censorship. On the other hand, it is generally agreed that regulations and limits can justifiably be placed on campaign finance in order to prevent corruption.

All countries face the problem of the role and influence of money in politics, but each answers this problem with different values and policies. In the United States, campaign finance regulations have focused on limiting partisan contributions (rather than limiting spending by candidates).

Canada placed limits on both contributions and spending. In Nigeria, in order to rein in campaign finance abuses and ensure a level playing field for all contestants, the new Electoral Act 2022 spelt out campaign finance ceilings and penalties

for violations. The campaign finance thresholds are in two folds: One for the candidates and another for the political parties.

Section 88 of the new Act places limitation of election expenses on candidates. Sub (2) says the maximum election expenses to be incurred by a candidate at a presidential election shall not exceed N5bn (Used to be N1bn); (3) The maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of governorship election shall not exceed N1bn. (Used to be N200m) and so on...

Apart from the rising cost of election financing which continues to be worrisome in Nigeria, the fact that a large part of fundraising and spending involves the candidates and their parties and not Political Action Committees as is the case in other democracies is even more worrisome. This is because experts believe that how parties and candidates finance their election is critical

in any electoral process and one of the problems with the way campaigns were financed in Nigeria was that candidates were expected to pay for everything including 'support' for their supporters!

The result has been that a few wealthy individuals are buying up the government, and good, capable people without deep pockets are being left out of the process. Dispassionate observers say this distorts Nigerian elections and the result of this exclusion is the society we now have.

For popular candidates, who may find it difficult to raise money for their electioneering project, the law permits them to engage in crowdfunding. That was what former US President, Barack Obama, did to raise funds for his presidential campaigns and this is also the blueprint of the OBdient movement. Not only does this prevent the undue influence of donors on officeholders' decisions but it also counteracts the capacity

of affluent members of society to exercise a disproportionate influence on the election by dominating the debate.

The Electoral Act 2022 limits the amount of money any single donor can contribute to the campaign to N50m. By regulating campaign fund-raising and spending, governments seek to avoid a situation whereby politicians use the power associated with their office to reward large contributors. Even in the absence of any actual quid pro quo, large contributions can, in theory, contradict the democratic principle of "one person, one vote," since contributors gain a privileged channel to express their interests and opinions. In addition to preventing outright corruption, campaign finance regulation thus seeks to limit the undue influence of money in politics.

What represents undue influence is, however, itself a contested issue. The objective of campaign finance regulation can also be approached from a more positive perspective—namely, that it can be used to empower the greatest number of citizens to voice their concerns and aspirations in a campaign.

While there is a lot of anecdotal evidence of a link between corruption and the use of a candidate's own personal wealth to finance his campaign, the Nigerian National Assembly has not deemed it necessary to make a pronouncement on limiting expenditures by candidates on their own campaigns. It is my hope that this will be considered in the next electoral law amendment as more needs to be done to preserve the equality and fairness of the electoral process; and limit the propensity for corruption.

What this circle of election has shown is that Nigerians are, however, gradually coming to the realization that we ought to support good candidates/aspirants with whatever we have— in cash or in kind. That way, they are more likely to be answerable to the people when they get into office and are less likely to dip their hands into the public purse to recoup their 'investment'. With the incredible, positive momentum the Labour Party Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi is gathering in Nigeria, the people are putting their money where their heart is. And it is so heartening to see this!

An agreement with a company can never supersede an act of the

BUSINESS

A NEW NIGERIA IS COMING



"If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be 'meetings.'"

— Dave Barry



BY: ELEJO ODEKINA

Reps Accuse Shell of violating Nigerian law

The House of Representatives ad-hoc Committee investigating Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited's joint venture (JV) from 1990 to 2022 on Tuesday stated that Shell Petroleum Development Company limited has been claiming capital allowances from the federal government without having the Certificate of Acceptance on Fixed Assets (CAFA).

The committee chaired by Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata (APC, Jigawa) made this known while grilling the management of Shell led by its Chief Executive, Mr Osagie Okunbor who having been faced with enormity of his company's infraction pleaded with the committee to withhold judgement to allow the company management sort out the anomaly.

Hon. Fulata in reaction to an earlier assertion by Shell that it's claiming capital allowances as a way of reducing production losses arising from oil thefts affecting the company's income from the joint venture said "a company's policy can never supersede an Act of the National Assembly which provides for capital allowance and for Shell which has operated in Nigeria for many years even before independence, not to comply is a major infraction."

He told the company that he deliberately asked the question regarding CAFA Certificate because he is in possession of the comprehensive list of companies with the certificate in Nigeria and that Shell is not one of them.

"Most companies rely on subsidiary issues to evade primary issues. Just like the National Assembly enacting a law which contradicts the constitution. Once you enact a law which contradicts the Constitution. That law is dead on arrival. Neither the company nor a country itself can enter into an agreement that violates its laws.

An agreement with a company can never supersede an act of the



Caption

National Assembly. What you need to do once you enter the agreement, you obtain the certificate that would guarantee you compliance. Once you have it you are covered. But if you go ahead enjoy capital allowances without the CAFA certificates, you have completely violated Nigerian tax laws which is a gross misconduct as far as we are concerned. Especially for Shell that has operated in Nigeria for many years, I think even before Nigeria got independence. So I think it is a very serious infraction.

Reacting, the MD of Shell pleaded:

"What I have tried to clarify is as you have explained. There is a basis of statute and law that enables

you to make those claims. What I am saying is that as a law abiding organization, we have applied the basis of that law. Whether there is an actual certificate, because 500,000 for our kind of business for assets, is a pretty low threshold.

"If you would allow us to present what we have in this respect. I am appealing that you withhold judgment pending when we present.

After much grilling from members of the panel, the chairman ruled saying: "Avail us of details of all the assets on the basis of which you have been claiming capital allowance on the next adjourned date."

The committee also called on the

MD to recant, saying that "we are making small small profits."

Hon. Mark Gbilah, a member of the Panel had moved that the company be asked to provide its statement if accounts with a view to corroborating the cash inflow from the JV account based on its 45 per cent equity.

Gbilah told the MD that his idea of losses was based on what it invested into the joint venture, and not the actual profits accruing from the sale of crude oil it produced, adding that as Nigerians, it's not the business of government whether a company is making profit or incurring losses as taxes must be paid so long as the business still exists.

Regarding capital allowance claims, the company said it has never made any since it is yet to achieve stability in the industry, adding that its assets have not been primed for CAFA Certificate.

The company said capital allowance is only computed on qualifying assets per annum, but the coy has been running its operations at losses over time.

Shown a document from the FIRS showing application of capital allowance, the MD said the name there belongs to a sister company, New Cross Petroleum.

At this point, the committee chairman urged the MD of the sister company to comply by appearing before the Panel, saying that it's "refraining from declaring him wanted after two invitations", and asking the police to produce him in handcuffs.

The company which said it couldn't pay PPT because it has been running at a loss in the JV business was reminded of the consequences of lying on oath, a reminder which reminder which prompted the

Incorporate Building Professionals: NIA President Tells Builders

SAM GBEKE - ABUJA

The President of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), Enyi Ben-Eboh, has urged builders to incorporate building professionals when building.

Ben-Eboh gave the advise at a press conference in Abuja to brief the media on the reasons the NIA organised the Infrastructure Development Conference (IDCon).

The President said builders should endeavor to incorporate building professionals such as architects, structural engineers, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, and other relevant ones.

According to him, if these relevant engineers are involved from the designing to the completion of a building, there won't be incidents of collapsed buildings except due to unforeseen natural disasters.

"Failure to incorporate all the relevant building engineers is responsible for building collapse.



Enyi Ben-Eboh

"In a standard construction site, the architect supervises construction activities such as quality of building materials to make sure that they meet the specifications required for the building.

"If a building is conceived with the prevailing environmental challenges and the architect and

the structural engineer do their work properly their will not be building collapse", he said.

In his explanations he said, "There are three group of professionals who you should contract when building, the architect, who will put your dream building into planing and

he knows the building laws. And he advises you on the existing laws,

"The Structural engineers who make sure that the building stands, by specifying the structural and the Service engineers such as electrical, sound engineer, quantity surveyor and mechanical who

collaborates with the architect "

He advised builders to make sure their buildings are supervised by architects together with structural engineers

"The architect is still very relevant at the building construction

stage; If you remove the architect, the creator of the plan, for a person who is to add value to the design of the architect.

He also blamed the economy for building collapse, saying, "The critical cause of building collapse comes from the economy; you discover that those who want to build houses tend to cut corners and when you want to build you must get the services of professionals."

"As prime professionals we should be responsible for the planning of infrastructure for building." He added

He said the NIA organised the infrastructure conference to enable Nigeria plan new cities to global standards.

"The infrastructure conference was initiated to look into the infrastructure deficit in the country

"And the need for global cities whereby we join the est of the world to develop cities that can be comparable to major cities around the world.

"We want to be that link between all the professional groups(health, transport, agriculture and others because a well coordinated infrastructure improves economic activities. We must put infrastructures in place with their benefits in mind", he added





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METRO

FG GRANTS APPROVAL FOR LEKKI-EPE AIRPORT

● As Ehingbeti Economic Summit Begins

The federal approval recently granted the Lagos State Government to embark on the development of a passenger and cargo airport on the Lekki-Epe axis of the State has been officially presented.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday, received the Federal Government's instrument authorising the State to commence the airport project.

Minister for Aviation, Sen. Hadi Sirika, presented the document to the Governor on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari at the ongoing Lagos Economic Summit (Ehingbeti) 2022 taking place at Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island.

Lagos Government initiated the aviation project, through a Public Private Partnership (PPP), in response to the pace of development on Lekki-Epe axis, which is now a fast-growing hub of commerce and industrial activities. The entire airport infrastructure will be sited on 3,500 hectares, with the first phase of the project estimated to cost \$900 million.



Lekki-Epe Airport

Some private consortia have already expressed their interests in developing the airport, but Lagos Government is yet to decide on which investors to partner on aviation infrastructure.

Sanwo-Olu described the approval as another "successful step forward" towards delivering his administration's agenda of Greater Lagos and keeping the State on the path of irreversible economic prosperity.

The Governor said the development was a triumph for the vision of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who initiated the Lagos Economic Summit where the idea of the airport started.

He said: "Granting the licence for the airport project is a right step in the right direction. For us, it is all about partnership for the greater good of our State. The real beneficiaries are the citizens and the businesses that will be using the infrastructure to activate more economic prosperity. We are bringing the Government

to tap business opportunities, while also providing platforms for businesses to flourish. That is how great economies are developed.

"The foundation of growth is building requisite infrastructure and creating platforms for businesses to thrive. This aviation infrastructure will reduce journey time and make commercial hubs in Lagos easily accessible. It would help investors to make best local and international business decisions, given all the investments that have been brought to the Lekki Free Trade Zone."

Sirika said the federal mandate to Lagos Government on the airport project enjoyed accelerated approval, because of the growing need to further link Lagos and Southwest to international markets and regional trade.

The project, the Aviation minister said, would transform the GDP of Lagos and create jobs for the national economy. He said the airport would complement the existing Murtala Muhammed International Airport whose operation is overstretched.

There has been an expansion in Lagos, from Eko Atlantic City to Lekki Free Trade Zones. This growth necessitated the need for another airport in Lagos

"There has been an expansion in Lagos, from Eko Atlantic City to Lekki Free Trade Zones. This growth necessitated the need for another airport in Lagos. We will deploy our statutory agencies to ensure the project is done in compliance with international standards," Sirika said.

Declaring the two-day summit open, Sanwo-Olu said Lagos had begun its race to building a prosperous future with the introduction of a 30-year growth plan that would bring the State on the same pedestal

with developed cities in 2052.

He said the Government's pathways to the future were planned based on the projection of creating and implementing localised solutions within the context of unique socio-economic realities facing the State.

Sanwo-Olu said the State would have an allowance to look outside for inspiration, but stressed that all suggested ideas must be considered on the foundation of deep local context and adaptation.

He said: "Over the next two days, we will listen to policy-makers, thought-leaders, futurists, disruptors, innovators, investors, and economists among others; all united by an abiding focus on the development trajectory of Lagos.

"They will share insights and offer perspectives on Lagos' pathways to the future, most especially the solutions that can be readily implemented within the context of our unique circumstances. Indeed, the emphasis on 'home-grown' and localised solutions is very important."

Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Sam Egube, said the summit had offered Lagos a better deal in growth prospects, as the State harnessed robust conversations with key private sector players.

Egube said the State Government had implemented 210 of the 222 resolutions reached in the past eight editions of the economic summit, adding that the engagement with the private sector had helped improve accountability in governance.

The summit chairperson and Partner, PwC Nigeria, Mrs. Mary Iwelumo, said the ongoing event, which is the 9th edition in the series, recorded historic participation of 30,000 participants within the country and overseas.

The summit attendees include members of the State Executive Council, current and past elected public office holders in Lagos, captains of industry, business leaders, diplomats, entrepreneurs and investors.

Obidients Rally For A New Nigeria

BY NNAMDI OKOSIEME

The 2023 presidential election is occasioning a shift in attitudes towards electioneering in Nigeria.

Buoyed by the entry into the race of Peter Obi, the former Governor of Anambra State whose stewardship as helmsman of the state continues to draw plaudits for his prudent and pragmatic approach to governance, which lifted the state from one of the least developed and unsafe in terms of security, to a thriving entity by the time he left office in 2016. His candidacy on the platform of the Labour Party has elicited hope among Nigerians particularly among millions of Nigerian youths and has spawned the Obidients Movement, a broad-based coalition of Nigerians cutting across ethnic, religious and professional lines. Buoyed by the possibility of change in the conduct of governance and of the entrenchment of the ethos of accountability and prudence in the management of state resources, members of the movement with their mantra of "we no dey give shishi" reflecting Obi's frugality and discipline in the management of state funds, have taken the nation by storm and have captured the attention of the international community. More than that, they have created disquiet within the ruling establishment. At the beginning of Obi's foray into the race as the candidate, the Labour Party was derided by the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as an entity without structure, an oblique reference to the fact that the party lacks solid political representation at the grassroots level. That perception soon changed with the growth of the Obidients Movement. The movement has forced a change in perception and narrative. With its exponential growth in the last few months, it has struck fear in the camps of the leading parties. This much became evident when in August, Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, a former Minister of Aviation and a member of the Tinubu Presidential Campaign Council in a widely circulated article titled, "Who are these Obidients?", noted: "They are worthy of my attention only because their rise and relevance in the political configuration of our nation, just in a matter of weeks, has been meteoric and phenomenal. Those who are the supporters of Peter Obi, the Labour Party candidate are known as Obidients,



Peter Obi



Dr. Dotin Okupe

and they are EVERYWHERE. Those of us in larger political parties like the ruling APC and the opposition PDP treat them with contempt and ignore them at our own peril". Fani-Kayode's comments truly reflect the growing phenomenon called the Obidients movement, which has not only energized

Nigerians within the country but has equally fired in their countrymen in the Diaspora, the hope of a new Nigeria. On October 1, the anniversary of Nigeria's coming into being as an independent entity, the movement shook the country to its foundation with coordinate

rallies in states across the country, which drew massive crowds. Doyin Okupe, Director General of the ObiDatti Campaign Organisation, says the movement signposts a new dawn. "I have been in politics for decades and I tell you, we have seen nothing like this in this country. Nigerians

want their country back and they are saying so loudly. They have anchored their hopes on Peter Obi and are not looking back because they know that with him as president it will not be business as usual. In governance it will no longer be business as usual", Okupe said.

Ukraine war: US condemns 'brutal' Russian strikes on Ukraine

Russia has been widely condemned after bombing cities across Ukraine, including launching missile strikes on the centre of Kyiv for the first time. The US said the "brutal" attacks had hit non-military targets, including a university and children's playground, and promised further military aid. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply shocked". Vladimir Putin said the attacks were retaliation for Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea. Ukraine says 83 missiles were launched, of which more than 43 were shot down. In a defiant video, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said that "Ukraine cannot be intimidated. It can only be more united." The deadly barrage included strikes on the cities of Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia, and were some of the worst Ukraine has seen for months. At least 14 people were killed and scores more were injured, officials said. Several regions were left without electricity and water after missiles hit energy infrastructure. Residents in the capital Kyiv said Russia appeared to be targeting civilian areas which were busy with Monday morning commuters, including a children's playground, a university and the popular Taras Shevchenko park. Monday's strikes saw central Kyiv targeted for the first time Mr Guterres described the strikes as "another unacceptable escalation of the war" for which civilians were paying the highest price. The EU said a war crime had been committed, while European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Russia stood for "terror and brutality". US President Joe Biden was one of many foreign leaders to speak with President Zelensky, and he "pledged to continue providing Ukraine with the support needed to defend itself, including advanced air defence systems", the White House said. Mr Biden said the attacks demonstrated "the utter brutality" of Putin's "illegal war". After the phone call, President Zelensky vowed to strengthen Ukraine's armed forces and "make the battlefield even more painful for the enemy". China and India, which have not condemned the war, called for a de-escalation. Speaking at the UN General Assembly in New York, Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ukraine's Ambassador to the body, said his family had been in a residential area in Ukraine when it was attacked by the latest



Russian missiles and they were unable to go to a bomb shelter. He said Russia had already killed some of his relatives, calling it "a terrorist state" that must be deterred in the strongest possible ways to prevent further atrocities. He added that Moscow's delegation to the UN left "a trail of blood" whenever it entered the General Assembly hall. The General Assembly is holding an emergency meeting following Russia's latest attacks. Although the session was convened because of the Kremlin's annexation of four partly-occupied Ukrainian regions following sham referendums, it has been overshadowed by Monday's attacks. Putin said the attacks were retaliation for Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea. Russian missiles began hitting targets across Ukraine around

the morning rush hour on Monday, in the most widespread bombardment of the war. Ihor Zhovkva, deputy head of President Zelensky's office, said they were designed to sow panic. The strikes were more intense than had previously been seen, he told the BBC, and in some ways resembled the early days of the war. He added that this had not come as a surprise, and was a sign of things to come during the "very difficult" winter ahead. Mr Putin warned he was ready to authorise more "severe" attacks, while deputy head of the Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev said that "the first episode has been played. There will be others." Ukraine has not confirmed it was behind that strike. Mr Zhovkva said he did not entirely believe that the Russian attacks were a retaliation,

as Kyiv has been hit before. Meanwhile, Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko - a close ally of Mr Putin - has agreed to deploy his forces to link up with Russian soldiers at Belarus' border with Ukraine in response to what he said was a threat to his country from Kyiv. "We need to figure out what else needs to be done to strengthen the security of our state, given the rapidly changing environment," he said according to comments carried in the state-run Belta news agency. Mr Lukashenko, who held a one-on-one meeting with President Putin in St Petersburg, said he had been informed through unofficial channels of a "Crimean Bridge 2" being planned against Belarus, a reference to Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia with Crimea. Without providing any evidence,

Culled from the BBC

Wales Women: World Cup dream ends in heartbreak in Zurich with late Swiss goal



Wozniacki

Wales' historic World Cup qualification dream ended in heartbreak in Zurich thanks to a late Swiss goal in extra time.

Favourites Switzerland played host to Gemma Grainger's Wales side in the World Cup play-off final on Tuesday, the first time the Welsh visitors have progressed this far in their bid to qualify for a first major tournament.

The 2-1 extra-time defeat will be all the more gut-wrenching given Wales were just moments from taking it to a decisive penalty shootout.

Wales right-back Rhiannon Roberts took the early lead for the visitors at Stadion Letzigrund after 18 minutes.

Jess Fishlock won a corner which was expertly taken by Angharad James, with Gemma Evans and Kayleigh Green winning headers before Roberts scrambled to turn the ball in and score from a few yards out to break the deadlock.

It seemed to settle the nerves for Wales, who were so close to heading into half-time 1-0 up, but Ramona Bachmann knocked them back down to earth by equalising just before half-time. Noelle Maritz pulled the ball back and Ramona Bachmann fired into the top corner, leaving Wales goalkeeper Laura O'Sullivan powerless.

It was end-to-end football for much of the second half and

extra time, with Wales defending resolutely as it looked like a penalty shootout was going to be the deciding factor in the tense game.

But Switzerland, ranked 21st in the world (nine places above Wales), nicked it in the final minute of extra time with a goal from replacement Fabienne Humm, who turned home at the near post to send the hosts and home crowd into delirium.

The gut-wrenching Welsh defeat will take time to sink in, but Grainger and her Wales squad will eventually be buoyed by their historic campaign which saw them come closer than they ever have before to qualifying for a first major tournament.

Flamingos fall to Germany in World Cup opener

European champions Germany came back from one goal down to edge Nigeria 2-1 in their opening game at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup finals in India on Tuesday.

Top scorer Opeyemi Ajakaye struck the woodwork in the 18th minute as the Flamingos started brightly, but defender Miracle Usani headed the rebound wide.

However, Usani would enter the tournament books when she powered into the net a free-kick in the 30th minute to give Nigeria hope. Goalkeeper Faith Omilana came up with two great saves to preserve Nigeria's lead as the Flamingos led 1-0 at the break.

The well-drilled Germans scored twice in the second period to scoop all three points, after Svea Stold equalized four minutes into the second half and Albert Mura scored a second in the 61st minute.

The Flamingos will be back on the turf of Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday to seek three points against New Zealand.



Nff To Get More Aggressive On Sponsorship Drive

BY MUNACHIMSO CHUKWUJINDUM

The leadership of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is determined to get proper funding for its many programmes through an aggressive drive for sponsorship.

This was one of the decisions reached at the football federation's inaugural executive committee meeting on Tuesday at its secretariat in Abuja.

The new board led by Ibrahim Gusau, was elected during the extraordinary congress of the football governing body in Benin City, Edo State, on September 30, 2022.

The latest resolve on renewed drive on sponsorship, is one of many decisions aimed at reinventing football administration and reinvigorating football in the country.

The board of the NFF noted that in order to diligently, purposefully and intentionally pursue its vision, it had identified the critical areas of football development at the grassroots, faithfulness to a properly-reasoned football calendar, earnest development of women's football and adequate preparation of the National Teams for podium appearances at international tournaments as its focal points.

The NFF leadership admitted that there would have to be aggressive marketing and sponsorship drive to generate the necessary funds to plough ahead with its plans, projects and programmes.

Acknowledging the efforts of the immediate past Board led by Amaju Pinnick in this area, it resolved to work with even greater positive energy to attract the support of Corporate Nigeria to its programmes and activities.

In its determination to birth a new order in the general organization of Nigeria Football, the federation resolved that the calendar of each and every of the Leagues operated within Nigeria must be approved by the NFF before commencement, and ruled that the Federation Cup competition will now run alongside the Nigeria Professional Football League, with

the seriousness of organization and attention that it deserves.

Relatedly, the Board directed the NFF Legal Unit, through the General Secretary, to thoroughly and expeditiously study the NFF Statutes with a view to advising on how best to reconstitute the Boards of the Nigeria National League, Nigeria Women Football League and the Nigeria Nationwide League One, whose boards have been dissolved alongside the immediate past NFF Executive Committee. The communique released at the end of the meeting read in part:

° The Board directed the NFF Technical Department to, within the next two weeks, come up with comprehensive guidelines to regulate and standardize the running of football academies in the country.

° In order to stem the tide of accumulation of debts, the Executive Committee opted to embark on a number of cost-cutting measures, and to ascent on frugal management of resources in the best interest of players and officials, Management and Staff, and Nigeria Football generally. Every perceived area of waste would be cut as a way of fostering the spirit of prudence and financial discipline in the secretariat.

° As a way of staving off needless embarrassment of the nation during international matches and tournaments, the Board resolved to, in line with present economic realities, have regular conversations with players and officials of the National Teams on the need to make sacrifices now and again when the resources to meet their expectations are not readily available.

° The Executive Committee charged the U17 Women National Team, Flamingos to give it their all during their campaign at the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup taking place in India 11th - 30th October 2022, and to have in mind that their performance off-field is as much important as their performance on-field, being ambassadors of the great country, Nigeria.



Nff To Get More Aggressive On Sponsorship Drive
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SPORT

A NEW NIGERIA IS COMING

THE **BIDI**ENT
ON SUNDAY

CAF Cups: Gusau charges Nigerian flag-bearers to grab group stage tickets



Gusau-left-with-Governor-Lalong-middle-and-Hon.-Dare

President of Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau has challenged Rivers United, Plateau United and Kwara United to ensure progress into the group stages of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively, following battling performances against North African opponents in Nigeria on Sunday.

All three clubs came from behind to win their matches, with Confederation Cup contenders Kwara United trouncing Cup holders RS Berkane of Morocco

3-1 at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Lagos. Plateau United and Rivers United, in the CAF Champions League, edged Esperance of Tunisia and Cup holders Wydad Casablanca of Morocco 2-1 in Abuja and Port Harcourt respectively.

“Our teams have done well in the first leg matches, but I want them to go all out in the return games because North African playgrounds are usually difficult ones for most teams. They showed the Nigerian spirit in an excellent way to come from behind and win their matches at home, but

they will need to show this spirit in an even more pronounced manner in the second leg matches.

“The NFF is backing all three teams to reach the lucrative group stages of their competitions,” said Gusau who, in company with Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Lalong and Youth and Sports Minister, Hon. Sunday Dare watched Plateau United come from a goal down to defeat the Blood and Gold at the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja. Both teams meet in Tunis next week.

Kwara United were a goal down to Cup holders RS Berkane after only seven minutes in Lagos, but they flowed with strong current in the second period at the arena formerly known as Onikan waterfront.

Rivers United also played manfully against one of the most experienced campaigners in African club football and got a narrow win that could stand for something when both teams clash again at the Mohamed V Stadium in Casablanca next week.

INSIDE SPORTS

WALES WOMEN: WORLD CUP DREAM ENDS IN HEARTBREAK IN ZURICH WITH LATE SWISS GOAL



PG 13

FLAMINGOS FALL TO GERMANY IN WORLD CUP OPENER



PG 7



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